

**Appendix I-2
TAHOE PROJECT PROPOSAL**

Project Name: Tahoe Science Consortium	EIP #: 10166
Lead Agency: U.S. EPA	Contact: Bobbye (Barbara M.) Smith, Ph.D.
	Phone Number: (415) 972-3735
Threshold: All	Email Address: smith.bobbye@epa.gov
Threshold Standard:	Total Project Cost: \$300,000/year

Project Description:

The U.S. EPA will administer the Tahoe Science Consortium (TSC) (funded for the first year in SNPLMA Round 5), including providing staffing and administrative support, through appropriate funding vehicles, to develop and manage the Consortium and perform peer-review and other scientific activities to assure quality science and monitoring projects to serve as a basis for decision-making in the Lake Tahoe basin.

Describe the purpose and need for the project:

The TSC will assist in the solicitation of SNPLMA research and monitoring projects, provide independent scientific review and evaluation of SNPLMA projects and proposals, and provide input through the Tahoe Working Group. TSC will also provide peer-review of science projects and develop and update the Lake Tahoe Basin Science Plan in coordination with local, state and federal agencies with interests in the Lake Tahoe basin.

Describe the goals and objective of the project:

Objectives: The goal of the TSC is to provide the infrastructure, both administrative and scientific, to maximize the benefit derived from research activities at Lake Tahoe. This goal will be achieved by meeting three distinct objectives: (1) providing a consistent process for the solicitation and peer review of research proposals and products related to Lake Tahoe basin restoration efforts; (2) developing and updating a long-term, comprehensive research plan that focuses on the restoration needs of the Lake Tahoe basin; and (3) providing more transparent mechanisms to link environmentally-related research activities within the Lake Tahoe basin to the information needs of planning, regulatory and implementing agencies.

This project supports all of the Key Management Questions (KMQs) by providing the administrative infrastructure for the TSC in which current KMQs can be addressed and can inform the development and understanding of additional KMQs.

Approach: The TSC will need administrative support for a wide range of activities associated with development and management of peer-review and science and monitoring program development functions. Such activities may include, but are not limited to: organizing, facilitating, and managing logistics for meetings, workshops, and peer-review activities; managing reimbursements for peer-review activities for non-profit and/or academic experts; maintaining electronic and other records to track products of the TSC; coordinating, as appropriate, with other groups including agencies, tribes, stakeholders, and the public; input data, as necessary, to various databases; and other activities as necessary to assure the success of the TSC.

Quality Assurance Statement: This project does not involve data collection or processing, conducting surveys, environmental measurements, modeling, or the development of environmental technology. However, the TSC project may input information into the Tahoe Integrated Information Management System (TIIMS), as appropriate. Further, as part of peer-review processes, the TSC will assure that all peer-reviews will be conducted in accordance with U.S. EPA's guidelines for conflict-of-interest for extramural funding. This policy will be adapted for federal and state agency scientists applying for funding under the SNPLMA, to the extent feasible. Peer-reviewers will

be required to sign a conflict-of-interest statement. U.S. EPA's policy for extramural research funding is that review and reviewer identities will not be disclosed to persons outside the Government, except that verbatim copies of reviews (without the name and affiliation of the reviewer) will be available to the project proponent. U.S. EPA considers reviews and reviewer identities to be exempt from disclosure, but cannot guarantee that it will not be forced to release them under FOIA, Privacy Act, or other laws.

Describe the anticipated project accomplishments:

This project will continue to provide the resources to create a sustainable infrastructure that supports research related to the environmental restoration within the Lake Tahoe basin. This infrastructure will then enable a more efficient linkage between environmental restoration agency information needs and the research community that produces such information. This, in turn, will allow for overall increases in the effectiveness of the environmental restoration efforts within the Lake Tahoe basin, based on more robust scientific information, and facilitate adaptive management approaches to achieving management objectives.

Describe the "readiness" of this project to move forward:

The Science Advisory Group (SAG) has been meeting since 1998. Participation on this group has been primarily voluntary, with the research institutions and agencies paying for staff participation and coordination of the group. While the SAG accomplished some key work during this time, due to lack of secure funding, the role of such a group has not been fully realized. The TSC project continues build on the current good will of these institutions and participants by putting into place a structure which supports independent science review for SNPLMA projects as well as other science and research efforts in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Describe partnerships for this project. (Include documentation)

There are two agreements, which define the goals for science efforts at Lake Tahoe and the roles and responsibilities among the research institutions and agencies in the Lake Tahoe basin: 1) The Science Advisory Group MOU, signed in 1999 by the University of California, Davis, University of Nevada, Reno and Desert Research Institute, TRPA, USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station and USGS; and 2) The TESS agreement, signed in 2000 by the Presidents of the three major universities active at Lake Tahoe listed above. In addition, a number of agencies have participated on the SAG including Lahontan RWQCB, U.S. EPA, U.S. ACE, California Air Resources Board and California Tahoe Conservancy. Additional scientists and engineers from federal (e.g., U.S. EPA's Office of Research and Development, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory) and state agencies, academic institutions from California and Nevada, and Tribal scientists are expected to participate as part of the TSC.

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

The TSC will provide evaluation and review of science and monitoring projects funded under SNPLMA, define future science and research needs in the Lake Tahoe basin, and oversee implementation of an adaptive management framework. These efforts will support the management agencies in assessing the long-term effectiveness of EIP activities and projects and improve environmental decision-making.

Built into the functioning of the TSC will be adaptive management elements that will enable the TSC to model adaptive management principals. For example, it is anticipated that the long-term Lake Tahoe Basin Science Plan, which will be developed as part of the charge for the TSC, will be submitted to an outside peer-review body (e.g., the National Science Advisory Board). After the review is completed, appropriate recommendations may be incorporated into the Lake Tahoe Basin Science Plan.

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

APPENDIX B-7

LAKE TAHOE RESTORATION PROJECTS
ESTIMATED COSTS & KEY MILESTONE DATES

Project Name: Tahoe Science Consortium Agency: EPA

EIP

Prepared by: Barbara M. Smith Phone: 415/972- 3735 #: 10166

SNPLMA Project # XX, (Priority # 6-1)

Identify estimated costs of eligible reimbursement expenses:

- | | | | |
|--|----|----------------|-------|
| 1. Planning, Environmental Assessment and Research Costs (specialist surveys, reports, monitoring, data collection, analysis, NEPA, etc.) | \$ | <u>0</u> | 0% |
| 2. Direct Labor (Payroll) to Perform the Project | \$ | <u>50,000</u> | 16.7% |
| 3. Project Equipment (tools, software, specialized equipment, etc.) None valued at \$5,000 or greater / item | \$ | <u>0</u> | 0% |
| 4. Travel (including per diem where official travel status required to carry out project, such as serve as COR, experts to review reports, etc.) | \$ | <u>20,000</u> | 6.6% |
| 5. Official Vehicle Use (pro rata cost for use of Official Vehicles when required to carry out project) | \$ | <u>0</u> | 0% |
| 6. Cost of Cooperative Agreement(s) and/or Contract(s) to Perform the Project | \$ | <u>230,000</u> | 76.7% |
| 7. Other Costs (direct labor for agency personnel to do project procurements; COR; PI; personnel assigned as NEPA lead; personnel assigned to review contracted surveys, designs/drawings, reports, etc.; project manager and/or project supervisor; and contracted costs for project manager and/or project supervisor if contracted separately) | \$ | <u>0</u> | 0% |
| TOTAL*: | \$ | <u>300,000</u> | 100% |

Estimated Key Milestone Dates:

Milestones/Deliverables:	Date:
Project Management and Administration	Project duration
Administrative and Logistical Support to Tahoe Science Consortium	December 2008
Scientific Review of SNPLMA Round 7/8 Projects	December 2008
Final Completion Date:	December 31, 2008

COMMENTS: