



**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** Michael Schwartz, Fire Chief  
**Date:** September 24, 2020  
**Subject:** Meeks Bay Restoration Project Update

Division Chief McNamara will provide a verbal update of the Meeks Bay Restoration Project.

For some background information I am including a letter I sent to, then Lake Tahoe Basin Forest Supervisor, Jeff Marsolais, which outlines some proposed considerations and a map of the project area.



## **North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts**



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***Michael S. Schwartz, Fire Chief***

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October 8, 2018

Jeff Marsolais, Forest Supervisor

Re: Proposed Meeks Bay Restoration Project

Dear Jeff,

We were recently informed of the proposed Meeks Bay Restoration Project and wanted to respond directly to you on the related opportunities to our agencies.

As you are aware, North Tahoe Fire Protection District and Meeks Bay Fire Protection District provide all risk emergency fire, rescue, and medical response to the west shore of Lake Tahoe from Tahoe City to Emerald Bay. Additionally, automatic and mutual agreements allow our personnel and apparatus to respond south to South Lake Tahoe and Lake Valley Fire jurisdictions. Our District is also a mutual aid partner to the US Forest Service and CALFIRE direct protection areas throughout the 89 corridor. The Districts provide direct service to the Meeks Bay area from our Meeks Bay Station 61. The proposed project is directly adjacent to the station property.

Therefore, we would like the scope of the project to include the additional considerations and potential opportunities as listed below:

1. **Community Fire Station.** A public/public or public/private partnership to develop a community fire station in the Meeks Bay area. A potential partnership could include a joint station with USFS to replace the current Station 43. A community fire station model could be considered that would include a dedicated park, transit center, Class 1 trail access, WIFI connectivity, parking, bicycle storage, utility undergrounding, and community meeting areas.
2. **Public Safety Access Pier.** Inadequate hydrant water supply has caused our Districts to consider alternative delivery of water supply via an over the water fire boat. The Districts often also have a need to access injured or ill patients from Lake Tahoe. The Districts will likely be purchasing a boat

for fire and rescue response in the near future. The need for a pier that is accessible for our fire boat or other agencies boats would be beneficial.

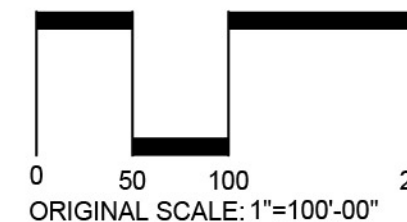
3. Project location to existing Fire Station. The proposed project is directly adjacent to Station 61. We believe the Districts should be considered in the planning and implementation phases. The Districts Fire Marshall should also be consulted for any fire prevention related items, especially in the area of access and water supply.
4. Fuel reduction and Defensible Space. Any project that has an opportunity and nexus for fuel reduction and defensible space could be mutually evaluated for funding, project development, and implementation opportunities.
5. Cellular connectivity. Cellular connectivity continues to be an issue for emergency notification to 911 by the public on the Highway 89 corridor. Cellular connectivity is also crucial to responder situational awareness, incident notification from our dispatch center, and overall communications. Improvements to the basin wide communication infrastructure utilizing cellular and radio area networks would be profoundly beneficial to public safety in the project area.
6. Public Access AED. Our District has recently developed and is now implementing the deployment of automatic external defibrillators (AED) through the communities we serve in an effort to improve cardiac arrest survivability. More than 460,000 Americans die each year from sudden cardiac arrest. Sudden Cardiac Arrest is a major unsolved public health problem and a leading cause of death in the United States. Clinical studies have shown the survival rate increases to 30% to 70% when an automated external defibrillator is available and used on a victim within three minutes from the onset of a cardiac arrest. Therefore a potential consideration would be to establish AED stations in the area.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of the above referenced opportunities. Please contact me at your convenience to discuss them further.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Schwartz".

*Michael Schwartz*  
*Fire Chief*



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