

July 7, 2010

To: Board of Directors

From: Ron Treabess, Interim Executive Director

Re: Update of State Budget, SB 625, Local Tax Protection Ballot Measure

Doug Houston from the Houston Group, and the NLTRA Legislative Consultant in Sacramento, will be at the Board meeting to present the status of the FY-2010/11 State Budget and other legislative matters that may have some effect on North Lake Tahoe, the Resort Association and/or Placer County. This will include the status of SB 625 and the Local Tax Protection Act that has recently qualified for the November, 2010, California ballot (see attached press release). As you know, Senate Bill 625, potential legislation that would undermine the ability of Placer County to fully collect local transient occupancy tax (TOT) from online sales, was discussed at your June Board meeting. At that time, the Board directed staff to write a letter to Assemblyman Gaines and Senator Cox opposing the proposed bill. A copy of that letter is attached for your reference.



June 14, 2010

Assembly Member, Ted Gaines State Capitol, Room 2068 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Opposition to Potential Legislation That Would Undermine Local TOT Collection Notice of Opposition

Dear Assemblyman Gaines:

On behalf of the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association, we request your strong opposition to any legislation that would undermine the ability of Placer County to fully collect local transient occupancy tax (TOT) from online sales.

It has come to our attention that online travel companies are proposing to gut and amend a bill and insert language that would undercut TOT collection. We understand that the identified vehicle for this legislation will be SB 625 (Wright), which will soon be amended in the Assembly. The proposal is intended to pre-empt the outcome of pending litigation in California and other states regarding whether online travel companies must remit the full TOT owed to the local agency. The industry has also repeatedly tried to seek similar legislation at the federal level and has been rebuffed.

Online travel companies such as Expedia, Hotels.com, Travelocity and others collect TOT on the price the customer pays for the room but only remit the tax to the county based on the discounted wholesale room rate the online travel company pays to the hotelier. These online travel companies retain a portion of the tax they collect, claiming that it's part of the fees they collect on their sale of the hotel room. In reality, the online hotel company is retaining tax dollars that are owed to the local agency.

Placer County, and specifically the North Lake Tahoe area, generates approximately \$9 million of its general fund revenue from TOT. These funds are very important to our community and support vital services for California visitors to Lake Tahoe, as well as local residents.

The County has already had to make significant cuts in transportation services, road maintenance, snow removal, visitor infrastructure improvements, and health services because of declining revenues. State budget takeaways and deferrals have only compounded the issue.

We ask for you strong opposition to any effort to undermine our local revenues by legislative action. The legal dispute over the duty of online companies to remit the full amount of TOT owed to local agencies is already in the courts. That is where the issue should remain.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Ron Treabess Interim Executive Director North Lake Tahoe Resort Association

Cc:

Michael Prosio, Secretary & Deputy Chief of Staff, Governor's Office Dan Carrigg, Legislative Director, League of California Cities Home

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Ballot Measure to Stop State Raids of Local Government and Transportation Funds Qualifies for November 2010 Ballot

Measure Will Protect Funding for Local Public Safety, Emergency Response, Transportation, Transit and Other Vital Local Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 22, 2010

Sacramento, CA – California Secretary of State Debra Bowen announced today that the Local Taxpayer, Public Safety and Transportation Protection Act of 2010 (AG Initiative #: 09-0063) qualified for the November 2010 ballot.

The measure, supported by a coalition of local government, transportation, business, public safety, taxpayer, labor and public transit leaders, closes loopholes to prevent the State from taking, diverting or borrowing local government, transportation and public transit funds. Supporters submitted more than 1.1 million signatures and counties verified through the random sampling verification process that the coalition had met the requirement of 694,354 valid signatures.

"More than 1 million California voters signed the petition to stop State raids of local government and transportation funds," said Chris McKenzie, Executive Director of the League of California Cities and co-Chair of Californians to Protect Local Taxpayers and Vital Services. "We will now turn our attention to educating the voters to support this initiative to protect funding for the vital local services that they rely upon."

California voters have overwhelmingly passed measures in previous elections to restrict state raids of local government funds, as well as to dedicate gasoline taxes to transportation and public transit improvements and services. Despite this, State politicians have exploited loopholes in the law and used legally questionable tactics to borrow and raid approximately \$5 billion in local government, transit and redevelopment funds in the 2009/10 budget cycle and billions more in past years. Coupled with the downturn in the economy, state raids and borrowing of local funds are contributing to severe cutbacks in local police and fire, parks, libraries, street and road repair, public transit and other local services.

Sheldon Gilbert, Fire Chief of the Alameda County Fire Department and President of the California Fire Chiefs Association, said: "Reduced revenues are putting a strain on front-line fire protection, emergency response and public safety services. We must pass this measure to prevent future state actions that erode local public safety funding."

If passed, the Local Taxpayer, Public Safety, and Transportation Act of 2010 would:

- Prohibit the state from borrowing local government property tax funds which are vital for public safety and other local services.
- Prohibit the state from taking or borrowing the Highway User Tax on gasoline (HUTA), which currently funds city, county and state road, highway, transit and other transportation improvements and services.
- Prevent the State from redirecting or diverting locally levied taxes, including: parcel taxes; sales taxes; utility user taxes; Transit Occupancy Taxes which include taxes on hotel/motel rooms and rental cars; and other locally imposed taxes that are currently passed by local governments and/or local voters and dedicated to cities, counties and special districts.
- Prohibit the State from taking, borrowing or redirecting Public Transportation Account (PTA) revenues dedicated to public transit.
- Add additional constitutional protections to prevent the state from raiding redevelopment funds or shifting redevelopment funds to other state purposes.

"California voters have repeatedly supported statewide measures that dedicate the gas taxes we pay at the pump for transportation improvements," said Jim Earp, Executive Director of the California Alliance for Jobs and co-chair of Californians to Protect Local Taxpayers and Vital Services. "Despite this, year after year the Legislature exploits every loophole it can find to borrow or outright raid these critical funds. This measure will once and for all protect gas taxes from future raids and insure they are used to improve our roads, highways and transit systems – just like the voters intended."

Josh Shaw, Executive Director of the California Transit Association and co-chair of the coalition said: "Local transit agencies up and down the state are cutting routes for buses, shuttles and commuter trains as a direct result of continued state raids of local transit funds. These cuts are creating real hardships for working families who have no other mode of transportation to and from work, school, health care appointments and other life responsibilities. The decisions made in Sacramento are harming real people who rely on local services. Enough is enough. "

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"Cities and counties throughout California have been forced to make devastating cuts to law enforcement and other public safety services, due in part to state budgetary raids," said Ron Cottingham, President, Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC). "On behalf of 62,000 public safety members, PORAC urges a YES vote on this initiative to protect public safety services by stopping state raids of local funds."

Concluded McKenzie: "We know voters value their local services and strongly oppose state raids of their local tax dollars that are supposed to fund those services. We're confident voters will pass this measure in November.

Paid for by Californians to Protect Local Taxpayers and Vital Services, a coalition of taxpayers, public safety, local government, transportation, business and labor, with major funding from the League of California Cities (non-public funds and CitiPAC) and the California Alliance for Jobs -- Rebuild California Committee

1121 L Street, #803 | Sacramento, CA 95814



July 7, 2010

To: Board of Directors

From: Management Staff

Re: NLTRA/Placer County Independent Audit/Accountant Report

Background

In March, 2010, Placer County initiated an Independent Accountant's Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2009. This has been a regular procedure occurring bi-annually by the County Auditor/Controller. As stated in the report, they have performed the specific procedures enumerated, which were agreed to by the County Executive Office (County), solely to assist the Board of Supervisors in ensuring the contractual requirements with respect to the agreement between the County and the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association (Association) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2009, were being followed. Management of the Association and the County are responsible for the accounting records pertaining to contract compliance. Staff has worked closely with the County Auditor's office providing all information requested and is very appreciative of the opportunity to discuss the interpretation of the operations of the Resort Association. We feel this report provides a fair and helpful evaluation of the County/NLTRA Annual Agreement conducted during FY-2008/09. Andy Sisk, Placer County Assistant Auditor/Controller will be at the Board meeting to present the final report.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that following the presentation, questions, and discussion, the Board of Directors accept this final report including appropriate comments, if any.



July 7, 2010

To: Board of Directors

From: Management Staff

Re: Review and Possible Action to Approve NLTRA Policy for Reconciliation of Year-

End Unexpended Transportation Project Funds

At the direction of the Board, staff and the Finance Committee have prepared the following suggested policy for the reconciliation of year-end unexpended transportation project funds:

At year-end, June 30th, any unexpended Transportation Project Funds that have been paid to NLTRA from Placer County will be paid back to the Infrastructure Account held by Placer County unless the amount is less than 1% of the total Transportation Project Funds for the year.

After discussion at the June 21st Finance Committee meeting, it was agreed that the most efficient and most transparent method for reconciling any remaining balance of transportation project funds at the end of a fiscal year would be for the NLTRA to return any such funds to the County for deposit into the undesignated infrastructure fund account that is held by the County.

Recommendation

The Finance Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Board of Directors approve the subject policy as written.



MEMORANDUM

DATE:

July 7, 2010

TO:

Board of Directors

FROM:

Ron Treabess

Director of Community Partnerships

And Planning

SUBJ: June 1-30, 2010

Activity Report

A. <u>Integrated Infrastructure and Transportation Work Plan Projects—Update</u>

1. Integrated Work Plan (IWP) Update

The annual process to review and update the IWP has been completed with the realization that new project proposals, review, and recommendations are an ongoing part of the IWP process. The Project Budget, which was recommended and approved by the Joint Committee and the Board at the April and May meetings, has been used to help prepare the draft FY 2010/11 TOT budget. It has also been used to determine the probable projects expenditures in the draft NLTRA budget.

2. Reno/North Lake Tahoe Airport Shuttle (North Lake Tahoe Express) (B-5)

The eleven month NLTE Financials are attached. For this period, ridership is down 38 passengers, and fare revenues are up \$1200. Funding partner expenditures have been \$163,712, substantially down from FY 08/09, with \$16,788 remaining in budgeted funds (\$180,500) available for June costs. The NLTRA TOT fund contribution this year was \$98,000.

3. Lakeside Multi-purpose Trail (A-2)

The planning for phases 5, 6, and 7, along the commercial lake frontage east to the Tahoe State Recreation Area campground and connection to the North Shore trail, is nearing completion. According to current schedules, the entire project is scheduled for completion in 2011-12, pending availability of previous funding commitments. The NLTRA and Placer County continue to be a major funding partner for this project having recently approved the Tahoe City Public Utility District request for \$1,075,000. In addition, the California Tahoe Conservancy has granted \$2.5 million for this project. TCPUD has also prepared the necessary planning documentation to allow application for additional construction funds through the federal American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funding program in the amount of \$800,000 to \$1,000,000. At its most recent meeting, the TCPUD Board authorized its staff to call for bids to move ahead with the construction of Phase VII of the project this fall.

4. Dollar Hill/Tahoe Vista Class 1 Bicycle Trail (A-6)

The most recent development in the progress of this project is that the North Tahoe Public Utility District, which had been the lead agency, has turned that responsibility over to the California Tahoe Conservancy. The CTC will negotiate a new consultant contract to complete the environmental documentation enabling environmental review, design and construction to move ahead. The CTC has been and will continue to be the primary project funding agency. The NLTRA and Board of Supervisors have approved \$200,000 to assist with the environmental work. It is anticipated that an additional \$1,000,000 TOT request will be made for the construction phase.

5. TART Bus Shelters Upgrades (A-4)

At the January 20th meeting, the NLTRA Board of Directors approved and recommended to the Placer County Board of Supervisors the request for up to \$153,000 of matching funds to DPW to provide Tahoe Basin transit stop improvements. Two positive recommendations that will be included in the shelter designs are lighting and signage on each shelter stating its location. The Board of Supervisors approved the project at their February 23rd meeting. The Contractors Association of Truckee Tahoe has inquired about potentially providing some level of volunteer community service to this project. Staff has referred this request to DPW. Staff has also prepared the funding agreement needing to be signed by DPW. This is a requirement before any of this new funding is released to DPW. The first two shelters being advertised for construction will be located in the Sunnyside area of the west shore. The necessary funding agreement has been signed by DPW enabling funds to be released upon request.

6. TART Bus Shelter Bear Boxes (A-25)

At the January 20th meeting, the NLTRA Board of Directors approved and recommended to the Placer County Board of Supervisors a request for up to \$20,000 to the TNT/TMA to provide bear proof garbage containers at existing bus shelters. The Board of Supervisors approval on February 23rd will allow this project to begin immediately. The bear proof containers have been ordered and four have been installed. The necessary funding agreement has been signed by the TNT/TMA enabling funds to be released upon request. Addition funds will be necessary to complete site plans being required by Caltrans which were not anticipated for the Caltrans permitting process.

7. Tahoe City Transit Center (A-11)

The bidding process, which had been challenged causing delay in awarding the contract, has been resolved. This enabled the contract to be awarded by the Board of Supervisors at its April 27th meeting. Groundbreaking occurred last week with project completion currently scheduled for January 2010.

8. Water Taxi Proposal

A proposal is being developed to initiate a water taxi service that would start on a small scale along the north and west shores of Lake Tahoe. The Tahoe Transportation District is looking at this potential project as a possible component in the overall lake shuttle program that they have taking the lead to develop. The TNT/TMA, Placer County, and the NLTRA have been included in the early discussions.

9. Squaw Valley Olympic Museum

The Site Selection committee has recommended to the Squaw Valley Ski Museum Board that undeveloped land on the regional park site south of Squaw Valley Road be used to locate the museum. They will now meet with Placer County to discuss the feasibility of using this site which is on Placer County land.

10. Regional Performing Arts Center

The Tahoe Mountain Resorts Foundation (TMRF) is continuing to work with Northstar land owner, CML, to get a written commitment to use the chosen site near the entrance to Northstar. At the June 28th Joint Committee meeting, Director Beck that if a commitment is not received by September 30th, other sites should be considered for the Center. TMRF did submit the attached letter as requested by the NLTRA Board.

11. November 2010 Ballot Measure

A press release has been issued by the California Secretary of State announcing that the Local Taxpayer, Public Safety and Transportation Protection Act of 2010 qualified for the November 2010 ballot. If passed, this Act would prohibit the state from taking, borrowing, or redirecting the Highway User Tax on gasoline, Public Transportation Account revenues, and locally levied taxes, including Transient Occupancy Taxes, as well as others. As you know, many of the NLTRA supported projects and transportation services rely on funds from these sources.

12. Next Joint Infrastructure/Transportation Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the Joint Committee will be Monday, July 26, 2010. The County Board of Supervisors has recently approved five of six County appointments to the Infrastructure Committee, which run through December 31, 2011. These include the reappointment of Keith Vogt and Guy Perman, and the appointment of Pat Peterson, John Pang, and Curtis Aaron.

B. Other Meetings and Activities Attended

- Tuesday Morning Breakfast Club/Program Planning
- NLTRA Board of Directors Meeting
- Placer County Economic Development Board/NLTRA Input
- TNT/TMA Board/NLTRA Representative
- Resort Triangle Transportation Planning Coalition/Area Transportation
 Discussion
- Chamber Mixer/Tahoe Yacht Club
- Tahoe City West End Planning/Fire Station Replacement
- Placer County Design Review Committee/Wayfinding Signage
- Chamber Summer Recreation Luncheon
- CHP Truckee/Summer Traffic Management
- Tahoe City Downtown Association Mixer
- Placer County Auditor Meeting/NLTRA Audit
- Chamber Highway Clean-up

- Classic Car Show Tahoe City/Chamber representative
- Chamber Mixer/Porter Simon
- NLTRA Executive Committee
- Sustainable Grant Workshop/Placer County/Calif. Tahoe Conserv.
- Marketing Committee
- Chamber Committee
- Marketing Coop. Committee

North Lake Tahoe Express Financials

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June 25, 2010

Ron Treabess
Director of Community Partnerships & Planning
P.O. Box 884
Tahoe City, CA 96145

Dear Ron,

This is to update the NLRTA and the Joint Infrastructure/Transportation Committee as to the status of the planned Performing Arts Center and Amphitheater at Northstar.

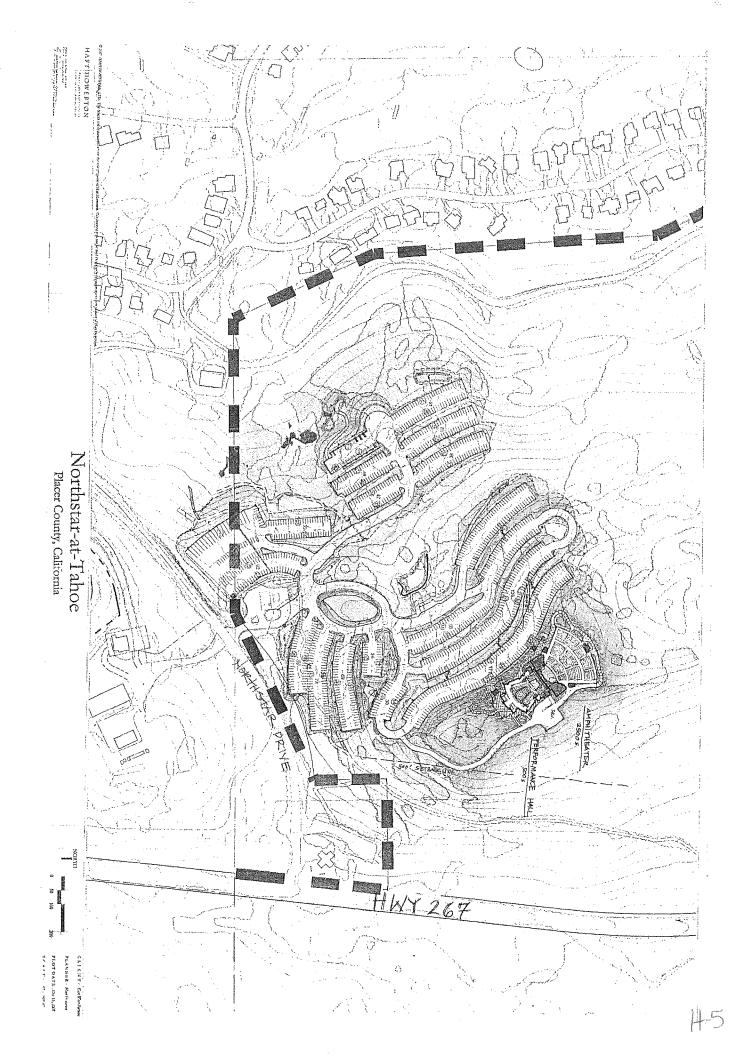
As you know we had progressed thru meetings with various potential stakeholders including Booth Creek Holdings, NPOA and a number of other interested parties. We had also had our architects provide a conceptual plan and met with some engineers to provide Civil Engineering and Survey services for the project. However, thru this last winter there has not been much more progress due to weather and a number of other developments that have occupied the time of many of the principal participants. That being said let me assure you that we are still planning on continuing with the project because we feel it will be a vital asset to the North Lake Tahoe community and will significantly add to tourism and the vitality of the region.

To move forward, it is critical that the property for the planned site be made available by the owners. To that end we are planning to meet with the owners thru Booth Creek Holdings. Although we have received a verbal positive response, we don't feel we can approach the NLRTA for any funding until we have confirmation in writing that the site is available. When that written confirmation is available we will seek the funding to get the initial stages of our plans started.

I have attached both a black & white and color drawing of the conceptual facility plan. I also have a copy of the engineering review and proposal from SCO Planning and Engineering if you would like a copy. If you have any questions or would like more information, please don't hesitate to call me.

Sincerel

Nefl P. Cunningham Executive Director



		Board/Staff Follow-up on Previous Action Items		
Assigned	Date	Action	Status	Date Completed
Ron Treabess	5/5/2010	Staff will request a written confirmation from Northstar that the Performing Arts Center project is moving forward.	June 28th Joint Committee Meeting	Received June 28th
Ron Treabess	5/5/2010	The Board directed staff to take Board concerns including the location for the Performing Arts Center, transportation funding, and the method used to approve Infrastructure projects to the Joint Infrastructure/Transportation Committee for review, discussion and recommendation.	June 28th Joint Committee Meeting	Performing Arts discussed June 28th; others continued
Finance Committee and Ron/Sally	5/5/2010	Finance Committee and staff will develop a policy for Board approval as to the resolution of unused budgeted Transportation funds at the conclusion of each fiscal year.	June 21st Finance Committee Meeting	
Andy	5/5/2010	Staff will present the Smith and Jones pay structure to the Board at a future meeting.	July 7th Board Meeting	
Andy/Alex	5/5/2010	Staff will agendize Marketing Committee discussion related to reciprocal links between GTN Web site and lodging properties and other members.	June 29th Marketing Committee Meeting	Completed June 29th
Ron	6/1/2010	Staff to prepare letter opposing Senate Bill 625, if appropriate		Completed June 14th
Ron/Andy	6/1/2010	Secure Amgen Tour of California for spring 2011 and write letter to Caltrans encouraging them to improve/repair Highway 267 in anticipation of Amgen Tour.	on-going	
Ron	6/1/2010	To agendize discussion on the use of logos as it relates to TOT expenditures. Draft policy language on logo usage.	July 28th Chamber Meeting	
Alex/Staff	6/1/2010	The Board Chair will work with staff to determine Chamber specific roles versus those of the NLTRA to further refine discussion as it relates to organizational concepts.	on-going	
Search Committee	6/1/2010	Develop different organizational concepts and continue CEO search.	on-going	
Ron/Sally	6/1/2010	Staff will draft a job description for Board review.		Sent June 21st