TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

TRPA
PO Box 5310
128 Market Street
Stateline, NV 89449

STAFF REPORT

Date: May 20, 2026

To: TRPA Governing Board

From: TRPA Staff

Subject: Release of Placer County Water Quality Interest (WQI) Mitigation Funds ($40,000.00), and reallocation of previously released Water Quality (WQ) Funds ($40,000.00) and Air Quality (AQ) Funds ($20,000.00) towards the North Tahoe Recreational Access Water Quality Improvement Project

---

Summary and Staff Recommendation:
Staff recommends that the Governing Board approve Placer County's request for the release of Placer County Water Quality Interest (WQI) Mitigation Funds in the amount of $40,000.00, and reallocation of previously released Water Quality (WQ) Funds in the amount of $40,000.00 and Air Quality (AQ) Funds in the amount of $20,000.00, toward the North Tahoe Recreational Access Water Quality Improvement Project (EIP Project No. 01.01.01.0194). The request is consistent with the Environmental Improvement Program objectives and the Governing Board's policy guidelines for the release of mitigation funds.

Required Motions:
To approve the requested release and reallocation, the Governing Board must make the following motion:

1) A motion to approve the release of $40,000.00 in Placer County Water Quality Mitigation Funds, and the reallocation of previously released $40,000.00 in Water Quality Mitigation Funds and $20,000.00 in Air Quality Mitigation Funds, toward the North Tahoe Recreational Access Water Quality Improvement Project, subject to the conditions contained in this staff report.

For the motion to pass, an affirmative vote of at least eight Board members is required.

Project Description/Background:
Placer County is requesting the release of $40,000 in Water Quality Interest (WQI) Mitigation Funds and the reallocation of previously released mitigation funds towards the North Tahoe Recreational Access Water Quality Improvement Project.

In 2021, Placer County completed Phase 1 of the North Tahoe Recreation Access Plan. The intent of the Plan is to improve access to active transportation networks and address water quality issues at impacted trailheads. By improving local access to recreation amenities, the project encourages users to leave personal vehicles behind and access recreation sites by trail, on foot, or by bicycle.

In August 2024, the TRPA Governing Board approved the release of Water Quality (WQ) Funds in the amount of $40,000.00 and Air Quality (AQ) Funds in the amount of $20,000.00 for construction of improvements at the lower Sawtooth Trailhead. That project has since been completed using alternate funding sources, and Placer County is requesting reallocation of the previously approved funds toward improvements at the Ward Creek Trailhead as part of the broader North Tahoe Recreational Access Water Quality Improvement Project.

In addition, Placer County is requesting release of an additional $40,000 in Water Quality Interest (WQI) Funds to support planning and design of the project.

Project goals include improving water quality discharging to Ward Creek by reducing erosion at existing dirt parking areas through paved surfaces and runoff treatment systems; mitigating offsite parking impacts to vegetated habitat through installation of rock/boulder vehicle barricades; promoting responsible trail use and environmental stewardship through installation of a new informational kiosk; creating year-round access through installation of plowable, paved surfaces; providing local neighborhood parking alternatives; creating maintainable and sustainable infrastructure and facilities; and stabilizing the Stanford Rock trail crossing leading down to Ward Creek, located on United States Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit property.

The requested funds will complement Lake Tahoe Restoration Act funds of $250,000.00.

Placer County – Project Funding			
	TRPA Mitigation	**Other Funding**	**Total**
Placer County Funds (LTRA)			
Lake Tahoe Restoration Act		$250,000	$250,000
EIP Mitigation Funds			
WQI Mitigation Fund – New	$40,000		$40,000
WQ Mitigation Fund - Transfer	$40,000		$40,000
AQ Mitigation Fund - Transfer	$20,000		$20,000
Total	**$100,000**	**$250,000**	**$350,000**

As of February 28, 2026, the unencumbered balance for Placer County Water Quality Interest (WQI) Mitigation Funds was $64,263.24, which is sufficient to cover the new request.

Staff recommends approving the release and reallocation of these funds subject to the following conditions of approval:

Conditions:

1. Placer County shall only use the funds for the project cited above and as approved by TRPA.

2. TRPA reserves the right to withhold funds to ensure project priorities, goals, and objectives are consistent with those of the Environmental Improvement Program and TRPA's Regional Plan.

3. Placer County agrees to follow all laws, codes, and regulations adopted by federal, state, and local authorities/agencies.

4. Placer County agrees to maintain a report detailing the use and expenditure of all funds used on the project. These records shall be made available for review and audit by TRPA within thirty (30) calendar days upon written request.

5. All mitigation funds not used as described above shall be returned to TRPA. Upon written approval from TRPA, these funds may be re-allocated to another project.

6. Placer County agrees to request from TRPA a final inspection no later than 30 days after completion of the project.

7. TRPA approved EIP signage shall be used on all projects to identify TRPA as a funding source and shall include the EIP logo.

8. Placer County agrees to report the applicable EIP Performance Measures achieved by this project in the EIP Tracker.

Contact Information:
For questions regarding this agenda item, please contact Tracy Campbell, EIP Department, at (775) 589-5257 or tcampbell@trpa.gov.

To submit a written public comment, email publiccomment@trpa.gov with the appropriate agenda item in the subject line.

Attachment:

A. EIP Project Fact Sheet

Attachment A

EIP Project Fact Sheet
the North Tahoe Recreational Access Water Quality Improvement Project

Lake Tahoe
ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

North Tahoe Recreational Access Water Quality Improvements (Phase 1)

Project Number	01.01.01.0194
Action Priority	Reduce Stormwater Pollution From: Roads and Highways, Forest Roads, Public and Pr Parcels
Implementers	Placer County, CA
Primary Contact	Tim Boyer (tboyer@placer.ca.gov)
Stage	Implementation
Duration	2020 - 2028

Stormwater Management Program > Reduce Stormwater Pollution From: Roads and Highways, Forest Roads, Publ and Private Parcels

Placer County DPW-Tahoe Engineering Division completed Phase 1 of the North Tahoe Recreation Access Plan (NTRAP) in 2021. The NTRAP provides a valuable resource tool for planning, maintaining, and developing existing and future year-round public recreational access areas for a range of user groups in the North Lake Tahoe Truckee regions. Phase 2 is implementation of improvements at trailheads identified in the NTRAP. The Lower Sawtooth Trailhead was the first site selected & improvements were completed in May 2025. The next trailhead proposed is located on Ward Creek at the Stanford Rock trail crossing. The County is currently seeking funding for the design & construction of the project.

Lower Sawtooth Trailhead looking North towards Thelin Dr

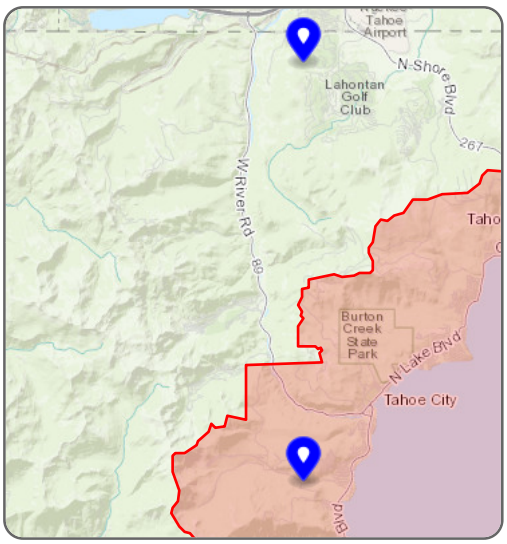
Key Accomplishments

- Disturbed Areas Restored, Enhanced, or Created: **1 acres**
- Facilities Improved or Created: **1**
- Forest Upland Facilities Retrofitted for Stormwater: **1**

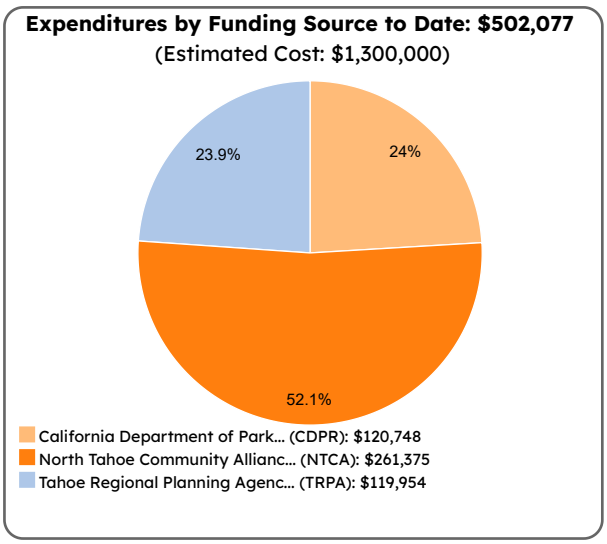
Threshold Categories

- Recreation
- Water Quality

Location



Expenditures



Photos

Before

Ward Ck - Existing conditions

Ward Ck - Existing south side parking adjacent to creek

After

Lower Sawtooth Trailhead - maintenance needs

Lower Sawtooth Trailhead - unplowed winter access

Learn more at restoretahoe.org

Project Fact Sheet Data as of 05/19/