



Date: October 22, 2024

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

Author and title: Becky Bucar, Assistant Public Works Director

Title: **Reimbursement Agreement with the Truckee River Watershed Council for the Donner Lake Bank Restoration Project**

Jen Callaway, Town Manager

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**Recommended Action:** Authorize the Town Manager to execute an agreement with the Truckee River Watershed Council to reimburse a portion of the design and permitting work for the Donner Lake Bank Restoration Project.

**Discussion:** During the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 budget process, the Truckee River Watershed Council (TRWC) reached out to Town staff to see if there was interest in providing funding match to help progress the Donner Lake Bank Restoration Project. The purpose of the project is to restore degraded banks near the public piers on the north shore of Donner Lake to improve slope stability, ecological function, habitat, water quality, and user safety and experience. Staff presented the funding request to Council at the May 28, 2024 Budget Workshop and a total of \$200,000 was budgeted in CIP 2314 (Climate Partnerships) to help fund environmental permitting and construction of the project (see attached budget sheet, **Attachment A**).

This work is consistent with the Council's Goal to "Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions & Become a Leader in Environmental Sustainability." It is also one of the Action Items identified in the 2022 Donner Lake Stewardship Plan, developed by the Donner Lake Interagency Partnership for Stewardship (DIPS), of which the Town is a Core Team member:

***Action Item 2.3.21: Bank stabilization and foot trail improvements at public piers***

Through a Request for Proposals process, TRWC has recently selected a consultant (Wildscape Engineering) to perform design and environmental permitting for the project, including the design of three to five priority shoreline restoration projects at the public piers. TRWC submitted the attached letter (**Attachment B**) requesting the Town provide \$75,000 towards funding their contract with Wildscape Engineering.

In addition to Town funding, \$100,000 has been committed through the Martis Fund to the project (to be used for TRWC's project management costs and Wildscape Engineering's contract). The Town funds would fund the balance of the work. As the Town share is more than is required for environmental permitting alone, Town funds would be used for design as well. Although the adopted budget sheet states the Town match funding is for "environmental permitting and construction match," staff believes the use of the funds for design in addition to environmental permitting is in line with the intent of the budget allocation, as it will progress the project that will directly benefit Donner Lake. Therefore, staff is recommending that the Council authorize the Town Manager to execute an agreement with TRWC to reimburse up to \$75,000 of their contract with Wildscape Engineering.

Town staff plans to participate in the process and will have the opportunity to review and provide feedback on various deliverables, including conceptual and final designs. However, staff also intends to minimize involvement to the extent practical to preserve staff resources.

**Priority:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Enhanced Communication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate and Greenhouse Gas Reduction	<input type="checkbox"/> Housing
<input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure Investment	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency and Wildfire Preparedness	<input type="checkbox"/> Core Service

**Fiscal Impact:** The Climate Partnerships Project (CIP C2314) includes a total of \$200,000 in Sustainability Designation funds in Fiscal Years 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 for this project, \$150,000 of which is in Fiscal Year 2024/2025. Therefore, there is adequate funding for this request.

**Public Communication:** None beyond budget workshop discussions and this staff report.

**Attachments:**

Attachment A – Climate Partnerships (CIP C2314) Budget Sheet

Attachment B – Letter from Truckee River Watershed Council Regarding Donner Lake Bank Restoration Funding Request