

## 1.12 Public Services and Facilities Element

### Overview

“Public Services and Facilities” is not a TRPA Threshold program area. The Compact calls for a *public services and facilities plan for the general location, scale and provision of public services and facilities, which, by the nature of their function, size, extent and other characteristics are necessary or appropriate for inclusion in the regional plan.*

The Compact allows additional development if both capacity and use for public services has been demonstrated. The overall limit on water use for the Tahoe Region has been set by the Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA), signed on September 6, 2008. The limits for withdrawing surface water and groundwater from Lake Tahoe have been set at 23,000 acre-feet for California and 11,000 for Nevada, for a total limit of 34,000.

Water service capacity can be limited by water rights or by the infrastructure of individual purveyors’ facilities. This could affect allocations to certain jurisdictions. The Region’s sewer capacity was updated in the 1980s and is within the range necessary to accommodate full buildout as proposed under all of the alternatives described below.

The Public Services and Facilities Element of the Regional Plan allows for infrastructure upgrades and expansion to support existing and new development consistent with the plan. The need for reliable and adequate public services must be considered as part of project review and approval. Spills of liquid and solid waste must be prevented from degrading Lake Tahoe and the region’s surface water and groundwater. Schools and public-safety service providers are expected to utilize sufficient facilities and employ enough staff members to meet projected growth levels for the Region.

Currently, this Element contains four goals and eleven policies. Goals 1 and 2 and their associated policies allow for upgrading and expanding services and facilities to meet the needs of new development, provided that there is adequate sewer and water capacity. Water-conserving devices are required in new development as a means of complying with the limits of the 1969 California-Nevada Compact. Goal 3 and the policies that support it regulate wastewater discharge, require export of solid waste, and mandate garbage pick up. Goal 4 and its associated policies call for adequacy of educational and public health and safety services in meeting the demands of future anticipated population.

Regulations regarding public services and facilities are primarily found in Chapter 81, Water Quality Control, Chapter 83, Source Water Protection, and Chapter 27, Basic Service Requirements.

### Alternative 1—Continuation of Existing Regional Plan

#### Summary

Alternative 1, the “No Action” Alternative, assumes the continuation of the goals, policies, regulations, and programs of the 1987 Regional Plan for Public Services and

Facilities. Water service, sewer service, educational facilities and programs, and other public services and facilities will continue to be provided under the current system.

### **Goals and Policies**

No changes are proposed to this Subelement under Alternative 1.

### **Implementation Measures**

No changes are proposed to this Subelement under Alternative 1.

## **Alternatives 2, 3, and 4**

### **Summary**

Existing residential, tourist, commercial, and other development in the Tahoe Region requires supporting infrastructure, including water, sewer, and public health and safety programs. Additional development permitted under all “action” Alternatives would create the need for additional services. The Public Services and Facilities Element must provide for an adequate level of public services and facilities consistent with the Compact, the Regional Plan’s Thresholds, and its other Elements.

### **Goals and Policies**

Existing Goals 1, 3, and 4 have been retained. A clause stating that source water protection should be demonstrated in approving new development has been added to Goal 2.

Under Alternatives 2, 3, and 4, several new policies would be added to the Public Services and Facilities Element. The first new policy would be to co-locate public-service structures, such as high-voltage utility lines and cellular phone towers in order to protect scenic resources and public health and safety. Another new policy would create buffer zones around wells, springs, and lake intakes to protect public sources of drinking water.<sup>22</sup> In addition, new policies would be added to reduce current and potential degradation of water quality from sewage discharge.

TRPA has identified the need for conservation measures to comply with combined lake and groundwater withdrawal limits and state water rights allocations for the Tahoe Region on an annual basis, as stated in Section 204(b) of the 1990 Truckee-Carson-Pyramid Lake Water Rights Settlement Act (Public Law 101-618). Under Alternatives 2, 3, and 4, policy wording in the Public Services and Facilities Element would be changed to reflect the adoption and implementation of the TROA.

### **Implementation Measures**

Alternatives 2, 3, and 4 would include the following new measures to implement the new public services and facilities-related policies described above (Code Sections 18, 27, 81, and 83):

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<sup>22</sup> This proposed policy has already been implemented through changes to the Code (i.e., adoption of Chapter 83 in 1999 and adoption of the Shorezone Ordinances in 2008, which modified regulations regarding intake protection zones).

- Amend Chapter 18.2.C for permissible uses so that it is consistent with Chapter 30, Community Design, and prohibits new above-ground utility lines and telecommunication towers in residential neighborhoods and sensitive scenic areas.
- Amend Chapter 18.2.C for permissible uses so that it is consistent with Chapter 30, Community Design, and prohibits new high-voltage utility lines and towers that are not required to serve the Tahoe Basin (i.e., lines that serve only areas outside of the Basin).
- Amend Chapter 27.3.A to implement the TROA limit on withdrawal of water from the Tahoe Region.
- Amend Chapter 27.3.B to modify the waiver for fire water supply on new single-family dwelling permits in those areas where the existing water systems have inadequate water supply, pressure, and/or hydrants to allow for alternative fire protection designs that adequately comply with the intent of the adopted fire code.
- Amend Chapter 27.3.B to require that new development in urban areas be adequately served by fire hydrants (to be determined through consultation with the applicable local fire district and in compliance with the adopted fire code).
- Require that all wastewater facilities be connected to the nearest sanitary sewer where feasible. Where determined by TRPA to be infeasible, all existing wastewater discharges, including gray-water discharges, must be contained, pumped out, and discharged to a sanitary-sewer system (*see also the Water Quality Subelement and Code Chapter 81*).
- Amend Chapter 81.5.B to require all public wastewater agencies to prepare risk-based wastewater asset management plans that are consistent with federally mandated and state-mandated plans. These plans must describe the following:
  - inspection methodology and frequency
  - system redundancy
  - contingency plans that include shared infrastructure among utilities in case of emergency
  - asset management procedures
  - capital rehabilitation and replacement programs
  - customer outreach
  - cost/benefit analysis programsThe plans must also address the following:
  - gravity collection mains
  - trunk sewer mains
  - pump stations
  - sewer pressure pipes
  - appurtenances critical to the collection and transport of raw and treated wastewater within the Tahoe BasinCapital replacement and rehabilitation prioritization shall include weighting for environmental and/or public health impacts of failure based on asset condition and location in relation to SEZs, the Shorezone, or other environmentally

sensitive locations. Each wastewater agency's adopted plan must be provided to TRPA at the earliest possible date but no later than two to five years after adoption of the Regional Plan Update.