

# **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 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; 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

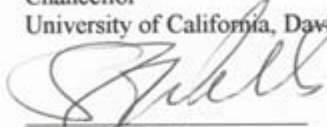
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

SIGNATORY PAGE

August 20, 2005



Larry N. Vanderhoef  
Chancellor  
University of California, Davis



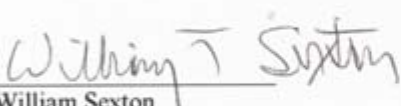
Stephen G. Wells  
President  
Desert Research Institute



John M. Lilley  
President  
University of Nevada, Reno



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



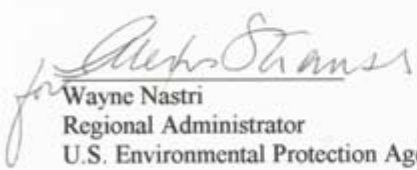
Paul Ranslow  
President  
Sierra Nevada College



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 Nasti  
Regional Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



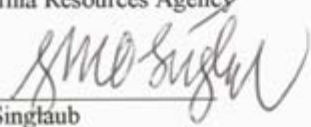
Alan Lloyd  
Secretary  
California Environmental Protection  
Agency



Mike Chrisman  
Secretary  
California Resources Agency



Allen Biaggi  
Director  
Nevada Department of Conservation and  
Natural Resources



John Singtaub  
Executive Director  
Tahoe Regional Planning Agency