TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

TRPA
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STAFF REPORT

Date: March 11, 2026

To: TRPA Advisory Planning Commission

From: TRPA Staff

Subject: Presentation on the process and design standards for area-wide stormwater/complete streets infrastructure

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Summary:
This is an information presentation intended to meet two objectives: 1) describe the process to implement various plan and code provisions designed to retrofit select developed areas in the Tahoe Basin with stormwater/complete streets infrastructure that will better control runoff and erosion that negatively impacts Lake water quality, and 2.) to provide an overview of extant and new design standards being prepared for that infrastructure. This is an information item and does not require the Planning Commission to take any formal action.

Required Motions:
No motion is required as this presentation is being made solely to provide information to the Advisory Planning Commission and members of the public.

Background:
There are three existing code provisions that provide the option for areawide treatment of stormwater:

1. Chapter 13 – Provides the option to include areawide water quality treatments and funding mechanisms in area plans.
2. Chapter 30 – Allows for additional land coverage for certain types of housing (i.e., low and moderate income, and achievable) with stormwater collection and treatment systems.
3. Chapter 60 – Identifies special circumstances in which areawide stormwater treatment options are permissible.

Some of these options are relatively new and some have been available for years. However, the process for transitioning from best management practices (BMPs) at parcel level to areawide BMPs for stormwater treatment has not been clearly understood. The process includes the steps shown in the figure below. These steps will be presented and explained in more detail.

To help in the preparation of the plans for additional treatment facilities (second step above), TRPA has convened a working group with stormwater and public works staff from the local governments in the

Basin and engaged NCE as consulting engineers to support the effort. TRPA staff, the working group, and NCE are 1.) compiling a menu of existing detail drawings (a.k.a., “typicals”) for stormwater infrastructure and complete streets, and 2.) identifying, prioritizing, and preparing additional detail drawings for the same purposes. As these are compiled and completed, they will be included in TRPA’s Best Management Practices Handbook. Examples will be presented and discussed.

Additional Information:
For questions regarding this agenda item, please contact Shay Navarro, Watersheds and Water Quality Program Manager at (775) 589 5282 or snavarro@trpa.gov, or John Hester, Chief Operating Officer at (775) 589 5219 or jhester@trpa.gov.

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