

530.550.8760  
P.O. Box 8568  
Truckee, CA 96162  
truckeeriverwc.org



# Truckee River Watershed Council

Collaborative solutions to protect, enhance and restore the Truckee River Watershed

California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
California Department of Parks and Recreation  
California Department of Water Resources  
California Fly Fisher Magazine  
Glenshire Homeowners Association  
DMB/Highlands Group, LLC  
East West Partners  
Friends of Squaw Creek  
KidZone Museum  
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Mountain Area Preservation  
Nevada County  
North Lake Tahoe Resort Association  
Northstar California  
Placer County  
Placer County Water Agency  
Sagehen Creek Field Station - UC Berkeley  
Sierra Business Council  
Sierra County  
Sierra Watch  
Sierra Watershed Education Partnerships  
Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows  
Tahoe Truckee Sanitation Agency  
Town of Truckee  
Trout Unlimited  
Truckee Donner Land Trust  
Truckee Donner Public Utility District  
Truckee Meadows Water Authority  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
USDA Forest Service  
Tahoe National Forest

October 15, 2015

Perry Norris  
Executive Director  
Truckee Donner Land Trust  
P.O. Box 8816  
Truckee, CA 96162

RE: Van Norden Meadow Reservoir Releases

Dear Perry,

Please refer to our letter of April 25, 2014 for more details on our support of the Van Norden Meadow restoration.

Van Norden meadow is immediately adjacent to the Truckee River watershed and serves as an important connecting wildlife and avian corridor to the Truckee River watershed and beyond.

The meadow restoration will reconnect the natural floodplain and restore hydrologic function within the meadow. This will restore wetlands that have dried out due to stream incision, water the rest of the meadow, reduce erosion, and increase riparian and aquatic habitat. There will be significant gains in habitat for birds and wildlife.

We understand that it is necessary to begin water releases from the reservoir to allow the maximum beneficial use of water per the California Department of Water Resources. Additionally, the lowering of the reservoir can start the restoration of wetlands.

We support the restoration of Van Norden to as natural a state as possible, and thus we support the Land Trust's decision to reduce the pool, and then in separate actions to lower the dam and facilitate comprehensive restoration.

We appreciate the complexity of the decision and thoroughness with which the Land Trust and the community have explored options.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Wallace".

Lisa Wallace, Executive Director

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Sierra Business Council

Sierra County

Sierra Watch

Sierra Watershed  
Education Partnerships

Squaw Valley and  
Alpine Meadows

Tahoe Truckee  
Sanitation Agency

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Truckee Donner  
Land Trust

Truckee Donner Public  
Utility District

Truckee Meadows  
Water Authority

U.S. Army Corps of  
Engineers

USDA Forest Service  
Tahoe National Forest

April 25, 2014

Perry Norris  
Executive Director  
Truckee Donner Land Trust  
P.O. Box 8816  
Truckee, CA 96162

RE: Van Norden Meadow Restoration

Dear Perry,

The mission of the Truckee River Watershed Council is to bring the community *Together for The Truckee*. The Watershed Council was founded in 1996 to protect and restore the water quality and biological resources of the Truckee River watershed. We identify, coordinate, fund and implement restoration projects directly related to the health, beauty, and economy of the watershed. Combining ecological principles and a deep understanding of our region's values, we focus on root causes of threats to the Truckee River watershed.

We have partnered with the Truckee Donner Land Trust for well over a decade on such restoration projects as Gray Creek, Perazzo Meadows, Lacey Meadows, Middle Martis Creek, Truckee Wetlands, Elizabeth Town, and Johnson Canyon. On these projects and others, we have prioritized the restoration of wetlands, meadows, and streams.

One of our highest priorities is ecological resilience. Resilient ecosystems have greater capacity to adapt and thrive in the face of natural disturbances and large scale threats. This is especially true with uncertain environmental conditions such as those driven by climate change and increasing human use.

Van Norden Meadow is not in the Truckee River watershed and as such is not a geography where we work. Perhaps one would say we do not have a stake in what happens there. However, given the critical importance and scarcity of montane meadows in the Sierra Nevada (NFWF, 2013), Van Norden meadow, because it is *immediately adjacent* to the Truckee River watershed, is very important as a connecting corridor to the Truckee River watershed and beyond.

The meadow restoration will reconnect the natural floodplain and restore hydrologic function within the meadow. This will restore wetland areas that have dried out due to stream incision, water the rest of the meadow, reduce erosion, and increase riparian and aquatic habitat. There will be significant gains in habitat for birds and wildlife.

We support the restoration of the meadow to as natural a state as possible, and thus we support the Land Trust's decision to lower the dam, reduce the pool, and facilitate comprehensive restoration.

We appreciate the complexity of the decision and thoroughness with which the Land Trust and the community have explored options.

Lisa Wallace, Executive Director