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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In spring 2013, El Dorado County (the County) and the City of South Lake Tahoe (the City) joined forces to create a new *Parks, Trails & Recreation Master Plan* for the South Shore. This Master Plan represents a coordinated effort to align recreation resources and obtain community support to enhance recreation facilities and services for the Eastern Slope of El Dorado County. The plan provides direction for enhancing recreation opportunities for residents and visitors by increasing collaborative efforts and focusing resources where they are most needed.

Park and Recreation Priorities

The South Shore of Lake Tahoe is known regionally, nationally and internationally for its recreation opportunities. There is an understanding that recreation is critical to local prosperity, community livability, and the health and wellbeing of residents. However, the recession and downturn of the gaming industry has affected the amount of funding available

to support existing parks and recreation operations, plus provide for increased recreation needs.

As described in Chapter 3, a robust community engagement process was undertaken with this planning effort to better understand community priorities and recreation needs. In addition, a technical analysis of the existing recreation system (Chapter 2) and anticipated tourism market (Chapter 3) helped identify specific needs to successfully operate, manage, program, maintain, design and develop existing and new parks, trails and recreation facilities.

Vision for the Future

Recommendations were developed to address community needs, but also to help achieve the community's vision for the future. Through the public involvement process, the following vision emerged:

We envision an accessible, interconnected, and sustainable system of diverse, year-round recreation opportunities for residents and visitors. Our world-class parks, facilities, trails, and programs inspire and engage recreation enthusiasts, shape our community, connect us to our natural environment and support our shared future in the South Shore.

Achieving the community's vision will take a coordinated effort between several public and private agencies, as well as many different jurisdictions. While park and recreation providers may work independently toward this goal, there also will be many opportunities for coordinated efforts and community involvement to achieve the desired park and recreation system.

Key Recommendations

Chapter 5 presents draft recommendations and strategies to improve existing operations, services, and infrastructure, as well as to acquire and develop new parks and facilities when funding allows. Recommendations are organized in five categories:

- A. **Regional Coordination and Collaboration:** Create a recreation consortium and/or collaborative partnerships to coordinate the management, marketing, planning and development of parks, recreation and tourism services among different jurisdictions to support South Shore goals and maximize recreation and economic benefits.

- B. **Park & Facility Maintenance, Renovations and Improvements:** Maintain, renew and renovate parks, recreation facilities, trails and other existing infrastructure to protect current recreation assets, enhance recreation safety and accessibility, support recreation programs and events, maximize efficiency and protect revenue-generating resources for the long-term.
- C. **New Park, Facility and Trail Development:** Acquire land and/or build new parks, recreation facilities and trails to provide an accessible, safe, interconnected and attractive recreation system that provides opportunities for residents and visitors, enhances economic vitality, and supports the South Shore as a destination for outdoor recreation and tourism.
- D. **Recreation Activities, Programs and Events:** Activate parks, recreation facilities and trails with special events, programs, and self-directed recreation opportunities to enhance the quality of life of residents, attract visitors, generate revenue, and promote economic development.
- E. **Operations and Management:** Ensure that needed staffing, resources, systems, and policies are in place to successfully plan, administer, manage, steward, and make strategic decisions for parks, recreation facilities, trails, and services.

Implementation

Chapter 6 identifies priority capital projects and initiatives for operations and management for the next ten years. It also presents the prioritization criteria—developed to for this project to reflect community priorities—that were used to establish priorities for project completion.

The purpose of the Draft Plan review process is to collect community feedback on recommendations and priority projects before creating a plan for implementation.

Priority Capital Projects

Table 6-1 summarizes **draft priority capital projects**. These include capital projects that may be completed as “quick wins” (in 1 year), in the short term (2-5 years), and in the long term (6-10 years).

Parks, recreation and trails are very important to our quality of life. To respond to quickly to community needs, several projects are already in motion or are intended to be initiated or

completed in the first year. These “quick wins” illustrate the City, County and entire community’s commitment to improving parks and facilities.

Quick Wins (Year 1)

- Bijou bike park
- Al Tahoe sports field improvements
- Regan Beach master plan (community outreach)
- Recreation/Aquatic Center master plan (community outreach)
- City trails resurfacing and signage improvements
- County trail projects (Sawmill Bike Path and Tahoe Boulevard enhancement)
- South Tahoe Greenway extension
- South Lake Tahoe Recreation Area campground upgrades
- South Lake Tahoe Recreation Area shop relocation

High Priority Operations

Table 6-2 summarizes *draft priority tasks for operations and management*. Similar to capital projects, operations projects are categorized as “quick wins” (to be initiated or completed in 1 year), short-term (2-5 years), and long-term initiatives (6-10 years).

To respond to community needs and identified operational challenges, several operations tasks are already in motion or are intended to be initiated or completed in the first year. These “quick wins” show the City, County and entire community’s commitment to increasing operational efficiencies.

Quick Wins (Year 1)

- Consortium initiation
- Online reservation system and data tracking
- Implementation of community-built policies and procedures
- Partnership agreement for Bijou Bike Park development
- Update of park standards and associated General Plan policies
- Improved trail maintenance and snow removal
- City and County staffing support
- Community meetings about Recreation & Swim Complex and Regan Beach improvements

Next Steps

The draft *Parks, Trails & Recreation Master Plan* is available for review. The City and County are collecting feedback from residents, the Master Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC), City and County Parks and Recreation Commissions, and key interest groups. Feedback will be consolidated and used to revise the Draft Master Plan and create a community-supported implementation plan to guide future operations.

Following refinements, the Final Master Plan is intended to be presented to City Council and the County Board of Supervisors for review, approval and adoption in Fall 2014. The Master Plan will provide guidance for the City and County's annual Capital Investment Plan and Capital Improvement Plan and the allocation of funding to enhance parks and recreation.