Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences

WELCOME TO THE NEW HEART OF LEARNING AND DISCOVERY IN THE TAHOE BASIN. IT’S A SCIENCE LAB, HANDS-ON PUBLIC MUSEUM AND COLLEGE CLASSROOM, AND IT’S AS EARTH-FRIENDLY AS A BUILDING CAN BE.

Getting the most from the elements

Efficient use of resources

Birth of a community asset

Two states, four schools combine efforts in project of permanent public value

FOURTY YEARS AGO, LAKE TAHOE WAS TURNING GREEN. UC Davis researcher Charles Goldman was studying how to keep it blue, working in a makeshift lab in Tahoe City—“doing world-class research in a third-world facility.” Decades passed, the scientific corps swelled, and understanding of the lake’s living systems grew ever more sophisticated. But the UC Davis lab where it all began remained the same.

At last, in 1994, fears for the lake reached a fever pitch, and people around the world started donating to the construction of a new, modern laboratory. Their generosity, combined with state and federal taxpayer dollars, has resulted in the new Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences.

The major public space in the Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences is the $2 million Thomas J. Long Foundation Education Center. Visitors will pass through the building’s front doors into a large, bright atrium filled with exhibits that were planned with local residents and schoolteachers. They will learn from a video “virtual researcher” aboard a simulated Lake Tahoe research boat and inside a simulated laboratory. They may measure water clarity, see how sediment and algae affect the lake, and “fly” over the Lake Tahoe Basin in 3D.

In the exhibits, there will be a fish hatchery renovation and even the lake’s underwater valleys and mountains. They may measure water clarity, see how sediment and algae affect the lake, and “fly” over the Lake Tahoe Basin in 3D.

More public hours will be added soon.

In 2007, UC Davis will begin a $3 million renovation of the historic Tahoe City Fish Hatchery. Research labs will move to the new Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences in Incline Village. In their place will be modern field-preparation offices and labs.

FISH HATCHERY RENOVATION

In their place will be modern field-preparation labs, equipment lockers, office space, and a small public interpretive center.