ATTACHMENT 4

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To:
Office of Planning and Research
1400 10th Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

From:
California Tahoe Conservancy
1061 Third Street
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Project Title: Trail Network Improvements Grants

Project Location – Specific: Trails on USDA Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) land within the California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin). Specific trails and trail segments are still to be identified. Exhibit A shows LTBMU-managed trails on the south, west, and north of the California side of the Basin—including segments of the Tahoe Rim Trail and other heavily used trails—that may be prioritized for work.
Project Location – City: City of South Lake Tahoe and unincorporated areas of El Dorado and Placer counties
Project Location – County: El Dorado County, Placer County

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:
The Conservancy will provide two grants of up to $115,000 ($230,000 total) to the Tahoe Area Mountain Biking Association (TAMBA) and the Tahoe Rim Trail Association (TRTA) for trail enhancement work. TAMBA and the TRTA will hire professional trail crews to complete trail improvements on up to 40 miles of existing trails during the 2026 and 2027 summer seasons, as part of their Volunteer Service Agreement with the LTBMU. Potential work includes: building erosion control features (e.g., rock walls, armored drainages, and stream crossings), clearing overgrowth in burn areas, and improving trail width, tread, and wayfinding to reduce user-created trails. This will create long-term solutions for erosion control and improve environmental sustainability on Lake Tahoe Basin trails. The TRTA and TAMBA intend to partner and leverage each organization's capacity and skills to complete the work.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project:
California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy meeting of September 18, 2025) (Agenda Item 10)

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: The Tahoe Area Mountain Biking Association and the Tahoe Rim Trail Association

Exempt Status:
☐ Ministerial (§ 15268)
☐ Declared Emergency (§ 15269(a))
☐ Emergency Project (§ 15269(b)(c))
☒ Categorical Exemptions – § 15301, Existing Facilities (see also 14 Cal. Code Regs. § 12102.1); § 15303, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures (see also 14 Cal. Code Regs. § 12102.3)

Reasons Why the Project is Exempt:
This project involves repairs and minor alterations to existing trails, such as improving trail width, tread, and wayfinding, with negligible or no expansion of their existing use. In addition, it involves the construction of small structures or facilities serving public recreational and erosion control purposes, such as rock walls, armored drainages, and stream crossings. All trail improvements will be within existing trail corridors.

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Date Received for Filing:

Jason Vasques

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Executive Director