2022 Quarterly Report

TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

First Quarter: January – March 2022

TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

Photo: Drone Promotions

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TRPA STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) is moving forward with strategic initiatives the Governing Board identified as major priorities for the agency. These initiatives align directly with the objectives in the agency's Strategic Plan.

BUILDING RESILIENCY: CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

Every TRPA initiative includes strategies to strengthen the resilience of Tahoe's environment, communities, and economy to the emerging stresses of climate change and to improve the region's sustainability. The Climate Change Strategic Initiative harmonizes the goals of both states and local governments in the Tahoe Region while maintaining the region's reputation as a global leader in sustainability.

Lake Tahoe Climate Resilience Action Strategy Released

TRPA and Environmental Improvement Program partners released the Lake Tahoe Climate Resilience Action Strategy this quarter. The strategy highlights the expected impacts of climate change at Tahoe and prioritizes actions being taken to address these impacts, such as aquatic invasive species programs, forest resilience projects, improved transportation systems, and infrastructure improvements to protect vulnerable communities. The strategy builds upon existing Lake Tahoe climate and environmental improvement plans and identifies focus areas that will advance equity, create jobs, and build resilience for the region. The strategy identifies $398 million needed over the next 10 years to implement priority climate actions. The culture of collaboration TRPA and partners have built within the region will be leveraged to secure funding from a variety of federal, state, and local sources.

KEEP TAHOE MOVING: TRANSPORTATION & SUSTAINABLE RECREATION STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

This initiative includes an update of the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, which encompasses greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction, the work of the Bi-State Consultation on Transportation, destination stewardship planning, and ongoing transportation corridor planning.

Sustainable Transportation Funding Initiative

Working closely this quarter with the Bi-State Consultation on Transportation Working Group, TRPA helped gain agreement among state, local, and regional partners on a collaborative approach to developing sustainable funding sources for priority projects in

the Regional Transportation Plan. The working group agreed on an all-sectors approach to bridge the approximate $20 million annual funding gap identified in the plan. Building on the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program model, partners agreed to a "7-7-7" funding strategy to meet the annual target—$7 million federal funding, $7 million state funding, and $7 million local revenue.

Sustainable sources of transportation funding are critical to reduce traffic congestion, improve trails, enhance communities, reduce reliance on the automobile, and build climate resilience in the Lake Tahoe Region. Project implementors are currently meeting to identify an initial list of regionally significant projects that will increase transit services including those to recreation destinations and completing the Tahoe Trail and trails serving town centers. Information on the Sustainable Transportation Funding Initiative can be found at the TRPA website.

Lake Tahoe Destination Stewardship Plan: Taking Care of Tahoe

In January, TRPA convened basin partners in outdoor recreation and tourism, the Center for Responsible Travel (CREST), and the Travel Foundation to develop a community-centered roadmap for improved visitor management and outdoor recreation. The project, set to launch early this summer, emerged from TRPA's effective coordination with land managers, visitor authorities, and recreation providers that has been addressing the rising impacts of tourism. On February 25, 2021, a pivotal conversation with regional partners called for collective action and a unifying vision about the future of tourism in the Tahoe Region. Over the next year, TRPA and contractors CREST and the Travel Foundation will lead regional partners in the formation of a ground-breaking destination stewardship plan to ensure outdoor recreation and tourism enhances community well-being, supports local businesses and workers, and protects the lake.

Transportation Equity Kickoff

TRPA staff launched the Transportation Equity Study this quarter with Sacramento-based consultant, DKS Associates. The recently adopted Regional Transportation Plan includes a renewed approach to environmental justice and identifies communities with significant needs for access to transportation. The Transportation Equity Study will build on that equity work utilizing significant public outreach, focus groups, and stakeholder input to identify barriers and burdens to accessing goods, services, and recreation opportunities at Lake Tahoe. The final report and recommended actions to increase equity at Tahoe is expected in June 2023.

State Route 89 West Shore Tahoe Trail

Completing the Tahoe Trail along the lake's West Shore is a priority component of the State Route 89 Corridor Management Plan. This quarter, TRPA built upon stakeholder input gathered last year to evaluate, score, and rank potential alignments for the State Route 89 Trail Feasibility Study. The project team will rely on further stakeholder input and detailed evaluation criteria for each alignment to identify a preferred path later this year. The 11-mile missing link of the West Shore Trail between Meeks Bay and Spring Creek will connect people to recreation sites without driving, reduce traffic congestion, help manage roadside parking, and minimize impacts to neighborhoods.

US 50 East Shore Corridor Management Plan

The TRPA transportation team this quarter gave additional support to the Nevada Department of Transportation to create the first US 50 East Shore Corridor Management Plan. The plan will develop alternative designs to improve roadway safety, transit, trails, and innovative mobility options between Spooner Summit and Stateline on the South Shore. TRPA assisted the project team develop alternative concepts and unique solutions for each segment of the corridor based on data and stakeholder input. Corridor management plans along the Tahoe Basin's major recreation routes are a significant component of the Regional Transportation Plan. A final US 50 Corridor Management Plan is expected by the end of the year.

Map of the US 50 East Shore Corridor Management Plan.

TAHOE LIVING: HOUSING & COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

This initiative addresses strategies for implementing affordable and achievable workforce housing as a key component of healthy, sustainable communities in the region. The Tahoe Living initiative implements the Regional Plan, the Regional Housing Needs Allocation, and meets housing needs identified in the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy.

Accessory Dwelling Units

The newly adopted accessory dwelling unit code updates are seeing an increase in interest. Since July 2021, TRPA staff has issued seven permits, with another 12 in process. These accessory dwelling units are a critical piece of the regional strategy to encourage workforce housing of varying types and sizes to stem the housing crisis that has Tahoe in its grip.

Tahoe Living Working Group

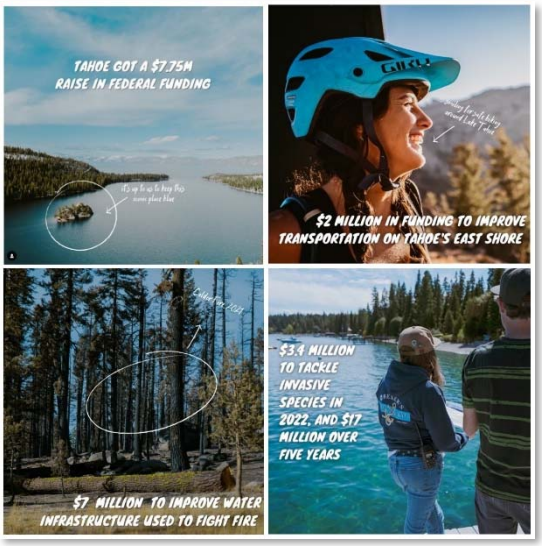
In March, the agency reconvened a working group of representatives from local government, real estate, housing organizations, and the TRPA Governing Board to begin moving additional code amendments forward to tackle Tahoe's housing crisis. The work of the Tahoe Living Working Group last year led to accessory dwelling unit code changes and incentives and is building partnerships with key workforce housing implementors. This quarter, the working group began evaluating how changes to policies on land coverage, density, and height can encourage more multi-unit workforce housing projects in certain areas.

RESTORATION BLUEPRINT: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

This initiative includes implementing transportation and community revitalization projects of regional significance, seeking additional funding sources for the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP), creating forest health implementation tools based on the results from the Lake Tahoe West landscape-scale restoration project, implementing the Aquatic Invasive Species Control Action Plan, and focusing on areawide stormwater management projects with multiple benefits. EIP restoration programs will be responsive to climate adaptation and resilience measures as they are developed under the Climate Change Strategic Initiative.

Lake Tahoe Restoration Act Funding

A federal spending bill signed into law this quarter provides a record level of new funding for critical projects and programs in the Lake Tahoe Region. The legislation will deliver $23.8 million through the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, plus $3.4 million from the previously approved Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and $2 million in Community Project Funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation in fiscal year 2022. TRPA's leadership of the EIP and legislative advocacy play a key role in positioning Tahoe for funding awards and the announcement this quarter represents years of partnership building.



Social media posts helped publicize the record level of federal funding approved in March.

Tahoe Keys Weed Management

Following years of study, planning, and collaboration with a range of stakeholders, this quarter both the TRPA Governing Board and Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board voted unanimously to certify environment studies and approve permits for the Tahoe

Underwater aerators and a bubble curtain being used to fight aquatic invasive weeds in the west channel of the Tahoe Keys.

Keys Aquatic Weed Control Methods Test project. Not since TRPA and partners created the Lake Tahoe Watercraft Inspection Program in 2008 has there been such a monumental step in the fight against aquatic invasive species in the Tahoe Region. The AIS Control Action Plan identifies the Tahoe Keys lagoons as the program's highest priority. TRPA, Lahontan, and others partnered with the Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association to develop a plan to test new methods to gain control of the lake's largest infestation of invasive weeds. The test methods include ultraviolet light, underwater aeration of weed beds, and a one-time application of aquatic herbicides. Test treatments and monitoring in Tahoe Keys homeowner lagoons are expected to begin in May with ultraviolet light treatments throughout the summer.

Policy Changes for Forest Resilience

With the growing severity, length, and intensity of wildfire seasons, forest managers and fire agencies at every level have been looking hard at the efficiency of forest management practices. This quarter, staff ushered in policy changes for the region that expand where ground-based mechanical equipment can be used on steep slopes. The policy update will facilitate additional forest health projects on slopes in the Tahoe Basin with a gradient of 30 to 50 percent. Approximately 61,000 acres in the Tahoe Basin fall under the update, and nearly half of that area is in wildland urban interface defense and threat zones near communities. The update received unequivocal support from reviewing committees and the TRPA Governing Board voted unanimously to adopt the new policies.

Collaborative wildfire actions spared Tahoe communities from the 2021 Caldor Fire.

As a founding member of the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team, TRPA continues to streamline policies and work with fire and fuels managers to add best practices to the Lake Tahoe Regional Plan and Code of Ordinances. The new policy will help keep communities safe and promote forest and ecosystem resilience to disturbances such as climate change.

Green Infrastructure Planning

TRPA stormwater management staff advanced the Ski Run "Mountain to Marina" and Tahoe Keys green infrastructure projects this quarter, including receiving the announcement that the Tahoe Keys project will receive $125,000 in federal funding through the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act. Area-wide stormwater projects elevate the role of natural infiltration strategies to meet water quality standards and achieve multiple-benefit adaptations to climate change. Green infrastructure can mean neighborhood stormwater basins, or as in the Tahoe Keys project, innovative treatments like modular floating wetlands that improve water quality through the natural uptake of nutrients from the waters they inhabit.

Tahoe Keys Conservation Landscape Coordination

Design Workshop and TRPA staff presented to the Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association on March 1, 2022 and held the second of three stakeholder meetings on March 18, 2022 to solicit feedback on the Draft Tahoe Keys Landscape Design Book. The book will graphically convey how homeowners in the Tahoe Keys may achieve aesthetic and desirable conservation landscapes that employ low water use best practices, meet stormwater, and fire defensible space requirements.

MEASURING WHAT MATTERS: THRESHOLD UPDATE STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

This initiative focuses on how information is collected, analyzed, and applied to support better decisions that accelerate environmental improvement. The initiative's scope includes review of the threshold standards that establish TRPA's goals and updating the suite of performance measures the agency uses to assess effectiveness of all components of the Regional Plan.

Outline for Revised Threshold Standards

Based on a review of Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) plans and programs, TRPA presented an outline for revised threshold standards this quarter to the Tahoe Interagency Executive Steering Committee, the agency's Governing Board, and the Advisory Planning Commission. The proposed threshold standard outline reflects the integrated conservation approach of the EIP and reorganizes the forty-year-old threshold category structure to better reflect current management strategies. Over the next nine months TRPA, with the support of the Tahoe Science Advisory Council and EIP partners, will develop the outline into a set of revised threshold standards and performances measures for consideration for TRPA adoption in 2023.

ONGOING INITIATIVES AND ANNUAL ACTIVITIES

LONG RANGE & TRANSPORTATION PLANNING DIVISION

Shoreline Public Safety Needs

TRPA began working with public safety agencies around the lake to identify shoreline public safety needs and potential facility locations. The process will identify future locations for public safety facilities including piers and moorings. Expanding public safety facilities on the lake is a high priority of the Shoreline Plan.

Area Plan Amendments Encourage Maker Spaces and Revitalization of Town Centers

In January, the TRPA Governing Board adopted amendments to the Tourist Core Area Plan for the Gateway District within the City of South Lake Tahoe. This district includes legacy development in need of reinvestment and expanded business opportunities such as the Bijou Marketplace. The amendments brought forward by the City of South Lake Tahoe aim to encourage investment and redevelopment within the district by expanding commercial uses to include the manufacture and sale of artisanal goods on premises.

City of South Lake Tahoe Recreation and Aquatics Center

In March, the TRPA Governing Board adopted amendments to the Bijou Al Tahoe Community Plan in anticipation of a new recreation and aquatics center for Tahoe's South Shore. The amendments, brought forward by the City of South Lake Tahoe, would facilitate the construction of the facility aiming to be LEED-certified. TRPA is reviewing the project, which may come before the TRPA Governing Board for consideration next quarter. The project will increase recreation access to residents and visitors in a central location near transit, civic events, dining, shopping, and outdoor recreation.

CURRENT PLANNING DIVISION

Permit Application Review

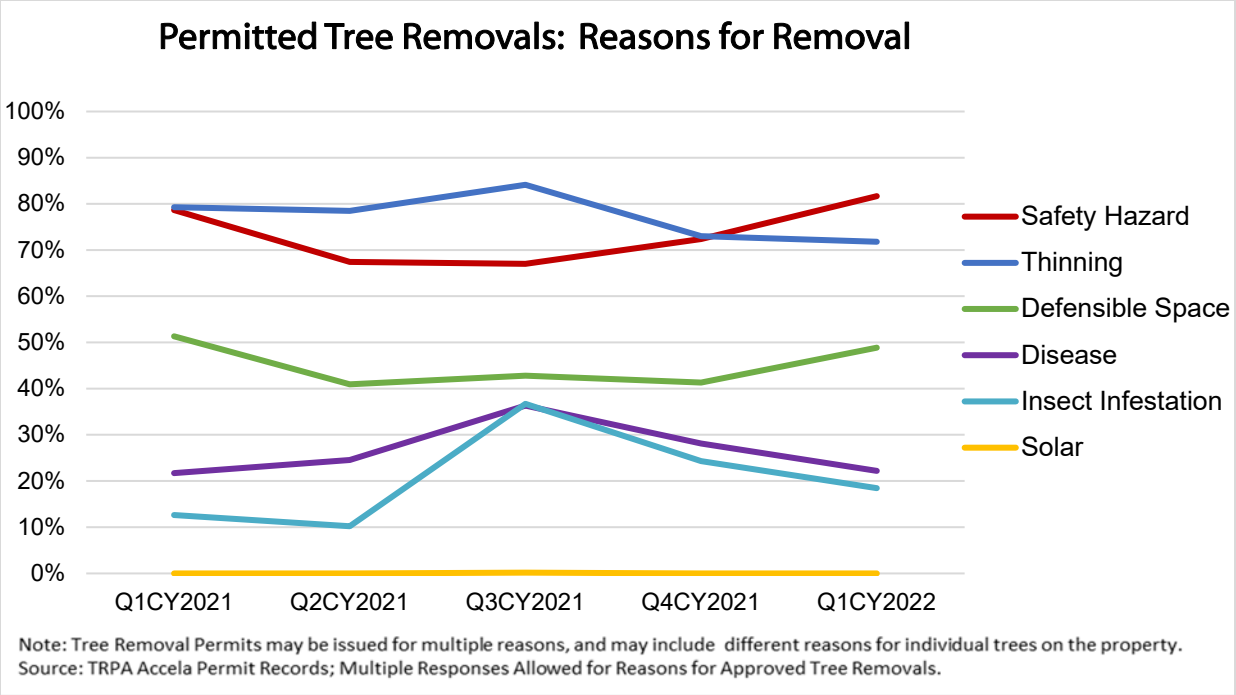
Applications submittals continue to track higher than last year's record volumes. In the first quarter, applications were up 11 percent from the same period in 2021. Online application submittals continue to increase with more than 78 percent of applications during the first quarter submitted electronically. Shorezone and mooring applications increased during the last two quarters as TRPA conducted lotteries for additional pier and mooring allocations, and project applications were submitted for previously awarded allocations. Residential project applications, development rights transfer applications, and historic determinations also rose significantly from the preceding quarters.

Summary of TRPA Project Applications Received Quarter 1 2021 through Quarter 1 2022					
	Q1 CY2021	Q2 CY2021	Q3 CY2021	Q4 CY2021	Q1 CY2022
Applications Recieved[1]	**263**	**341**	**250**	**301**	**292**
Residential Projects[2]	71	74	53	45	76
Commercial Projects[2]	4	4	1	2	2
Recreation/Public Service Projects[2]	8	16	13	7	12
Environmental Improvement Construction Projects	5	4	2	2	3
Shorezone/Lakezone Projects[2]	12	17	13	14	26
Grading Projects	7	13	12	5	6
Verifications and Banking[3]	76	132	103	116	80
Moorings	16	17	8	78	9
Transfers of Development	26	18	8	3	21
Other[4]	38	46	37	29	57
Notes: (Data is sourced from TRPA Accela Permit Records)					
1 Does not include Exempt projects, Qualified Exempt declarations, Tree Removal applications, or Administrative applications					
2 Includes New Development and Additions/Modification					
3 Includes Soils/Hydrology Verifications, IPES, Land Capability Verifications, Land Capability Challenges, Verifications of Coverage, Verifications of Uses, Site Assessments, and standalone Banking Applications					
4 Includes Historic Determinations, Lot Line Adjustments, Temporary projects, Scenic, Underground Tank Removal, Subdivision of Existing Uses, Signs, Allocation Assignments, and other miscellaneous project types					

Urban Forestry/Tree Removal Permits on Private Property

TRPA forester Bruce Barr is part of a network of forestry and fire professionals in the Tahoe Basin who help private landowners keep their property safe and defensible from wildfire. He provides expertise in tree risk assessment and serves property owners with thorough tree evaluations. This quarter, TRPA processed 183 tree removal applications and permitted the removal of 802 individual trees with safety hazard, thinning, and defensible space being the primary reasons for removal. These numbers do not include trees removed in the basin as part of a construction project, trees that are exempt (under 14 inches diameter at breast height), nor trees removed for defensible space that were marked by fire safety partners under their agreements with TRPA.

Summary of TRPA Tree Removal Applications & Permitting Activity Quarter 1 2021 through Quarter 1 2022					
	Q1 CY2021	Q2 CY2021	Q3 CY2021	Q4 CY2021	Q1 CY2022
Tree Removal Applications Received	200	532	466	249	183
Number of Trees Permitted for Removal	1,077	2,229	2,461	1,000	802
Percent Applications Submitted Online	92%	90%	92%	95%	95%
Source : TRPA Accela Permit Records					



Note: Tree Removal Permits may be issued for multiple reasons, and may include different reasons for individual trees on the property.
Source: TRPA Accela Permit Records; Multiple Responses Allowed for Reasons for Approved Tree Removals.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM DIVISION

Stormwater Management Program

Best Management Practices (BMP) Certificates Issued: TRPA, in partnership with the states and federal government, establishes water quality programs for the region and looks to implementers in every sector to carry out those programs. The Stormwater Management Program at TRPA targets priority properties for BMP compliance in coordination with local jurisdictions. BMP compliance helps communities achieve required pollutant load reductions and improves Lake Tahoe's impaired water quality by infiltrating stormwater runoff before it reaches the lake. TRPA issues BMP certificates to private property owners to recognize a parcel's compliance with the stormwater management requirements of the Regional Plan. The agency currently concentrates its resources on commercial and large multi-family (six units or more) properties. Compliance in those types of properties has been shown to reduce more pollutant load that other property types.

This quarter, TRPA issued 13 BMP certificates: 11 for single-family residential parcels and two for multi-family residential parcels. Of the total, one was a source control certificate, and one was part of an area-wide treatment. Cumulative year-to-date BMP certificates issued for 2021 are shown in the table below:

BMP Certificates issued from January 1 through March 31, 2022					
	Land Use	Total Certificates Issued Year to Date	Certificates Issued Through Permitted Projects	Certificates Issued Through Voluntary Compliance	Certificates Issued Through Enforced Compliance
California	Single-Family Residential	10	9	1	0
	Multi-Family Residential	1	0	0	1
	Commercial	0	0	0	0
	California Total	11	9	1	1
Nevada	Single-Family Residential	1	0	1	0
	Multi-Family Residential	1	0	1	0
	Commercial	0	0	0	0
	Nevada Total	2	0	2	0
	Total Certificates Issued	13	9	3	1

Reissued Certificates: During this quarter, TRPA reissued five BMP certificates following verification of BMP maintenance and effectiveness. Six of these were for single-family residential parcels, one for a multi-family residence, and one for a commercial parcel.

Aquatic Invasive Species Program

Funding: This quarter, the AIS Program was awarded approximately $17 million in funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and an additional $4.4 million from the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act. TRPA staff is working with federal partners to finalize funding agreements to provide much-needed support for projects identified in the Lake Tahoe AIS Management Plan. High priorities such as the Taylor Tallac AIS control project and the development of permanent regional watercraft inspection stations are being considered.

Staffing: The TRPA AIS team is currently filling a new position to help coordinate and manage projects to increase the pace and scale of project implementation. The new position will apply considerable focus to the monitoring requirements associated with the Tahoe Keys Control Methods Test project.

Prevention: Boat inspections continued this quarter at on-ramp locations at the Cave Rock, NV and Lake Forest, CA boat ramps. Boat inspectors performed 123 inspections this quarter with no boats needing to be decontaminated and no AIS detections.

TRPA staff are working with partners in the State Route 28 Corridor Management Plan to develop plans for construction of a permanent AIS inspection station near Spooner Summit.

Control: TRPA staff and partners are preparing for installation of the remaining barriers at the Taylor Tallac AIS control project, with work expected to be completed in late spring. In addition to Taylor Tallac and the Tahoe Keys, TRPA and AIS program partners are detailing the work program for other invasive weed control projects in the basin this year. Areas include offshore of the Tahoe Keys (CA), Elk Point Marina (NV), Lakeside Marina (CA), Edgewood Creek (NV), and Logan Shoals (NV).

RESEARCH & ANALYSIS DIVISION

Parcel Tracker Updates

TRPA maintains the Lake Tahoe Info Parcel Tracker (https://parcels.laketahoeinfo.org/) to provide property owners free access to detailed information about the land use characteristics of properties in the Lake Tahoe Region. The Parcel Tracker also provides development histories upon which property owners and realtors have come to rely. This quarter, TRPA staff reviewed and updated information on 937 parcels in the tracker. This is almost double the number of parcels updated in the first quarter last year. A higher number of parcels were updated by staff this quarter due to the Digital First Initiative that prioritizes converting older land capability verification files to electronic records.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Updates

TRPA's operating goal is to be the region's best source of GIS information and services. During this quarter, staff made several updates to the agency's geographic information systems. Specifically:

- **System Health and Monitoring.** Deployed an ArcGIS Monitor to stay on top of the health, performance, and usage of agency GIS services and software. This allows potential problems to be detected and resolved quickly so that staff, customers, and the public have access to these tools whenever they need them.
- **Issue Tracker Website.** Created a centralized GIS issue tracking repository and wiki for TRPA systems so that requests can be monitored, prioritized, and completed as quickly as possible.
- **Tahoe Boating App.** Released version 3.0 of the Tahoe Boating Mobile App. Version 3.0 has enhanced search tools so boaters and paddlers can search for marinas, restaurants, bathrooms, and points of interest in the app.
- **Integrating Systems.** Improved nightly automation between the various information systems of record (Accela, BMP Database, Lake Tahoe Info, and GIS) to ensure data consistency and accuracy across TRPA systems.
- **Wildfire Preparedness and Response Tools.** TRPA provided land managers with a new application for developing landscape-scale wildfire response options before fires start. This tool provides land managers with the ability to view features in an area, such as roads and ridgetops, overlaid with vital characteristics such as forest conditions, ecology, and fire potential.

- **Proposed Trails App**. Created an App for stakeholders to comment on proposed hiking and biking trails and to visualize their feasibility relative to environmental constraints.
- **Tahoe Open Data Improvements.** New monitoring and threshold dashboard data was added to Tahoe Open Data, the definitive regional data warehouse for the Tahoe Region. Added access to view and download all the data associated with the Threshold Dashboard and Monitoring Dashboard on Lake Tahoe Info, increasing transparency and access to the data.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

TRPA supports a culture committed to public education, outreach, and community engagement to implement the Regional Plan. The External Affairs team leads public engagement initiatives in collaboration with a variety of agency and nonprofit stakeholders.

Legislative Affairs

This quarter, External Affairs staff supported the Bi-State Consultation on Transportation as they reached agreement on the "7-7-7" funding strategy, which calls for an additional $7 million per year from the federal government, both states, local governments, and the private sector.

The team also strategized with legislative representatives and partners to deliver a record level of new federal funding through the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act. The signing of the federal omnibus bill in March that provides a combined $29.5 million to Lake Tahoe represents many hours of work with legislative partners and partner organizations to advocate for the lake and the Environmental Improvement Program.

In January, External Affairs and Environmental Improvement Program staff coordinated a Caldor Fire briefing for federal legislative staff and basin fire partners. The briefing included presentations from CalFire, Lake Valley Fire Protection District, TRPA, and the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit of the USDA Forest Service. Federal staffers gained an understanding of the history of fire and forest treatments in the basin, how suppression coordination among local, state, and federal agencies made a difference in the Caldor Fire, and how coordination is building resilience in Tahoe's forest ecosystems.

John Littleton with Sierra Avalanche Center teaches students how to test the snowpack in the backcountry.

Education, Outreach, and Engagement

The External Affairs team got students outdoors this wintry quarter with a return of snowshoe treks and the Winter Adventure Program at Heavenly Mountain Resort. TRPA and local environmental educators invited every South Shore fifth grader to snowshoe for free at Heavenly and learn more about science,

snowmaking, winter wildlife, and snow safety. More than 300 students participated in the program this year.

The team also provided media support and outreach strategies for major projects and decisions including the Tahoe Keys Weeds Control Methods Test project, forest health code amendments, Lake Tahoe Restoration Act funding announcements, the Meeks Bay restoration project, and more. External Affairs ensures the executive director's monthly opinion columns are published in regional media outlets and online which is a key strategy to spotlight important agency decisions and initiatives.

TRPA urged residents, visitors, and recreators to Take Care of Tahoe this quarter by spreading fun messages of environmental stewardship through the Take Care campaign. The Take Care collaborative inspires behavior change by providing coordinated, unified messages on signs, ads, billboards, and social media to spread the love of Lake Tahoe.

The External Affairs team also spreads Take Care messages through the regional sustainable recreation and tourism coordination groups, which the agency convenes bi-weekly. External Affairs helps coordinate public information with land managers, non-profits, visitor authorities, and recreation providers to address the rising impacts of visitation and outdoor recreation in the region. TRPA hosted 16 coordination calls this quarter that covered parking management, sledding, trash, dog waste, backcountry safety, road closures, and preparations for summer wildfire hazards and low water conditions. External Affairs and communications support will also be critical to the Lake Tahoe Destination Stewardship Plan and the CREST project team throughout the year.

FINANCE, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, & FACILITIES

Finance

The Finance team brought the third quarter of the Fiscal Year 2021/22 to an end this quarter. The independent audit firm Davis Farr completed the audit for the year ending June 30, 2021. All audit reports were approved with an unmodified opinion by the TRPA Governing Board in February, which is the highest possible outcome for an audit. Planning revenues remain strong and ahead of the prior year's averages.

The Finance Team submitted funding requests to California and Nevada to fully digitize TRPA's historic permit and property records as part of the agency's Digital First strategic initiative. Staff is preparing to finalize budgeting for the California fiscal year 2022/2023 and the Nevada biennium for fiscal years 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 and is taking into account the impact of inflation on contract and wage expenses with no matching increases in state revenue.

Facilities & Information Technology

Front lobby demolition and remodeling work began this quarter. The project will increase one-on-one meeting space so planners can work with customers in person. Remodeling will continue into next quarter along with several major deferred maintenance projects including roof replacement and repairing a failing retaining wall.

TRPA is updating its permitting software and rebuilding its existing Accela product into a cloud-based version. The new system includes many new features and technologies, including streamlined and easy-to-use pages for customers and staff, more automated tools and new workflows to streamline and accelerate review times, email/text notifications, and electronic document review and markup tools. Paired with robust reporting and dashboard tools, the new software will improve customer service and reduce application review and processing times, while raising transparency and accountability.

HUMAN RESOURCES

In January, TRPA welcomed Angela Atchley to the agency as the Human Resources and Organizational Development Director, filling the role of Susan Strating, who retired. Angela and her team this quarter began a refresh of the agency's performance management review system to help ensure TRPA staff are satisfied members of a high performing team. The Human Resources team is also actively recruiting for two open positions and new internship opportunities to support a skilled, diverse, and inclusive workforce at the agency. One position is a planning technician to join the record-setting Current Planning team, the other is the new AIS Projects Coordinator position. Summer planning internships have been opened for the Long Range and Transportation divisions.