

For Immediate Release:

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February 5th, 2015 Stateline, Nevada

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING ON THE BURKE CREEK REALIGNMENT PROJECT

The Nevada Tahoe Conservation District (NTCD) will be holding a public meeting to present the Burke Creek Highway 50 Crossing and Realignment Project from 6:30 to 8pm on February 10th at the Tahoe Douglas Fire Station.

Construction of the Burke Creek Highway 50 Crossing and Realignment Project is scheduled for summer 2016 and spans from Jennings Pond in Rabe Meadow to the eastern boundary of the Sierra Colina Development in Lake Village. The Project will be designed and implemented in two phases. Phase I will install a new crossing under HWY 50, remove a portion of a parking lot for restoration, address stream bank erosion and install conveyance improvements along HWY 50. Phase II will construct stormwater treatment improvements and realign Burke Creek between HWY 50 and Jennings Pond.

The Project will improve stream conveyance capacity at HWY 50, improve stream and riparian habitat, increase stream connectivity to the floodplain, improve stormwater conveyance along HWY 50 and treat stormwater runoff. The stream restoration, floodplain enhancement and stormwater treatment components of this project will reduce fine-grained sediment transport and reduce nutrient discharge to Lake Tahoe; major contributors to the declining clarity of Lake Tahoe.

The NTCD is partnering with the US Forest Service (USFS), Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), Douglas County, and the Nevada Division of State Lands to implement the Project. Burke Creek flows through USFS, Douglas County, NDOT and private property within the project area. The Lake Tahoe Erosion Control Grants Program of the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, funds the planning and construction of Urban Erosion Control Projects. This program allows government agencies with jurisdictions within the Lake Tahoe Basin to design and implement water quality improvement elements within the jurisdictional right-of-way or acquired easements. These elements are mainly intended to remove or reduce fine sediment loading to streams and tributaries to Lake Tahoe as well as the Lake itself.

When: February 10th from 6:30 to 8pm

Where: Tahoe Douglas Fire Station, 193 Elks Point Road, Zephyr Cove, NV 89448

For more information on the project, visit http://www.ntcd.org/html/burke.php or contact Michael Pook at 775-586-1610 x34, or mpook@ntcd.org.

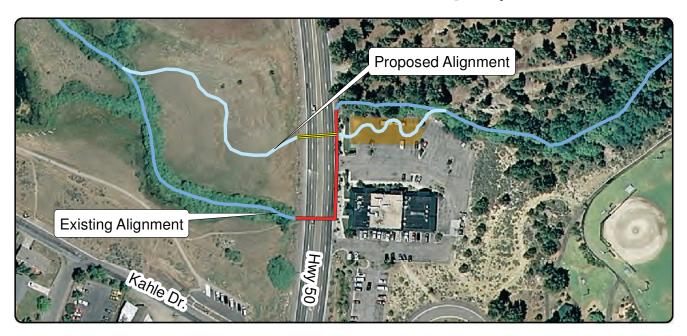
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BURKE CREEK PROJECT PUBLIC MEETING



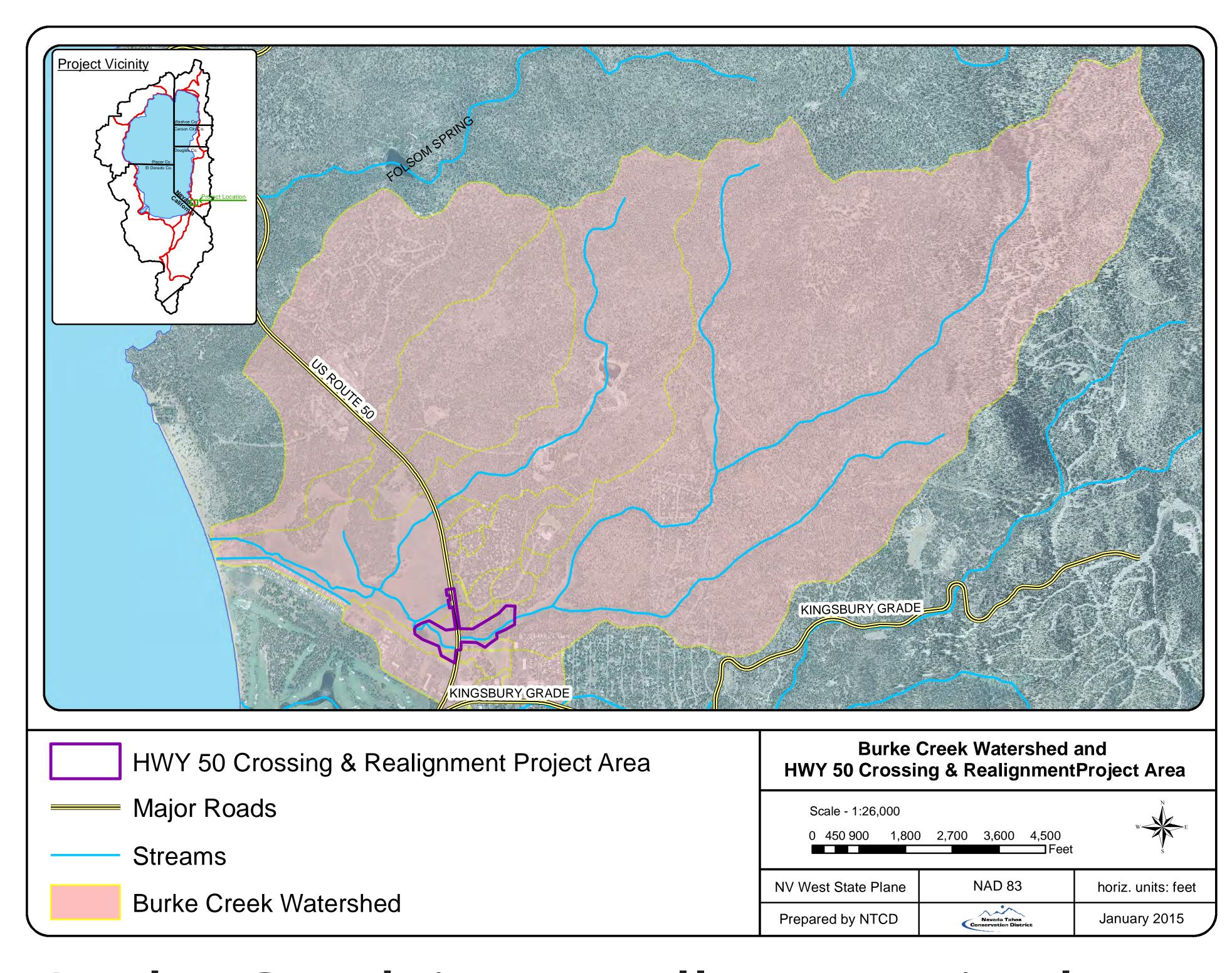
Come find out what is happening in your backyard!

February 10th 6:30 to 8pm Tahoe Douglas Fire Station 193 Elks Point Road, Zephyr Cove







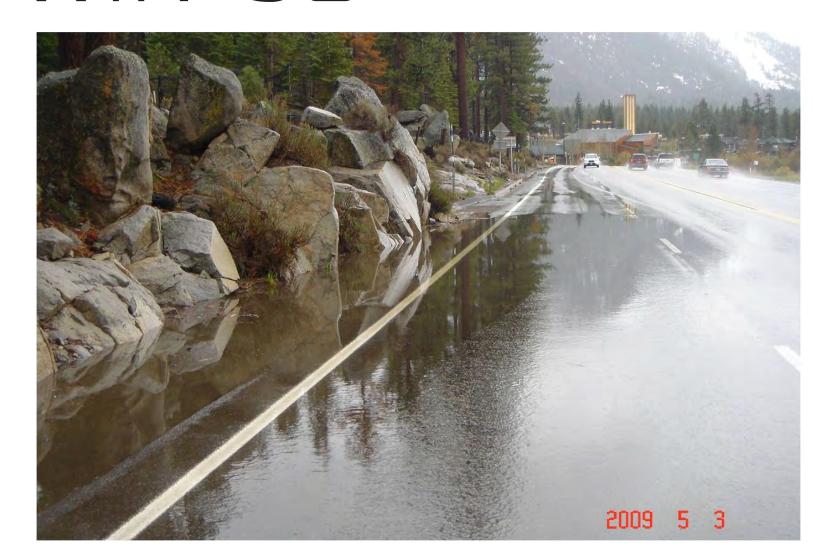


Burke Creek is a small stream in the Lake Tahoe Basin which passes just north of the intersection of HWY 50 and Kahle Drive. It has approximately a 4.5 square mile drainage area to Lake Tahoe.



The stream has been and relocated in the past to accommodate development including HWY 50, the former Tahoe Nugget Casino, the Oliver Park subdivision.

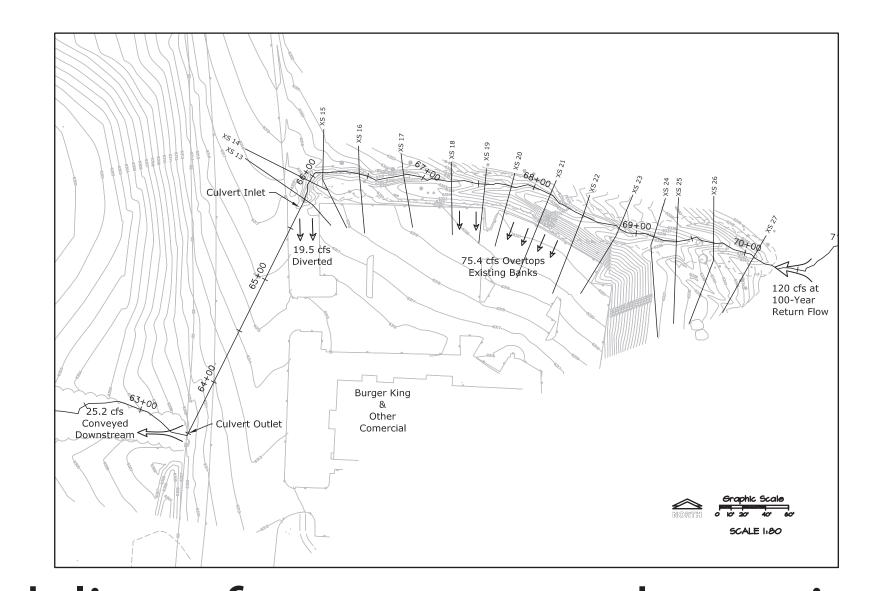
AT HWY 50



Highway 50 also floods in front of Lake Village development. There are also stormwater outfalls to Burke Creek and Folsom Spring that convey untreated stormwater to Lake Tahoe via these tributaries. The Project proposes to address these adjacent problem areas at the same time that the Highway 50 Burke Creek culvert construction is performed to take advantage of traffic control and lane closures.



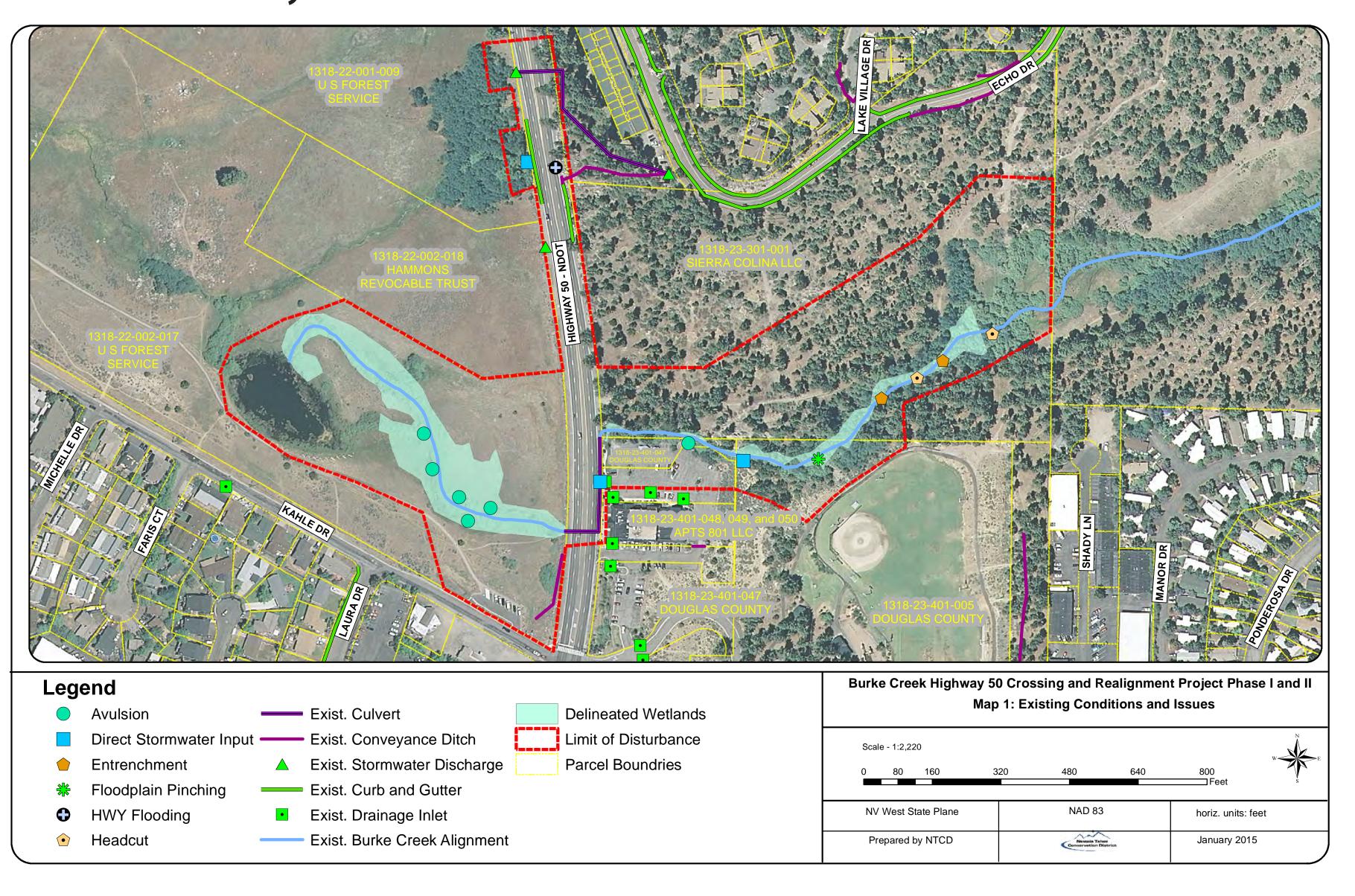
Drop inlet conveys untreated stormwater from Hwy 50 directly to Burke Creek.



Modeling of storm events determined that the existing culvert at Hwy 50 is undersized and only capable of conveying a 5 year storm. Additional past observations confirm that it has flooded Hwy 50.

BURKE CREEK ISSUES

Burke Creek was relocated from its floodplain onto a hillside levee to create room for development. This hillside location restricts floodplain access and limits sinuosity and stream complexity. It is impacted by parking lots in its historic floodplain and directly connected stormwater runoff.



DOWNSTREAM OF HWY 50



As a result of a 1980 restoration project, Burke Creek runs along a knoll. Consequently the stream escapes its channel in numerous spots because of its perched location. Some of the escaped stream flows across the Lam Watah trail and into the trailhead parking lot. This escaped flow signifies instability as the stream finds a new channel and could result in a new stream channel in an undesirable location.

UPSTREAM OF HWY 50



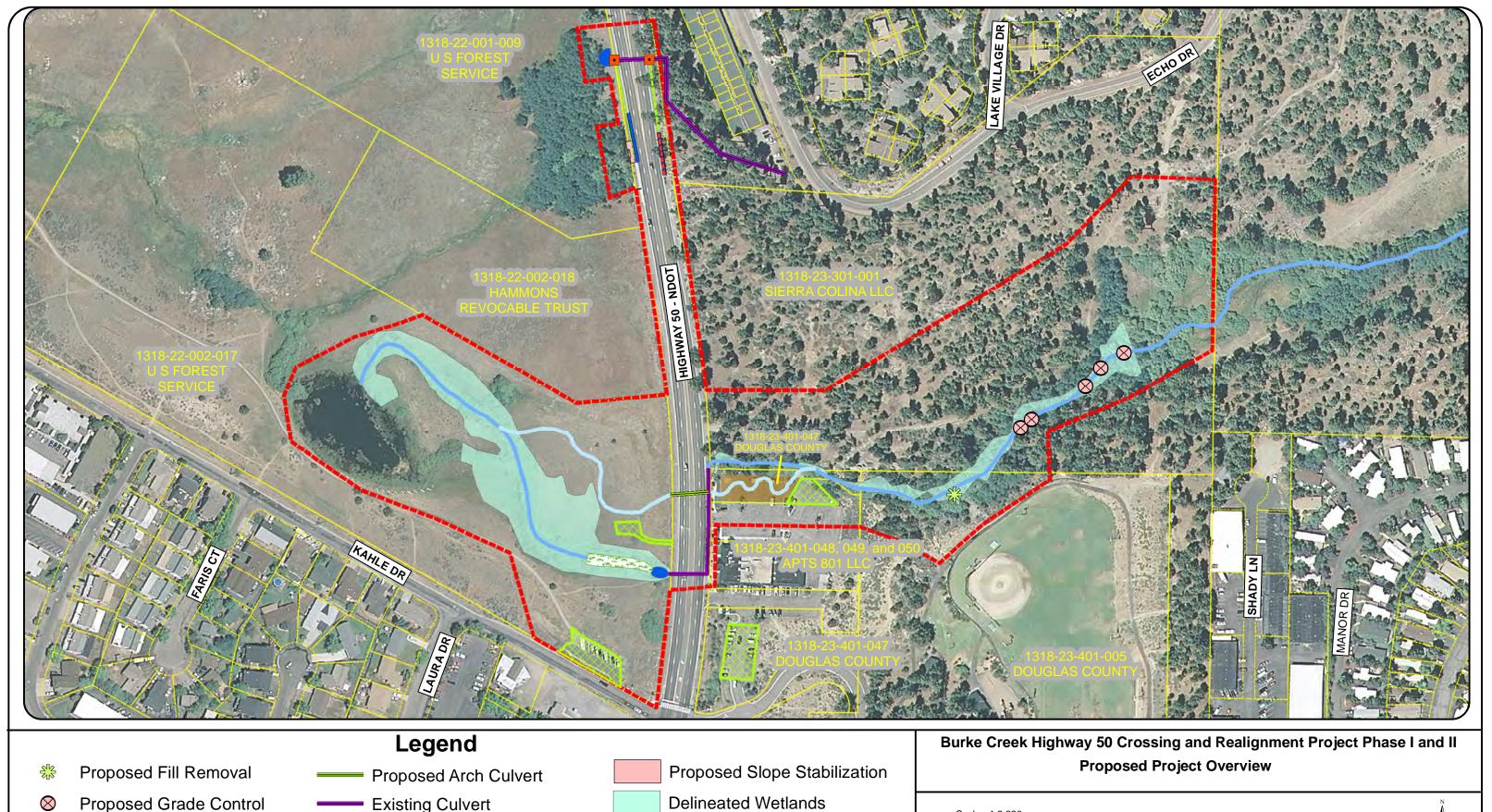
Head cuts are causing channel entrenchment, bank undercutting and erosion.

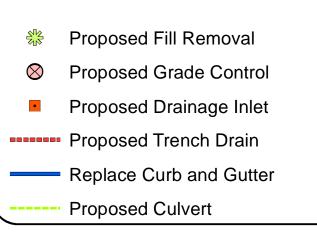


An area of floodplain pinching was caused by a 1997 rain on snow mudslide from an unstable slope of ball field fill.



Stormwater flows have breached the conveyance swale and flowed across the commercial parking lot.





Existing Culvert

Proposed Stormwater Basin

Proposed Vegetated Swale

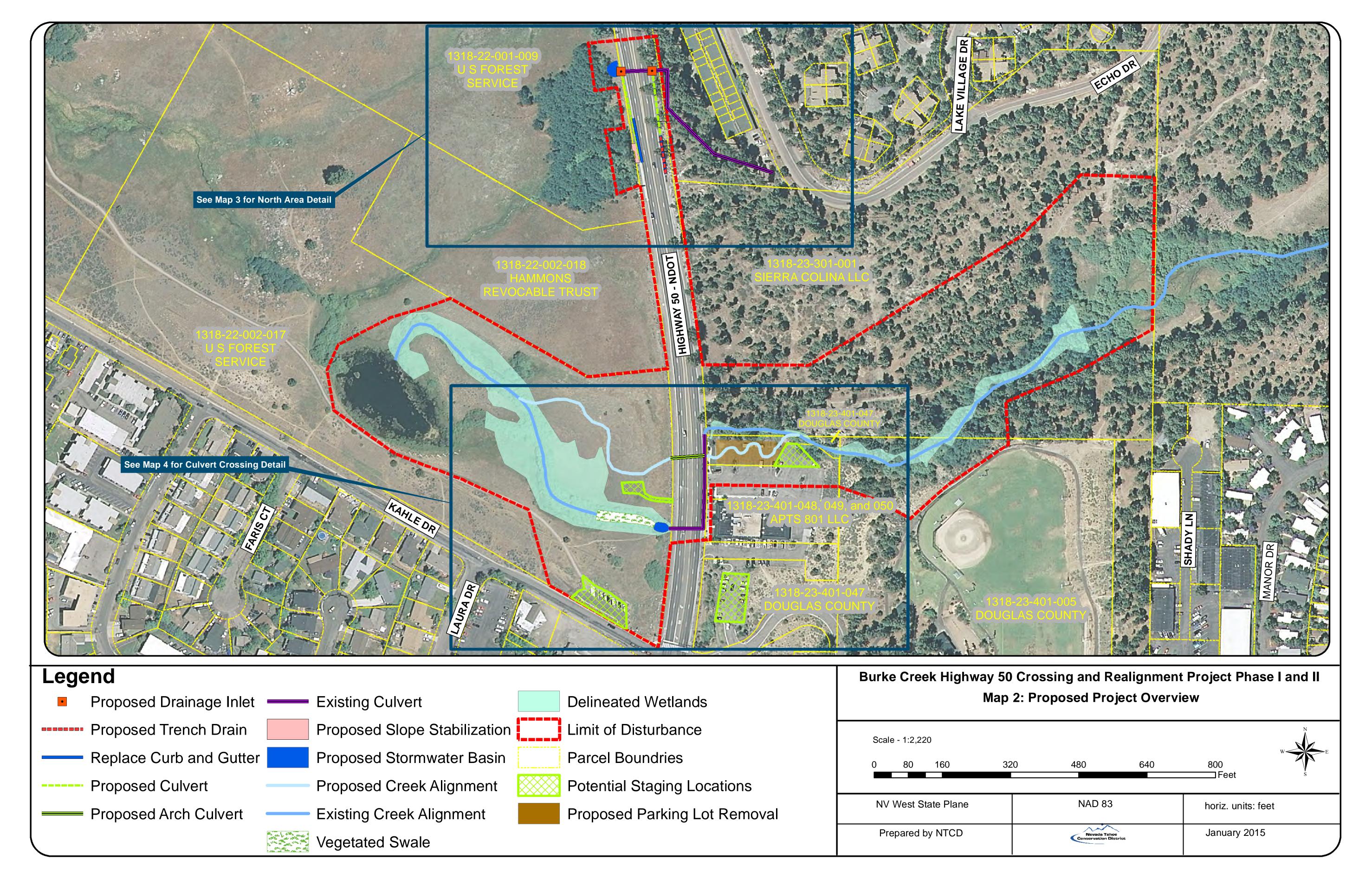
Proposed Creek Alignment

Existing Creek Alignment

Limit of Disturbance **Parcel Boundries** Potential Staging Locations

Proposed Parking Lot Removal

NAD 83 NV West State Plane horiz. units: feet Prepared by NTCD February 2015

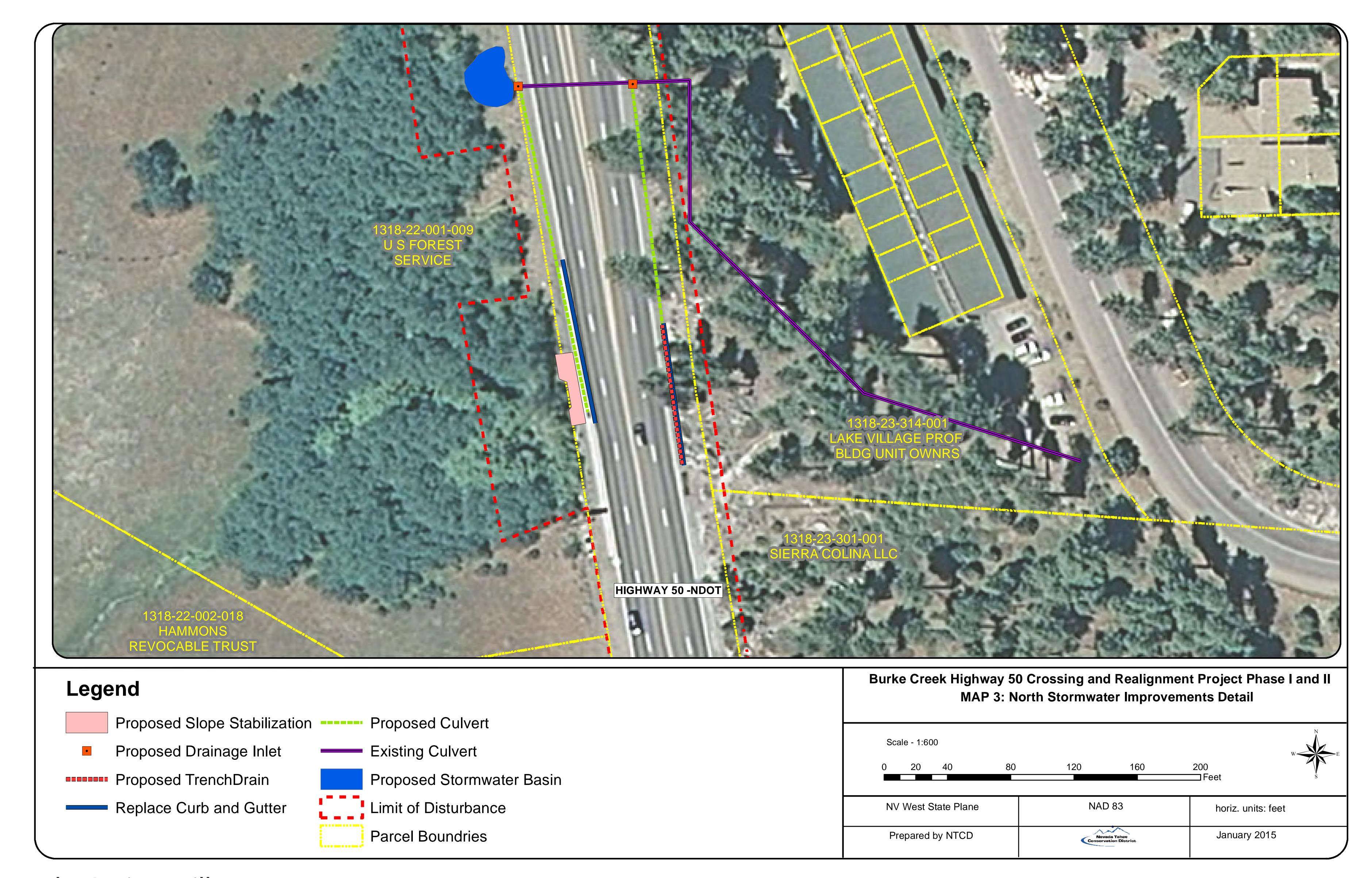


The Project will be designed and implemented in two phases:

- Phase I (Fall 2016 construction) NDOT right-of-way of HWY 50 and upstream.
- Phase II (Fall 2017 construction) USFS land downstream of HWY 50.

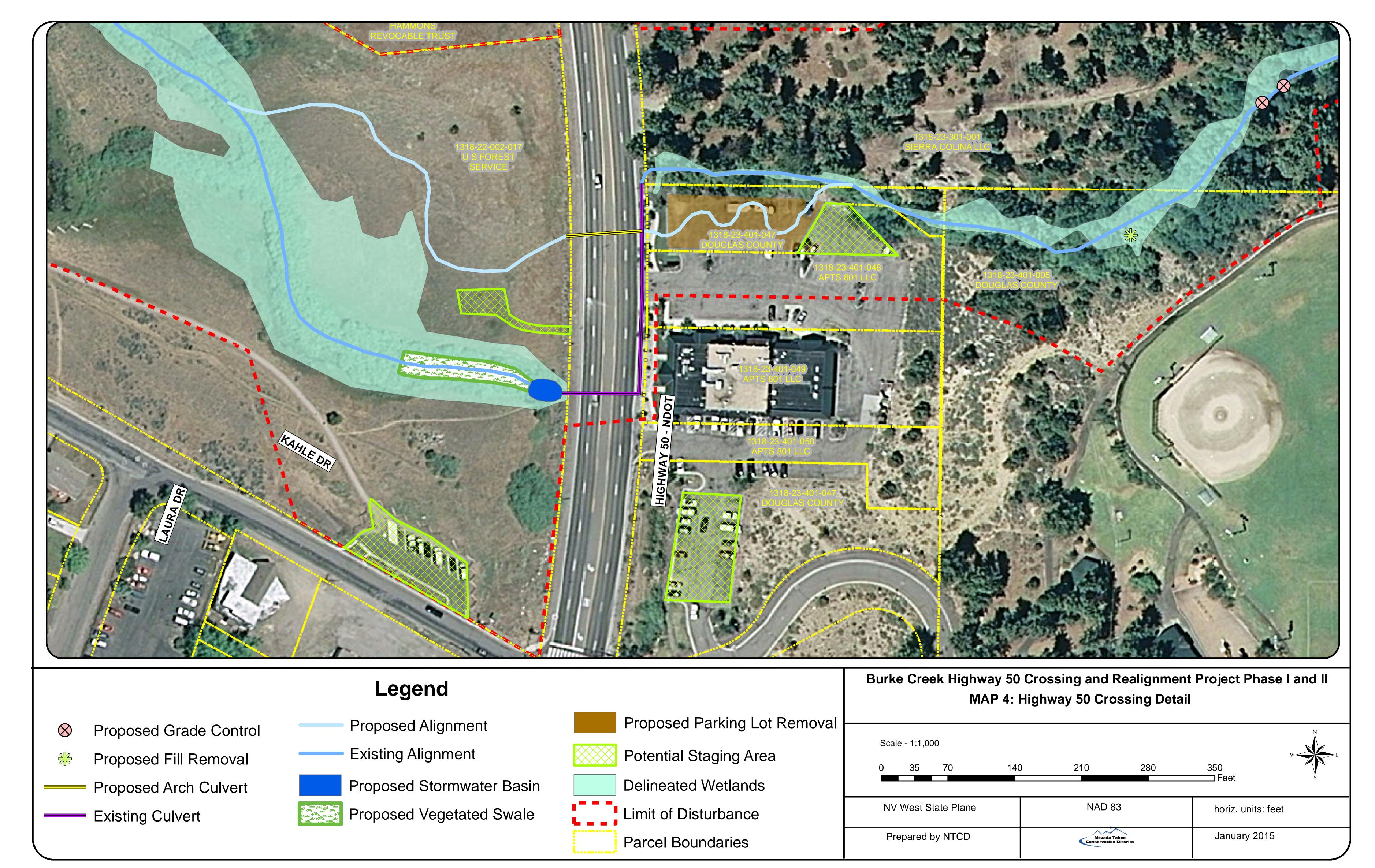
Objectives:

- 1. Advance the existing design and construct a geomorphically appropriate crossing of Burke Creek under HWY 50;
- 2. Realign the stream channel to a natural topographic depression and improve stream function of Burke Creek directly downstream of HWY 50;
- 3. Reduce the size of the upstream parking lot and relocate the stream through the former parking lot to increase floodplain access and stream function;
- 4. Treat stormwater in the project area before discharge to Burke Creek and gain Lake Clarity Credits for Douglas County and Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) for reducing pollutants of concern including FSP, nitrogen and phosphorus;
- 5. Develop a project that requires minimal Operations & Maintenance budget; and
- 6. Increase public and private property safety by reducing the frequency of HWY 50 flooding and Burke Creek avulsions into the urban environment.



The Project will:

- improve stormwater conveyance along HWY 50 to alleviate the flooding of eastbound lanes adjacent to Lake Village Professional Building.
- treat stormwater runoff entering Burke Creek and Folsom Spring. This treatment will likely consist of sediment traps, infiltration basins and vegetated swales to facilitate maintenance and blend with existing landscape.



The Project will:

- install a new Burke Creek crossing under HWY 50.
- remove a parking lot adjacent to Burke Creek and relocate the stream into this location.
- repair areas of head cuts, entrenchment, and floodplain encroachment.
- realign Burke Creek between HWY 50 and Jennings Pond.





February 12, 2015

Burke Creek project aims to reduce flooding, restore meadow along Highway 50 in Stateline



This map shows an overview of the proposed work in the Burke Creek Highway 50 Crossing and Realignment Project.

STATELINE, Nev. — A project to reduce flooding along a section of Highway 50 in Stateline, Nev., and restore a drying meadow north of the casino corridor is on schedule to break ground later next year.

The Burke Creek Highway 50 Crossing and Realignment Project proposes to realign Burke Creek just north of Kahle Drive so it can help re-water Rabe Meadow on the opposite side of the highway and improve the stream's function in general.

Reducing the amount of flooding along the highway is just one aspect of the project that's expected to be improved. Enhancements to water quality, public safety, stream flow and riparian habitat are also planned.

"It's like an onion," said Steve Teshara, principal of Sustainable Community Advocates. "There are lots of peels and layers to this, but it is exciting."

The proposed project includes the installation of new drains and culverts along an approximately quarter-mile stretch of Highway 50 to reduce street flooding — near areas like the Lake Village

1 of 2 2/18/2015 9:39 AM

Professional Building — and treat stormwater runoff that currently runs untreated to Burke Creek and Folsom Spring.

With the upgrades, the amount of fine sediment, phosphorous and nitrogen entering Lake Tahoe in the area could be significantly reduced.

The project will be designed and implemented in two phases. The first will focus on efforts above Highway 50, or to the east portion of the project area, and the second will center on the portion below the highway, or to the west.

Phase one, expected to begin in fall 2016, will involve the installation of a crossing under Highway 50 near Sushi Pier, along with the removal of a portion of parking lot in front of Agave Azul Mexican Grill.

Burke Creek will be realigned in the area of the removed parking lot.

Phase two, on the other hand, will realign the creek on the other side of Highway 50 on U.S. Forest Service land. The Forest Service will spearhead efforts during that stage, which is slated to begin in fall 2017.

The Nevada Tahoe Conservation District is partnering with several agencies to complete the project, including the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Nevada Department of Transportation, Nevada Division of State Lands and Douglas County.

NTCD Environmental Scientist Michael Pook spoke about the project at a public meeting Tuesday.

"There's an opportunity for the stream to reconnect to the floodplain and deposit some sediment and slowly build that up over time," he said. "It'll take awhile, but it will happen."

According to NTCD, the project is funded through numerous grants and contributions from the Forest Service, NDOT, NDSL and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

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2 of 2 2/18/2015 9:39 AM