

TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY  
ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION

Tahoe Regional Planning Agency  
Zoom

June 14, 2023

**Meeting Minutes**

I. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chair Mr. Ferry called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

Members present:, Mr. Alling Ms. Carr, Ms. Chandler, Mr. Drew (arr. 9:36 a.m.), Mr. Drake, Mr. Ferry, Ms. Jacobsen, Mr. Letton, Mr. Hitchcock (for Ms. Roverud), Ms. Ferris Ms. Simon, Mr. Teshara, Mr. Young, Mr. Stephen (arr. 9:37 a.m.)

Members absent:, Mr. Hill, Ms. Moroles-O'Neil, Ms. Stahler, Mr. Smokey

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Ferry deemed the agenda approved as posted.

III. PUBLIC INTEREST COMMENTS

None.

IV. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES

Mr. Teshara provided correction to:

Page 18: "Mr. Teshara thanked Ms. Glickert for her response but added that he wasn't sure the word progress is applicable"

Page 27: "Lower Kingsbury, ~~Kale~~ Kahle Drive & Oliver Park and also Lake Village

Mr. Teshara moved approval of the April 12, 2023 minutes as amended.

Mr. Alling seconded the motion

**Motion passed.**

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS

[Agenda Item No. V.A. Tahoe Keys Control Methods Test Project Update](#)

TRPA Aquatic Invasive Species Program Manager, Mr. Dennis Zabaglo introduced the item, and was joined by partners Pete Wolcott, Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association (TKPOA), Dr. Lars Anderson, TKPOA, and Jesse Patterson, League to Save Lake Tahoe (LTSLT), to provide an update on the Tahoe Keys Control Methods Test, and the significant progress in trying to find solutions for our largest problem as far as invasive species are concerned.

Mr. Zabaglo explained that the Tahoe Keys Control Methods Test is a multi-year test of multiple treatment methods to achieve a level of 'knockback', utilizing aquatic herbicides, ultraviolet light, and laminar flow aeration. The first year includes a one-time application of aquatic herbicides, followed up by non-chemical or non-herbicidal methods, to maintain the knockback achieved in the test areas. The objective for the first year was to obtain a 75% knockback, with the goal of maintaining that knockback in year two and beyond.

Mr. Zabaglo said it is a critical and urgent need to implement this test to find these solutions. The weed infestation in the Tahoe Keys is the largest infestation in the lake as far as aquatic plants are concerned. Referring to the map on slide 3, Mr. Zabaglo said that the red square on the upper right of the map is about 6 acres in size, and represents the largest weed project completed to date. He added that the longer rectangle on the bottom of the map represents the largest project happening right now, which is 17 acres in the creeks and marshes of the Taylor-Tallac system.

The Control Methods Test is an innovative approach – not only using innovative techniques like ultraviolet light, which was really pioneered in Lake Tahoe, but also the one-time use of herbicides. No one has ever done that before, and they are trying to ensure that they have all the available tools to treat this infestation. Slide 4 illustrates some examples of the non-herbicide tools being used in the Tahoe Keys, UV light, bottom barriers, and diver assisted suction. These will be used as they move forward into the next season.

Slide 5 details some of the milestones reached. Mr. Zabaglo said that the current status began with the overall success of the Aquatic Invasive Species program. Having that success, not only in 'prevention', but also in 'control', getting localized eradication in many places, gave us credibility and accountability, and allowed us to obtain further funding to tackle these larger infestations. Also critical was the commitment from the TKPOA to work collaboratively on the project approach and options, and in providing funding.

Also important, TRPA formed a stakeholder committee to ensure transparency of the public process through multiple means, not only through the normal environmental review process, but also with webinars and public meetings to ensure maximum public input. The idea of the Control Methods Test came from the stakeholder committee. This approach exemplifies the work of the AIS program does. They start small and build from the lessons learned. That that led to a comprehensive environmental analysis that included multiple alternatives, a rigorous scientific approach, getting millions of data points to understand the baseline conditions within the keys, and the alternatives, including a no project alternative - that was the only alternative

that could not be implemented without any significant impacts, and so doing nothing was not an option. The environmental analysis concluded that the proposed project could be implemented safely to Lake Tahoe.

Mr. Zabaglo said the analysis included multiple protections and mitigations to ensure that the ultimate protections would be in place for Lake Tahoe. That includes treating early when plants are small, and when water flows are coming into the Keys. Double turbidity curtains were also included to ensure herbicides did not spread beyond the treatment areas. Divers were on call to address any issues that came up. Rhodamine tracer dye, which mimics the transport of aquatic herbicides, and can be detected immediately, was also used. Duplicate sampling was also conducted, along with use of aeration to stimulate the breakdown of herbicides if necessary. Another mitigation that was identified was the use of Phoslock, a product that can bind any excess phosphorous nutrients in the system. That tool was not used, but was available. Mr. Zabaglo said that all the monitoring was independent, with oversight from TRPA. This all led to unanimous decisions by the Boards of both TRPA and the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQCB) to move forward with the implementation of the project, which started in late May 2022.

Mr. Zabaglo said that TRPA's role is regulatory, to ensure that all the necessary mitigations and protections were in place. TRPA also has an interest in ensuring project success to help meet their significant goals for AIS population reduction throughout the region. The Tahoe Keys is a major factor in that equation. TRPA hired a facilitator to guide the Stakeholder Committee and process, with multiple meetings and engagement opportunities. TRPA also had oversight of the independent monitoring. The map on slide 9 illustrates all the treatment areas, with the yellow dots showing all of the monitoring points that TRPA oversaw for water quality, transport of herbicides, and efficacy.

Mr. Pete Wolcott provided an overview of the 'wild ride', from permit approval to the CMT project start line. He explained that he has been the TKPOA Water Quality Chair for a couple of years, he currently sits on the TKPOA Board of Directors, but he is a volunteer – so all the tough questions should be directed to Mr. Zabaglo, Dr. Anderson, or Mr. Patterson.

Mr. Wolcott said the Tahoe Keys have been battling weeds for over 50 years, they have been trying to bring a spotlight to the problem for about 20 years, and have been working on this collaborative effort for the last five years. It seemed a little crazy to only get 12 weeks to implement the project.

Referring to the schedule shown on slide 11, Mr. Wolcott said they had 12 weeks from the time the TKPOA Board signed off on the permits and funding for the project until the target implementation date in mid-May. Mr. Wolcott said that within this 12-week period, the TKPOA Board had no less than five go/no-go sessions from February to May. He said that when they started, they gave the odds of making it to the start line at around 50:50, on a million-dollar bet, much of which would be sunk if they were unable to get over the start line. By mid-May, the good news was that the probability was up to 80-90%, but the bad news was that the tab had doubled to closer to two million dollars. During this intense period Mr. Wolcott had a couple of board members question, "you guys had five years to prepare for this thing, why aren't you ready? He said there's an obvious answer - the funding wasn't available until the permit was signed off. Despite that the Keys started an implementation effort back in October 2021, but

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they had absolutely no funding whatsoever until February. He added that a more nuanced answer is that this was a pretty controversial project, and it was difficult, and actually awkward at times to get answers to tough questions before the permit was approved. And so, however hard they tried to get ready, there was just a whole lot left to do post permit approval. And then the obvious - with the permits being approved when they were, 12 weeks before the permit window, they had a pretty simple choice; it's either 12 weeks, or it's one year and 12 weeks. Mr. Wolcott said he had a great eleventh hour discussion with former TRPA Executive Director, Joanne Marchetta, about the momentum they already had, and the potential opportunity cost of a delay. Ms. Marchetta convinced him that they were ready, and should push ahead. They are very pleased that they did.

Mr. Wolcott continued that beyond squeezing about a year's worth of work into 12 weeks, the team faced what they now refer to as the 7 miracles to get to the start line (slide 13). The first one was water depth in the lagoons. There's a logistical side of this with boats in and out, launch ramps, treatments along the shoreline, and was there enough water to do the work. There's also the scientific element of this, are they going to get results that are repeatable and useful for the future.

They thought that the depth equivalent of 6,224 was about the minimum. They were right there, and the lake was falling, and they were spending money. Winter came in April, and they got around a half a foot after that.

For miracles number two and three, the water temperature needed to be above 16 degrees centigrade but that had to happen before they could begin the test. It also had to happen while the lake was still rising. Based on all the information they had, it translates to slightly less than about a two week window in the last half of May. Everything has to be ready, and the meteorological conditions have to align or there is no test.

Referencing miracle number four, Mr. Wolcott said they had 6 to 8 weeks to issue RFPs, identify contractors, and award contracts – an incredible amount of work. They ended up with 12 contractors, more than a hundred people on the water and a great team.

The turbidity curtains and boat barriers (miracle number five) are the physical elements that defined the test site and mitigation efforts. Beyond the physical, there's the procedural element, homeowner communication, etc. There were 25 test sites (slide 17) organized into three areas: Lake Tallac, the southeastern area of the Tahoe Keys and the west side. Within each of these areas, boating and all water activities were completely restricted.

The monitoring specs (miracle six) were realized thanks to great teamwork. The issue here was that it's one thing to define the data that you might want to see from an incredibly sophisticated test like this, but it's an entirely other thing to figure out how to logistically calculate that data, given 24 hours per day, limited sampling windows, limited access to boats and personnel, lab turnaround time, etcetera. So the job of marrying the data requirement, with the logistical collection was truly one of the miracles to get to the start line.

Lastly, they had to prove that they had flow into the lagoons. The Keys invested in a state-of-the-art doppler device to measure flow by sending a sonar signal into the lake and lagoons, but the problem is it saw the lake very differently than it saw the lagoons and couldn't sort out the

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data. They ended up using a meter from the water quality department. They came very close to not implementing this project for this specific variable. He's not sure that this variable deserved the weight that it got. It boiled down to something slightly better than a coin toss for a variable now that they have some data on what happens in the channel, likely didn't have much of a potential impact on the test. As they move forward, they need to look at all of these mitigation measures carefully.

Mr. Wolcott said it definitely felt somewhat miraculous to make it to the start line, and there was some meteorological good fortune involved with the weather, the winter, and the lake rise. Some other factors just boil down to hard work, teamwork, competence, and great process.

They met the data collection requirements, 90 percent of the target. Importantly, no herbicides were detected anywhere near the lake. The TKPOA took their commitment to the permit, the stakeholders, and the public very seriously, and they're pleased they were able to deliver on that.

Unfortunately, the first year one was not without its problems and challenges. The weather was horrific through Spring and into June. Funding is, was, and will be an issue. The 3-year cost of this project is going to be four times what the TKPOA budgeted. They managed to close 75 percent of the gap. The extended boating closure was an issue, many owners lost the summer, and a few suffered economic loss because of rentals, etc. Because of the extended closure, water quality degraded to a level that was unacceptable.

Mr. Wolcott said that personally the most painful part of all this was that they stood up in front of the homeowners in February, when they were rolling out the test, and they thought, based on modeling that they might be able to live with a closure of 3 to 5 weeks. They padded it a little and told people they expected a closure through mid-July. By the third week in June it became clear that they weren't going to make that, and the bar was moved to the middle of August. By August 1, 2022 they were questioning what they would do if they got snow and ice before removing the curtains. In the end, there was a 15-week closure on the west side of the Tahoe Keys. Adding insult to injury, partly due to the extended closure, the Keys experienced extended algae blooms. For a couple of weeks in August some areas were so unpleasant, due to the odors that people just didn't want to be in the neighborhood. It was a tough summer.

Mr. Wolcott said that despite the challenges, they are very relieved they got over the test line, they are very pleased with the results to date. There's some lesson learned that will require adaptation going forward. There was a little bit of grumbling amongst some of the homeowners, as you might imagine, but they remain focused on the prize, which is a long-term solution to weed control, that needs to be environmentally sound, economically viable, and formidable. As one measure of their commitment to that goal, they rolled out a referendum in October for the homeowners to fund a second year. The members did vote to support this project with a greater than a four to one margin. Their board has approved funding to kick off another complimentary water quality project for their circulation and treatment system addressing long term nutrients.

Mr. Wolcott said the toughest question he gets from homeowners is, what guarantee is there here? He said there is no guarantee. This is a three-year task, and they are one year in. They don't know what the solution is going to look like, but they know that failure is not an option, and they know that the collaborative effort they're pursuing is the only, best path.

Mr. Wolcott closed by acknowledging the critical contribution of the TRPA in this collaborative fight against a biological threat. He thanked Kim Chevallier, Dennis Zabaglo, Emily Frey, Julie Regan, and Kat McIntyre.

Dr. Lars Anderson said he would like to focus on results from last year, the efficacy of the treatments, and monitoring. Dr. Anderson said that a lot of the information they obtained on the effectiveness of the treatments came from physical samples using their rake system. These rakes are really important, because they show not only the relative amount of the plants that are there, but also the percentage of each species on the rake. Almost 8,000 rake samples were taken during the 2022 season. In addition, they used a highly sophisticated fish finder device, basically a hydro scan system, that allows you to tell where the plants are, and the relative abundance or bio volume. So with those two primary methods, they could tell what the treatments did to the plants, not only on the target plants, but also the native plants that they're interested in preserving.

Mr. Anderson's slide summarized what happened to the treatments and how they affected the plants.

Metric (Goal) →	Vessel Hull Clearance (3 feet)	Biovolume (Reduce by 75%)	Encourage Desirable Native Plants (Increase Occurrence)
Treatment ↓			
Endothall Only (Controls all 3 target weeds)	100% ↑	Near or above 75% throughout season <u>All target plants controlled!</u> ↑	>No consistent increase in native plants > Native Elodea healthy ↑
Triclopyr Only (Very selective against Eurasian Watermilfoil)	50% ↓	For all target plants: Highest reduction was 50% ↓ >90% Control of <u>Eurasium watermilfoil!</u> ↑	>Native plant community similar to controls ↑ > Native Elodea healthy ↑
UV (mid-Site/deep)	100% ↑	Highest reduction was 66%; greater following treatments (near 75%) →	Native plant community generally reduced compared to controls ↓
Endothall (+ UV) (Combination)	66% →	2/3 sites had ≥75% reduction →	Response of native plant community inconsistent between sites →
Triclopyr (+ UV) (Combination)	83% →	1/3 sites had ≥75% reduction →	Native plant community similar to controls in 2/3 sites ↑

The green arrows are good results. The left-hand side shows the treatments that were used. Endothall is capable of controlling all three target plants – Eurasian watermilfoil, Coontail, and Curly-leaf Pondweed. Triclopyr is extremely selective and will only control Eurasian watermilfoil. The reason they used it is because it's a systemic herbicide, which means it moves into the roots and rhizomes, presumably giving a much longer control.

As Dennis Zabaglo mentioned UV methods were also used. The last two rows show the combination sites. As Pete Wolcott mentioned, the problem with the curtains being in place

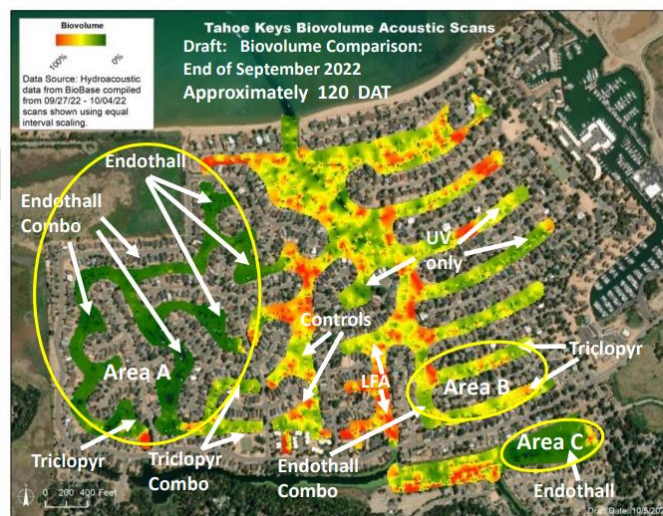
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for over a hundred days was that it prevented them from getting in to do the UV part of the combination treatments, which are now going on.

The first metric was were they able to produce the vessel hull clearance to make navigation possible in the Keys. Secondly, their metric was to produce biovolume by 75 percent, and third was to encourage the desirable native plants to do better. The Endothall only treatment was pretty much 100 percent control across all of the target species. It did produce the vessel hull clearance needed and also left the native Elodea plant alone and is recovering nicely this year. The Triclopyr treatment alone was a very selective treatment only aimed at controlling Eurasian watermilfoil and didn't control the other plants. The reason they used that is because it's systemic and gets into the roots and has a longer effect. It didn't get a green arrow on the biovolume reduction because the other plants grew. It did get 90 to 100 percent control of Eurasian watermilfoil. They had good control with the ultraviolet lights approaching 70 percent or more biovolume with the ultraviolet lights and had some negative effect on some of the desirable native plants. It wasn't that selective but was effective. The combination treatments will be retreated with ultraviolet lights in 2023. In terms of the complexity of this project and all the monitoring that went on, they are seeing some really good results at the end of the day.

In addition to the installation of curtains, Dr. Anderson explained that a spill response team was also employed in case of accidental spill. There were no spills, but the response team followed the application team around to various sites just in case. As far as application, the liquid Endothall was mixed with Rhodamine Dye Tracer and applied through submersed hoses. It was a good way to detect where the herbicide might be moving, and it was very useful in terms of the monitoring process. Triclopyr was also applied in some of the combination areas along the shoreline using a solid pelleted formulation. In this case the milfoil was the target, so it's a very localized way of using aquatic herbicides. This is used quite commonly to do spot treatments, or even larger treatments with one particular target plant.

Referring to the Tahoe Keys Biovolume Acoustic Scan that shows the effect of the treatments 120 days after treatment. Green is good, yellow is not so good, and red is bad.



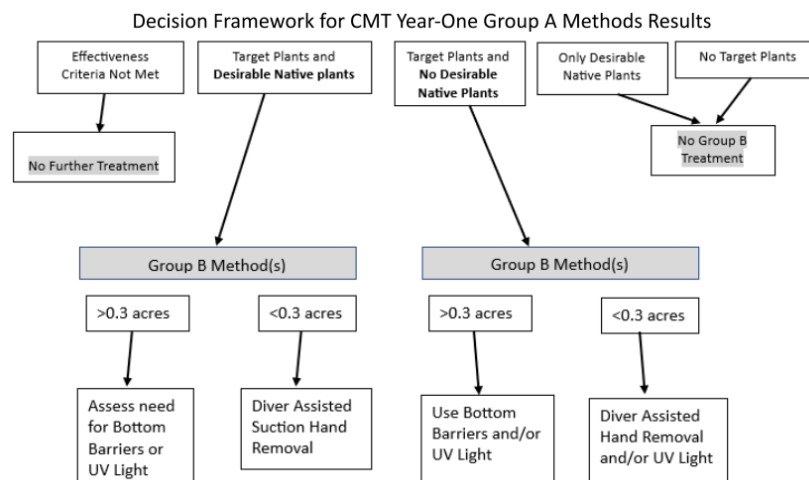
- CMT Year One Treatments:**  
**Note: All treatments were replicated three times**
- Controls (No treatments)
  - Endothall herbicide- alone
  - Triclopyr herbicide- alone
  - UV light- alone
  - Combinations:  
 Endothall/UV Light  
 Triclopyr/UV Light
  - Laminar Flow Aeration ("LFA")
- Note: Effects expected to take multiple seasons:  
 Sediment "muck" reduction  
 Reduced available nutrients*

There were 8,000 rake samples in one season to determine the condition of the plants in these sites. The Biovolume device does not distinguish the species, it is total submersed plants. There were no herbicides escape into the west lagoon or outside the treatment areas. The only issue they had was getting down to a non-detectable level for Endothall at 45 days and Triclopyr was 105 days. One of the reasons was that there was high turbidity in Area A which blocked the sun from decomposing and degrading Triclopyr. As Mr. Wolcott also mentioned, the general problem with isolating these areas and creating stagnant sites. Dr. Anderson said that one of the lessons learned is to move the curtains much earlier, and to see if they can make some adjustments so they don't need to use the curtains there, depending on the approach.

Dr. Anderson said they are now making decisions about where to place the Group B sites (non-herbicide sites), but also to follow up with the UV treatments in those UV only sites, and using UV light as a spot treatment. Last year they had low water and high temperatures, this year they have a of cooler water coming in. They are at least 2 to 3 weeks later in getting to the required our 15 - 16-degree temperatures needed. That's the level where plants start growing enough to gain an effective control from herbicides. They are trying to sustain what was achieved last year with the Group B methods.

Dr. Anderson said that the reason Curly-leaf Pondweed is spreading so fast because it make vegetative structures called turions. Each plant produces dozens of them, so there are thousands of turions being produced every summer. They sprout in the fall, and the next year they're ready to take off and create more of a problem. Environmental monitoring is continuing this year. The only difference is that this this year there's no herbicide, so no herbicide monitoring is required. Basically, there will still be a lot of environmental monitoring connected with the Group B methods.

Dr. Anderson continued, one of the decisions they needed to make following Year One, was where the Group B methods would be used. A flow diagram for the CMT outlines the decision framework:



The top row of the diagram describes the results from Year One as a starting point.



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There are three cases where they would not conduct Group B methods; if the effectiveness criteria of 75% reduction is not met, if only the desirable native plants come up, or if no target plants come up. Those are pretty unrealistic due to the patchy distribution of plants out there, so in reality the focus is on the middle two boxes. The difference really is whether they see a lot of native plants coming up, and if that's the case, they want to use the most selective methods (diver assisted suction hand removal for less than 3 acres). When the area gets larger than 3 acres they will move to bottom barriers, or UV light spot treatments, and that's where they are now. Dr. Anderson said they've made a lot of progress. Some of the barriers are already in place for Group B methods.

As for next steps, the bottom barrier and diver contractors are already in place, and equipment is staged and ready to go. Baseline surveys have been going on since mid-May, and will continue. Group B site locations are currently being identified.

Dr. Anderson said he believes this project is an amazing success. He has been involved in a lot of these projects and this is the most intensely monitored, aquatic weed control program that he has seen anywhere in the U.S.A. or internationally. He said it's a huge undertaking, and he agrees with Mr. Wolcott that they have a great team and offered accolades to everyone involved. He added that TRPA really did stand up for this project - there is great monitoring and independent review of the project. Dr. Anderson handed over to Mr. Jesse Patterson, Chief Strategy Officer for the League to Save Lake Tahoe.

Mr. Patterson said he had been with the League to Save Lake Tahoe (League) for over 10 years, and this was one of the first projects he took on when he began his tenure. The League has been around for 66 years, and their mission has remained unchanged. They really focus on water quality and clarity as the barometer for lake health, and how they look to preserve and protect the lake for current and future generations. Every decision they make on what they pursue, where they put resources is with that focus, and they would never support or push something that they believe would threaten water quality or clarity. That is one reason they are a huge advocate for the Control Methods Test, which they believe is essential to 'Keeping Tahoe Blue' - not just addressing Aquatic Invasive Species in the Tahoe Keys or Lake Tahoe, but to truly protect water quality and clarity for the entire lake.

Mr. Patterson explained that his background is in aquatic biology and environmental science and economics, and this project has all those wonderful things together. He said this has been a decade long journey for the League to get to this point, and offered some context to explain the League's position, why and how they're involved, and where they're headed. In 2012 the League learned about the issue at Tahoe Keys through the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Program. In 2013 the League launched a citizen science program called Eyes on the Lake. They work very closely with the Tahoe Keys property owners to identify and monitor where these plants are, where they're spreading, and ideally how to stop them. Several things happened between 2013 and 2017 that made them realize that their traditional approach of just advocacy and engagement alone would not be enough. They needed to put their money where their mouth was, and financially contribute to a solution. In 2017 they entered into an agreement with the Tahoe Keys property owners to fund non-chemical control method testing containment methods, water quality improvement methods, and additional monitoring. This was one of the first times in League history that they put that level of money towards a specific project, but they felt that progress needed to be made in this area, and that they had to contribute

financially to be taken seriously, and to move the needle. Also in 2017 (and to current) they started seeing harmful algal blooms in the Tahoe Keys, and now in Lake Tahoe proper, as well as the rest of the Western United States. These are largely driven by climatic conditions, but they realized this was something that was escalating in the wrong direction.

In 2018 the Stakeholder Committee for this Control Methods Test effort began. It was the third or fourth stakeholder effort Mr. Patterson was involved in for the Keys, but it was the 2018 method that really got us to where they are today. At the same time the League was fortunate enough to work with the Keys property owners to implement a bubble curtain, which is a technology that has been used since the seventies for aquaculture and other uses around the world, but had never been used for the containment of aquatic invasive weeds to prevent spread. So they created and helped fund a new design and installed that at the Tahoe Keys, along with additional hydro acoustic scanning in Lake Tahoe proper to see what was happening just outside the Keys.

In 2019, through input from other stakeholder members, they thought they needed to test a technology called Laminar Flow Aeration, which is a way of injecting oxygen into the sediment without creating turbidity. That oxygenation could theoretically kickstart the biology around the sediment, and 'eat up' the muck layer that was providing the organics for the plants. They really wanted to change the conditions in the Keys to something that was less hospitable for those aquatic weeds. So in 2019, the League funded a 6-acre test site in the Keys, which is still operating and has been included in the Control Methods Test, and they're looking at doing some enhanced treatments in that area this year. It's very exciting because laminar flow is more of a maintenance water quality, long-term approach, and so you need it over time to see how it's going to be effective, and they're doing that as part of the Control Methods Test.

In 2020 the League invested in control of the Tahoe Keys Offshore Area (formerly known as the Tahoe Keys Complex). Through hydro acoustic scanning and some personal experiences, they realized this was a much bigger infestation than originally thought, and it was growing. The League implemented some laminar flow in the West Channel to see how that might affect a different area of the Keys. They funded both those efforts and worked very closely with TRPA on those control methods. What they saw (slide 48) was that the infestation in the Keys was creeping its way out into Lake Tahoe, predominantly in the dredge channels for boating, but also far beyond.

Referring to the map on slide 49, Mr. Patterson said roughly 105 acres outside of the Tahoe Keys is infested. As Mr. Zabaglo mentioned earlier, 6 acres was the next closest in size in the lake proper, so this is orders of magnitude larger. This is in the lake right now, and basically, we don't have time to wait – that is one reason the League are supportive of this test.

In 2021, the League doubled down on a double bubble curtain in the East Channel, because if one bubble curtain's good, then two is definitely better. They wanted to see if they could really focus on containment. It had been almost 10 years since he started working on this, and it was very obvious that a solution in the Keys was going to take a long time. They had to learn what to do, and if there was a way to contain it, or to slow down the spread into the lake to allow them to do this properly. To create a true test, where they learn, adapt, and create and implement a long-term plan, without continuing to threaten the Lake and the spread in the Lake proper. So

the League invested in a double bubble curtain in the East Channel, as well as additional control methods at the Offshore infestation.

Moving forward 2022, Mr. Patterson said that the Control Methods Test finally got in the water. He said he cannot reiterate how impressive it was, and how much was accomplished leading up to it - getting it in the water, approvals, public outreach, implementation. The number of things that were accomplished in such a short period of time, so holistically and in-depth, and gathering 75,000 data points more information to learn from. The point of a test is to learn so they can have a better deck of cards to play with when they deal the hand for a long-term solution. So they need to learn as much as possible, and it was truly impressive to see what was accomplished in Year One.

Mr. Patterson said he thinks it's obvious that the League supports the Control Methods Test, and outlined some reasons (slide 55) why the status quo is destroying the Lake. The no-action alternative for this test was the only one that showed significant unmitigated impacts. That essential meant that doing what we are doing now is making things worse, and they have plenty of evidence of that, hence the need to test something. Current methods in the toolbox were just not effective or enough. There was not going to be a silver bullet for the Tahoe keys. They needed to look at proven technologies from around the world, emerging technologies like UV-C light, technologies that are applied in a different way and for a different purpose, like laminar flow aeration, and everything in between - in combination and isolation.

The conditions in the Keys were getting worse, and environmental variability is a very real thing as evidenced by last year. So the CMT posed no threat to the lake, but doing nothing did. It was a three-year test, and while it's very encouraging to see the results they did, in the League's mind the test cannot be assessed until the end of the Year 3. The idea is to knock it back, and maintain it there, without herbicide use in the future. That will require extensive adaptive management. Adaptive management is really the key here, and it's not just adapting and learning about what works to control plants, but how do you actually implement it in the Tahoe keys? How do you implement it in a way that balances recreation access? How do you monitor it? What do you monitor? How are we doing these things? And how do you mitigate the impacts that you observe? The League is committed to this, certainly the development of the long-term test, and just recommitted to participate in the next two years, to provide additional testing, implementation, staff time, political capital, and financial investment.

Mr. Patterson offered kudos to the TRPA, the Governing Board, and staff for following through on this, being open to the adaptability of a three-year test, and being willing to learn and progress to get to a solution over time. He acknowledged that there is some risk, and it takes some courage, but TRPA, Lahontan, and other agencies have been very supportive. The Tahoe Keys property owners have also shown their commitment, not just to the test, but continuing beyond, both financially and through the challenges. The involvement of the science community and the Tahoe Science Advisory Council in particular, is hugely important to the League, because it gives that science backing, and that third-party review, that allows them to learn properly for application.

So many, many people need to be given kudos for this project, but as has been mentioned, we're midstream right now. We're not where we need to be, but we need to continue.

Mr. Patterson said he wanted to close with one piece of exciting news. The Tahoe Keys Marina recently came under new ownership. The Marina is located in the lagoons to the east of the Control Methods Test location. They've been a wonderful partner so far, and have committed financially and provided the use of their area to test containment technologies. The images on slide 56 illustrate two new technologies that are being piloted in the United States for the first time in Tahoe this year, to enhance collection of fragments and containment. The League are very excited to add these tools to the aforementioned double bubble curtain.

Mr. Patterson said they believe they're really making progress, and the League encourages everyone to continue that progress. He said there is a choice to make – if we want to keep Tahoe blue we need to address the biggest threat ecologically to the lake, which the Tahoe Keys

Mr. Zabaglo summarized that this is an urgent need. They truly need to find solutions through this test, to be able to implement and control for the long term. Finding those solutions is critical for the long-term health of the lake. There has been lots of coordination and collaboration, with many experts working really hard and diligently, both internally and with partners to get to where we are today. He thanked all of the partners and the team.

#### APC Comments/Questions

Mr. Ferry thanked the presenters, and said he was highly impressed by the incredible collaboration.

Mr. Alling said he had a question about the UV-C light. Knowing that it kills all plants, including the natives, he asked if there was any sort of measurement or monitoring in terms of recruitment of native plants back into the areas where all the plants were removed? Mr. Zabaglo said that the rake pulls mentioned by Dr. Anderson will be ongoing throughout the life of the project. He said that the fact UV light is not selective is very similar to some of the other approaches such as bottom barriers which aren't selective either. What they do see, at least in the lake, is that those native populations rebound faster after treatments have occurred.

Referring to the images of the Tahoe Keys Marina (slide 56), Ms. Carr asked the presenters to describe the two new technologies in more detail. Mr. Patterson that one is called the PixieDrone, and one is called the Collec'Thor. One is a remote controlled 'roomba' on water, and picks up floating fragments, which is the primary way the plants spread. It also picks up other floating debris, such as plastics and styrofoams. Filters pick up hydrocarbons, and it also does live, water quality monitoring. The other technology is essentially a passive skimmer. The idea is that they could be mounted on the edges of the bubble curtains to create a 24x7 kind of collection. Right now people on boats go out once or twice a day and skim up what's collected.

Referring to the bubble curtains, and some of the large boats going in and out of the Tahoe Keys Marina, Mr. Alling asked if there was any sort of outreach to the captains and staff to request that they slowdown in the area to allow the bubbles to work properly. Mr. Patterson said that had been attempted in the past, and with the new marina owners they think it is now happening very effectively. In May 2023, the League co-hosted an Aquatic Invasive Species training with the Keys marina - 15 members of staff attend training, along with the concessionaire boat rental company. Tahoe Sports boat rental company also attended, and California State Parks also sent

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three of their divers that work in Emerald Bay. So the outreach has improved and escalated and he believes they are getting to where they need to be.

Miss Simon said that she thinks a key point here is that the use of herbicides has never been permitted before. So there are probably reasons for that. She really appreciates all the work that everybody has done, but is just hoping that we can build from the lessons learned and Mr. Wolcott's presentation about the 7 miracles. She said it's just horrifying to think what might have happened if those miracles didn't occur, and is wondering how the Tahoe Water Suppliers Association, which favored a non-herbicide approach, are monitoring, or if the team have heard anything from them. She also asked TKPOA if they believe the mitigation efforts are being successful with Keys homeowners. When she looks at the maps it looks like there are still a lot of lawns and areas where pollutants can enter the lake from those marina side homes. She further asked how the TKPOA would address the homeowners who are not participating in the mitigation effort.

Mr. Wolcott said that if they had not been lucky with the weather, and the team had not done such a great job on the other four miracles, they would be preparing to start Year One of the test. He said he's glad they were lucky and good, and got Year One behind them. He said he cannot speak in any depth to the landscape issue. He believes that the keys is committed to a 75% reduction in turf, and from what he has seen, albeit limited, the progress is excellent. A big part of the turf is common area, and so it's easier to keep track of that. He believes they're 12-15 months into a redesign plan that looks like it will be fantastic, and there's no question it will achieve that 75% objective. Ms. Simon said she thinks it is important to look at the source, as well as the spread of these invasive plants. Mr. Wolcott added that the TKPOA Board have already agreed to fund the kickoff of a second collaborative effort that will really be aimed at other ways to reduce nutrients long term in in the lagoon. The goal would be to intersect with the implementation of the weed control project in 3 to 4 years. Ms. Simon added that she has been following this project since this beginning and is hoping that Year 2 & 3 will not lead to any more herbicides in the lake.

In response to Ms. Simon's question about the Tahoe Water Suppliers Association, Mr. Zabaglo informed that they are a member of the Stakeholder Committee. Mr. Patterson added that the League have been working with the Tahoe Water Suppliers Association, who has a very similar mission to their own. It's been a very useful collaboration, and they will continue to be a valuable partner in that discussion.

In regard to the turf issue, he also added that a 'Green Infrastructure' RFP to look at a larger landscape scale of stormwater control versus small locations is being issued. TRPA Stormwater Program Manager, Shay Navarro is leading that effort. Mr. Zabaglo added that some of the baseline science and monitoring showed that 90% of the nutrients comes from the weeds themselves, through the perpetual dying off cycle. Only about 10% comes from upland sources but that is still something that can be addressed.

Mr. Drake thanked the presenters for the update, which was by far the most comprehensive he has heard. He said it was great to hear some of the results and offered kudos on the monumental collaboration effort. He asked if there were any other examples of highly concentrated, contained AIS that the team were leaning on for ideas and guidance, or if this is novel? Mr. Zabaglo said that in many ways they are the pioneers in this approach. A one-time

use of herbicides has not really been done anywhere else, so Tahoe has been a proving ground, not only for that type of test, but also with these innovative techniques and tools. They certainly engage with partners at a national level because they've used certain methods that we have not in the past. Dr. Anderson is very well informed on all that, which brings a lot of a lot of wealth of information to be able to implement the test appropriately.

Mr. Patterson added that during the 2015 to 2017 timeframe he and other League staff were attending National and International conferences on Lake management to start asking these questions. Almost everyone they spoke to in those settings asked, "are you considering targeted aquatic herbicides that have been used for decades". They responded that they were not considering those at the time because Tahoe is an outstanding national resource water. The partners replied that it should be considered since those are the tools that they know work. That was part of the evolution to a test. They weren't comfortable with a full application, but needed to understand how to apply them, where they went, and were the effective. Mr. Patterson said they feel this test does that very nicely and also includes other tools.

Dr. Anderson added that since the 1990's he has been presenting papers at international conferences on aquatic plant management on the Tahoe situation. There has been a lot of back-and-forth discussion on this problem, and in some ways it's not unique at all. There are aquatic plants in lakes all over the world. He thinks what is really unique about this project is the integration of the various methods, and the UV light is really fascinating, and could be a game changer where you have enough water clarity to use it. The trick is to figure out how to use it most optimally. He is encourage by that, it's going to have its limitations, but to him it's probably the most important new approach they've seen in this area in the last 25-30 years.

Mr. Zabaglo added that they also have independently produced strategic documents – the Implementation Plan from University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), and the Control Action Agenda from Creative Resources Strategies – both discuss needing those multiple tools, and also identified that aquatic herbicides at least needed to be considered if we are going to achieve success.

Mr. Drew asked about the mapping showing that differences between the varying treatments that occurred in Year One. It showed Endothall in some areas, other herbicides in another, and then UV or other treatments. He asked if there was a physical barrier between those sections, or was the only barrier at the west lagoon? Dr. Anderson said that behind the barrier curtains, the sub-sites were separated by distance but not physically. They could tell where things moved because of the sampling, and there was some movement of Endothall at very low levels, but it breaks down so quickly that it got below active levels within a few days. The UV light systems were implemented outside the curtains, so those were not done with any proximity or connection to any herbicide treatments.

Mr. Drew said he assumed the selected sampling sites were well within each definitive area. So there weren't any sampling sites where there could be some influence of one treatment into another. Dr. Anderson said that during the herbicide sampling they analyzed for both herbicides, everywhere. Mr. Drew asked if when they were using rakes to sample the aftermath of treatment, where those rake locations well within, where only, Endothall for example, was used versus where another herbicide was used. Dr. Anderson said that every 2 weeks, 30 rake

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samples were taken from each separate site. They were GPS located and directly sampled in those sites, including the control sites which were outside the curtains and had no treatments.

Mr. Drew said that just based on the summary, it seems that the Endothall had substantially higher desired outcomes compared to the other herbicide. Dr. Anderson agreed it was a broader spectrum herbicide that controlled all three. The advantage of the Triclopyr would be a potentially much longer control of Eurasian watermilfoil. So it's a longer-term approach but clearly there were some disadvantages with the breakdown.

Mr. Drew said he is assuming that when the three years of testing and post task monitoring is complete, which informs what the long-term management approach for the Keys should be, if a herbicide is selected, it is not going to be a one-time use only for the test. Dr. Anderson said it's too early to predict what any application might be if at all. It's a three-year project and that is a question to be answered when they have all the data. He added that the reality about herbicides in general, is that there are new ones being produced periodically. There is one that they had hoped to use in the test but while it was approved federally, it was not approved in California. It has hours of degradation time, not days or weeks and is very selective – so there is potential, but it is too early to make predictions.

Ms. Chandler offered kudos to the team. As a member of the Tahoe Keys Water Quality Committee she said that when they first started talking about this project back in 2016 it looked like it could never happen. The fact that it came together so quickly was just amazing – the team was highly professional, excellent, had a great scientific process, and they came up with data that will be useful for not only Lake Tahoe, but for the whole country. She said they should be really proud of what was accomplished, and she looks forward to Year 2 & 3.

Mr. Ferry said he was very encouraged to see the level of support from the Keys homeowners to continue the CMT project, even though so many of them were shut out from their boating summer. He asked if the owners that were able to use their boats on the East Side voted more favorably, and if there will be any redistribution on who gets to boat this season. Mr. Zabaglo advised that there will be no boating access restrictions this year.

Mr. Ferry said it sounds like when the three years is up, and they hopefully hone in on some strategy, depending on what that strategy is, more environmental analysis may need to happen. Mr. Zabaglo agreed that whatever approach is identified and proposed for the long term will require a significant and robust environmental analysis. Even with UV light, concerns were identified in the EIS, not only because of its non-selective nature, but any temperature issues or rapid die off that allows nutrients to be released. Significant environmental analysis for the long-term solution will be required, regardless of the approach

Mr. Ferry asked if any other marinas have latched on to any of these ideas and are they being implemented, or are they waiting. Mr. Zabaglo responded that they have had a lot of success with localized eradication, and Tahoe City is one of the cleanest marinas on the lake, with no invasive weeds. But there are locations that have installed bubble curtains – both Lakeside Marina and Elk Point Marina both have bubble curtains with support from the homeowners, TRPA, the League, and the Tahoe Fund. He added that Laminar Flow was first implemented at Ski Run Marina.

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### Public Comments & Questions

None.

## VI. REPORTS

### A. Executive Director

TRPA Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Director, Mr. John Hester provided an update on past items heard by the Advisory Planning Commission. The Washoe County Area Tahoe Plan will be heard by the Governing Board this month. Both the APC and the Regional Plan Implementation Committee brought up the issues of inclusionary Housing and mixed-use definitions, so they will be addressed with mitigation measures attached to the plan amendment.

The 'achievable' definition item was approved by the TRPA Governing Board.

Mr. Hester advised that the August APC meeting will likely be cancelled due to a date conflict with the Lake Tahoe Summit.

Mr. Hester provided an overview of the '[Environmental Scan](#)' item presented to the Governing Board at the recent April 27, 2023 Governing Board Retreat. At the previous Governing Board Retreat in May 2022, the Governing Board asked staff to prepare an environmental scan, in preparation for the April 2023 'priority setting' retreat.

So what is an environmental scan? Environmental scanning is the ongoing tracking of trends and occurrences in an organization's internal and external environment that bear on its success, currently and in the future. The results are extremely useful in shaping goals and strategies. For TRPA, it fits into an annual adaptive management cycle - we do the scan, we have the workshop, identify initiatives or strategic priorities, work on those, report on those, and then do the environmental scan again.

The first thing we look at in defining the scope is what are our mandates. TRPA as the bi-state compact which includes four parts – to achieve and maintain thresholds, prepare a plan and code to achieve and maintain the thresholds, implement the Regional Plan through permitting and compliance, and implement that through projects and programs (the EIP and transportation improvement programs). TRPA are also the Water Quality management Planning Agency, a designation that comes from the Clean Water Act, and we partner with NDEP and Lahontan to make sure that gets one. TRPA are also the designated the Metropolitan Planning Organization for regional transportation planning, so our Board actually adds one member and votes as the MPO Board on the transportation plan.

Looking to trends, Mr. Hester said it was important to lay out the facts. The facts are that since 2000 both population and employment in the region have dropped by about 11%. People also talk about there being more development currently. The facts (slide 6) show that there really isn't more development. There has always been a development rights cap, and the development rights trends since 2012 show that development of commercial property, hotel rooms, and short-term rental has gone down a little, while development of residential units has actually increased a little. That is actually what the Regional Plan EIS and mitigation measures directed



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we should do, to allow switches between tourist accommodation units and commercial square footage, to residential to help with the affordable housing issues. So in a way, that's a success.

However, in terms of housing, there is a much bigger issue, and that's the cost. Slide 7 shows that in 2012 housing cost six times household income. It is now 13 times household income. So our housing is even significantly less affordable.

Mr. Hester said they also looked at visitation and travel trends (slide 8). He said that part of what's gone on, is that although the population and employment have gone down, we still get a lot of visitors, but they're not going to the same places used to. The Reno-Tahoe Airport had a billion-dollar capital improvement project and are predicted to increase passenger numbers substantially. Mr. Hester said that paid visitation has dropped, VMT is lower than it has been 2016, entries and exits are up on the Nevada side, and congestion as measured by travel time is at the 2015 level. So we're seeing some different trends, and we think that's about visitation.

Referring to the map on slide 9 that shows visitation seasonally, Mr. Hester said that Stateline counts are 20% lower than they were in 2000. That adds to the conclusion that a lot of our visitors are not coming now just to go to the Hotel Casinos. Overall, we haven't seen big increases since, partly because of COVID, but given that Sacramento, Reno, and other areas have over a 20% projected growth rate, we think looking deeper at the data, and looking at where we're going longer term, leads us to talking about transportation and visitation management from the visitor's perspective to these destinations. Not necessarily the communities, but the destinations, like Sand Harbor and Emerald Bay, and so on. So we're going to have to talk about how we handle those peak events, and how we handle those sites (e.g. parking).

They also looked at trends in the natural environment. Everybody knows that climate change is happening, and we've been working, and will continue to work on resiliency strategies. Last season saw one of the biggest snow years on record, and we've also had the lake really low in the last few years. So what we really are seeing is that you need to plan for the extremes, plan for resilience, and speed up the pace and scale of those EIP resiliency projects.

Technology is also changing. Similarly to what has happened in marketing with big data, we now have companies that compile cell phone and purchasing data, to generate new algorithms and models for transportation. By the next Regional Transportation Plan, we will likely be looking at a whole different type of technology.

After listening to all the trends, the Board asked leadership and staff what they recommended the priorities should be. They went into the retreat with four recommendations, and came out with three, partly because the Board said one of the four (Performance Measurement Changes & Threshold Update) should be integrated into the others

Mr. Hester gave an overview of the staff's thought process around those recommendations. The first thing they looked at was, how do we deal with housing – how do we reduce VMT per capita, and maintain our commitment to the environment, particularly water quality. The second area we thought we needed to work on is the recreation sites and visitation, transportation safety for visitors and those sorts of things. The third area was climate resiliency.

So the focus areas identified for the board were 1) complete communities, 2) visitation, and 3) restoration and resiliency.

For complete communities, they looked at the three pieces (affordable housing, VMT, water quality). When it comes to affordable workforce housing, we don't have a lot of new development left. When you look at the numbers, 92% of the capacity of development rights is built and 3% is restricted to things like bonus unit pools. That leaves about 5% for new development, so what we are really talking about is redevelopment, and when we redevelop, doing it so that it's more environmentally sensitive. The goal is to incentivize smaller units, allow greater site utilization, and address parking.

When working on affordable housing, the TRPA brought in a group called Cascadia, who do pro formas for both the public and private sector. TRPA directed them to not just tell us what a policy would or would not do, but to step back and consider, if you needed to get a 12 to 15% return on investment, in other words, if you were the private market, what would you have to do to our regulations and the way we approach things to make that work? And so they looked at things like density, which they said was number one – not just more units, but density. They also looked at setbacks, and parking requirements. The graphic on slide shows the impact on affordability with escalating changes from both TRPA and local jurisdictions.

Side 19 speaks to the transportation system that would have to go with this affordable housing. The strategy, and one of our newest thresholds is to reduce VMT per capita. That means mixed uses, sidewalks, bike paths, trails, parking management, and transit. Starting with mixed use, when you separate the three basic types of land uses, work, home, and leisure, far enough apart, you can't get between them without a car. That has been the traditional development pattern in Tahoe, and pretty much all over the U.S. since World War 2. With mixed use, we're talking about putting those back together, to provide the ability to walk and bike between uses. That looks like horizontal mixes of uses, vertical mixes of uses, and most importantly, a design where those land uses are compatible - you can walk between them, and have uninterrupted pedestrian connections.

If you are going to have that kind of transportation infrastructure and those kinds of densities you need a different way to approach water quality. You can't say I'm keeping a percentage of land open to absorb the water and stop erosion, you have to move to a higher level of storm water treatment. We know that 72% of the fine settlement getting into the lake is from urban development, and we're committed to that goal to reduce it. So what we are advocating along with the housing and transportation changes, is green stormwater infrastructure. Slide 24 illustrates typical green stormwater infrastructure components, stormwater planters, storm drains, permeable paving, rainwater harvesting, green roofs etc. + nearby and remote infiltration basins to capture the water from things like sidewalks, curbs, and gutters.

The second focus area was visitation, and the key components are the recreation sites, and then the transportation to and from those sites. We think we need to figure out how to work with our partners to protect those areas environmentally, but maintain, and even enhance them as desirable places for visitors. You can't really manage those sites without thinking about the transportation system. Some of the things we need to look at include congestion monitoring, parking capacity reservation systems, public and private transit, and intelligent transportation

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systems (ITS). ITS is a critical piece in helping to manage peak times, and helping to deal with emergencies, such as weather or fire.

The third focus area is on restoration and resiliency. This area is pretty much under the purview of the Tahoe Interagency Executive Steering Committee, and the Environmental Improvement Program and projects. These environmental projects are often not subject to environmental review and can move more quickly through a collaborative, regional framework.

Mr. Hester said he had also given the Governing Board a preview of upcoming activities in 2023/2024. For area plans, there will be amendments coming from Washoe County, Placer County, El Dorado County, South Lake Tahoe, and Douglas County.

Working with partners, there is also a lot of upcoming corridor plan work. SR 89 will be looking at trail connection planning and dynamic paid parking. Work is also taking place on the SR 28/SR 89 resort triangle on the north shore. On Nevada SR 28, work will take place with paid parking pilots, trails, and the future mobility hub at Spooner. On the south shore, US 50 is focused on project improvements on the Nevada side. Several items are also being considered at the Meyers corridor, including roundabout and roadway improvements, new ped-bike connections, complete street work, and maybe an inspection station.

In terms of private projects, we recently saw and heard from the Waldorf Astoria at Crystal Bay. The group that restored to Denver Union Station is coming in with the Cal Neva project. Placer County are looking at the Kings Beach Center, and a complete redevelopment of the Boat Works. Homewood is looking to get their master plan going and implemented. Barton Hospital acquired the site near Kingsbury for a new facility. The Hyatt Regency has been purchased, and in the first phase of waterfront redevelopment we have seen, we have demo permit. The EIP tracker (LTInfo.org) also details a large number of Environmental Improvement and Transportation Improvement projects, so there is a lot coming forward over the next year.

### APC Comments/Questions

Mr. Teshara asked if there was any crossover between the Destination Stewardship Plan and what Mr. Hester described as the Visitation Plan, because the elements are the same. He said he knows the Destination Stewardship Plan isn't quite out yet, but he's hoping there is some synergy. Mr. Hester agreed, and said they don't want to duplicate, they want to compliment. He added that there are the formal plans that need to be done, such as the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), and then there's the regional collaboration like the Destination Stewardship Plan (DSP). He thinks it will be nice to take some of those things out of the Destination Stewardship Plan that need to go in RTP, where they can complement each other.

Regarding transportation data, Mr. Teshara said he travels frequently on Nevada SR 28 and knows what is happening in other areas of the basin. Since we have less employment and fewer businesses, he asked if we know the difference between you know trucks that are coming in to service the community, or visitation to recreation sites. Mr. Hester responded that he had asked for some of that data, and was told that there are so many variables - COVID, more people working remotely from the basin (which may or may not continue), casino gaming not having the same national draw – they can't really tell exactly what is going on. He is hopeful that the new data will shed more light.

Mr. Teshara said that one additional complication to the housing challenge is that people are now facing doubling or more of their property insurance decided, adding further pressure to housing affordability. Also, another big insurance company in California has recently stated they will no longer write on basin properties. Mr. Hester acknowledged they are aware of these issues, which is just another piling on for the housing challenge. Mr. Hester added that the proposed changes to density etc. can only go so far. There will probably need to be some subsidies from elsewhere (e.g. land, clean water grants) that will need to be brought to bear, as well as changing the regulations.

Mr. Alling asked, knowing that the Governing Board has no U.S. Forest Service representative, and it's been quite some time since there has been a USFS representative on the APC, what sort of conversations has TRPA been having with the Forest Service – they are the largest landowner, and a lot of the recreational opportunities in the Basin fall under their jurisdiction. Mr. Alling asked if there had been any discussion as to why their seat on the APC remains vacant, we need their buy-in and cooperation. Mr. Hester responded that he would follow up on the APC question, but that TRPA and the USFS have the best communication he has seen in his tenure. A leadership meeting takes place monthly, Erick Walker and Julie Regan co-chair the Tahoe Interagency Executive Steering Committee, and we work a lot with them on EIP and Transportation Improvement projects. Mr. Alling said he thought it would be really helpful to have the Forest Service representation on the APC, even just for the optics of showing that everyone is working together.

Mr. Hitchcock applauded TRPA for taking complete communities into consideration. Obviously, the 1987 Regional Plan focused on reversing the degradation in the environment, and TRPA have been very successful, and we've come a long way. But as we move forward, taking the community into consideration, and making sure our rules and regulations across the board, he thinks it is really important that in order to reverse the trend of population loss in the basin, it's really important that people should be able to live, work and play in the basin, and not have to come up from Minden and Gardnerville etc.

Mr. Drew said that those who have been involved with EIP implementation, or trying to achieve the thresholds over the years, have often run into the issue of the funding regulations and guidelines that have basically eliminated the ability to achieve some of the things that you presented. There's been very little movement over the years in the funding sources coming to Tahoe, and the limitations related to those funding sources. For example, where you have water quality funding, they can't pay for anything but water quality, or you have transportation funding, and that can't pay for anything but transportation. But these integrated projects for complete streets or complete communities, just cannot be planned, designed, and implemented that way. He knows that there has been discussions over time, and pressure has been put on State and Federal elected officials to make funding more flexible. He asked Mr. Hester how they are feeling in terms of funding sources that are going to be flexible enough to allow us to implement the projects as described in the presentation.

Mr. Hester replied that he is more optimistic now than he ever has been. TRPA Stormwater Program Manager, Shay Navarro is working with the City of South Lake Tahoe Stormwater Manager on a Complete Streets and Stormwater Project, and some of the NDOT or Caltrans projects have included water quality components. Also, TRPA and partners have applied for a

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HIT (High Impact Transformation) grant, to try and address this stuff more holistically, as well as involve people who are so busy with 2 or 3 jobs that they don't even have time to participate – trying to reach out to those workforce people who getting pushed out of here. Are we where we'd like to be? Maybe not, but we're moving in the right direction. Mr. Drew said that for the better part of 15 or 20 years, there's been a pretty solid understanding of what needs to happen on the part of people working on these projects. But they just can't piece the funding together, so if we can keep that pressure up, about needing to have more flexibility in the way that funding is applied, that will go a long way to helping us achieve these more complete integrated projects.

Mr. Drake asked what comes out of a Governing Board Retreat in terms of next steps/action plan. Strategically, he thinks those are the three important focus areas, but where do we go from here. It all sounds very familiar, so he's thinking specifically about things like code changes that would be required to support some of those strategic areas. Mr. Hester said that staff will take the work plan, detailing these initiatives to the Governing Board in August 2023. The work plan includes staff assignments and code amendment work. Some of it is moving forward already, for example the Washoe Tahoe Area Plan and mixed-use/inclusionary definitions. While RPIC asked staff to include those items as mitigation measures, our thinking is that those measures are the pilot for what the code will look like regionally. The Tahoe Living Working Group will be looking at code changes on things like density. We're more formative in the thinking, but will be looking at parking management at the regional level.

Ms. Jacobsen said that the data provided today was really good to message on, and informed that they messaged to their Board in April 2023 on a lot of the same trends. Moving forward she would like to look for the data sets for the COVID period. We have a lot of data from 2021 or so, but what has been happening since then, particularly on the traffic side with VMT.

### B. General Counsel

Due to timing constraints the item on 'Review of Open Meeting Law Conflict of Interest' was postponed to the next meeting. The item will be information only.

TRPA Legal Counsel, Mr. John Marshall reported that there is litigation pending against the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board on the Tahoe Keys Project, and the approval of the Control Methods Test (CMT). It's proceeding very slowly, and they are about to file administrative record. The big issue is whether or not the use of herbicides is consistent with the California Lahontan Basin plan.

### C. APC Member Reports

Mr. Hitchcock said that the Sugar Pine Project has broken ground. Site work has started, and the first modular unit arrived yesterday.

Mr. Teshara advised that Caltrans will be conducting a public hearing at next Tuesday's council meeting, where they are once again proposing to increase speed on sections of U.S. Highway 50. When they did this a couple of years ago, many of us challenged the methodology that they use, which is very old school. He added that one of the areas where they're proposing to increase the speed is exactly where they're proposing safety improvements for pedestrians, it makes no

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sense. Mr. Teshara said that on behalf of the Chamber, they'll be making some comments in opposition. He does not think the proposal is consistent with Vision Zero which we heard about last month. While he is not convinced that Caltrans will change their ways by next Tuesday, the Chamber will certainly register their concern. Mr. Hester informed that Michelle Glickert is preparing a response on behalf of TRPA.

Ms. Carr said that now we are out of the winter season it is really nice to see everyone in person and have that face-to-face interaction. She encouraged online commissioners to consider attending future meetings in person.

Ms. Jacobsen informed that Placer County have started to develop a parking management program in the Basin. Two workshops took place over the last couple of weeks, with one more scheduled for July 2023. So far they have had good feedback. There are a few different components, looking at paid parking in the town centers, paid parking recreational sites (beach parking areas and trail heads), and also looking at residential permit parking for residential areas that are adjacent to parking areas, so that they can control parking spillover into the Neighborhoods. She added that Palisades Tahoe recently reached out to the county to inform them that they intend to implement paid parking next season.

Mr. Drake offered kudos to Ms. Jacobsen and the Placer County Planning team who are making great progress on the first real progressive parking management pilot program in Tahoe. Mr. Drake reminded APC members that parking will be one of the topics covered at the Kings Beach Walkabout Field Trip on August 23, 2023, following the TRPA Governing Board Meeting at the North Tahoe Events Center. They'll be taking a hard look at both the successes and the challenges, in looking at Kings Beach as a microcosm of how we're doing in the Basin on the triple bottom line.

Ms. Simon said her area is looking at the amendments to the Tahoe Basin Area Plan, and how that affects some of the proposed development in Incline Village/Crystal Bay.

Ms. Chandler advised that Heavenly will be instituting paid parking on weekends next year. She said they can compare how Heavenly handles it in comparison to Palisades.

Mr. Chad Steven, Fire Chief for Lake Valley Fire, and APC representative for the Regional Fire Chiefs informed that Cal Fire have extended yard, burning restrictions through the end of the month. Generally the Lake Tahoe Regional Chiefs burn ban goes into place at the same time, so we can expect that.

Mr. Ferry advised that El Dorado took a long-range planning item to their Board of Supervisors yesterday, and they did talk about two Tahoe items, which traditionally have not been on that report. One is moving forward, a Commodities Policy, and the second is looking at an area plan expansion in Eldorado County. They're trying to muster up support and financing to complete those. Mr. Ferry added that Supervisor Brook Laine is convening a vacation home rental advisory committee, that the Board did authorize her to move ahead with. The committee will be convening and meeting over the next year, and looking at potentially substantial changes to the County's VHR Ordinance.

June 14, 2023

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Elise Fett said she is thrilled to hear about the mixed-use, and to see that being incorporated and encouraged. She was also thrilled to see the green roofs on the Green Stormwater slide, she has designed several of those, and met with TRPA staff member Paul Nielsen over 10 years ago, hoping that TRPA could provide some incentives for people to green roofs. What she didn't see were any points about native vegetation and the significant reduction using fertilizers that have phosphorous and nitrates, especially high level, slow-release ones. Her understanding from landscapers is that is extremely important for the health of our lake, and she hopes that can be encouraged and included in the slides.

Ms. Fett's other comment is with respect to aquatic herbicides. According to the slides, it was agreed that if aquatic herbicides were approved, it would not be a one-time application. Therefore you would be making the same mistake made at Big Bear Lake, Clear Lake, and many lakes in Minnesota, where weeds just mutate, grow stronger, and it's a lose-lose-lose situation. Also, when you approved an exemption for the permit to use testing of aquatic herbicides, they said they would protect the community from a toxic algae bloom using Phoslock. But in spite of all the supposed monitoring, Lars (Dr. Anderson) said that he saw the blooming too late, and therefore decided it might not be useful, and also that he would have to monitor the use of Phoslock if he used, therefore the toxic algae bloom was allowed, and that does cause BMAA that goes airborne.

Ms. Fett said she is not hearing discussion on aggressively getting to the source of the problem, filtering the 169 stormwater pipes that drain into the Tahoe Keys, banning the fertilizers with phosphorus and nitrate. And you need to regulate that, because, I even had a discussion with Joan Douglas when she came up to see the students at the High School here in Incline, and even she has heard Keys property owners say they have not even heard about the fertilizer ban, and one gentleman she heard at a party talking about how we found a high-level fertilizer for his wife, for her yard. So that needs to be incorporated in these three years, not just to educate in the Keys, but in the whole basin, this need to reduce fertilizers for the health of the lake.

She closed by asking members to please keep in mind the concern of applying aquatic episodes and the weeds mutating and getting stronger, like they did in Clear Lake, Big Bear Lake, and Minnesota, and also the concern of the algae blooms and BMAA, which is a neurological toxin that causes neurological degeneration.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Teshara moved to adjourn.

Chair Ferry adjourned the meeting at 12:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Tracy Campbell  
Clerk to the Advisory Planning Commission

*The above meeting was recorded in its entirety. Anyone wishing to listen to the tapes of the above mentioned meeting may call for an appointment at (775) 588-4547. In addition, written documents submitted at the meeting are available for review*