

From: djinkens@charter.net
To: [Mark Bruce](#); [Cindy Gustafson](#); [Jim Lawrence](#); [Shelly Aldean](#); [Alexis Hill](#); [Bud Hicks](#); [Belinda Faustinos](#); [John Friedrich](#); [Wesley Rice](#); [Barbara Cegavske](#); bosfive@edcgov.us; [Bill Yeates](#); [Hayley Williamson](#); [Ashley Conrad-Saydah](#)
Cc: [John Hester](#); [Marja Ambler](#)
Subject: NEWSLETTER 100...really
Date: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 10:14:57 AM
Attachments: [Newsletter 100.pdf](#)
Importance: High

"Anything less than a conscious commitment to the important is an unconscious commitment to the unimportant."

Stephen Covey

Dear Regional Leaders:

Thank you for your service to our Region and Nation. I know that policy choices are not always easy ones, but you are vested with the power to do enormous good for this special region. All of us want you to succeed because in doing so, we all are successful too. The environment matters, and people also matter.

Please see the attached newsletter ([September 28, 2022](#)) that discusses: (1) Honoring local volunteers (2) Students interested in City Council election (3) Smoke from Catastrophic Fires are harmful (5) [Guest Column](#) – Alan Miller voices serious concerns with TRPA environmental protection record, and (6) Message from a reader.

The safety of our communities, our residents, and the protection of our environment must always come first. *Should you have questions or comments about this newsletter, please contact me.*

[Stay heathy and be safe!](#)

-
David

David Jinkens
[Good Government Advocate](#)
MPA (UCLA). A.B. (UC Berkeley)
(Retired South Lake Tahoe City Manager)
South Lake Tahoe, CA

"Si Podemos"

"We can disagree on public policy issues and still be friends".

***The opinions in this newsletter are mine alone.
If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please let me know.***

From: [Doug Flaherty](#)
To: [Marja Ambler](#); [Katherine Huston](#); [John Hester](#); [Cindy Gustafson](#)
Cc: [Alexis Hill](#)
Subject: Public Comment TRPA Governing Board Meeting 9-28-22
Date: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 10:45:17 AM

According to the recent UC Davis State of the Lake Report, the Lake Tahoe Basin is in an environmental free-fall, and out of “Equilibrium” and “Harmony” as required by the Bi-State Compact.

Through its malfeasance the TRPA has mismanaged its charge under the Bi-State Compact and failed to adequately monitor, measure and provide substantial project "cumulative impact" data and analyses, since its 2012 Regional Plan update to ensure “equilibrium” and “harmony” within the Tahoe Basin and has failed in its responsibility to protect our cherished Lake Tahoe water clarity.

Cumulative impact is the impact on the environment which results from the **tyranny of incremental impact** of small decisions when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

The long-term failure on the part of the TRPA involves the use of a "sham" environmental checklist. This TRPA sham environmental checklist circumvents a process that would otherwise ensure that **Lake Tahoe Basin wide cumulative impacts** are analyzed.

Instead, the TRPA has been on a march of agenda driven increased human capacity, increased growth and relaxation of building regulations, increased parking and transportation projects, human capacity initiatives, including promotion of high-density growth without any real and adequate cumulative impact environmental assessment.

And lastly, the TRPA appears to have adopted and accelerated a social change process system strikingly similar to what is known “Leading Small Groups” (**LSG’s**), which often meets out of the public view, to craft process in order to effect agenda driven change impacting the long-term quality of life and environmental integrity within the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Through this **LSG** change process, damaging code changes adding capacity, density, coverage as well as significant public and private projects, massive trail and transportation projects and endless federal funding for these projects and agenda driven studies are suddenly **transformed by the TRPA process, to now be considered “environmental improvements.”**

Information regarding Leading Small Groups is explained here:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leading_Small_Groups

Historically, Leading Small Groups (LSG's) have operated as government interagency executive committees, within a hierarchical system working to impose ideological or agenda driven change, cutting across regulatory boundaries and often functioning with assumed or self-declared quasi authority granted by a central or controlling power.

In the Lake Tahoe Basin over the last 10 years, significant increased numbers of government “partner” committees, sub-committees and working groups, under TRPA leadership, appear to be operating as **LSG's**. These **LSG's** come

and go depending on their usefulness to the TRPA change agenda at hand.

This includes "non-profit" organizations, otherwise known as "Non-Governmental Organizations" (NGOs) of which TRPA Board members (several of whom are also County Commissioners) serve as in Board of Director roles within the NGO's.

In this way, TRPA leaders can ensure funds earmarked for projects, plans and studies are quietly funneled to and through the NGOs from a variety of sources directly or indirectly. Results from quietly government funded studies are rolled out to the community by "Collaborative Government and NGO Partners" creating the illusion that government and TRPA agencies have adopted a sound policy of, by, and for the public based on the perception of sound public process "Partnering" and party-controlled messaging. Quite the opposite is often true.

LSG committees, sub-committees and working groups give the outward impression of having broad representation during their deliberations, but the truth is that **LSG's** are made up of sympathetic members of the small group in power, and in the case of the TRPA, specific "government partners" and favored "partner" NGO's.

What is missing is true meaningful community involvement. Instead, the process is deceptive in nature as public officials and agencies give approvals for projects that have been privately evaluated and funded through closed-door government "partner" and NGO "**LSG**" collaboratives.

Additionally, some NGOs seem to have been able to skirt the grey area of whether they are classified as "Public Body's" under the California and Nevada Open Meeting Laws.

As the pre-established TRPA project or study to effect change works its way through the working group, committee, and subcommittee daisy chain process it gains increased credibility, legitimacy, and acceptance. By the end of the committee process, propped up by media messaging, any multi working group, committee or sub-committee proposed change has usually garnished unquestioning acceptance by lawmakers and agencies making it easy to be adopted via a presumptive "rubber stamp," at which time it becomes adopted as law, ordinance, or project.

The public is usually overwhelmed by the rapid speed at which a given governmental or agency ideological change moves through the TRPA small group and favored committee process, often with only a few days' notice for public comment.

It is the norm for government and TRPA staff report packets to run between 200 to 500 pages, such as those posted on the TRPA website only a few days before any given public meeting, making it impossible for the average citizen to read or comprehend much of the content. Further, these staff reports are proliferated with unclear daunting government acronyms and extensive staff storytelling, making it difficult for the layperson to understand.

After **LSG's** serve out their mission (i.e., public indoctrination and acceptance in preparation for the predetermined government outcome culminating in agency vote), they either seemingly disappear from the TRPA and public radar or gain even more traction depending on their need to promote the massive open spicket of federal funding flowing into the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Sincerely,
Doug Flaherty
TahoeBlue365@gmail.com

From: [Doug Flaherty](#)
To: [Marja Ambler](#); [John Hester](#); [Shelly Aldean](#)
Subject: Public Comment TRPA Legal Committee 9-28-22
Date: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 9:42:12 AM

Please make this part of the Public Record for the Legal Committee meeting this morning, as my verbal comments were not able to be heard via Zoom,

Dear Legal Committee Members:

I would like to expand on Mr. Miller's comments regarding the TRPA planning and approval process.

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