

**Mail**

PO Box 5310  
Stateline, NV 89449-5310

**Location**

128 Market Street  
Stateline, NV 89449

**Contact**

Phone: 775-588-4547  
Fax: 775-588-4527  
[www.trpa.gov](http://www.trpa.gov)

**STAFF REPORT**

Date: May 18, 2022

To: TRPA Governing Board

From: TRPA Staff

Subject: Update on the Chile-Tahoe Partnership: Status report from Chile Lagos Limpios including lake modeling and how Tahoe is a global model for sustainable development

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**Summary and Staff Recommendation:**

Tahoe has long been a global leader of sustainability and the environment. Every year visitors from across the world come to Tahoe to learn about our past, present, and future.

Created in 2017, Chile Lagos Limpios (CHLL) started as one of those groups. From that initial meeting, CHLL has grown into a Chile-based, international non-governmental organization that is applying the Tahoe model to the lakes of Northern Patagonia. This international partnership includes the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center, and League to Save Lake Tahoe.

Staff will be joined by Fernando Coz, Executive Director of Chile Lagos Limpios, for a brief presentation about the project and next steps.

**Required Motion:**

This is an informational item only.

**Project Description/Background:**

The lakes of Northern Patagonia are facing many threats toward their sustainable future. Unregulated development, population growth, pollution, and climate change are changing the ecology of the region and resulting in negative impacts to the environment, economy, and quality of life. The government issued the first declaration of water scarcity for 85% of municipalities in the Los Lagos region, including Puerto Montt and Puerto Varas. In addition, the city of Puerto Varas declared Climate Emergency in September 2021 due to water scarcity and water quality issues faced in the recent years.

The story of Lake Tahoe, USA mirrors the current affairs of the Chilean lakes. Historical resource extraction has transitioned into a period of unregulated development leading to increasing environmental damage. At Tahoe, this threat was met with science-based policy, community action and creation of regional government structures that regulate development and transportation to achieve environmental goals. Today, climate change is threatening everything Lake Tahoe has accomplished in the last 60 years.

Chile Lagos Limpios established a program and built infrastructure to study, monitor and collect comprehensive data on the health of the lakes. Using community-based education and advocacy campaigns, ChLL has engaged policy makers, businesses, and the public in adopting best sustainability practices.

The theory of change that ChLL bringing to Chile, following the Tahoe story, is to shift the local political and cultural ecosystems to one that uses a collective impact model, informed by science, to plan and implement landscape scale solutions to pollution, development, and climate change.

Today, a new opportunity to shape how the country manages development, water, economy, and society is present. However, without a basic understanding of the science of climate in the lakes, decision makers are unable to prioritize the policy, programs, and projects to address these impacts.

**Contact Information:**

For questions regarding this agenda item, please contact Devin Middlebrook, Sustainability Program Manager, at (775) 589-5230 or [dmiddlebrook@trpa.gov](mailto:dmiddlebrook@trpa.gov).

**Attachment:**

- A. Chile Lagos Limpios Brochure

Attachment A

Chile Lagos Limpios Brochure