TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY
Lake Tahoe ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

TRPA
PO Box 5310
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Stateline, NV 89449

STAFF REPORT

Date: April 15, 2026

To: Environmental Improvement Program Committee

From: TRPA Staff

Subject: Meyers Watercraft Inspection Station

Summary and Staff Recommendation:
Staff will provide an overview of the proposed Meyers Watercraft Inspection Station and corresponding environmental review. This item will also serve as a public hearing to solicit comments from the public on the environmental document.

Project Description and Background
Permanent watercraft inspection stations are a strategic goal for the long-term success of the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program. Permanent inspection stations are proposed to replace the current temporary locations to improve operations, save staff time and resources, and improve the customer experience. Permanent stations will save resources by removing the staffing effort required for setting up and breaking down a station every season, as well as eliminating the need to obtain annual temporary approvals. Permanent stations will also provide improved efficiencies in operations by having permanent and durable infrastructure and equipment. Lastly, permanent stations also promote a professional appearance to customers and improved safety to staff.

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) leads Lake Tahoe's AIS Program and is implemented in partnership with the Tahoe Resource Conservation District and more than 40 Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) partners. The Meyers Permanent Watercraft Inspection Station is an EIP project (01.03.01.0033) and is critical to preventing the spread of AIS and protecting Lake Tahoe's water quality and habitat for native species.

The Meyers station is proposed to be placed on four California Tahoe Conservancy Asset Lands properties located off Pomo Street, west of CA HWY 89, in Meyers, California. The project will also include much needed workforce housing on the site, trail connections, and AIS interpretative facilities. Seasonal watercraft inspectors are likely to occupy the housing in the summer, with El Dorado County seasonal snow removal staff occupying the housing in the winter.

Environmental Review

TRPA, El Dorado County, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have prepared a public draft TRPA Initial Environmental Checklist (IEC), California Environmental Quality Act Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) and National Environmental Policy Act Environmental Assessment (EA). The joint draft IEC/IS/MND/EA was released for a 30-day public review period on April 15, 2026.

Staff will share highlights of the document as well as 30% renderings of the site. Partners will also be hosting a public workshop on Monday, May 4, 2026 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Lake Valley Fire Protection District Station, 2211 Keetak Street, South Lake Tahoe, CA 9615.

Public comments on the document will be accepted during the official review period, which runs from April 15, 2026 to May 15, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. Written comments may be submitted through email at meyersais@trpa.gov or mail at El Dorado County, Planning and Building Department, Tahoe Planning and Building Division, 924 B Emerald Bay Road, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150, Attn: Thea Graybill, Planning Manager. Public comment will also be available at this Committee meeting.

Public Engagement and Outreach

Project partners held a public meeting in October 2024 to share the proposed project with the public and gain public input. The project was also presented at the January 2025 Meyers Advisory Council meeting. In addition, a project website has been developed to keep the public up to date on the project's progress, and provides an opportunity to sign up for email updates.

Project Considerations

Local community members provided input on the design of the project and raised several issues for consideration during public meetings. Traffic congestion is a concern of the residents in the nearby community. The existing temporary location is incapable of providing the necessary queuing space for boats needing an inspection and decontamination with only two to three boats being able to fit within the site at one time. Today, a majority of inspections occur on the public roadway surrounding the inspection station, which is a safety concern for inspection staff and the public, as well as the potential to create traffic congestion. The new site is designed to improve circulation and provide space for approximately fourteen boats for inspections to occur safely off of the public roadway and reduce congestion. Initially, a transit stop was included in preliminary designs that has been removed due to concerns about congestion and that transit in the Meyers area has not been established yet.

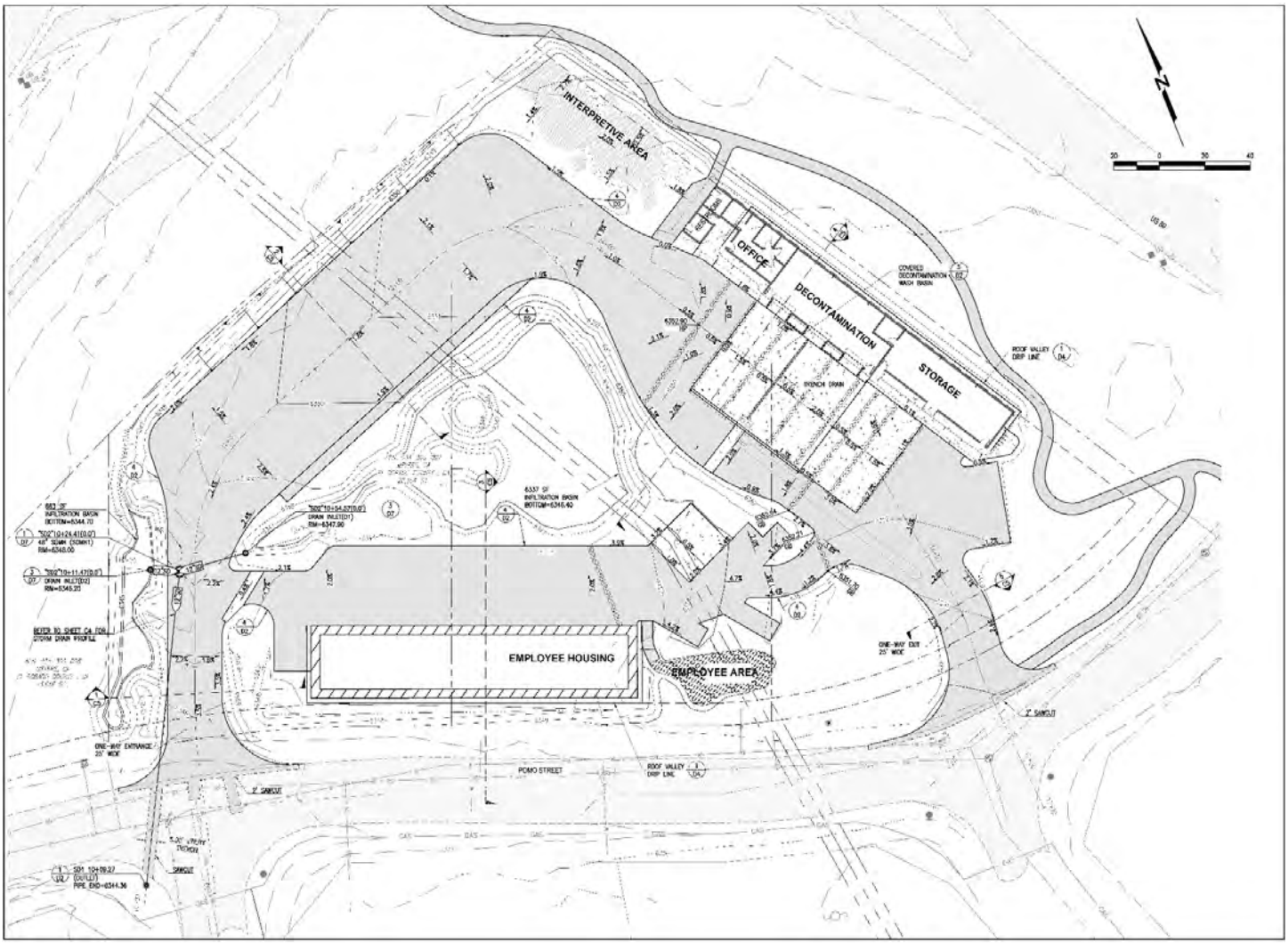
The public also raised concerns regarding the development of parcels for the inspection station and workforce housing that are currently vacant. Asset Land parcels are parcels that are not environmentally sensitive and deemed suitable for development by the California Tahoe Conservancy. The project is designed to locate operations as far back from the roadway nearest to the residential area as possible and to retain as many trees as possible to provide screening. The proposed workforce housing is slated to be located along Pomo St, providing additional screening of operations. There are also undeveloped areas of the parcels as well as a connection to the existing bike/pedestrian trail along US HWY 50 to address feedback from the public who use the parcels for access to the trail.

Contact Information:
For questions regarding this agenda item, please contact Dennis M. Zabaglo, Aquatic Invasive Species Program Manager, at (775) 589-5255 or dzabaglo@trpa.gov.

Written comments received by 4 p.m. the day before a scheduled public meeting may, as appropriate, be distributed to TRPA Staff, decision makers, and posted in advance of the meeting. Later submissions may be retained as part of the meeting record and may be posted or made available after the meeting as appropriate. Please note that not all submissions will necessarily be distributed to the Governing Board or posted to TRPA's website. Materials that are not related to a meeting agenda item, are voluminous, or raise legal concerns regarding online posting (for example, third-party copyright issues) may instead be referenced on TRPA's website rather than reposted in full, retained as part of the meeting record, and made available for public inspection or otherwise handled consistent with applicable law and TRPA procedures. Comments may be submitted by email (publiccomment@trpa.gov), mail, fax, or by in-person drop off.

Attachments

A. Proposed Site Layout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