



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 09-1049, **Version:** 1

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Chief Administrative Office, on behalf of the Lake Tahoe Community College (LTCC), is interested in partnering with the County of El Dorado to support a Lake Tahoe Green Energy District, the benefits include a reduction in energy consumption, operating costs, and improving the environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin; and recommending the Chairman be authorized to sign a letter of support for Lake Tahoe Community College (LTCC), The Lake Tahoe Green Energy District, and the ARRA Geothermal Technology Ground Source Heat Pump Grant Program.

### Background:

Lake Tahoe Community College (LTCC) is coordinating an inter-agency effort at South Lake Tahoe to reduce operating costs and reduce fossil fuel emissions through the use of green energy technologies. In response to the current economic environment and reduced operating budgets, it is important for all publicly funded organizations to identify and implement operational efficiencies, but to do so in the most responsible and visionary manner.

The increasing cost of fossil fuels (which supply the energy for heating and electricity) as well as the impending change in our regional public utility create a significant risk of sharply increased energy costs in a period when our budgets are already under duress in the fulfillment of our publicly mandated missions. The Lake Tahoe Basin faces an ongoing threat to its environment from the ever increasing consumption of fossil fuel energy in the Basin.

LTCC is working with the following partners in reviewing opportunities to reduce our energy-related operating costs, reduce the carbon emissions in the Basin and implement green technology in South Lake Tahoe:

- City of South Lake Tahoe
- Lake Tahoe Unified School District
- Barton Healthcare
- South Tahoe Public Utility District
- US Forest Service (US Dept of Agriculture)
- California Tahoe Conservancy (State of CA)

Lake Tahoe Community College is requesting that the County of El Dorado join the coalition and

support a Lake Tahoe Green Energy District.

The program will focus on the reduction of energy consumption and fossil fuels at each agency by:

- Reviewing the energy consumption at each agency
- Identifying energy cost reduction opportunities through comprehensive energy audits
- Collaborating on the review and selection of green energy technology solutions, including geothermal HVAC, solar electrical power, hydro electrical power, and co-generation
- Training and certifying our local workforce and business in green technology
- Acquiring Federal, State and private sector financing for green energy and energy conservation projects
- Implementing energy efficiency and green energy replacement of fossil fuels at each agency, using the benefits of economies of scale to reduce conversion costs for all of the agencies

The benefits are potentially significant, in terms of cost reduction, environmental improvement and long term growth in the Basin, consistent with the goal to “Keep Tahoe Blue’. The benefits of this effort go well beyond its important focus on energy conservation:

- Development of educational courses and certifications for local residents, preparing citizens for jobs in the growing green economy.
- Infusion of significant capital for design and implementation of green technologies into the Basin, to improve the local economy and put residents to work.
- Creation of flagship green energy sites within the Basin, for use in education, economic development, and increased eco-tourism
- Fulfillment of the promise of Lake Tahoe as a truly green (and blue) region.

LTCC will provide regular updates on its efforts, as they proceed with the various projects within the Green Energy District.

## FUNDING:

BUDGET SUMMARY:		
Total Estimated Cost		\$
Funding		

Budgeted	\$	
New Funding	\$	
Savings	\$	
Other	\$	
Total Funding Available	\$	
Change To Net County Cost		\$

Fiscal Impact/Change to Net County Cost:

Background:

Reason for Recommendation:

Action to be taken following Board approval:

Contact:

Concurrences: