

TRUCKEE TAHOE AIRPORT DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Topic: Benefit and Outreach to Lake Tahoe Basin

Purpose Information: Guidance: **X** Decision:

Recommendation Review and consider concepts and ideas for enhanced benefit and value to Lake Tahoe Basin. Receive and consider public comment.

Last Action At the December 2010 Board Meeting, it was decided to refocus our outreach efforts to the Lake Tahoe Basin and other areas of the District that may not feel directly served by the Airport. Staff was directed to work towards identifying concepts and ideas that could provide potential benefits and value to the Basin in lieu of holding quarterly meetings in Kings Beach.

Discussion For the past 3 months the General Manager has met with various community groups, public utility districts and public safety agencies. This effort has concentrated on identifying potential opportunities to provide greater benefit and value to the Tahoe Basin and to increase the visibility of the Airport District in outlining areas.

To begin this outreach project, Staff consulted the 2009 Godbe Survey. One of the standouts of this survey among District constituents was a strong favorable connection with the airport related to fire fighting, search and rescue, and medical evacuation services. There was a high level of knowledge and favorable awareness among community members related to these services. We used this information as a starting point as we discussed benefit and value with stakeholder groups in the Tahoe basin.

The District has reached out to the following agencies and groups:

- North Tahoe Fire District
- Meeks Bay Fire District
- North Tahoe Resort Association and Chamber of Commerce
- Placer County Sherriff
- North Tahoe Public Utility District
- Tahoe City Public Utility District
- Granlibakken Breakfast Club
- Tahoe Truckee Unified School District

In meetings with these groups and agencies, various common threads were identified as potential for the District to provide new services. The following are prioritized in order of popularity among stakeholders:

1. Storage. All public safety agencies identified storage of emergency management equipment as a concern. Their summer fire fighting and mitigation equipment is stored from South Lake Tahoe to Carson City to Reno. They would much prefer to have it centrally located and close to their

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operation areas. Some of this equipment is needed and used in winter as well. This was identified as a particular need with the Placer County Sheriff's precinct in Tahoe City. They have some very expensive equipment stored in their small parking lot and outdoors.

Staff Synopsis - District constituents may benefit from a centralized emergency management equipment storage area.

2. Medical Evacuation Enhancements. Anything the Airport District can do to assure the Truckee Tahoe Airport remains attractive to medevac operators will provide great benefit to the entire District. Enhancements to landing zones (LZs) along the lake would be appreciated. Improvements to airport facilities which would improve first response time would also be very important.

Staff Synopsis – We haven't always had medevac services based at the airport. Items such as new crew quarters and centralizing the medevac operation on the field would move us in the right direction to keep these services. The District could also explore opportunities to do enhancements to existing LZs, along with potential opportunities to acquire open space for new emergency management LZs lakeside and in the Donner Summit area.

3. Communication Equipment. Because of our unique terrain in the region, communication equipment was identified as a regional need. Agencies identified various enhancements that could be made to existing systems and new systems that could be deployed.

Staff Synopsis – While it may be problematic to make a specific connection to our aviation related mission, there may be opportunities to provide locations for equipment and/or equipment specialized to communicate with aircraft.

4. Training. This was identified as a regional need. A localized emergency management training base is something the various Fire Districts are considering and have identified as a regional priority need.

Staff Synopsis – We currently allow and welcome local public safety agencies to train on the airport. They are a common user of the airport ramp for training purposes. The District may want to consider enhancements to this use.

5. Provide Funding for Flight Time and Fuel. Placer County has various well equipped air assets that have limited utilization because of funding shortfalls. Local law enforcement feels there would be significant benefit if these aircraft could be deployed more to our District. These aircraft serve both Placer and Nevada County.

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Staff Synopsis – We may want to consider using property tax funding to provide more utilization of these assets within District boundaries. We need to understand what we receive as a baseline service from the County and then identify what we can do to receive additional benefit through potentially funding additional operations.

The following additional concepts and ideas were identified through our outreach efforts. In no particular order of priority, they are as follows:

- Attend and provide greater presence at Lake Tahoe Basin community events.
- Tahoe City Santa Fly-in (helicopter to NTHS).
- Look for opportunities to provide more community sponsorships to schools and community groups.
- Continue to recycle or surplus equipment to other agencies in District.
- Sponsor Splash-In or Sea Plane events.
- Continue to be active in North Tahoe Chamber of Commerce.
- History of Lake Tahoe Aviation and Sea Plane display at Tahoe Maritime Museum.

Staff has prepared a presentation outlining these various concepts and ideas which will be presented to the public for discussion. We will also be very interested in any additional concepts and ideas presented by the Board of Directors and the public in attendance at the April 28th meeting.

Fiscal Impact	There currently is not a specific fiscal impact from this outreach effort. Implementation of these various concepts would have obvious fiscal impact which would need to be studied in detail.
Communication Strategy	Notices were published in the North Tahoe and Tahoe City PUD newsletters the first week of April. These newsletters go out with utility billing to every property owner with a utility account. Between the two utility districts, they should have reached approximately 7000 property owners. The North Tahoe Resort Association and Chamber of Commerce has noticed this meeting multiple times in their e-newsletter and have done an e-blast to its 600 members. This effort has also been discussed in detail with the agency Directors listed above and announced at the Granlibakken Breakfast Club in March.
Attachments	Community Presentation
