



PRESS RELEASE

**March 6, 2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF FOR CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND AT THE NORTH TAHOE REGIONAL PARK

(Tahoe Vista, California) - The North Tahoe Public Utility District's (NTPUD) Recreation and Parks Commission and other community members have kicked off a fundraising campaign through the Friends of the Park Fund to purchase and install new Children's Playground equipment at the North Tahoe Regional Park. All proceeds from this fundraising effort will go to replace equipment in the Park that had to be removed because it did not meet current safety guidelines. At the North Tahoe Public Utility District Board of Director's meeting on February 10, 2009 the Board passed a Resolution endorsing the effort and showed their support and dedication by approving the use of \$25,000 from the Parks Reserve Account as seed money for the project.

The budget for the project, including installation, is approximately \$140,000. This will provide a play structure for children age 5 – 12 that attaches to some existing equipment in the Park and some smaller play equipment for 2 – 5 year olds to enhance the play structure for that age group that still remains in the Park. In addition, swings will be added for all age groups. Currently the only swings in the Kings Beach/Tahoe Vista area are those at the Kings Beach Elementary school.

The group is in the process of writing grant and donation requests and submitting them to a variety of organizations and possible donors. However, support from the community is also important. Donations of any amount are appreciated and can be sent to the Truckee Tahoe Community Foundation with the notation of "Friends of the Park" to insure it is credited toward the Friends of the Park Fund.

"Nearly every adult can remember swinging or playing on playground equipment in their youth and we want to provide the same opportunity to the children in our community," said Lane Lewis, President of the North Tahoe Public Utility District Board of Directors. "The Board has

taken action to transfer funding from our limited parks reserves for this project and we are asking the community to assist with the fundraising effort that the Commission has undertaken.”

The Commission has also put together a raffle for a variety of great prizes from local businesses to raise additional funds for the playground. Prizes are being added daily, but the list is available on the District’s website at www.ntpud.org. Ticket sales will kick off at the Pancakes for Playgrounds Pancake Breakfast on March 7th at the North Tahoe Event Center. After that date, raffle tickets will be available at the North Tahoe Public Utility District offices, the North Tahoe Event Center, and from any of the District’s Recreation and Parks Commissioners: Bob Hartsfield, Mandy Lua, Lydia Carter, Nancy Gaines or Lily McDermott. The raffle drawing will take place on April 16th at a North Lake Tahoe Resort Association Mixer at the North Tahoe Event Center.

If you would like to donate directly to the Playground Replacement Fund, Tax deductible financial contributions for the playground project can be made through the Friends of the Park Fund at the Truckee Tahoe Community Foundation. For more information, go to www.ntpud.org/friendsofthepark or call Kathy Long at 530-546-7249.

The North Tahoe Public Utility District provides sewer and water service to the residents of Kings Beach, Tahoe Vista, Carnelian Bay, Cedar Flat and Agate Bay. The NTPUD owns, manages and maintains the North Tahoe Regional Park in Tahoe Vista which provides recreation opportunities to residents and visitors. In addition, the NTPUD owns and/or maintains all of the public beaches in the District including Kings Beach State Recreation Area, Tahoe Vista Recreation Area, and Secline Beach to name just a few. The North Tahoe Event Center in downtown Kings Beach is also owned and managed by the NTPUD.

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Approved By: _____



Curtis Aaron, General Manager/CEO