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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
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Mountain Area
Preservation

Nevada County

North Lake Tahoe
Resort Association

Northstar California

Placer County

Placer County Water
Agency

Sagehen Creek Field
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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

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 the of 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 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