



Attachment 1

## DIPS DONNER LAKE INTERAGENCY PARTNERSHIP FOR STEWARDSHIP

To: Becky Bucar  
Assistant Public Works Director  
Town of Truckee  
10183 Truckee Airport Road  
Truckee, CA

From: Michele Prestowitz  
Project Director  
Truckee River Watershed Council  
P.O. Box 8568  
Truckee, CA 96162

February 13, 2024

Re: 2024 Cost share request for DIPS State of Donner Lake annual report

**Donner Lake** is a critical resource to the Town of Truckee with natural, historical, cultural and economic value to the community. Donner Lake is also the most highly urbanized lake in the Truckee River watershed and is listed as impaired by multiple pollutants by the US EPA and State of California. Threats include roads, highways, the railroad, commercial and residential development, reservoir management, increased visitation, recreation, and climate change.

The **Donner Lake Interagency Partnership for Stewardship (DIPS)** was founded in 2020 to develop and implement a coordinated stewardship plan to protect and enhance the long-term ecological and community health of Donner Lake. It is a cross-jurisdictional collaboration of local and state agencies, special districts, homeowners' association, and community organizations with special interests in Donner Lake. The Town of Truckee is a founding Core Team member.

Since 2021, DIPS has produced an annual **State of Donner Lake**, looking at ecological and community conditions at Donner Lake to inform stewardship actions. Thus far, data indicates that offshore water quality has improved since the 1970s and 1980s, but nearshore water quality may be degrading influenced by factors such as invasive species, runoff, and climate change. Driven in part by this information, DIPS Core Team members at Donner Memorial State Park and TRWC successfully completed the Donner Lake Lagoon Restoration and Access Improvement Project in 2022. In 2024, the Truckee Donner Recreation and Parks District will build upon this experience to identify and design priority bank stabilization projects at the public piers. These are just two examples the data-driven stewardship at Donner Lake.

DIPS continues to work with the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) Global Water Center to collect and analyze key physical, chemical, and biological data at the lake. The budget for work with UNR is typically between \$35,000-\$40,000 a year. In the past, this has been funded by grants and cost-sharing support from several DIPS Core Team members, including \$3,400 from the Town in 2022.

This year, we are requesting continued **cost-share support from the Town in the amount of \$15,000 a year for the next three years**. This aligns with the Truckee 2040 General Plan Goals LU-10: Donner Lake (Protect Donner Lake as a natural, scenic, and recreational resource and create a neighborhood center that serves residents and visitors) and COS-2: Truckee River and Donner Lake Protection (Preserve and enhance the Truckee River corridor and Donner Lake and the exceptional natural, scenic, economic, biological, and recreational values they provide), Town Council priorities to reduce



greenhouse gas emissions and become a leader in environmental sustainability, and enhance communication and public outreach to facilitate community cohesion, and the Capital Improvement Project C2314 budget for Climate Partnership.

For further information on the DIPS Charter, past Stewardship Plans, and State of Donner Lake reports, please visit TRWC's online library at <https://www.truckeeriverwc.org/library/>. I am also available to answer any questions.

Thank you for considering this cost-share request for the DIPS State of Donner Lake. The Town of Truckee has been a valuable partner, and together, we are excited to build upon our ongoing successes.

Sincerely,

Michele Prestowitz  
TRWC Project Director and DIPS Facilitator