SNPLMA Project #: _____ (To be assigned by SNPLMA Administration)

Appendix I-2
TAHOE PROJECT PROPOSAL

Project Name: Tahoe Environmental Science System **EIP #:** 10166
Lead Agency: U.S. EPA **Contact:** Jane Freeman
Phone Number: (775)588-4547 ext. 248
Threshold: All **Email Address:** freeman.jane@epa.gov
Threshold Standard: **Total Project Cost:** $300,000/year

Project Description:
The U.S. EPA will administer the Tahoe Environmental Science System (TESS) including providing staffing and administrative support to the Consortium Board, Science Advisory Group and Science Review Board.

Describe the purpose and need for the project:
The TESS will provide independent science review and evaluation of SNPLMA projects and proposals, and have direct input as a member on the Tahoe Working Group. TESS will also provide peer review of science projects and develop and update the Lake Tahoe Science Plan in coordination with local, state and federal agencies.

Describe the goals and objective of the project:
The goal of the project is to provide the infrastructure to maximize the benefit derived from research studies at Lake Tahoe. This goal will be achieved by meeting three distinct objectives: (1) providing a consistent process for the peer review of research proposals and products related to Lake Tahoe restoration efforts; (2) developing and updating a coherent research plan that focuses on the restoration needs of the Lake Tahoe basin; and (3) providing a more transparent mechanism to link environmentally-related research activities within the Lake Tahoe basin to the information needs of planning, regulatory and implementing agencies.

Describe the anticipated project accomplishments:
This project will provide the resources to create a sustainable infrastructure that supports research related to the environmental restoration within the Lake Tahoe basin. This infrastructure will then enable a more efficient linkage between environmental restoration agency information needs and the research community that produces such information. This in turn will allow for overall increases in the effectiveness of the environmental restoration efforts within the Lake Tahoe basin, that are based on more robust scientific information.

Describe the "readiness" of this project to move forward:
The Science Advisory Group has been meeting since 1998. Participation on this group has been primarily voluntary, with the research institutions and agencies paying for staff participation and coordination of the group. While the SAG accomplished some key work during this time, due to lack of secure funding, the role of such a group has not been fully realized. This proposal would build on the current good will of these institutions and participants by putting into place a structure which supports independent science

review for SNPLMA projects as well as other science and research efforts in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Describe partnerships for this project. (Include documentation)
There are two agreements which define the goals for science efforts at Lake Tahoe and the roles and responsibilities among the research institutions and agencies in the Lake Tahoe Basin (attached). 1) The TESS agreement, signed in 2000 by the Presidents of the three major research institutions active at Lake Tahoe including University of California, Davis, University of Nevada, Reno and Desert Research Institutes. 2) The Science Advisory Group MOU was signed in 1999 by the research institutions listed above as well by TRPA, USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station and USGS. In addition, a number of agencies have participated on the SAG including Lahontan RWQCB, U.S. EPA, U.S. ACE, California Air Resources Board and California Tahoe Conservancy.

For Science & Research Projects describe how this project will guide future management activities:
The TESS will provide evaluation and review of SNPLMA projects, define future science and research needs in the basin, and oversee implementation of an adaptive management framework. These efforts will support the management agencies in assessing the long-term effectiveness of EIP activities and projects and improve environmental decision-making.