



MEETING DATE: November 5, 2015
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Kevin Smith, General Manager
SUBJECT: Tahoe City Emergency Services Heliport Design Review

OBJECTIVE: Review draft plans and project overview for the Tahoe City Emergency Services Heliport.

DISCUSSION: Earlier this summer, staff working with Bill Quesnel and engineering staff at the Tahoe City PUD completed all TRPA requirements, allowing the District to begin the land development applications through Placer County. As you will recall, the Board first approved funding for the Heliport construction as part of the 2014 Fiscal Year Budget. Due to coverage issues and TRPA permitting, it has taken extra time to get to the entitlement phase of the project with Placer County. Staff will review the plans and drawings with the Board including answering any questions Directors or the public have related to the project.

Next steps are for Staff to present this same information to the Tahoe City Golf Course Oversight Committee for their approval. Staff will then submit the full application package to Placer County for land use approvals.

We anticipate bidding in late winter/ early spring and to begin construction this summer with completion anticipated in late September 2016. Staff will bring final bid results back to the Board for approval before contracts are issued.

OVERVIEW OF PROJECT: The primary objective of this project is to enhance airborne emergency service access to the west shore of Lake Tahoe. While EMS aircraft currently serve the area, access to the area and the quality of landing zones varies by time of day, day of week, and even the season of the year. With the construction of a certified FAA and Caltrans approved heliport, many variables affecting safety, access, staging, and emergency response times are greatly improved. Emergency service agencies which support this project and would utilize the site are as follows:

- United State Coast Guard
- Care Flight
- Cal Fire
- North Tahoe Fire Protection District
- Meeks Bay Fire Protection District
- Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team
- Placer County Sheriff

The Heliport design will include a 60 foot diameter concrete pad designed to accommodate aircraft no larger than a Sikorsky UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter. The pad will primarily be used by much smaller Bell and A Star helicopters currently in use in our region by Care Flight, CALSTAR, Placer County Sheriff, and the California Highway Patrol. TTAD does not anticipate more than a few operations per month from the site. There will be no structures on the site taller than 4 feet. The pad will have in-ground pilot controlled lighting. Private recreational or business use will be strictly prohibited. Language restricting use to emergency services will be included in the easement agreement. This use restriction will be held by the Oversight Committee.

FISCAL IMPACT: Estimated project costs are \$275,000

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: Staff and the District General Manager have been very active working with the Golf Course Oversight Committee. The District participated in various public workshops in 2014 outlining anticipated Heliport operations, design, and frequency of use. The public was able to participate in these workshops. The current site as proposed is situated per the public feedback received at these workshops. The Tahoe City Golf Course Oversight Committee is a publicly appointed Board and subject to the Brown Act. Each meeting has opportunities for public comment.

The Airport District has a seat on the Oversight Committee and actively participates. The General Manager is the District appointee to the Committee.

ATTACHMENTS:

Site Plan

Grading Plan

Plan Elevations