

**Appendix I-2
TAHOE PROJECT PROPOSAL**

Project Name: Pelagic Zone Water Quality and Modeling of Fine Sediment Sources, Transport and Fate	EIP #: 627
Lead Agency: U.S. EPA	Contact: Jane Freeman
Threshold: Water Quality	Phone Number: 775/588-4547 ext. 248
Threshold Standard: WQ1, WQ2, WQ3, WQ4, WQ5, WQ6	Email Address: freeman.jane@epa.gov
	Total Project Cost: \$300,000
	LTFAC/TWG Recommended Funding: \$200,000

Project Description:

This project is intended to (1) establish a monitoring program to evaluate trends in lake particle composition, (2) gain a better understanding of the sources of fine sediments entering the lake, (3) evaluate other physical, chemical and biological processes that effect algal growth, particle distribution and clarity, and (4) further refine the Lake Clarity Model.

Describe the purpose and need for the project:

The most recent studies at Lake Tahoe show fine inorganic particles as the most important forms of particles that influence lake clarity. Field studies on the numbers and characterization of these particles were undertaken as part of the Tahoe TMDL in 2000-01 and are scheduled to end in 2004. Given the impact that fine sediments appear to have on lake clarity, it is essential to further understand the in-lake fine particle dynamics, establish an in-lake database from which to monitor improvement, and more fully characterize the fine particle sources.

Describe the goals and objective of the project (For Science & Research Projects describe Key Management Questions being addressed):

What is the linkage between pollutant loading and lake response? How much of a reduction in nutrients and fine sediment is needed, and in what span of time, to stop the decline in the clarity of Lake Tahoe? What is the relationship between land-use type and pollutant load? What is the role of stream channel erosion on sediment and nutrient delivery to Lake Tahoe? What are the specific design criteria associated with BMP and restoration projects?

Describe the anticipated project accomplishments:

Accomplishments included: 1) A better understanding of the sources of fine sediment to Lake Tahoe. This is needed in order to make detailed management decisions as part of the Lake Tahoe TMDL; 2) Data in order to refine the Lake Clarity Model predictions of TMDL loadings and lake response; 3) In-lake monitoring that will provide an important indicator of change ; and 4) Data that is critical when designing BMP/restoration projects in order to meet TMDL allocations and the lake clarity standard.

SNPLMA Project #: _____ (To be assigned by SNPLMA Administration)

Describe the “readiness” of this project to move forward (Environmental documentation, etc.)

Environmental Documentation is not required to begin this project. This project will build off of current TMLD-related fine particle field studies.

Describe partnerships for this project. (Include documentation)

Partners for this project include the USEPA, USGS, California - Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, TRPA, California Tahoe Conservancy, Nevada State Lands, California-Department of Transportation, Nevada Department of Transportation, all BMP implementing agencies.

For Science & Research Projects describe how this project will guide future management activities:

The results from this project will be directly used in the Lake Tahoe TMDL and the 2007 Regional Plan Update. This project will also significantly contribute to EIP and all efforts currently underway to design BMP efforts. Updating of the Lake Clarity Model is at the core of nearly all other modeling efforts.

Include an 8 ½ X 11 map depicting the project, or research/study area.

The spatial area for this project encompasses the entire Lake Tahoe Basin Watershed.

