

Memorandum of Understanding

Among Research Institutions:

University of California, Davis; University of Nevada, Reno; Desert Research Institute; U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station; U.S. Department of Interior, Geological Survey; Sierra Nevada College;

And Resource Management Agencies:

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit; U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service; U.S. Department of Defense, Army Corps of Engineers; U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; State of California; State of Nevada; Nevada Department of Transportation; Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

Regarding the Tahoe Science Consortium

August 20, 2005

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to support the development of the Tahoe Science Consortium (Consortium), a membership of research institutions. The community of scientists at Lake Tahoe represents a broad spectrum of institutions and agencies and the undersigned recognize the benefits of collaboration with this community for science programs at Lake Tahoe. This MOU acknowledges the desire to develop a working relationship among Consortium member institutions and with participating resource management agencies supporting the preservation, restoration and enhancement of the unique environmental values of the Lake Tahoe basin.

The undersigned recognize that scientific inquiry, resource assessment, and interpretation of available data are critical for the development and implementation of effective environmental policy, and that use of the best available scientific information is required for resource managers to meet environmental standards for water and air quality, soil conservation, wildlife, fish and vegetation communities, as well as noise and scenic conditions, and recreation opportunities in the Tahoe basin.

The primary objective of the Consortium will be to provide environmental managers and decision makers with comprehensive and well-synthesized scientific findings drawn from research, monitoring, and modeling.

The Consortium and resource management agencies will:

- promote integration between current and future independent scientific projects,
- recommend priorities for future research based on a comprehensive science plan,
- foster a collaborative research environment that brings together disciplines and institutions,
- create an environment that promotes the contributions of new researchers,
- emphasize close cooperation between research scientists and land and resource managers to enhance the generation and transfer of scientific findings in the most effective manner,

- communicate the best available information to decision makers and other stakeholders in a timely and user-friendly manner, so that policies and decisions can be informed by the best available scientific knowledge and by syntheses of important contemporary findings,
- encourage a unified and collaborative scientific effort that takes full advantage of opportunities for multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional research endeavors.

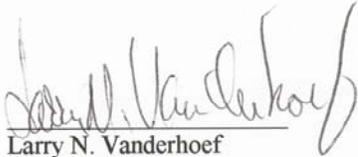
This MOU is not an obligation of funds, nor a commitment of resources on behalf of any signatory agency, nor does this MOU abridge any decision-making authorities of any signatory agency.

The signatories to this MOU are committed to supporting the Tahoe Science Consortium with the intent of reaching a greater understanding of the elements, processes and forces that shape the dynamic environment of the Lake Tahoe basin, and the use of this knowledge toward achieving management objectives in the basin.

To these ends, this MOU hereby commits the research institutions that are signatories to this MOU to develop a governance structure for the Consortium within three months. It also commits both the research institutions and the resource management agencies to develop a structure defining the specific interactions between these two groups within the same time period.

**TAHOE SCIENCE CONSORTIUM
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

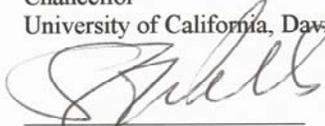
**SIGNATORY PAGE
August 20, 2005**



Larry N. Vanderhoef
Chancellor
University of California, Davis



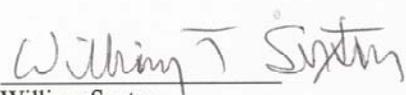
John M. Lilley
President
University of Nevada, Reno



Stephen G. Wells
President
Desert Research Institute



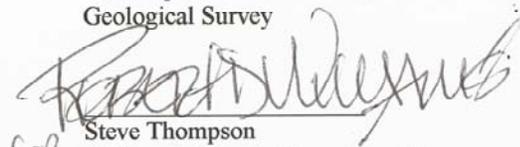
Garland Mason
Deputy Station Director
Pacific Southwest Research Station
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest
Service



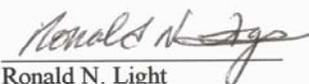
William Sexton
Regional Hydrologist
Western Region
U.S. Department of Interior,
Geological Survey



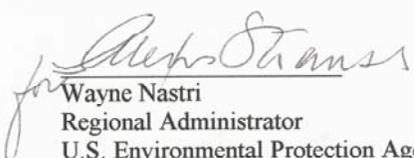
Paul Ranslow
President
Sierra Nevada College



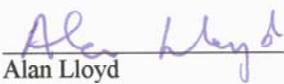
for Steve Thompson
California/Nevada Operations Manager
U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife
Service



Ronald N. Light
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer
U.S. Department of Defense



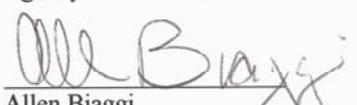
for Wayne Natri
Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



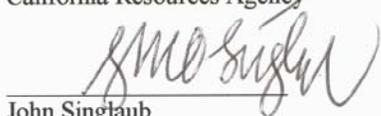
Alan Lloyd
Secretary
California Environmental Protection
Agency



Mike Chrisman
Secretary
California Resources Agency



Allen Biaggi
Director
Nevada Department of Conservation and
Natural Resources



John Singlaub
Executive Director
Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

TAHOE SCIENCE CONSORTIUM

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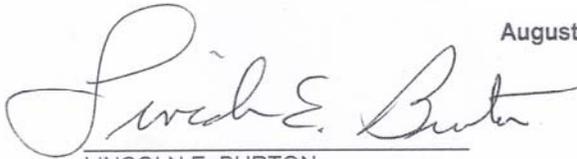
SIGNATORY PAGE

August 4, 2006



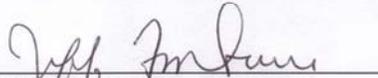
Terri Marceron
Forest Supervisor
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit,
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service

August 17, 2006



LINCOLN E. BURTON
State Conservationist
Natural Resource Conservation Service,
U.S. Department of Agriculture

September 7, 2006



Jeff Fontaine, P.E.
Director
Nevada Department of Transportation