

Staff Report 07

LESSEE:

Peter Martin Glick and Lynee Mary Glick, Trustees of the Glick Revocable Trust;
Michael D. Glick and Barbara J. Glick, Trustees of the Glick Family Living Trust dated
March 7, 2003

APPLICANT:

Damian Douglas Glick; Steven J. Drennan and Tristine B. Drennan, Trustees under
the Drennan Living Trust, dated April 14, 2021; Matthew Pennington and Elizabeth
Pennington, Trustees of the Pennington Family Trust, dated March 10, 2017; Heather
Lynee Zook, Trustee of the Heather Zook Family Trust, dated June 4, 2021, as
restated on May 22, 2023

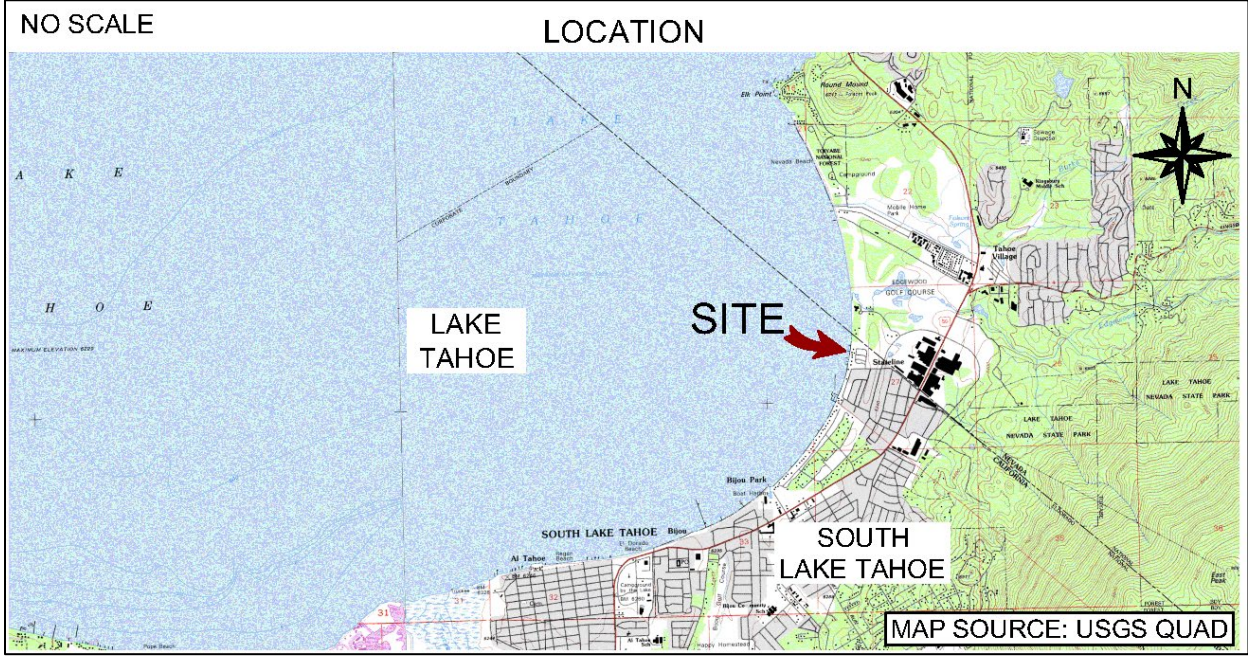
PROPOSED ACTION:

Acceptance of a Lease Quitclaim Deed and Issuance of a General Lease –
Recreational Use.

AREA, LAND TYPE, AND LOCATION:

Sovereign land in Lake Tahoe, adjacent to 849 Stateline Avenue, city of South Lake
Tahoe, El Dorado County (as shown in Figure 1, below).

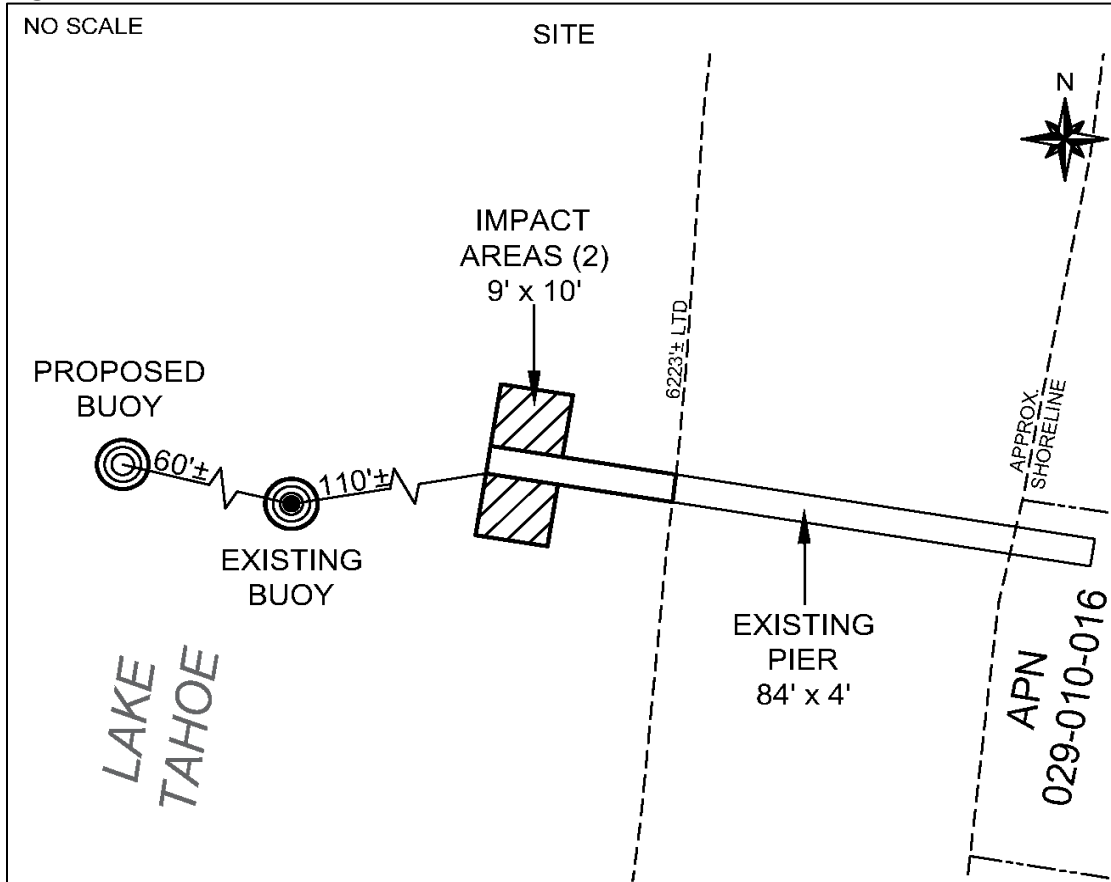
Figure 1. Location



AUTHORIZED USE:

Use of an existing pier and one mooring buoy previously authorized by the Commission, and the installation and use of an additional mooring buoy not previously authorized by the Commission (as shown in Figure 2).

Figure 2. Site Map



NOTE: This depiction of the lease premises is based on unverified information provided by the Applicant or other parties and is not a waiver or limitation of any State interest in the subject or any other property.

TERM:

10 Years, beginning April 4, 2024.

CONSIDERATION:

\$737 per year, with annual Consumer Price Index adjustment.

SPECIFIC LEASE PROVISIONS:

- Liability insurance in an amount no less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence.
- Lessee expressly acknowledges that a permit or registration from the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) may be required for the Authorized Improvements and failure to obtain a permit or registration from TRPA and maintain compliance with that permit or registration may result in TRPA imposing civil penalties and will constitute a breach of this lease.
- The lease provides that signs shall be posted on each side of the pier to indicate passage and to provide continuous shoreline access to the Public Trust Easement below elevation 6228.75 feet, Lake Tahoe Datum (LTD).
- Lessee shall not store any personal items or construct any improvements in the Public Trust easement which may impair the public's right of access for navigation, fishing, and Public Trust-consistent recreational uses.
- Lessee agrees and acknowledges that the hazards associated with climate change may require additional maintenance or protection strategies regarding the improvements on the lease premises.
- Within 60 days of completing the installation of authorized improvements, Lessee will provide Lessor with photographs and a set of "as-built" plans that will show where the improvements have been placed. Lessor shall then replace Exhibit A, Land Description, and Exhibit B, Site and Location Map, to the Lease as necessary to accurately reflect the final location of the authorized improvements. Once approved by the Lessor's Executive Officer or designee, and Lessee, the revised Exhibits shall replace the Exhibits incorporated in the Lease at the time of Lease execution. The replaced Exhibits shall be incorporated in the Lease as though fully set forth therein.

STAFF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION:

AUTHORITY:

Public Resources Code sections 6005, 6216, 6301, 6501.1, 6503, 6503.5, and 6505.5; California Code of regulations, title 2, sections 2000 and 2003.

PUBLIC TRUST AND STATE'S BEST INTERESTS:

On August 19, 2015, the Commission authorized the issuance of a General Lease – Recreational Use to Peter Martin Glick and Lynne Mary Glick, Trustees of the Glick Revocable Trust; and Michael D. Glick and Barbara J. Glick, Trustees of the Glick Family Living Trust dated March 7, 2003, for the use of an existing pier and one mooring buoy ([Item 16, August 19, 2015](#)). The lease expires on April 5, 2026.

The Lessee has applied to quitclaim the existing lease, and the Applicant has requested a General Lease – Recreational Use for the use of an existing pier and one mooring buoy, and the installation and use of an additional mooring buoy not previously authorized by the Commission. The Applicant consists of current upland owners that hold a fractional interest in the upland property. On May 23, 2023, TRPA issued a conditional permit (File Number MOOR2022-1826) for the proposed installation of an additional mooring buoy. TRPA registration for both of the buoys is current (Registration No. 10221).

The Commission's accounting records show the annual rent is paid for Lease 3544 through April 6, 2024. Staff recommend acceptance of a Lease Quitclaim Deed for the current lease concurrent with the issuance of a new lease to the Applicant. Rent paid through April 6, 2024 will be prorated and applied to the rent for the new proposed lease.

The subject improvements are privately owned and maintained and facilitate recreational boating. Recreational boating is a water-dependent use that is generally consistent with the common law Public Trust Doctrine. The California Legislature has identified private recreational boating facilities as an authorized use of Public Trust land. (Pub. Resources Code, § 6503.5.)

The existing buoy and proposed additional buoy will be located directly lakeward of the upland property and occupy a relatively small area of the lake. The subject pier is built on pilings, providing public access for pedestrians and lake related activities at varying water levels underneath the pier. The immediate area surrounding the pier is slightly sloped, with large boulders scattered along the shoreline. The proposed lease includes a provision requiring the Applicant to post signs on each side of the pier identifying the designated public passageway. These signs shall be in place at all times and will ensure that the public is aware of the designated public passageway within the Public Trust easement.

The proposed lease does not alienate the State's fee simple interest or permanently impair public rights. The lease is limited to a 10-year term, does not grant the lessee

exclusive rights to the lease premises, and reserves an easement to the public for Public Trust-consistent uses. Upon termination of the lease, the lessee may be required to remove all improvements from State land and restore the lease premises to their original condition.

The proposed lease requires the lessee to insure the lease premises and indemnify the State for any liability incurred as a result of the lessee's activities thereon. The lease also requires the payment of annual rent to compensate the people of the State for the occupation of the public land involved.

CLIMATE CHANGE:

Climate change significantly affects inland non-tidal lakes such as Lake Tahoe. The frequency and severity of natural disasters like flooding, wildfire, drought, extreme heat, and storms are increasing throughout the state of California, including the Sierra Nevada mountains, and will continue to accelerate through the end of the century. Structures along the shores of inland lakes are particularly vulnerable to the more frequent and extreme weather events and shifts in seasonal characteristics.

According to [California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment](#), released in 2018, the most significant impacts of climate change in the Sierra Nevada Region are more intense heat, precipitation extremes, declining snowpacks, and changes in streamflow timing. The long-term warming trend will lead to warmer and shorter winters, and longer and drier summers. Successive dry and warm winters are resulting in minimal snowpack, increased winter streamflows and floods, and decreased spring and summer runoff. Prolonged low lake levels will become normal. Low lake level conditions can create more expansive beaches and increased shoreline access in dry months. However, these conditions interfere with boat launching and mooring facilities. This impact is most noticeable where the facilities are sited on shallow, low gradient lake bottom locations.

Dry winters will be punctuated with exceedingly wet years where prolonged and excessive precipitation can produce flash floods. High precipitation in these years will result in higher lake levels, causing beaches to narrow and reducing public access. Extra saturation of the soil can increase erosion, especially following intense wildfire seasons. Surface runoff water may carry more sediment into the lake, adversely impacting water quality and clarity.

Climate change may also lead to more intense and unpredictable storm events and winds. These storms may deviate from prevailing wind patterns for the region.

These winds can accelerate shoreline erosion in some areas or cause erosion in areas not typically subject to erosion. Additionally, these winds can increase wave damage on structures and boats along the lake.

Improvements authorized under this lease may require more frequent inspection and maintenance to ensure they are not displaced during storm events. Watercraft moored to buoys, piers, or docks are also vulnerable to high wind events and damaging waves.

CONCLUSION:

For all the reasons above, staff believes the issuance of this lease will not substantially interfere with Public Trust needs at this location, at this time, and for the term of the proposed lease; is consistent with the common law Public Trust Doctrine; and is in the best interests of the State.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. Approval or denial of the application is a discretionary action by the Commission. Each time the Commission approves or rejects a use of sovereign land, it exercises legislatively delegated authority and responsibility as trustee of the State's Public Trust lands as authorized by law. If the Commission denies the lease, the Applicant may be required to remove the existing improvements and would not be able to install the additional buoy. The lessee has no right to a new lease or to renewal of any previous lease.
2. This action is consistent with the "Leading Climate Activism" and "Meeting Evolving Public Trust Needs" Strategic Focus Areas of the Commission's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan.
3. Acceptance of a quitclaim deed is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is an administrative action that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Authority: Public Resources Code section 21065 and California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15378, subdivision (b)(5).

4. **Existing Buoy:** Staff recommend that the Commission find that the activity is exempt from the requirements of CEQA as a categorically exempt project. The project is exempt under Class 1, Existing Facilities; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301.

Proposed Buoy: Staff recommend that the Commission find that the activity is exempt from the requirements of CEQA as a categorically exempt project. The project is exempt under Class 3, New Construction of Small Structures; California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 2905, subdivision (c)(3).

Authority: Public Resources Code section 21084 and California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15300 and California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 2905.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is recommended that the Commission:

CEQA FINDING:

Find that the issuance of the lease is exempt from the requirements of CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15061 as a categorically exempt project through the combination of the following exemptions: Class 1, Existing Facilities; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301, and Class 3, New Construction of Small Structures; California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 2905, subdivision (c)(3).

PUBLIC TRUST AND STATE'S BEST INTERESTS:

Find that the proposed lease will not substantially impair the public rights to navigation and fishing or substantially interfere with Public Trust needs and values at this location, at this time, and for the term of the lease; is consistent with the common law Public Trust Doctrine; and is in the best interests of the State.

AUTHORIZATION:

1. Accept a Lease Quitclaim Deed for Lease 3544, effective April 3, 2024.
2. Authorize issuance of a General Lease – Recreational Use to the Applicant beginning April 4, 2024, for a term of 10 years, for the use of an existing pier and one mooring buoy, and the installation and use of an additional mooring buoy; with annual rent in the amount of \$737 per year, with an annual Consumer Price Index adjustment; liability insurance in an amount no less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence.

3. Authorize the Executive Officer or designee to replace Exhibits in the lease upon submission, review, and approval of as-built plans detailing the final location of the improvements following installation.