



STAFF REPORT

Date: October 16, 2024

To: TRPA Governing Board

From: TRPA Staff

Subject: Government Relations Program Update on Federal, State, and Local Initiatives

Summary and Staff Recommendation:

Staff will provide an informational update on the government relations program and 2024 actions that support implementation of the Regional Plan, Agency strategic priorities, and the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP).

Required Motions:

This is an informational item only.

Project Description/Background:

The [Bi-State Compact](#) (Article V(i)) mandates that TRPA “shall seek the cooperation and consider the recommendations of counties and cities and other agencies of local government, of state and federal agencies, of educational institutions and research organizations, whether public or private, and of civic groups and private persons” to implement the Regional Plan and Threshold Standards.

To implement this mandate, TRPA works collaboratively with a wide range of basin partners and the public to build understanding around issues and needs of the region. TRPA also ensures the regions issues and needs are communicated and understood by legislators, the President’s Administration, and federal, state, local agencies, and the community at large. Successful implementation of the Regional Plan is dependent on active engagement with elected officials and the public to fill funding gaps and implement science-informed regulations and policies.

In the past year, TRPA staff have prioritized the following activities that advance Regional Plan goals and implement the Environmental Improvement Program:

Federal:

- Trip to Washington D.C. – Lead 22 partners in March 2024 on a ‘Team Tahoe’ Washington D.C. fly-in to engage and educate elected officials and committee staff about the importance of passing the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act Reauthorization.
- Lake Tahoe Restoration Act (LTRA) – Reauthorization passed Congress in September 2024, extending the LTRA for another decade, giving the Region more time to receive approximately \$300 million in remaining authorization from the LTRA of 2016.

- Annual Lake Tahoe Summit – Coordinated and executed the 2024 Tahoe Summit along with the League to Save Lake Tahoe, Tahoe Fund, and EIP partners. More than 1,300 people attended the Tahoe Summit with keynote speaker Secretary Pete Buttigieg.
- Coordinated Funding Requests - Coordinated Congressionally Designated/Community Projects Funding requests among EIP partners, resulting in a 76 percent rate of project selection by Tahoe’s congressional delegation. Of those initial project submissions, four projects for \$5.25 million are included in the current appropriations bills for federal fiscal year 2025.

State:

- Building Presence in State Capitals - Traveled for legislative meetings in Sacramento six times and to Carson City four times to continue building the Agency’s presence in the state capitals and educate elected officials about the importance of protecting Lake Tahoe.
- California Tahoe Alliance – Participate in the California Tahoe Alliance, a collation of 11 public and private organizations, that support securing the California share of the EIP.
- Transportation Funding – Developed transportation funding proposals in both states including draft transportation formula funding bill language in California and several bill draft requests in Nevada. These funding proposals would contribute to the state’s shares of the 7-7-7 funding framework with sustainable and ongoing funding.
- Nevada Interim Legislative Session – Completed the 2024 interim session of the Legislative Committee for the Review and Oversight of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and Marlette Lake Water System resulting in the submission of eight bill draft requests for the 83rd (2025) Nevada Legislative Session.

Program Wide:

- Field Tours – Lead and facilitated 14 field tours between March and October 2024. Field tours are an effective tool for educating decision makers, elected officials, and staff about the EIP, the challenges Tahoe faces, and the solutions needed to achieve the region’s goals. It also provides partner agencies an opportunity to highlight their work and future needs.
- Partner Coordination – Actively participated with TRPA departments, EIP partners, and the public to advance Agency goals including participating in the Destination Stewardship Council, California Jobs First Initiative, and Nevada Department of Transportation Emissions Reduction Working Group.
- EIP Coordination and Implementation – Support EIP partners and project implementation through coordinated development of outreach materials, key messages, field tours, and funding requests.

Contact Information:

For questions regarding this agenda item, please contact Devin Middlebrook, government affairs manager, at (775) 589-5230 or dmiddlebrook@trpa.gov.

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