TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY
TRPA RESOLUTION NO. 2026–

RECOGNITION OF JOHN HESTER FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE LAKE TAHOE REGION

WHEREAS, John Hester has dedicated 15 years of his "first retirement" in service to the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, bringing exceptional experience and commitment to the protection and stewardship of the Lake Tahoe Region; and

WHEREAS, John played an instrumental role in modernizing the Lake Tahoe Regional Plan and strengthening the Agency's planning framework to build thriving, sustainable communities within Lake Tahoe's unique and treasured environment; and

WHEREAS, through his collaborative leadership of the Advisory Planning Commission, John worked closely with local governments to advance implementation of the Regional Plan's shared vision; and

WHEREAS, John strengthened TRPA's internal operations by aligning staff initiatives and encouraging continuous improvement, often with the use of hexagon planning exercises (aka hexajohns); and

WHEREAS, among John's greatest and most enduring contributions is his extraordinary mentorship of TRPA staff, generously sharing his knowledge, creating opportunities for professional growth, providing trusted counsel, and helping employees across the Agency become confident and capable leaders; and

WHEREAS, John's thoughtful and steady leadership fostered a culture of trust and teamwork at TRPA, and his guidance has shaped the careers of planners and public servants at the Agency and in multiple communities over the last 50 years; and

WHEREAS, John's office whiteboard always exhibited visionary ideas and impressive hand-drawn depictions of planning concepts, inspiring staff and board members alike; and

WHEREAS, John was known in the office as the Johnny Lama due to his calm demeanor, graceful mentorship and deep planning knowledge; and

WHEREAS, John could be counted on to regale staff with a personal story from his vast planning experience to help solve any planning conundrum or challenging systems scenario; and

WHEREAS, John's professional legacy was recognized in 2025 with the Special President's Award from the Nevada Chapter of the American Planning Association, honoring his contributions to planning and his lasting impact on communities and planning professionals throughout the state; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Governing Board hereby recognizes and expresses its deepest appreciation to John Hester for 15 years of distinguished service, exceptional leadership, mentorship, and lasting contributions to the Agency and the Lake Tahoe Region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that John's dedication to public service, deep institutional knowledge, and steady leadership have left TRPA and the Lake Tahoe Region stronger and will continue to guide and inspire the Agency and its staff for years to come.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Governing Board at its meeting held on August 26, 2026.

Ayes:
Nays:
Absent:

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Hayley Williamson, Chair
Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
Governing Board