Tahoe Science Advisory Council

Clarity work update

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Lake Tahoe's Clarity Challenges

- Management actions are keeping pollutants out of the lake
- Local jurisdictions are meeting load reduction targets
- The impact of implementation actions is unclear

Tahoe Science Advisory Council
Water Quality Work Group

- Semi-monthly meetings
- Broad agency participation
- Multi-institution support
- Clarity remains a priority topic

Clarity Focus

- In-Lake Processes
- Pollutant Loading

In-Lake Processes

- Summer/winter trends are diverging
- Biological clarity drivers are important
- Physical conditions are changing
- Particle fate and transport needs more study

Council Activities

- Two-day clarity workshop in May 2025
- Independent peer review of the pelagic monitoring program
- Secured new funding for critical in-lake monitoring and modeling tasks
    - *New data are now being collected*

Pollutant Loading

Why it matters

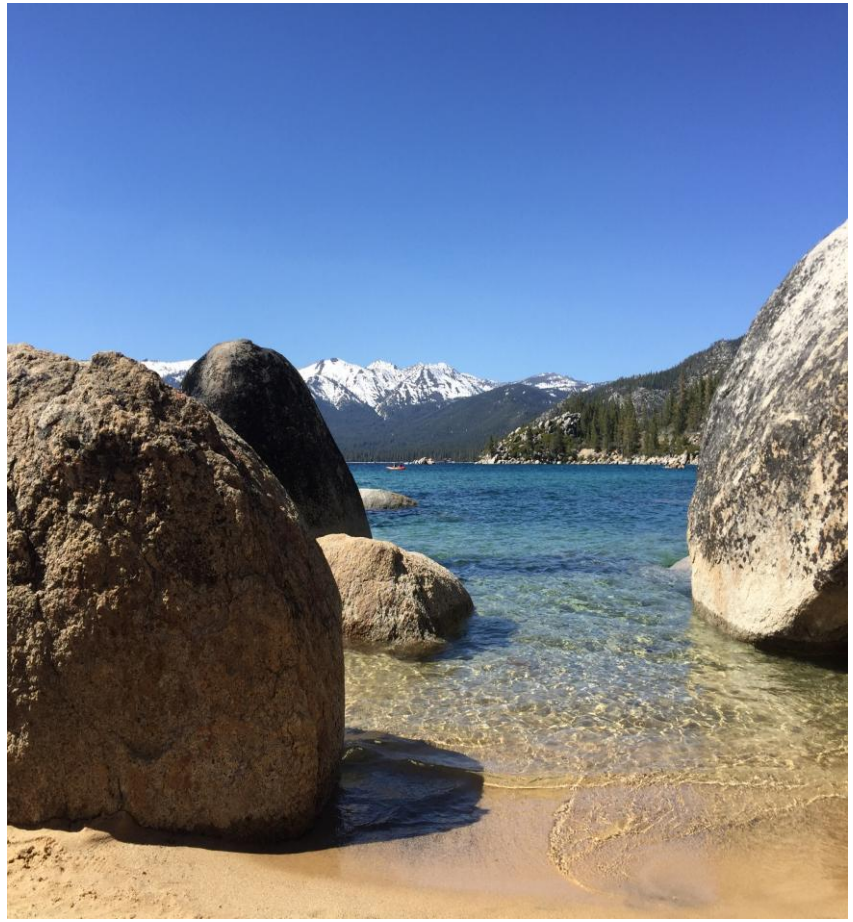
- Understanding loading is key to assessing implementation actions
- Climate change is altering watershed conditions
- Science and data have improved significantly

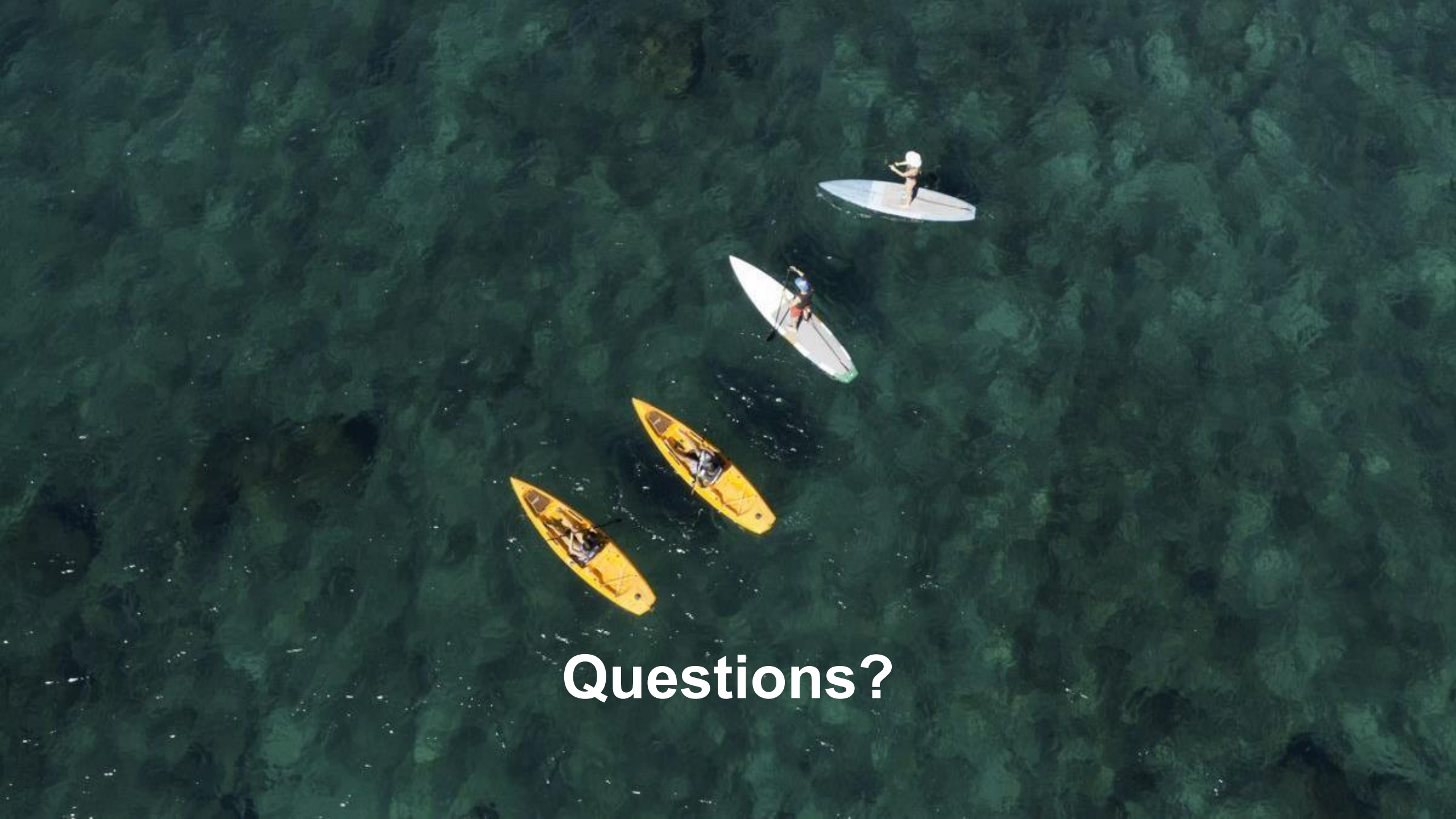
Council response

- Lake Clarity Crediting Program & Pollutant Load Reduction Model (PLRM) review
- Watershed model update/improvement

Next steps

- Continue pollutant load reduction work
- Support the science
  - Invest in watershed modeling
  - Commit to ongoing research and monitoring




Questions?