

2021 QUARTERLY REPORT

TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

Third Quarter: July – September 2021



TAHOE
REGIONAL
PLANNING
AGENCY



Photo: CalFIRE

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Sept 30, 2021

The last quarter tested the resilience of the lake, our community, and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. Remarkably, we accomplished a great deal this quarter despite the circumstances. The majority of the work presented in this report was performed by a staff spread to the four winds by the Caldor Fire. In all, nearly 75 percent of the agency's employees were forced to evacuate from homes in the basin and all others were impacted by the turmoil or by the critical levels of smoke that inundated communities for many weeks.

While relocating critical equipment and setting up offices in hotel rooms and RVs, staff members were also helping one another evacuate, sharing places to stay, and offering to harbor pets and precious items. Our team willingly overcame hardships to deliver our services as seamlessly as possible and quickly pivoted to be of service to partner agencies working to keep us safe. Under extreme circumstances, TRPA staff displayed an unrelenting spirit and exemplified the agency's core values of high-performance and collaboration.

Caldor is also providing a reflection on TRPA's work that stretches far beyond the confines of this report. The collaborative foundations of the Environmental Improvement Program can be seen in the multi-jurisdictional forest fuel reduction projects that helped firefighters protect Lake Tahoe communities. Our work since the 2007 Angora Fire to harmonize policies and streamline project delivery has helped the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team reduce fuels on more than 67,000 acres of forest. Even now as the incident turns to post-fire rehabilitation, our long-standing emphasis on protecting water quality is shining through in the actions of post-fire recovery partners.

On behalf of the Leadership Team, I want to express how proud we are of the perseverance and professionalism our staff has shown through multiple crises and how grateful we are for their dauntless spirit. We also owe a debt of gratitude to the women and men who put themselves at risk to protect us all. May our work going forward honor them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie W. Regan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Julie W. Regan, APR
Acting Executive Director & External Affairs Chief
Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

TRPA STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

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. TRPA's Climate Change Strategic Initiative is harmonizing the goals of both states and local governments in the Tahoe Region while maintaining the region's reputation as a global leader in sustainability.

Climate Resiliency

During this quarter, TRPA staff worked with regional partners, including the California Tahoe Conservancy, to submit funding requests to the State of California for priority climate resiliency projects. In total \$5.25 million was awarded to the Conservancy to invest in climate resiliency in the Tahoe Basin. Projects will advance regional climate goals.

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 Bi-State Consultation on Transportation Action Plan, sustainable recreation planning, and ongoing transportation corridor planning.

Linking Tahoe Regional Grant Program

In September, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) awarded \$11 million to seven transportation projects within the Tahoe Region that will reduce congestion, expand regional trails, provide free transit, support sustainable recreation and tourism, improve lake clarity, and create climate resiliency. TRPA's Linking Tahoe Regional Grant Program helps fund and implement projects that create additional transportation options, improve safety, and provide social and environmental benefits. The seven projects awarded include two complete streets projects, two active transportation projects, one corridor plan, vehicle purchase, and commitment to free-to-the-user transit. Projects funded through the Linking Tahoe Regional Grant Program advance implementation of the 2020 Lake Tahoe Regional Transportation Plan.

Sustainable Funding for Transportation Priorities

TRPA has worked with the Bi-State Consultation on Transportation Committee, local partners, and the Tahoe Transportation District (TTD) to engage in a collaborative approach to developing sustainable funding for transportation priorities in the Regional Transportation Plan. TRPA and TTD staff are cooperatively leading the initiative for new

sustainable funding along with newly hired Regional Government Services consultants with more than thirty years of experience helping regions around the globe find the right transportation funding solutions.

The Environmental Improvement Program, Transportation, and Public Outreach Committee of the TRPA Governing Board has been providing important policy guidance in the development of a sustainable transportation funding proposal. Next steps include additional stakeholder engagement, legal and financial analysis of potential funding mechanisms, and transportation data analysis. This work will be summarized in a white paper for decision makers.

US 50 East Shore Corridor Management Plan

The Nevada Department of Transportation launched development of the US 50 East Shore Corridor Management Plan earlier this year. 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. This quarter, the corridor plan team completed a listening tour beginning the Fourth of July holiday weekend and continuing into the Fall. The tour collected concerns and opportunities for the 13-mile corridor from people who live, work, commute, and recreate along it. Key takeaways are safety concerns, including speed, access to recreation, limited transit, and interest in extending the Tahoe Trail bicycle and pedestrian path through the corridor. The next phase of work will develop potential solutions to corridor needs and receive additional public and stakeholder input.



Map of the US 50 East Shore Corridor Management Plan.

State Route 89 Trail Feasibility Study

Implementation of the State Route 89 Corridor Plan continued to move forward this quarter. TRPA and partners completed background research including meeting with land managers, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the Washoe Tribe, and other key stakeholders, as well as field visits to fully understand the existing conditions, challenges, and potential for implementing a paved multi-use path along this popular 11-mile-long corridor. The trail feasibility study will result in the final section of the West Shore Trail, connecting people to recreation sites without the need for a personal vehicle.

Transportation Equity

Building on the environmental justice assessment included in the recently adopted 2020 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), TRPA staff formed an internal team to begin



development of a regional transportation equity study. The study will expand on the RTP environmental justice assessment, review best practices for equity and inclusion, propose an equity framework to guide TRPA transportation planning and climate resilience planning, and prepare recommendations and action steps for TRPA's transportation system. The goal of the study is to improve TRPA planning and implementation practices to advance equity in the Tahoe Basin.

Future of Tourism Shared Vision and Implementation Roadmap Request for Proposals (RFP)

The Tahoe-Truckee Sustainable Recreation and Tourism partnership is seeking professional services of leading visitor and destination management consultants to develop a long-term shared vision and implementation roadmap for Tahoe's sustainable future. Interviews for the RFP will occur this Fall. Vested partners in the planning work include Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority, Incline Village Crystal Bay Visitors Bureau, Visit Truckee Tahoe, Washoe County, Tahoe Fund, and TRPA. The agency is actively seeking additional funding to match existing contributions and welcomes partner agencies to join the conversation.

The partnership continued regular coordination meetings with a focus on responding to the Caldor Fire by sharing information, ensuring consistent messaging, and management during forest closures and evacuations.

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 housing needs identified in the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, and the Regional Housing Needs Allocation.

Tahoe Living Working Group

In July, the TRPA Governing Board approved the Phase One Housing Amendments, which were developed under consultation with the Tahoe Living Working Group. The approved amendments included:

- Modifying the bonus unit boundary to align with the Regional Transportation Plan, 2012 Regional Plan updates, and multi-family zones. The boundary was modified to

include a half-mile buffer from town centers and areas zoned multi-family, in addition to the half-mile buffer from transit.

- Allowing non-conforming tourist density to be used onsite for residential projects.
- Allowing up to two accessory dwelling units per residential parcel regardless of parcel size (this applies only on the California side).
- Removing the public noticing requirement for accessory dwelling unit projects.

The approved amendments will further incentivize and remove barriers for the development of housing in the Tahoe Region.

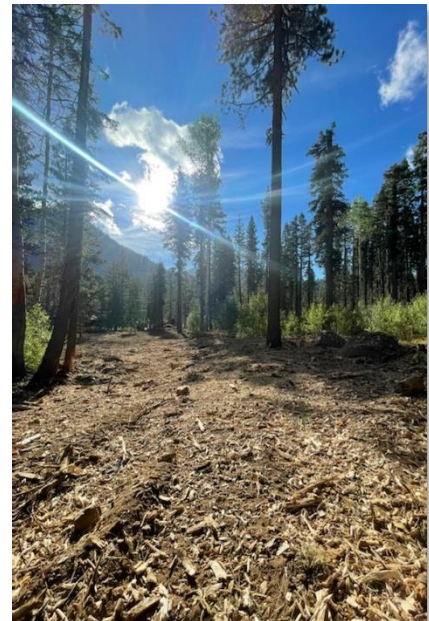
RESTORATION BLUEPRINT: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

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 Agenda, 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.

Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team

In September, TRPA staff and agency partners delivered a comprehensive presentation to the Governing Board on the Caldor Fire. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and the USDA Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) joined staff in updating the Board and the public on incident management, long-term Caldor Fire recovery and restoration, and repair work happening in the burn area and on suppression lines within the basin. The presentation included information on funding opportunities for current and future resilience work.

Staff is working collaboratively with the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team on SNPLMA Round 19 funding nominations for the Tahoe Basin as well as long-term post-fire recovery and restoration.



Caldor Fire bulldozer line repair.

Code of Ordinance Changes in Support of Vegetation Protection and Management

With the severity of wildfires growing season over season, forest managers and fire agencies at every level of government have been looking hard at the efficiency of forest management practices. TRPA has been streamlining, removing redundancy, and adding best practices to vegetation provisions of the Regional Plan to support the work of Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team partners to keep Lake Tahoe communities safe and reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire.

In July, staff presented to the TRPA Governing Board an initial analysis associated with the use of mechanical equipment on steeper slopes ranging from 30 to 50 percent slope. The University of Idaho and USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station presented their initial modeling results regarding a variety of treatments on a range of slopes under varying conditions.

Staff this quarter has been working internally to produce the analysis necessary to support a code change regarding mechanical ground-based equipment on slopes 30 to 50 percent as well as draft code language.

Vegetation Thresholds Update

Staff is working across divisions to identify potential updates to the vegetation threshold that will foster forest resilience and help achieve future desired conditions. These threshold updates will pull from the resilience work related to the Lake Tahoe West Restoration Project and Landscape Resilience Assessment.

Tahoe Keys Weed Management Environmental Documentation

Aquatic weeds in the Tahoe Keys lagoons are the highest priority aquatic invasive species control threat in the Tahoe Region. In response to the need to control and prevent the spread of the abundant growth of non-native and nuisance aquatic weeds, the Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association (TKPOA) worked with agencies and key stakeholders to develop a permit application for the Tahoe Keys Lagoons Aquatic Weeds Control Methods Test. The proposed control methods test will evaluate a range of aquatic weed control methods independently and in combination in the Tahoe Keys lagoons.

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Lahontan) reached a significant milestone this quarter with the release of the Draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and the associated antidegradation analysis. The Draft NPDES permit package is open for a 45-day public comment period which will end on November 1, 2021.

TRPA and Lahontan continue to work with environmental consultants responding to comments received on the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement and preparing for the release of the final environmental document later in 2021. The Tahoe Science Advisory Council completed the peer review of the comprehensive monitoring plan developed by TKPOA this quarter, which received supportive feedback for the plan.

Test ultraviolet light treatments started this quarter in the Tahoe Keys west lagoon and will continue through October 2021. Preliminary results for these treatments are expected later in 2021. Low water levels and water conditions have presented challenges for this work however solutions are being developed to overcome these challenges allowing work to continue. Additional surveys and post-treatment work will resume in spring 2022.

Ski Run “Mountain to Marina” Green Infrastructure Project

Area-wide projects like this one that elevate the role of natural infiltration strategies are a centerpiece of regional approaches to meeting water quality standards and achieving multiple-benefit adaptations to climate change. During this quarter, TRPA Geographic Information System (GIS) staff created a collector map to allow field collection of GIS data for this project. This includes collecting existing conditions (erosion, unpaved parking, undersized basins, etc.) as well as potential opportunities such as installation of sidewalks, safe routes to schools, and recreation opportunities like community parks.

Tahoe Keys Green Infrastructure Project

TRPA continues to pursue funding opportunities for the Tahoe Keys Green Infrastructure Project. This project involves implementation of innovative regional stormwater technologies in the Tahoe Keys subdivision such as modular floating treatment wetlands. This regional treatment approach with public and private partnerships will help improve water quality, enhance wildlife habitat, and help protect investments in aquatic invasive species control within the Tahoe Keys lagoons. This quarter, TRPA solicited consultants to produce an illustrative conservation landscape design idea book for properties within the subdivision. The firm Design Workshop is now under contract to do this work and held a kickoff meeting on September 28.

Lower Kingsbury Area-Wide Treatment Project

The Lower Kingsbury Area-Wide Water Quality Treatment project (EIP # 01.01.04.0087) will remove coverage in a stream environment zone and install water quality improvements using low-impact development techniques. The project will provide area-wide stormwater treatment while promoting floodplain expansion in a constrained tributary of Edgewood Creek.

This quarter TRPA staff met in the field with property owners and representatives, Nevada Tahoe Conservation District engineers, and US Environmental Protection Agency and Douglas County staff to discuss requirements and design options for the project. Information obtained will inform draft plans.



ONGOING INITIATIVES AND ANNUAL ACTIVITIES

LONG RANGE & TRANSPORTATION PLANNING DIVISION

Meeks Bay Restoration Project

This quarter, the Meeks Bay planning team gained support for a range of environmental and design alternatives developed through a robust public engagement and stakeholder process. The consultant team is in the process of completing the draft environmental analysis, anticipated for release this winter.

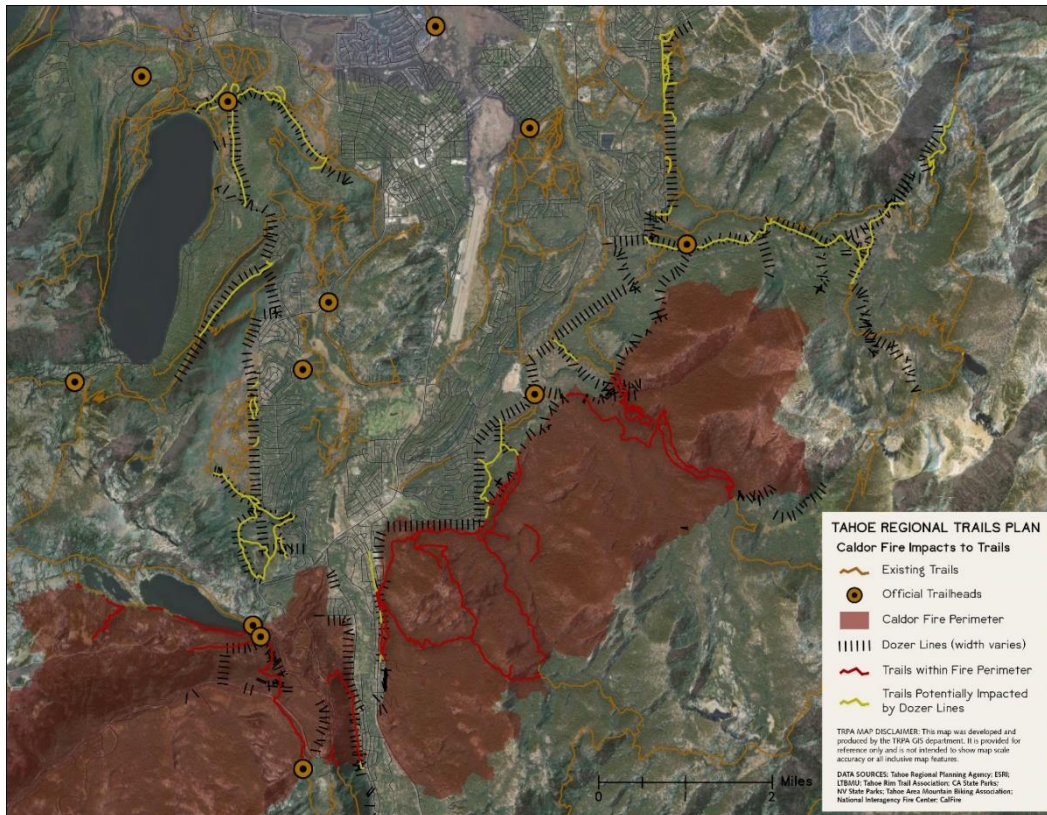
In addition to public engagement, the planning team began coordination to ensure that the West Shore trail design is consistent with the objectives of both the State Route 89 Corridor Plan and the Meeks Bay Restoration Project. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) also showed its support for the Meeks Bay project, formalizing its participation as a planning partner by entering into a participatory agreement with the USDA Forest Service. Caltrans will continue to play an important role in implementing the bridge replacement project necessary to restore Meeks Creek, improve safety, and bicycle and pedestrian accessibility.



Tahoe Regional Trails Plan

Last winter, TRPA and a steering committee made up of land managers and trail stewards began work on the Tahoe Regional Trails Plan that will create a shared vision for a world-class trail network in Tahoe. The plan will link Tahoe's backcountry, front country, and urban trail systems. This will be the first time regional partners have come together to consider a trails network and connections between land managers at this scale and in such a comprehensive way.

The Caldor Fire has had a significant impact on many high-use trails in the South Shore. According to public survey responses TRPA collected this year, the Corral Trail near Meyers was the most popular trail in the Tahoe Basin. The Corral Trail received significant damage from the Caldor Fire and protective bulldozer suppression lines. TRPA and the trails plan steering committee are working to address short- and long-term impacts of the fire in the Regional Trails Plan.



CURRENT PLANNING DIVISION

Hearings Officer Meetings

The Hearings Officer approved 11 project applications this quarter, including:

- Approved the special use findings required for the expansion of an existing single-family residence in Incline Village, NV.
- The reconstruction of a single-family dwelling on a lakefront parcel in Crystal Bay, NV.
- The expansion and remodel of a commercial building in Incline Village, NV.
- The installation of up to 30 real-time water quality data collection stations within Lake Tahoe to allow the University of Nevada, Reno to monitor nearshore water quality.
- Seven land capability challenge applications.

Permit Application Review

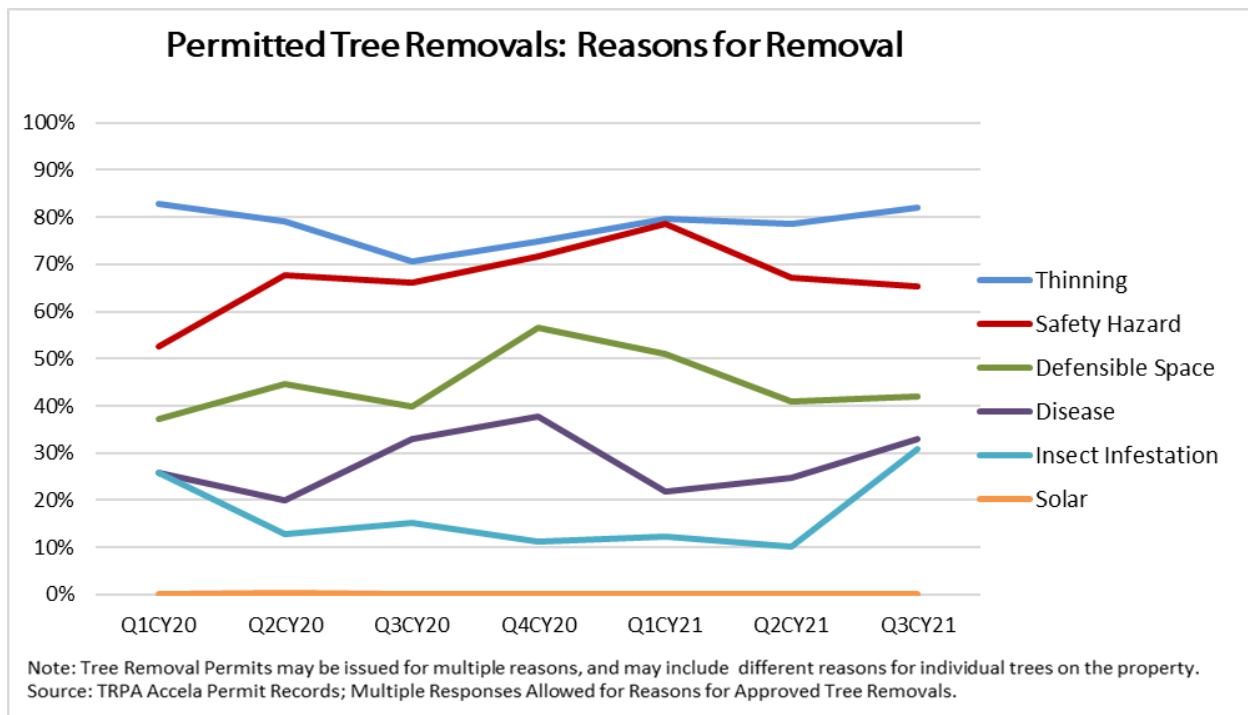
Despite the interruptions from the Caldor Fire this quarter, applications to TRPA continue to track higher than last year's record volumes. Year to date, applications are up 12 percent from the same period in 2020. Online application submittals continue to increase with more than 82 percent of applications during the third quarter submitted electronically.

Summary of TRPA Project Applications Received Quarter 3 2020 through Quarter 2 2021					
	Q3 CY2020	Q4 CY2020	Q1 CY2021	Q2 CY2021	Q3 CY2021
Applications Received¹	275	214	263	341	250
Residential Projects ²	71	41	71	74	53
Commercial Projects ²	5	0	4	4	1
Recreation/Public Service Projects ²	7	8	8	16	13
Environmental Improvement Construction Projects	3	1	5	4	2
Shorezone/Lakezone Projects ²	15	6	12	17	13
Grading Projects	15	3	7	13	12
Verifications and Banking ³	106	109	76	132	103
Moorings	20	19	16	17	8
Transfers of Development	10	3	26	18	8
Other ⁴	23	24	38	46	37
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. In the third quarter of 2021, TRPA processed 466 tree removal applications. TRPA permitted the removal of 2,125 individual trees during the third quarter with thinning and safety hazard being the primary reasons for removal. These numbers do not include trees removed as part of a construction project, trees under 14 inches diameter at breast height (dbh), nor trees on private property marked for removal for defensible space reasons by fire safety partners under their agreements with TRPA.

Summary of TRPA Tree Removal Applications & Permitting Activity Quarter 3 2020 through Quarter 3 2021					
	Q3 CY2020	Q4 CY2020	Q1 CY2021	Q2 CY2021	Q3 CY2021
Tree Removal Applications Received	557	238	200	532	466
Number of Trees Permitted for Removal	2,390	1,022	887	2,181	2,125
Percent Applications Submitted Online	92%	90%	92%	95%	95%
Source : TRPA Accela Permit Records					



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 to achieve required pollutant load reductions to improve Lake Tahoe's impaired water quality. TRPA itself issues BMP certificates to private property owners to recognize a parcel's compliance with stormwater management requirements in TRPA's Code of Ordinances. The agency currently concentrates its BMP compliance resources on commercial and large multi-family (six units or more) properties. Compliance in that type of development has been shown to reduce more pollutant load than other property types.

This quarter, TRPA issued 68 BMP certificates: 66 for single-family residential parcels, one for a multi-family residential parcel, and one for a commercial parcel. Of the total, 22 were source control certificates. Cumulative year-to-date BMP certificates issued for 2021 are shown in the table below:

BMP Certificates issued from January 1 through September 30 2021					
	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	87	60	27	0
	Multi-Family Residential	2	2	0	0
	Commercial	12	3	9	0
	California Total	101	65	36	0
Nevada	Single-Family Residential	30	15	13	2
	Multi-Family Residential	3	0	2	1
	Commercial	1	0	1	0
	Nevada Total	34	15	16	3
	Total Certificates Issued	135	80	52	3

Reissued Certificates: During this quarter, TRPA reissued eight 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.

Online BMP Retrofit Application: As part of TRPA's Digital First initiative to streamline processes, TRPA stormwater program staff activated an electronic version of the BMP Retrofit Permit Application and created an e-permit information sheet for the public.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A FREE BMP RETROFIT PERMIT ONLINE

Step 1: Visit [Tahoebmp.org](https://www.tahoebmp.org) and chose **BMP Retrofit Application**



SAVE THE APPLICATION FORM TO YOUR COMPUTER BEFORE COMPLETION TO ENSURE EASE OF USE

Step 2: Create/login to your account at: [TRPA Citizen Access Database \(https://www.trpa.gov/CitizenAccess/Default.aspx\)](https://www.trpa.gov/CitizenAccess/Default.aspx)



If you need help creating a Citizen Access account, visit <https://www.trpa.gov/apply-online/>

Step 3: After creating your file within the TRPA Citizen Access Database, attach your completed permit application and all supporting documents and Save. Once completed, the BMP Teams will be notified of your submission and will contact you to discuss your project. The BMP Team can be reached at 775/589-5202 or bmp@trpa.gov if you need assistance.

Aquatic Invasive Species Program

Prevention: Boat inspection stations continued to operate this summer, however, to protect staff and the public from hazardous air quality conditions due to smoke, station closures were ordered by TRPA and Tahoe Resource Conservation District managers on several occasions. All inspection stations closed during the Caldor Fire crisis. The Alpine

Meadows inspection station reopened September 1 and will operate through October 10. Winter operations are scheduled to begin October 1 as usual, with inspection services moving to Cave Rock (NV) and Lake Forest (CA) boat ramps.

This quarter, boat inspectors intercepted 55 boats with AIS detected, nine of which had invasive mussels present. Each of these boats was decontaminated in coordination with state wildlife officials. Inspectors performed over 3,300 inspections and 2,100 decontaminations.

Control: As project manager for the Taylor Tallac AIS control project, TRPA has been coordinating with Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Lahontan) and US Army Corps of Engineers partners to finalize necessary permits for implementation. Staff received the Lahontan permit this quarter and expect final determination on the US Army Corps permit in October. Work to control the over 17-acre infestation is expected to begin in October.

Ultraviolet light treatment continued at Lakeside Marina and Beach this quarter. This approximately 2-acre infestation is proving difficult to treat due to low and warm water conditions. The work will be evaluated in spring 2022 to determine if additional treatment is necessary.

AIS control work resumed in the lake outside of the Tahoe Keys this quarter, continuing work that began last fall. This work had been postponed due to hazardous air quality and the Caldor Fire crisis and is expected to continue through October. Divers are focusing on areas with dense plant populations lakeward of the Tahoe Keys east channel.

RESEARCH & ANALYSIS DIVISION

Caldor Fire Science

The Caldor Fire started on August 14, 2021, near the community of Grizzly Flats in El Dorado County, approximately 30 miles from the Tahoe Basin. By September 1, the catastrophic fire had entered the Tahoe Basin and burned approximately 10,000 acres inside the basin. While the fire as of September 30 is still not completely contained or extinguished, managers and researchers are working to better understand the impacts of the fire and how to better prepare for the next fire. Coordinated by the Tahoe Science Advisory Council, the partnership has identified a suite of opportunities:

- **Impacts of Smoke and Ash on the Lake:** Even before the fire entered the Tahoe Basin, it sent ash and charred leaves to fall from the sky and created hazardous air quality conditions for weeks. Council scientists began additional sampling in mid-August to assess how smoke and ash impact lake health.
- **Enhancing Tributary Monitoring:** Building on decades of monitoring Lake Tahoe tributaries for the Lake Tahoe Interagency Monitoring Program, partners will expand sampling in the fire impacted streams to better quantify the impacts of burned areas on water quality.

- **Effectiveness of Forest Treatments:** Lake Tahoe's forests have benefited from extensive fuels management work (over a third of the area the Caldor Fire burned within the basin had been treated). Council researchers will work with Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team partners to assess how the vegetation in treated areas fared in comparison to untreated forest lands.
- **Restoration Effectiveness:** Well before the fire was out, the USDA Forest Service and CAL FIRE were working to rehabilitate the landscape impacted by the fire or fire suppression activities. Researchers will investigate the relative performance of different restoration techniques to better understand performance over the longer term and which methods best protect water quality and the health of the Lake Tahoe.

Parcel Tracker Updates

The Lake Tahoe Info Parcel Tracker (<https://parcels.laketahoeinfo.org/>) is the best source of detailed public information about the land use characteristics of properties in the Lake Tahoe Region and provides development histories upon which property owners and realtors have come to rely. TRPA staff reviewed and updated information on 293 parcels in the tracker during the quarter. TRPA responded to 156 unique requests from property owners, real estate agents, and local government partners for updated permitting information on parcels.



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:

GIS Mapping and Maintenance

- **Smoke Map:** The TRPA smoke map was viewed approximately 72,000 times this quarter, helping to give members of the public and the media information on smoke impacts from the Tamarack and Caldor Fires. Staff modified the information on the 'About' page and changed the basemap.
- **Forest Closure Map:** Created a new web map that shows the multiple, changing forest closures in one consolidated location.
- **Caldor Incident Support:** Acquired Caldor spatial data to support the work of TRPA's internal Caldor Fire Recovery Team including backcountry closures, Caldor Fire cleanup closures, bulldozer lines, incident boundary, and soil burn severity. This information will be used to create a GIS analysis of fire impacts.
- **Purple Air Sensor:** Configured outside air quality sensor to transmit to the online PurpleAir map (<https://www2.purpleair.com/>).
- **ESRI Contract and Licensing:** Reviewed updated terms and conditions and coordinated with the TRPA Finance Department on a new three-year contract. Relicensed all servers and developer licensing. Added Business Analyst to Enterprise GIS for additional reporting capabilities.

- **Tahoe Open Data:** Ongoing maintenance and improvements occurred throughout this quarter. Added new layers, removed obsolete ones, and renamed layers for clarity.
- **Tahoe Boating App:** Released version 2.2 of the Boating App to both the Android Store and the iOS store. Staff updated the Aquatic Invasive Species/Eyes on the Lake information. Added open/closed status to regional boat ramps shown in the app. Removed out-of-date content and added active AIS control projects in the No Wake Zone layer to inform the public and to improve safety conditions for teams working in those areas.
- **Community Profile Report:** Generated a basinwide report of population trends and forecasted demographic changes
- **GIS Server Support:** Updated GIS web servers and databases through evacuation-related server move
- **Meeks Bay Restoration Project Support:** Created a static map of the Meeks Bay area for a Regional Plan Implementation Committee (RPIC) meeting presentation.
- **Ski Run Mountain to Marina Green Infrastructure Project Support:** Created a Collector map to collect GIS data which focused on opportunities (sidewalks, safe routes, parks, etc.) and existing conditions (erosion, unpaved parking, undersized basins, etc.) across the project area.
- **Lake Tahoe West Restoration Project Support:** Reviewed analysis results of the proposed action with the project team, developed data to capture alternatives, updated the project dashboard and print maps with new alternatives, and updated map services.
- **Mobile Data Collection:**
 - *Osprey Survey:* Created an annual survey using Survey123 and Collector applications to monitor osprey population sites. Collaborated with California State Parks to collect data for the summer of 2021.
 - *Noise Monitoring:* Created an annual survey using the Survey123 application to monitor noise levels in the Tahoe Basin.
 - *Calcium Survey:* Created a Collector map for dive contractors Marine Taxonomic Services to help TRPA sample calcium in the lake.
 - *Trails Survey:* Assisted with in-person surveys on both the North and South shores for the Tahoe Regional Trails Plan.

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. This quarter, in addition to communications, public outreach, and legislative support to advance the agency's Strategic Initiatives, the team also provided crisis communications support throughout the Caldor Fire incident. As containment of the fire grew and TRPA staff

returned from evacuations, External Affairs pivoted to supporting post-fire-recovery work and setting priorities for strategic communications going forward.

Caldor Fire Communications and Legislative Support



The Caldor Fire's march into the Tahoe Basin required crisis communications support.

- Responded to media calls and on-the-spot interview requests as the ferocity of the Caldor Fire turned the nation's attention to Lake Tahoe, passing accurate information and key messages to media outlets as far afield as the [Wall Street Journal](#).
- Virtually attended daily Caldor Fire Incident Command briefings and daily City of South Lake Tahoe Emergency Operations Center calls.
- Provided a steady stream of information from Incident Command and other sources to the TRPA Executive Leadership team, which were shared in reports to staff and Governing Board and Advisory Planning Commission members.
- Worked with Governor Sisolak on an emergency declaration that assisted transportation management on Nevada roadways during evacuations.
- Worked with Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT) public information officers on press releases and clear, consistent messaging during the fire. Developed a messaging guidelines document regarding fuels treatments and defensible space for TFFT partners to use in communications during and after the fire.

Legislative Affairs:

- Assisted US Senator Alex Padilla (D, Calif.) and partners in hosting the 25th annual Lake Tahoe Summit in August, which was [broadcast online](#) and has been viewed more than 2,000 times. The team worked with the senator's office to produce collaterals and manage promotions, and assisted California State Archives in the creation of a [virtual exhibit](#) for the Summit as an historic retrospective to commemorate 25 years of partnership.



US Sen. Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) presenting on August 17 at the 25th Annual Lake Tahoe Summit.

- Brought EIP partners and Lake Tahoe's federal delegation together for a policy briefing ahead of the Summit. The annual briefing aids elected officials in Washington DC to establish legislative priorities and funding requests in support of Lake Tahoe's restoration.
- Presented the first-ever [Dianne Feinstein Lake Tahoe Award](#) at the Summit. The



Deputy Director Julie Regan presenting the inaugural Dianne Feinstein Lake Tahoe Award.

inaugural award was bestowed upon US Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) for her years of tireless support for Lake Tahoe restoration initiatives. This auspicious award will be reserved going forward to recognize individuals or organizations displaying outstanding leadership and support for this national treasure. The senator's staff member Caitlin Meyer accepted the award.

- Immediately following the Summit, participated a roundtable convened by US Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.) with legislative and implementation partners to discuss solutions and challenges to improving Lake Tahoe's transportation system and implementing the 2020 Regional Transportation Plan.



Posters for the Lake Tahoe Summit in both English and Spanish.

- Worked with California Tahoe Alliance partners to bring the Lake Tahoe Caucus of the California Legislature together to present on fuels reduction and community wildfire protection in the Tahoe Basin. Members of the caucus noted the progress in the basin and considered the partnership to be a model for other parts of the state, this just weeks before fuel reduction projects helped firefighters save Lake Tahoe communities from the Caldor Fire.
- Assisted the agency in hosting the annual TRPA Governing Board retreat in July. The retreat was professionally facilitated and gave agency staff and board members an opportunity to engage on multiple levels, strengthen relationships, and discuss collaborative policy making.

Education, Outreach, and Engagement

- Maintained social media engagement and continued community engagement activities.
- Surveyed hundreds of residents and visitors about the Tahoe Regional Trails Plan at farmers markets and by canvassing community priority zones identified in the Regional Transportation Plan.
- Collected a remarkable \$1,500 in donations this quarter from staff and Governing Board members to the TRPA Environmental Scholarship Fund. These funds support local high school students who are poised to become environmental leaders. TRPA has awarded nearly \$12,000 in scholarships since 2004.
- Continued to host weekly Sustainable Recreation and Tourism working group calls to coordinate tourism management and communications strategies to raise environmental stewardship among outdoor recreators and visitors.
- Led the Sustainable Recreation public information team during the Caldor Fire and subsequent forest and trail closures to curb visitation during the crisis and to guide recreators to safer areas afterward.

FINANCE, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, & FACILITIES

Finance

TRPA has completed one quarter of Fiscal Year 2021/22. The agency has received payment from both California and Nevada for the annual general fund contributions. Planning revenues remain strong. Finance staff continues to close the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 books in preparation for the annual audit of financial statements. Thanks to strong communications and a reliable staff, all finance operations continued as planned during the Caldor Fire crisis. Staff members have voiced appreciation that payroll deposits were unaffected, offering some stability during a difficult time for all.

Facilities & Information Technology (IT)

The agency's IT infrastructure was proactively relocated outside of the basin in response to the Caldor Fire crisis and brought back online as quickly as possible to maintain the online services upon which staff, the public, and many partner agencies rely. This massive effort was completed seamlessly by our IT staff in a matter of hours and services were restored in less than two days. Key operations including Accela permitting, GIS, network drives, and

certain databases came back online after the systems were set up in a safe, temporary location in the Carson Valley. Other software products were cloud based and were not disrupted.

Many agency vehicles were also taken to locations outside of the evacuation area and the TRPA Watercraft Team managed to get to the agency's two boats moored on South Shore to safe moorings on the North Shore.

Physical access to the office was limited during the Caldor Fire and customer response times were delayed agency-wide while staff and infrastructure were being relocated, but the agency was able to continue to provide services throughout the incident, including holding a scheduled Hearings Officer meeting virtually while the South Shore and TRPA's offices were under mandatory evacuation orders. Facilities staff used mobile technology to keep an eye on the building and sent critical building updates to staff and managers through mobile messaging. Air filters in the building were replaced and general building cleanup and visual inspections took place upon re-entry.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Caldor Fire crisis both tested and strengthened the bonds between staff members and teams this quarter. The fire ultimately forced almost 75 percent of the agency's staff from their homes, submerged many others in extremely poor air quality, and shuttered its offices. The Human Resources team worked to support individual staff members throughout the crisis and to connect those in need to the right resources. After many tense weeks, evacuation orders lifted and the crisis subsided, allowing everyone to return home and children to start their school year although a little late. The Human Resources team will continue to offer support to staff post-crisis as people continue to settle back in and take stock of recent events.

TRPA welcomed new staff members this quarter. Bryn McKillop joined the Current Planning team as an Assistant Planner. Bryn recently graduated from the University of Colorado – Denver with a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning and has a bachelor's degree in history from Scripps College. Zach Davis also joined TRPA's Current Planning team as Shoreline Planning Technician, replacing Brenden Phillips, who was promoted to Associate Environmental Specialist in the Code Compliance team. In that role, Brenden replaces Taylor Currier, who has relocated to Utah.

Several promotions occurred this quarter: Melissa Uppendahl (Finance) was promoted to Assistant Controller, Adele Gerz (Research and Analysis) to Senior Research Technician, Brenden Phillips (Current Planning/Code Compliance) to Associate Environmental Specialist, and Tom Boos (Environmental Improvement/AIS Prevention) to Senior Environmental Specialist.

The Equity Team, sponsored by Joanne Marchetta and Julie Regan, has hosted several events over the past several months designed to surface and address unconscious bias. The team hosted two optional lunch seminars for staff. The first session invited Lake Tahoe

Community College Director of Equity Laura Salinas to speak about DEI initiatives at the college and successful tactics she's seen within the community. The second seminar explored the concept of privilege and reviewed the history of ADA laws. About a third of staff and a quarter of staff respectively attended the two discussions, and the committee is planning to continue these optional seminars into 2022.

Additionally, the regular "Leader-Manager Foundations" series wrapped up a three-part set of workshops on "Systems Thinking" this quarter.