

Realtor boards oppose Tahoe ridgeline development

By Associated Press

Two leading Realtor boards have come out against future ridgeline development in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

The Incline Village Board of Realtors and the Tahoe Sierra Board of Realtors have adopted a joint policy to protect ridgelines from “obtrusive man-modified structures or features.”

Tracy Saunders, president of the Incline Village board, said the groups want to ensure ridgeline protection is addressed by governmental agencies in all future projects.

While a controversial proposal to build 112 luxury homes in a 112-acre gated community on a ridge overlooking Tahoe brought the matter to the forefront, the policy is not directed at any one project, the boards’ representatives said.

“To date, the board has found it imprudent to become entangled in the fine-grained specifics of a given project proposal,” said John Falk of the Tahoe Sierra board based in Truckee. “Our overarching objective is to shape goals, policies, programs, codes and procedures for the betterment of the community.”

The Martis Valley West Project would have been on forested land now used for backcountry recreation and access to the Tahoe Rim Trail, the Sacramento Bee reported. Instead, its developers agreed in January to cluster all the project’s development within the Martis Valley near Truckee.

Options for the Tahoe property on a Brockway Summit ridge are being analyzed, but no application has been submitted, said

Blake Riva, senior partner with project developer Mountainside Partners.

Asked what he thinks of the Realtor boards' new policy, Riva said, "We are aware of certain organizations making their viewpoints known. We will be following land-use policy as set forth by the governmental agencies. It's part of the public review process."