

Preface

The Tahoe Basin Interagency Roadway Maintenance and Operations Committee (TBIRMOC) was formed to evaluate best management practices (BMPs) and other methods for minimizing the impact road operations and maintenance have on the environment in the Lake Tahoe basin. The committee hopes to provide guidance to improve BMP project consistency and reduce review efforts by regulatory agencies to accelerate project implementation. Members of the committee include the Executive Officer of the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Executive Director of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, CalTrans District 3 Director, the Nevada Department of Transportation District Engineer, and the City of South Lake Tahoe City Manager.

Five subcommittees were formed to address committee goals. A Milestone Marker Committee met and established uniform design details for mile markers in the Lake Tahoe Basin. The Bikeway Construction, Operations and Maintenance subcommittee was formed to address the need for comprehensive bike routes and develop consistent designs. An Aesthetics subcommittee is developing design criteria to meet scenic thresholds. The Winter Maintenance and Operations subcommittee addresses plowing and abrasive use. The Tahoe Interagency Roadway runoff Subcommittee (TIRS) was charged with drafting a document to guide road and highway managers in planning effective storm water treatment projects.

This Planning Guidance document is the product of the TIRS effort. As the title suggests, this document is intended to guide project proponents in the planning stages of project design. Although design suggestions are included, this document is not intended to serve as a design manual. Most road and highway departments, including the California and Nevada Departments of Transportation, have specific design specifications that must be followed. This document does not supercede these manuals. The goal of this document, rather, is to offer suggestions regarding which BMPs may be appropriate for a given project and provide information about the specific goals and challenges that must be considered when designing storm water treatment facilities in the Tahoe Basin.

The discussion of each BMP includes a Field Experience section to provide first hand BMP knowledge collected from local agency representatives and roadway managers. Most of these experiences are personal observations based on site specific conditions. As additional monitoring is completed, the Field Experience sections will be updated to provide links to the latest available data. By reviewing projects that have been constructed and monitored for success, project planners can evaluate the application of various BMPs for a variety of situations. When possible, the implementing agency has been provided as a contact for additional details regarding individual BMP performance.

Although the ultimate goal of TBIRMOC is a comprehensive handbook incorporating guidance documents from each of the subcommittees, this document will serve as a stand-alone text until other subcommittees submit additional material. In the interim, TBIRMOC members support the implementation of this Planning Guidance document as a valuable resource for individuals, consultants, and government agencies planning, designing, and constructing road and highway storm water treatment facilities in the Lake Tahoe Basin.