

COUNTY OF NEVADA
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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



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September 12, 2023

The Honorable Judge Scott Thomsen
Supervising Judge of the Grand Jury
201 Church Street
Nevada City, CA 95959

RE: County of Nevada Responses to Grand Jury 2022/23 Report entitled Donner Lake: A Pearl in Peril.

Honorable Judge Scott Thomsen,

Please find enclosed the County of Nevada's responses to the Grand Jury's 2022/23 Report *Donner Lake: A Pearl in Peril* as approved by the Board of Supervisors at their regularly scheduled meeting on September 12, 2023.

Sincerely,

Ed Scofield
Chair, Board of Supervisors

Encl.

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RESPONSES TO

2023 Nevada County Civil Grand Jury Report

Report on responses to the 2022-2023 Grand Jury Report: *Donner Lake: A Pearl in Peril*

DATED September 12, 2023

In accordance with California Penal Code § 933.05(b), the Nevada County Board of Supervisors is responding to the Nevada County Civil Grand Jury FY 2022/23 Report entitled *Donner Lake: A Pearl in Peril*. The responses to findings and recommendations are based on examination of official county records, review of the responses by the County Executive Officer, County Counsel, and county staff.

In summary, the Grand Jury Report recommends Nevada County partner with the Town of Truckee and various stakeholders to establish a consortium with the mission to develop solutions related to excessive runoff from the hillside and interstate down to Donner Lake. Nevada County would be open to participating in a consortium at the request of the Town of Truckee, as the area of concern is in the Town of Truckee town limits and outside the county's jurisdiction. We thank the Grand Jury for its hard work investigating issues or interest to the public and providing the county with an opportunity to respond to its recommendations as listed below.

A. RESPONSES TO FINDINGS

F2: Agencies local government, and organizations interviewed were all willing to contribute to a consortium convened to address the issues on the hillside affecting Donner Lake, area residents and visitors.

We agree with this finding.

F3: For successful strategies to be implemented, Caltrans and Lahontan must be part of the consortium and solution.

We partially agree with this finding as the agencies involved will depend on the strategies proposed.

B. RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS

R1: The Town of Truckee initiate a partnership with the County of Nevada and DIPS, for the purpose of conveying a consortium including but not limited to:

- California State Parks
- Tahoe Donner Association
- Truckee Donner Land Trust
- Truckee Donner Public Utility District ‘
- Truckee Donner Recreation and Parks District
- Truckee Meadows Water Authority
- Truckee Sanitary District
- Truckee River Watershed Council, convener/facilitator
- Nevada County Transportation Commission
- Caltrans
- Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted.

The recommendation is not warranted because Nevada County does not have jurisdiction over the area of concern as the area is in the Town of Truckee town limits. Nevada County would be open to participating in a consortium at the request of the Town of Truckee.

R2: The Town of Truckee, Nevada County and DIPS establish an initial mission and charter for the consortium that should:

- Address the significant risks to the safety of Truckee residents, their homes, critical utilities, and importantly, the health and sustainability of Donner Basin.
- Seek and secure the funding to engineer and build the infrastructure necessary to manage the excessive runoff from the hillside and interstate down to Donner Lake.
- Establish a working relationship with Lahontan and Caltrans. This is critical to the success of the Consortium’s mission.

This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted.

The recommendation is not warranted because Nevada County does not have jurisdiction over the area of concern as the area is in the Town of Truckee town limits. Nevada County would be open to participating in a consortium at the request of the Town of Truckee, including establishing a mission or charter.