



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Tahoe RCD Awarded Funding to Coordinate Environmental Projects and Improve Tahoe Basin Water Quality**

South Lake Tahoe, CA, February 14, 2011 – Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD) has been awarded \$293,000 from the California Department of Conservation to fund a Watershed Coordinator for the Lake Tahoe Basin. The Watershed Coordinator will work with partnering agencies to address water quality and natural resource issues within the Lake Tahoe watershed through collaborative, community-based watershed management efforts. The Watershed Coordinator will also focus on expanding conservation partnerships aimed at increasing public participation in environmental improvement and conservation projects.

“Tahoe RCD is excited at the prospect of bringing a Watershed Coordinator position into the Tahoe Basin” said Eben Swain, Manager of the Watershed Resources Program. “There are a multitude of local agencies and projects working to improve water quality and restore environmental conditions within the Tahoe Basin, but coordinating these efforts can be very challenging. The Watershed Coordinator will work to enhance the coordination amongst partnering agencies, further the development of public and private partnerships and increase awareness of critical water and conservation issues facing the Tahoe Basin.”

This position is expected to be filled by the spring of 2011. Interested applicants should visit [TahoeRCD.org](http://TahoeRCD.org) for this and other employment opportunities.

Tahoe RCD was selected to receive funding for the Watershed Coordinator following a very competitive grant process, in part because the position is an excellent match for the work of Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs). RCDs focus on local conservation issues, are able to work and manage programs across jurisdictional boundaries, and are experienced with coordinating various stakeholders, including federal, state and local agencies and the general public. Out of 41 watershed coordinator positions funded across California in 2011, almost half of these funds have been awarded to RCDs.

The success of Tahoe RCD’s current programs, which operate effectively across county and state lines, contributed to the funding decision by the Department of Conservation. The Tahoe Watercraft Inspection program serves both the California and Nevada sides of the Tahoe Basin and has aided in the prevention of aquatic invasive species into Lake Tahoe since 2007. The Backyard Conservation Program provides free conservation, landscaping and BMP design consultations to Tahoe Basin residents of El Dorado and Placer Counties. This program has assisted over 13,000 local residents with implementation of erosion control treatments and conservation measures since 2000,

including free distribution of native plants, conservation events, and educational programs for contractors, gardeners and school children.

**About Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD)**

Tahoe RCD's mission is to promote the conservation and improvement of the Lake Tahoe Basin's soil, water, and related natural resources by providing leadership, information, programs, and technical assistance to all land managers, owners, organizations, and residents. Tahoe RCD is a non-regulatory, grant funded, public agency that works with a variety of partner agencies to implement programs and outreach, which currently focus on erosion control, runoff infiltration, terrestrial and aquatic invasive species control, and conservation landscaping.

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