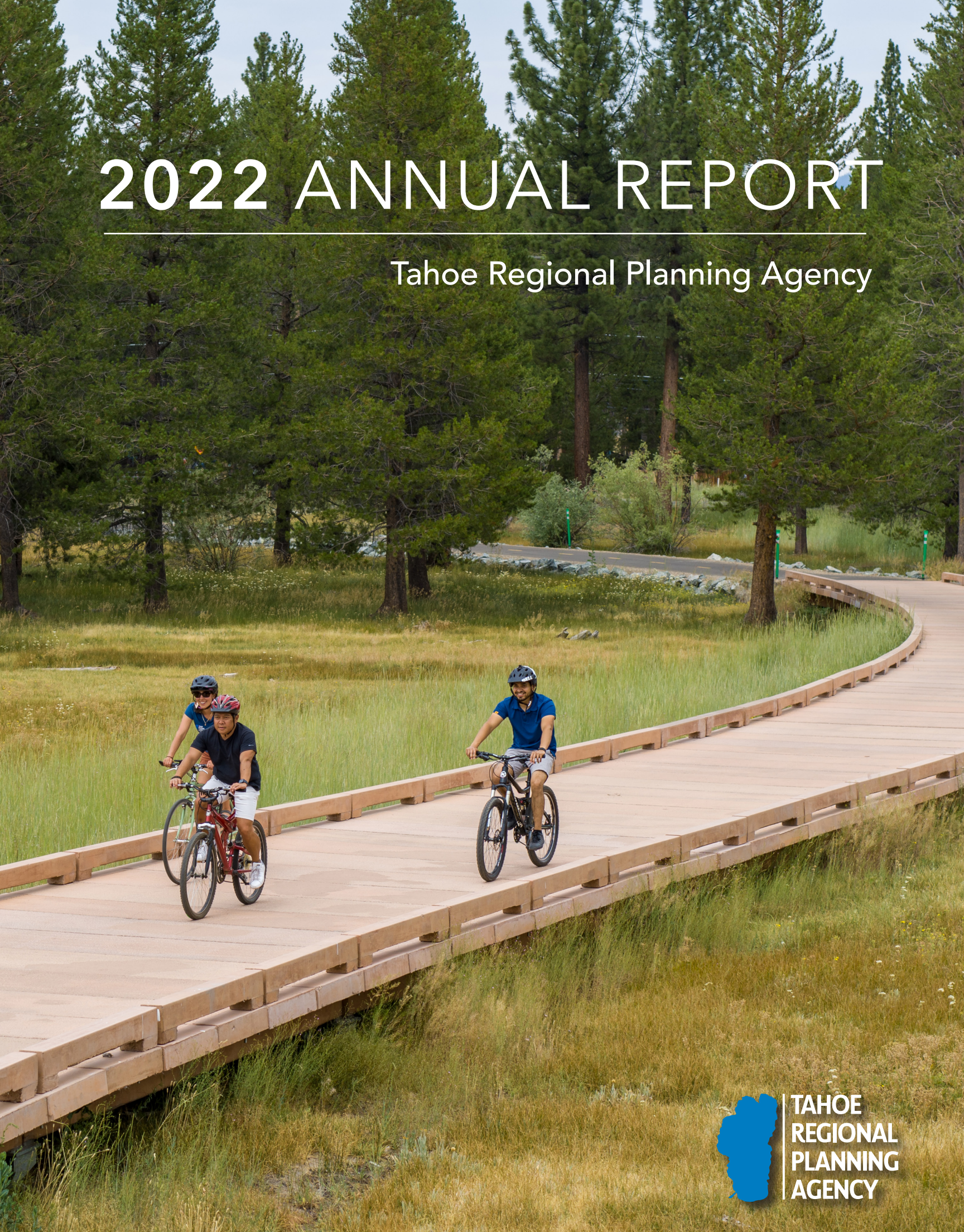


# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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Tahoe Regional Planning Agency



TAHOE  
REGIONAL  
PLANNING  
AGENCY



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Cover photo: Dennis T. Machida Memorial Greenway, Luxuri Media  
Top photo: Tahoe East Shore Trail, Luxuri Media

Dear Lake Tahoe Community Members and Stakeholders,

It is my pleasure to present this report on the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency’s (TRPA) progress in 2022.

Transition was the operative word for 2022. As Lake Tahoe communities continued navigating clear of the global pandemic, many Tahoe Basin agencies and organizations were experiencing transitions in leadership as well. Our conservation partners at the USDA Forest Service, California Tahoe Conservancy, Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Tahoe Resource Conservation District selected new leaders in 2022, and the November elections brought new and returning members to the TRPA Governing Board.

As the cascading impacts of climate change continue to affect the Lake Tahoe Region, TRPA and our partners are working collaboratively on solutions. In 2022, we moved a crucial funding plan forward for transportation projects, updated policies to increase the pace and scale of forest fuel reduction projects, and partnered on the Lake Tahoe Climate Resilience Action Strategy, which details more than \$400 million in actions needed to build the region’s resilience. The agency also oversaw major projects to control aquatic invasive weed infestations that threaten Lake Tahoe’s native ecosystem and our recreation and tourism-based economy.

TRPA’s role as a policy leader and partnership builder can also be noted in our progress tackling Tahoe’s affordable housing crisis, destination stewardship planning, and supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion of underrepresented groups including the native Washoe Tribe.

2022 itself was an important milestone because it marked the 10-year anniversary of the 2012

Regional Plan Update. The updated plan created incentives and streamlined permit processes for private property improvements that deliver environmental and community benefits. Since the plan update, the Tahoe Region is seeing a renaissance of reinvestment in walkable, bikeable town centers and neighborhoods. By encouraging environmental redevelopment and maintaining growth limits in the basin, the Regional Plan is delivering on its goals. For more on Regional Plan progress, see the next few pages.

It was also a year of gratitude and transition for me as I was selected to become the agency’s new Executive Director. I am deeply thankful for the opportunity to lead the agency where I have passionately worked for nearly 20 years. With an incredibly talented staff, a dedicated Governing Board and Advisory Planning Commission, and many committed partners, I believe we can preserve and restore Lake Tahoe while supporting thriving communities for generations to come.



Sincerely,  
*Julie W. Regan*  
Julie W. Regan  
Executive Director  
Tahoe Regional Planning  
Agency





## A Regional Plan to Guide Tahoe's Future



In December 2012, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) Governing Board adopted a broadly supported update to the Lake Tahoe Regional Plan that has increased the pace of environmental improvements and is creating more walkable and bikeable communities. Over the last 10 years, the updated plan has catalyzed more than \$430 million in reinvestment in Tahoe's town centers and provided incentives to private property owners for implementing water quality improvements. The plan allows for a limited amount of new development while also creating incentives for existing development rights to be relocated from sensitive lands and outlying areas into town centers.

The 2012 Regional Plan Update maintained existing environmental standards and caps on development while creating a range of additional

incentives. The updated plan gives greater permitting authority to local governments through local Area Plans. Within Area Plans, projects may have access to more land coverage allowances, slightly taller buildings and higher densities to encourage redevelopment, and can receive help treating stormwater on a larger, area-wide scale.

Property owners receive streamlined permitting and other incentives to reduce the cost of environmental improvements and make property upgrades more feasible. Today, six area plans have been approved in the region, covering nearly 90 percent of Tahoe's town centers. Since 2012, an estimated \$330 million in improvements have been made to hotels and other tourist accommodations in the Tahoe Basin, and more than \$100 million has been invested in major commercial renovations.

Homeowners also receive incentives for installing water quality Best Management Practices (BMPs) to infiltrate stormwater on their property. Homes located on non-sensitive land can receive coverage exemptions for decks, permeable pavers, and garden sheds if BMPs are completed. Homeowners have been taking advantage of the new approach. The agency has issued more than 4,500 BMP certificates since 2012.

The revitalization of Lake Tahoe's communities is being matched by Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) investments in stormwater management, stream restoration, bike trails, and more to further reduce fine sediment and transportation impacts. In the last decade, EIP partners have invested more than \$979.7 million throughout the region in all areas of the collaborative conservation program.

The Lake Tahoe Region is approaching buildout, the point at which no new development rights will be available. The Regional Plan Update maintained the overall caps on development in the basin and is leading to a net reduction of some types of development. The update created no new hotel or tourist accommodation units and reduced the rate of new residential units by 50 percent. The Board authorized 1,310 new residential allocations and 940 have been built. Approximately 3,500 residential units remain as unallocated or in reserve within the local jurisdiction areas.

New and potential development will continue to be mitigated through water quality and transportation improvements and complementary conservation programs.

Data and consistent monitoring show the 2012 plan is making progress. Research partners recently published a 10-year progress report on the science-based pollutant reduction plan called the Total Maximum Daily Load. The region achieved a 23 percent reduction in fine sediment particles basin-wide, surpassing the 10-year goal of 21 percent. Climate-related threats continue to challenge the lake, however.

A 2021 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory for the Tahoe Basin showed the region surpassed the initial target of 15 percent GHG emission reduction by 2020. From 2005 to 2018, overall GHG emissions in Tahoe declined 38.7 percent, however emissions from 2015 to 2018 increased slightly by 4 percent, mostly from the transportation sector.

The next 10 years of the Regional Plan will continue revitalizing communities and lead to more environmental and transportation improvements. There is more work to do on many fronts. The compounding impacts of climate change are threatening the progress made in restoring Tahoe's water quality and forest health. The affordable housing crisis is forcing many workers and families to look for housing outside the region, which increases vehicle trips and worker shortages. Tahoe's transportation system needs reliable sources of funding and greater connectivity to reduce traffic and manage recreation hot spots. The continued progress of the Regional Plan will be invaluable to Lake Tahoe in meeting these challenges.

### 2012 Regional Plan 10 Years by the Numbers

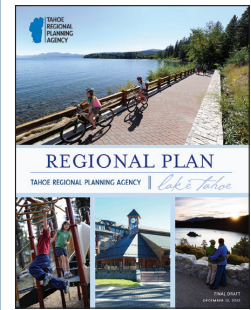
**4,671** BMP certificates issued.

**1,310** new residential allocations distributed.

**23%** reduction in lake-clouding fine sediment particles.

**6** area plans approved, covering nearly 90 percent of town centers.





## 2013

- Emerald Bay is declared weed-free after a multiyear project to remove 6 acres of aquatic invasive plants. Surveillance and rapid response keep it that way.



Decontaminating a boat at a watercraft inspection station.



## 2019

- Bijou Marketplace Project brings Whole Foods, restaurants, and retail stores while restoring Bijou Creek at Ski Run Boulevard and Highway 50.

## 2020

- SR 89/Fanny Bridge project rebuilds the Truckee River bridges, roundabouts, and bike-trail connections to improve traffic flow through Tahoe City and the West Shore.
- Free transit becomes available on the North Shore and South Shore.

Fanny Bridge



## 12.12.12

- TRPA Governing Board approves the Regional Plan Update.

## 2012

- The Tahoe City Transit Center is completed, providing the North Shore's first transit hub.
- TRPA and partners debut *Tahoe In Depth*, an award-winning environmental newspaper mailed to Tahoe Basin homeowners.
- Lakeview Commons opens, transforming an eroding El Dorado Beach into a community hot spot.



## 2014

- Take Care Tahoe, a basinwide stewardship campaign, launches.
- The City of South Lake Tahoe and Caltrans completed Bijou Erosion Control and Harrison Avenue projects, preventing tons of fine sediment from flowing into the lake.
- TRPA's Lake Tahoe INFO online hub tracks Environmental Improvement Program projects, including work of over 80 partners and environmental investment returns.

## 2015

- Hard Rock Casino opens after a \$60 million Horizon Casino remodel, one of \$430 million in Tahoe hotel, casino, commercial, and tourist accommodation improvements since the Regional Plan Update.

## 2016

- Barack Obama's Tahoe Summit speech highlights Regional Plan successes. Congress reauthorizes the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act for \$415 million through 2023.
- USDA Forest Service completes Angora Fire restoration projects and 672 acres of reforestation. CALFIRE reports that partners have initiated or completed more than 90% of the Tahoe Basin Fire Commission's post-Angora recommendations.



An Angora restoration crew.

## 2017

- Placer County and TRPA adopt the Tahoe Basin Area Plan, enhancing mobility and transit and streamlining permitting from Kings Beach to Homewood.

## 2018

- The completed Kings Beach Commercial Core Project improves traffic flow, bike and pedestrian access, and fine sediment filtration by 35,000 pounds annually.
- The Aquatic Invasive Species Watercraft Inspection Program marks 10 years of detecting no new invasive species in Lake Tahoe.
- The Tahoe Resource Conservation District acquires the 206-acre Johnson Meadow, the largest privately owned section of the Upper Truckee River Watershed.
- After years of collaboration, TRPA adopts Shoreline Plan to improve recreation access and safety on the lake.

## 2019

- The completed Tahoe East Shore Trail between Incline Village and Sand Harbor improves pedestrian access and highway safety on Highway 28.
- TRPA's overhauled development rights system brings environmental benefits and more middle-income housing options.



## 2021

- Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load partners report 23% reduction in fine sediment, surpassing the 21% goal.
- Dennis T. Machida Memorial Greenway adds boardwalks over sensitive areas for a multi-use trail that will connect Stateline to Meyers.
- Washoe County Tahoe Area Plan becomes one of six area plans covering 71,913 acres — 34% of the Tahoe Region and 89% of town centers.
- The Caldor Fire scorches 221,000 acres, 10,000 within the Tahoe Basin. Past forest treatments temper the fire near South Shore.



A diver uses a suction device to remove weeds.

## 2022

- The California Tahoe Conservancy completes the Upper Truckee Marsh restoration, marking the largest wetland restoration to date.
- A Tahoe Keys test project targets the lake's largest aquatic invasive weed infestation.
- Bi-state Transportation Action Plan released.

# REGIONAL PLAN PROGRESS

The Regional Plan outlines actions to achieve environmental standards, known as thresholds, that restore Lake Tahoe while balancing economic and community vitality. After TRPA, partners, and the public updated the plan in 2012, the Environmental Improvement Program restored marshes and streams, extended bike and hiking trails, and revamped local development policies.





# TRPA

## STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Set by the Governing Board, these strategic initiatives reflect the agency's commitment to protect Lake Tahoe's environment while improving regional transportation, increasing diverse housing options, and facilitating community revitalization.

### Building Resiliency: Climate Change and Sustainability

- Increase the long-term resilience of the natural and built environments by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and combining natural resource protection with healthy communities.

### Keeping Tahoe Moving: Transportation and Destination Stewardship

- Implement the Regional Transportation Plan to improve transportation systems for residents and commuters, and meet visitor recreation needs while protecting the environment.

### Tahoe Living: Housing and Community Revitalization

- Implement strategies that result in affordable housing options, environmental redevelopment, and walkable, bikeable communities.

### Restoration Blueprint: Environmental Improvement Program Implementation

- Lead the restoration of Lake Tahoe's environment and revitalization of its communities through collaboration and public/private investments.

### Measuring What Matters: Thresholds and Monitoring Update

- Streamline and improve the threshold standards and monitoring programs TRPA uses to measure progress in conserving and restoring Lake Tahoe's environment.

### Digital First: Innovation

- Help property owners navigate the permit process with transparency and predictability across agencies.

# Building Resiliency: Climate Change and Sustainability

We began the year with record snowfall, immediately followed by record drought. These extreme swings in climate patterns affect all of Tahoe's systems. It underscores the necessity for every TRPA initiative to include strategies to strengthen the sustainability and resilience of Tahoe's environment, communities, and economy. By reducing regional greenhouse gas emissions, we will help meet the climate change goals of California, Nevada, and local governments.

## Key 2022 Accomplishments

- Released the Lake Tahoe Climate Resilience Action Strategy. The strategy outlines the expected local impacts of climate change and targets \$400 million in needed investments to address these impacts while advancing public access and creating jobs.
- Doubled the number of electric vehicle charging stations since the 2017 Tahoe-Truckee PEV Readiness Plan and adopted an electric vehicle siting plan for the City of South Lake Tahoe.
- Engaged stakeholders to create a Climate Smart development code following extensive research on climate smart best practices across the nation.

## Future Focus

- Launch a new Climate Resilience Dashboard with metrics that show how Tahoe is achieving climate resilience.
- Finalize priority actions to develop a Climate Smart development code.
- Secure funding to implement the Climate Resilience Action Strategy.

## PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

### Electric Vehicle Charging Station

TRPA installed two electric vehicle charging stations with four plugs at the TRPA office. The chargers are available to the public to reduce trip emissions and encourage more electric vehicle use.



Photo: TRPA



# Keeping Tahoe Moving: Transportation and Destination Stewardship

Lake Tahoe’s \$5 billion recreation-based economy needs an interconnected and efficient transportation system. TRPA and partners will achieve that sustainable future with strategic investments in capital projects, transit, multi-use paths, and parking management. These critical projects will meet visitor, resident, and commuter demand while protecting the Tahoe Basin’s unique natural resources. In addition, the region came together to create a shared destination stewardship plan that will balance the needs of the environment, businesses, visitors, and local communities. This new shared strategy will inspire all to take care of Tahoe.

## Key 2022 Transportation Accomplishments

- Conducted extensive outreach for the Transportation Equity Study, building on the recently adopted Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The study identifies barriers and burdens to accessing goods, services, and recreation opportunities at Lake Tahoe.
- Developed a Transportation Action Plan outlining priority projects and the strategy to fill the \$20 million per year funding gap in the RTP. The Bi-State Consultation on Transportation endorsed the plan.
- Created a tiered transportation metric system and adaptive management framework to achieve the new threshold standard for vehicle miles traveled reduction.
- Made progress on reducing employee vehicle trips through the Commute Tahoe Program.
- Initiated the SR 89 Trail Feasibility Study, which examines potential alignments of a multi-use trail around Emerald Bay.

## Future Focus

- Implement the bi-state Transportation Action Plan with partners to reduce vehicle miles traveled and achieve regional goals.
- Complete the Transportation Equity Study.
- Implement the SR 89 Trail section from Cascade Lake to Meeks Bay, including identifying a lead agency.
- Update the Tahoe Safety Strategy with a focus on zero fatalities or serious injuries (Vision Zero).
- Update the Active Transportation Plan.
- Develop the Transportation Performance Report for implementation of the 2020 RTP.
- Continue working with partners and employers to implement the Commute Tahoe Program and update the regional employee trip reduction ordinance.

Photo: Luxuri Media



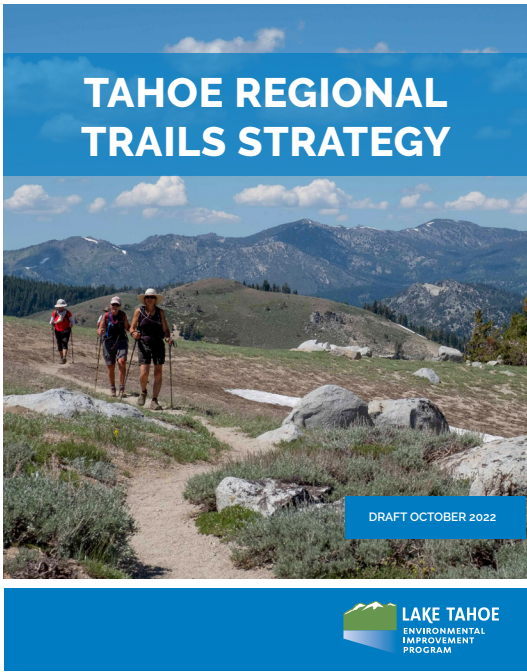
Photo: Drone Promotions

## Key 2022 Destination Stewardship Accomplishments

- Developed the Draft Lake Tahoe Destination Stewardship Plan, a community-centered road-map for improved visitor management and outdoor recreation. The plan will ensure outdoor recreation and tourism enhances community well-being, supports local businesses and workers, and protects the lake.
- Identified a list of regionally significant dirt trail and trailhead projects through the Tahoe Regional Trails Strategy. The strategy includes a vision for dirt trail connections, rerouting trails to more sustainable alignments, formalizing social trails, and improvements to existing trails and trailheads.
- Hosted bi-weekly sustainable recreation and tourism coordination group meetings to ensure messages from land managers and visitors authorities are consistent and widely shared.

## Future Focus

- Finalize the Lake Tahoe Destination Stewardship Plan.
- Finalize the Tahoe Regional Trails Strategy.





# Tahoe Living: Housing and Community Revitalization

The Tahoe Living initiative identifies local and regional actions that increase the availability of affordable and achievable housing. The initiative supports the Regional Plan, Sustainable Communities Strategy, and California Regional Housing Needs Assessment.

## Key 2022 Accomplishments

- Issued 17 permits for accessory dwelling units (ADUs) or granny flats, for a total of 20 ADUs permitted since inception of the program. ADUs are a way for the private market to quickly provide workforce housing. TRPA also launched the Tahoe ADU Calculator Tool to help homeowners calculate the potential costs and return on investment associated with building an ADU in Tahoe.
- Removed a major permitting hurdle for movable tiny homes to diversify the region’s capacity for providing a range of housing types and sizes.
- Launched a comprehensive outreach program to owners of legacy deed-restricted units to increase compliance with deed restriction requirements.
- Advanced changes to TRPA’s height, density, and coverage standards with the Tahoe Living Working Group, Local Government and Housing Committee, and the TRPA Governing Board to make multi-family housing and ADUs more competitive with second homes and luxury residences. Began environmental analysis of the proposed changes, with a goal to bring amendments forward for consideration in 2023.


## Future Focus

- Complete updates to height, density, and coverage regulations to encourage deed restricted and affordable housing.
- Update TRPA’s transfer of development rights and growth management system to integrate equity, housing choice and affordability, and climate goals, as well as increase community engagement.

### PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

#### TRPA Growth Management System

Under the growth management system, Lake Tahoe is nearing buildout, the point at which the development rights allocated by the Regional Plan are all distributed. Just **10 percent or less of potential development rights remain**, and incentives in the Regional Plan are leading to overall reductions in development. These programs are being reviewed to address a housing shortage which is plaguing Tahoe communities.



# Restoration Blueprint: Environmental Improvement Program Implementation



The Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) is an unparalleled partnership working to accelerate the attainment of Lake Tahoe’s environmental threshold standards through implementation of the Regional Plan. Local, state, and federal government agencies, private entities, scientists, and the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California have collaborated for 26 years to complete over 780 projects to restore forests and streams, manage stormwater, prevent and control aquatic invasive species, and implement priority transportation and public access projects. TRPA is proud to be a leader within this partnership.

## Key 2022 Accomplishments

- Secured additional federal funding thanks to years of partnership building: \$23.8 million through the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, \$3.4 million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and \$2 million in Community Project Funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation.
- Convened an interagency workshop for the Cutting the Green Tape: Taylor-Tallac Case Study. The workshop focused on lessons learned from implementation of this critical ecological restoration project to streamline permitting.
- Completed the draft environmental analysis for the restoration of Meeks Bay in partnership with the USDA Forest Service and the Washoe Tribe. The Tribe is maintaining an active role in the restoration and management of the Meeks Creek watershed, and their partnership and traditional ecological knowledge are invaluable to restoration projects in this beloved recreation area.

- Awarded nearly \$8 million in mitigation funds to local jurisdictions and land banks for restoration projects, new maintenance equipment, water quality improvement projects, and sensitive land acquisition.
- Received recognition for the Tahoe Interagency Executive steering committee that oversees the EIP by the Nevada Taxpayers Association with the Cashman Good Government Award honorable mention.

## Future Focus

- Maintain accountability by updating EIP performance measures and regional threshold standards.
- Collaborate with partners to accelerate EIP project implementation in the face of extreme weather and climate change.

Photo: Tahoe Fund, Taylor Tallac EIP project





Environmental Improvement Program

Watersheds and Water Quality

EIP water quality projects aim to improve lake clarity and restore ecosystem health and resilience—solutions to overcome Tahoe’s legacy of pre-1987 unplanned development. The explosive growth of Lake Tahoe from 1950-1980 led to a precipitous decline in the lake’s clarity because of increased runoff of fine sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus into the lake. Development destroyed sensitive habitats such as marshes and wetlands, and channelized meandering streams and rivers.

Key 2022 Accomplishments

- Established the Tahoe Watershed Improvement Group (TWIG), a regional EIP working group, to coordinate and fund priority projects across jurisdictions.
- Moved three green infrastructure projects forward: the Ski Run “Mountain to Marina” project, the Tahoe Keys Tactical Green Infrastructure project, and the Lower Kingsbury Area-wide Treatment project. These projects elevate the role of natural infiltration to meet water quality standards and achieve multiple-benefit adaptations to climate change.
- Issued 153 parcel-scale Best Management Practices (BMP) certificates: 132 for single-family residential, seven for multi-family residential parcels, and 14 for commercial parcels. Reissued 530 BMP certificates verifying BMP maintenance and effectiveness.

Future Focus

- Continue to identify new opportunities for area-wide stormwater treatment and green infrastructure.
- Continue basin-wide progress in achieving clarity challenge goals by supporting local jurisdictions and reviewing permit applications for BMPs.
- Provide technical assistance to property owners complying with TRPA’s incentive programs including land coverage exemptions and mooring registrations.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Tahoe Keys Landscape Guidebook

TRPA and partners completed and distributed the Tahoe Keys Landscape Conservation Idea Book. The book provides inspirational and technical information on how homeowners in the Tahoe Keys can achieve an attractive, low water landscape that also protects Lake Tahoe and provides defensible space to reduce wildfire threat to homes.



Environmental Improvement Program

Forest Health

One of the Environmental Improvement Program’s central goals is to protect communities from damaging wildfires. The 2021 Caldor Fire put this to the test. Because of the heroic actions of first responders, shifts in winds, and decades of sound forest management under the EIP, Lake Tahoe was spared from catastrophic loss. In its aftermath, significant restoration and clean-up work ensued, in addition to continuing important fuel treatments and defensible space education. As a founding member of the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT), TRPA helps implement the Lake Tahoe Forest Action Plan and is committed to increasing the pace and scale of forest treatments.

Key 2022 Accomplishments

- Worked collaboratively with partners to identify an opportunity for a small-scale renewable energy project using local wood waste in the City of South Lake Tahoe.
- Developed an innovative curriculum for Lake Tahoe Community College’s new forestry program designed to build the local workforce and increase Tahoe’s capacity to implement forest fuels treatments.
- Helped move forward the Caldor Fire Hazardous Tree and Fuels Reduction Project, which will prioritize the clearing of hazard trees within 200 feet of popular trails, roads, and infrastructure.
- Helped secure \$2 million in federal funding for top priority water infrastructure projects to fight catastrophic wildfire.

Future Focus

- Facilitate increased implementation of beneficial fire across the Tahoe Basin, including reintroducing the traditional practice of cultural burning by the Washoe Tribe.
- Continue to work collaboratively with partners to identify renewable energy opportunities in and around the Tahoe Basin.
- Increase the pace and scale of fuels treatments by coordinating workforce development and shared-resource crews.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Forestry Policy Changes

In 2022, the Governing Board approved policy changes that will help increase the pace and scale of forestry work in the Lake Tahoe Region to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire. The decision expands the areas where ground-based mechanical equipment can be used on steep slopes. The new policy will promote forest and ecosystem resilience to disturbances such as climate change. Approximately 61,000 acres in the Tahoe Basin fall under the update.



Photo: USDA Forest Service



Aquatic Invasive Species

Lake Tahoe continues to face a serious threat from the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). TRPA leads the multi-sector AIS partnership at Lake Tahoe, and its accomplishments are the result of the collective contribution of many organizations and individuals. Control programs are working to manage invasive species already established, and the watercraft inspection program is keeping new aquatic invasives out of the Tahoe Region.

Key 2022 Accomplishments

- Prevented new AIS introductions by overseeing more than 28,000 unique vessel launches, including 5,816 inspections at regional inspection stations. Forty-five percent of inspected boats arrived Clean, Drained, and Dry, up 6 percent from 2021.
- Implemented more than 16 acres of aquatic weed treatment within the Taylor Tallac Marsh and 41 acres in the Tahoe Keys, the largest projects to date.

Future Focus

- Investigate emerging technologies and innovative solutions for the prevention, control, and monitoring of AIS.
- Build permanent regional invasive species inspection stations.
- Develop Spanish outreach materials.
- Maintain federal and state funding commitments to achieve AIS program goals.
- Increase workforce capacity to implement control projects and staff inspection stations.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Tahoe Keys Aquatic Weed Control Methods Test

The Governing Board unanimously certified environmental studies and approved permits for the Tahoe Keys Aquatic Weed Control Methods Test, a monumental step in the fight against aquatic invasive species in the Tahoe Region. Following years of study, planning, and collaboration with a range of stakeholders, 41 acres of test treatments began in the summer of 2022.



Photo: Drone Promotions

Measuring What Matters: Thresholds and Monitoring Update

TRPA continuously tracks the progress and effectiveness of the region’s environmental programs by monitoring hundreds of environmental threshold standards, performance measures, and management actions. The Research and Analysis Division collaborates with the science community and provides the best possible information for policy decisions, operations, and accountability.

Key 2022 Accomplishments

- Revised threshold standards and Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) performance measures for Forest Health and Watersheds and Water Quality thresholds in coordination with EIP partners.
- Developed an adaptive management framework for transportation to better evaluate Regional Transportation Plan implementation and ensure attainment of the new transportation and sustainable communities threshold standard.
- Enhanced monitoring of South Shore streams in the aftermath of the Caldor Fire to assess conveyance of flame retardants and impact of fire on nutrients and sediment transport (monitoring will continue for two additional years).
- Completed a study on the impacts of smoke on Tahoe’s water quality through the Tahoe Science Advisory Council.

Future Focus

- Develop an evaluation and monitoring plan to measure access and the recreational experience in coordination with the Tahoe Science Advisory Council.
- Collaborate with partners to address continuing threats to lake clarity from climate change.

2022 Lake Clarity

On January 5, 2022, UC Davis recorded lake clarity at 138 feet, the second best since monitoring began over 50 years ago. The deepest record was 142 feet on February 8, 1968.

2022 Field Monitoring

- Collected noise monitoring data for 7 plan areas, 6 transportation corridor segments, and 7 shoreline sites.
- Monitored bike and pedestrian activity at 24 sites using automatic counters.
- Worked with agency partners to complete basin-wide osprey and peregrine falcon surveys to assess nesting success.
- Maintained air quality and visibility monitoring stations.
- Completed assessments of over 100 stream environment zones including information on invasive species, erosion, and other long-term data collection to assess changes.
- Collected data at 46 sites to measure physical and biological stream health using benthic macroinvertebrates.
- Captured additional information from stream environment zones and locations around the Caldor Fire perimeter.
- Funded weekly human health monitoring at 10 popular beaches throughout the summer.





Digital First: Innovation

This initiative recognizes the agency’s unique ability to address external events, technology changes, and pursue continuous improvement. It involves significantly improving the ability of the agency to provide better customer services in a “digital first” way by rethinking processes using innovative technology.

Key 2022 Accomplishments

- Updated TRPA’s permitting software to a modernized, cloud-hosted version that includes easy-to-use customer interfaces, new features, and technology to streamline and expedite application reviews.
- Kicked off a record scanning and digitization project for approximately 200,000 agency and permitting records and historical documents. By maintaining these documents electronically, TRPA will better support public records requests, reduce application processing times, and improve TRPA’s disaster recovery preparedness.
- Developed the Current Planning Process Improvement Action Plan through staff and stakeholder consultation. The plan includes recommendations to improve the agency’s permitting with technology investments.



Photo: Johnson Meadow, Sarah Underhill

Future Focus

- Continue implementing the recommendations outlined in the Current Planning Process Improvement Action Plan.
- Continue the record scanning and digitization project.

Improved Customer Service

The challenges of the past two years have brought forward improved services at TRPA, including an appointment system, virtual meetings, and online and virtual site inspections. More than 80 percent of applications are now submitted electronically.

By The Numbers

Permitting and Code Compliance

Permitting and compliance staff ensure all projects meet TRPA Code of Ordinances and environmental standards. Primary responsibilities include code enforcement, inspection of permitted projects, monitoring of memorandum of understanding (MOU) partners, and inspection and enforcement of best management practices to reduce stormwater pollution.

Key 2022 Accomplishments

- Increased the number of applications submitted electronically to 82.5 percent.
- Met standards for the timely review of 93 percent of project applications. TRPA received 1,125 permit applications, down two percent from record 2021 levels.
- Completed 116 code case inspections within one week of complaint intake.
- Completed 200 pre-grade inspections and 228 final inspections; 96 percent of final inspections were performed within 15 days of request.
- Completed 100 audits of projects reviewed and approved by local government MOU partners. Local governments met requirements between 89 and 99 percent of the time, and corrective measures are being monitored.

- TRPA’s watercraft team invested more than 1,200 hours on the lake educating the public. The team assisted in the removal of 30 vessels from unauthorized moorings and issued 628 verbal corrective actions mostly related to no-wake zone violations.

Shoreline Plan Implementation

In 2022, TRPA processed 1,135 registrations for 3,927 buoys, 447 lifts, and 3,435 slips.

To date, more than 89 percent of the existing moorings evaluated in the Shoreline Plan have been registered.

TRPA has issued 285 mooring allocations from the annual mooring lotteries and 24 pier allocations from the pier lottery.



Photo: Drone Promotions



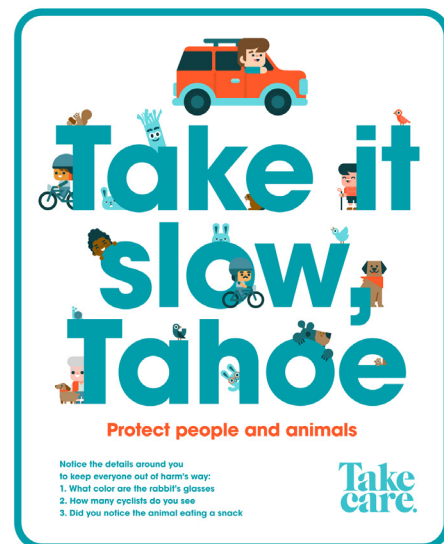
## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**T**RPA supports a culture committed to public education, outreach, and community engagement to implement the Lake Tahoe Regional Plan. External Affairs leads initiatives in collaboration with many agency and nonprofit partners.

## Key 2022 Accomplishments

## Public Outreach

- Published two issues of the national award-winning environmental newspaper, Tahoe In Depth. TRPA mails the newspaper to Tahoe Basin property owners and continues to be a valuable source of environmental information.
- Took a lead role in creating and launching a new Take Care Tahoe campaign focused on protecting people and animals by encouraging drivers to slow down.
- Improved outreach and engagement with underserved communities on key projects such as the Transportation Equity Study by facilitating multiple Spanish workshops and collaborating with community-based organizations.
- Launched a new webinar series focused on upcoming projects on Tahoe's West and East Shores with over 150 attendees.
- Presented to over 20 local, national, and international delegations about Destination Stewardship, the Environmental Improvement Program, Take Care Tahoe, and current projects.



The cover of the Winter 2022 issue of Tahoe In Depth.

## Environmental Education

- Organized the Heavenly Snowshoe field trip for over 300 local fifth graders and educated hundreds of fourth graders on bike safety. TRPA led additional programs as part of the South Tahoe Environmental Education Coalition, which cumulatively reached 9,307 students and individuals.
- More than 300 residents and visitors celebrated the 17th annual Bike Month in Lake Tahoe, cycling 36,102 miles throughout the month of June. Nearly 600 Lake Tahoe Unified School District students also rode their bikes to school.
- Recognized seven projects and programs with Best in the Basin Awards for their exceptional environmental design and stewardship of Lake Tahoe.

## Legislative Affairs

- Delivered \$29.5 million to Lake Tahoe—a record level of new federal funding—through the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, in partnership with legislative and EIP partners.
- Continued a leadership role in assisting U.S. Senator Jacky Rosen (D, Nev.) and partners in hosting the 26th annual Lake Tahoe Summit at Sand Harbor Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park. Famed limnologist Dr. Charles Goldman received the Dianne Feinstein Lake Tahoe Award for his decades of scientific and community contributions to the lake.
- Coordinated a Caldor Fire briefing for federal legislative staff and basin fire partners.

## Future Focus

- Grow TRPA's role as a leader in collaborative outreach to inspire sustainable actions and help achieve conservation and stewardship goals at Lake Tahoe.
- Support key Environmental Improvement Program projects by increasing public awareness and education.
- Work with congressional delegation to secure the crucial extension of the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act and continue federal appropriations to Lake Tahoe.



2022 Lake Tahoe Summit poster (left), Lake Tahoe Summit audience and stage at Sand Harbor (top right), and host U.S. Senator Jacky Rosen addressing the crowd (bottom right). Photos: Corey Rich



# FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

The highest quality standards in human resources and organizational development, along with best practices in financial management, keep TRPA operating as a high-performing team.

Funding for TRPA’s core functions comes from a variety of sources, including the states of California and Nevada, fees for services, and competitive grants. TRPA is organized to reflect the three core functions it performs: planning, implementation, and research and analysis in a “Plan, Do, Check” adaptive management and continuous improvement framework. TRPA presently has 68 full-time equivalent positions.

## Key 2022 Finance and Facilities Accomplishments

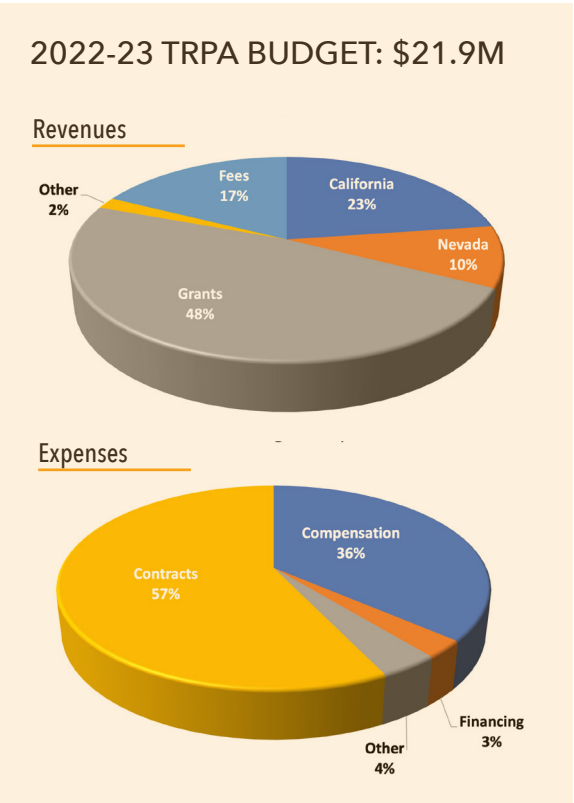
- Achieved a balanced budget with regular reports to the TRPA Governing Board and Nevada and California legislatures.
- Supported internal teams with revenue and expense management.
- Completed remodel of public access spaces at the TRPA office, including the front lobby and meeting rooms, and installed a new 20-year roof.
- Serve as fiscal agent for high priority work and partners such as the Tahoe Science Advisory Council and the USDA Forest Service.

## Future Focus

- Maintain the highest financial standards, obtain operations funding, and cultivate resources to support Lake Tahoe.
- Protect the health and well-being of staff with support and services. Maintain modern and efficient IT resources.

### 2022 TRPA Budget

TRPA manages \$9.5M in grant revenue, \$4.8M in fees for services, and \$7.1M in state funds. In addition, the agency manages \$7.3M in staff costs and \$12.4M in contracts.



## Key 2022 Human Resources Accomplishments

- Instituted a WorkFlex program to provide employees the opportunity to continue with a flexible work arrangement between remote and in office work, providing the agency with increased recruitment and retention strategies.
- Successfully recruited for a new Executive Director, as well as additional staff to support the work of the agency. Provided promotions within Permitting & Compliance and Human Resources departments.

## Future Focus

- Update the organizational structure to provide growth and promotional opportunities for internal staff.
- Continue to evaluate and improve the diversity and inclusiveness of the workplace in order to remain competitive and maintain exemplary hiring and recruitment practices.
- Continue to provide growth and development opportunities to staff to support learning.



Photo: Drone Promotions



# VISION

a lake environment that is sustainable,  
healthy, and safe for the community  
and future generations.

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**TAHOE  
REGIONAL  
PLANNING  
AGENCY**

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February 2023