

John Laird
California Secretary for Natural Resources
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

September 5, 2018

Dear Secretary John Laird:

We the undersigned are environmental scientists working in association with Washoe Meadows Community, Sierra Club and others to review and comment on State Parks' Draft Environmental Improvement Report (DEIR) for the Upper Truckee River Restoration and Golf Course Reconfiguration Project, Alternative 2B.

We are united in our conclusion that Alternative 2B is scientifically deficient, especially given availability of superior alternatives.

We have reviewed the report and supporting documentation without limiting ourselves to the narrow range of issues emphasized by California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR). Rather, we have looked at the project holistically. Our reviews are documented in comments and reports delivered to CDPR in response to the release of the DEIR.

While the proposed project has potential, we have identified deficiencies in the information provided in the documents, leading to concerns about the project's analysis and apparent failure to account for important issues in the project planning. Our concerns include the project's real potential for contributing sediment and fertilizers to Lake Tahoe.

In addition to these serious issues, the plain fact that deforestation of vital wildlife habitat - no matter how small - to make way for ecologically inferior golf turf is itself a very dangerous precedent. Should similar trade-offs proliferate in number throughout the state, the impacts on our states' already stressed water supplies and other natural resources will increase exponentially.

We have heard recently related to this project that, "all scientists agree." That is most certainly not the case and is the impetus for this letter.

Going forward, we are happy to discuss our observations and findings with State Parks officials and look forward to discussing these issues in greater detail at the Park & Recreation Commission meeting in October.

Respectfully,

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cc: Governor Edmund G. Brown
Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom
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Senator Ted Gaines
Assembly Member Frank Bigelow
Lisa Mangat, Director California State Parks
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