



2016 QUARTERLY REPORT

TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY
Third Quarter: July – September 2016

|| *lake tahoe*



45
YEARS
OF PROGRESS

TAHOE
REGIONAL
PLANNING
AGENCY

Photo by Mike Vollmer

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TRPA STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Development Rights Strategic Initiative	2
Forest Health Strategic Initiative	2
Aquatic Invasive Species Strategic Initiative.....	4
Stormwater Management Operations & Maintenance Strategic Initiative.....	5
Shoreline Initiative	7
Transportation Updates.....	9
Thresholds Update Strategic Initiative	10

ONGOING INITIATIVES AND ANNUAL ACTIVITIES

Long Range Planning Division	12
Current Planning Division	12
Code Compliance	14
Environmental Improvement Program Administration	14
Research & Analysis Division.....	15
Finance, Information Technology, Human Resources, & Facilities Update.....	18
External Affairs	19
New TRPA Staff.....	22

Appendix A: Environmental Improvement Program Handouts from the 2016 Federal Summit.....	23
---	-----------

TRPA STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) is moving forward with strategic initiatives the Governing Board identified in 2015 as priorities over the next five years. These initiatives align directly with the four objectives in the agency's Strategic Plan. At a strategic planning retreat in March 2016, the Governing Board reaffirmed its support for these high-priority initiatives and reviewed work plans and timelines for their completion.

DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

The systems for allocating development commodities and transferring development rights are central to the Tahoe Region's growth management system and an important strategy used to attain multiple environmental thresholds. TRPA's development rights (formerly commodities) initiative will re-examine the effectiveness of the regional development rights system in encouraging beneficial environmental redevelopment to accomplish Regional Plan goals. While retaining growth limits for Tahoe, the complex and confusing impediments that discourage needed environmental redevelopment will be identified and evaluated and possible alternatives will be considered. The initiative will also look at financing concepts and funding sources for buying-out excess development.

***Strategic Initiative Desired Outcomes:** Facilitate greater understanding of Tahoe's growth management system. Assess and update the commodities growth management system with the goal of encouraging environmentally beneficial redevelopment of legacy properties and removal of development from sensitive lands. Involve relevant stakeholders with the goal of mutual and inclusive engagement.*

Development Rights Working Group Meeting

The Development Rights Working Group held its first meeting in September. The working group approved the mission and scope for this initiative and provided input for its next meeting in October. At that meeting the working group will select criteria for evaluating the current system, best practices, and other alternatives. Concurrently, TRPA staff have prepared web pages with the stakeholder assessment, approved the work program, factsheets, and other information; submitted a request for and received research assistance from the American Planning Association; have initiated a student competition with planning schools in California; and have issued a request for proposals for consultants. All work program tasks for the development rights strategic initiative are on schedule and within budget.

FOREST HEALTH STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

TRPA's forest health initiative includes two objectives consistent with the Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy: Completing fuels reduction treatments in the wildland-urban interface by 2020 and extending forest management actions into the threat zone and general forest zone to accomplish watershed-scale, multi-benefit restoration through a collaborative multi-agency process.

***Strategic Initiative Desired Outcomes:** Reduced threat of fire in the wildland-urban interface and restore the forest beyond that into the threat zone.*

The Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team SNPLMA (White Pine Bill) Round 16 Funding Awarded.

The continued success of the Tahoe Basin fuels reduction/forest health program depends on sustained funding. Eight requests from Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team partners totaling \$43,393,988 were submitted in April 2016 for funding from the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act White Pine Bill. The requests ranged from wildland urban interface projects to Tahoe West large landscape project planning and development of fire adapted communities. Six of the eight projects were awarded funding with some projects receiving a reduced award from what was requested. The six successful projects were awarded a total of \$27,397,653 for fuels reduction work in the Tahoe Basin.

2016 Lake Tahoe Basin Tree Mortality Task Force Incident Action Plan

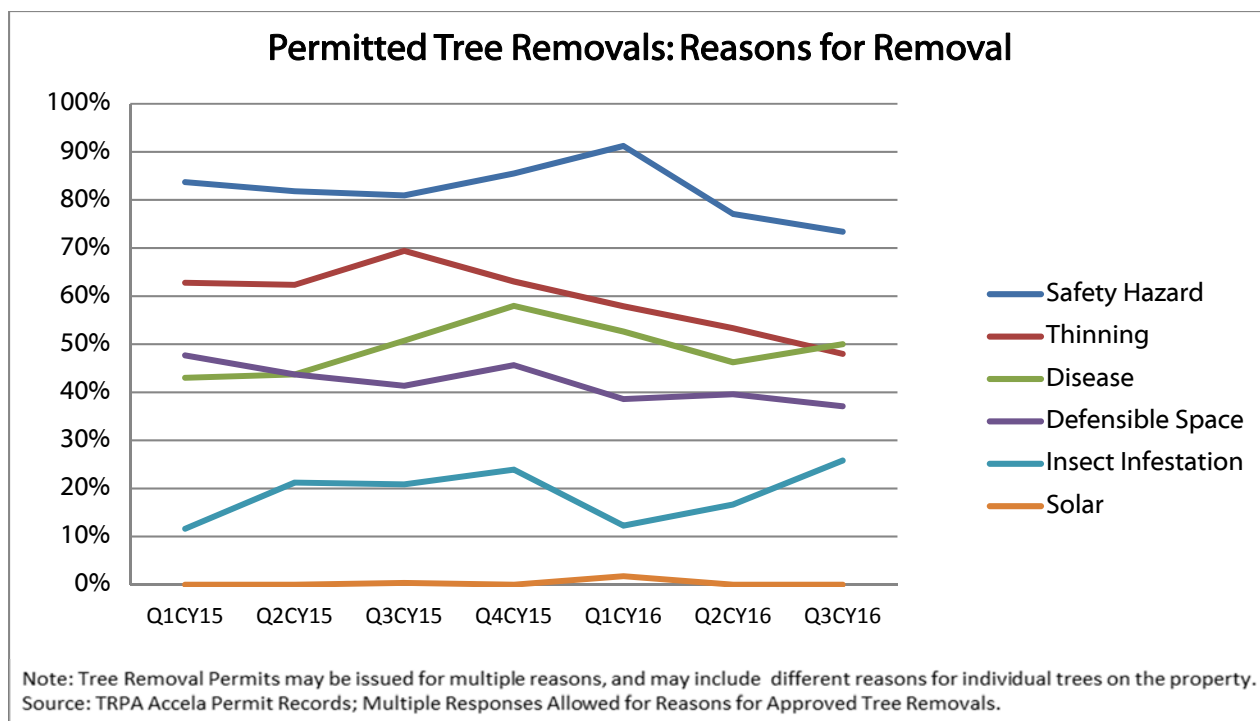
The Lake Tahoe Basin Tree Mortality Task Force Incident Action Plan was developed by the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team, CAL FIRE, the U.S. Forest Service, and TRPA to address the developing tree mortality issue in the Tahoe Basin. Unprecedented drought and the resulting bark beetle infestations across large regions of the Sierra are posing a grave threat to the forests in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Basin organizations and stakeholders have formed the Lake Tahoe Basin Tree Mortality Task Force to implement measures to help prevent large-scale infestations and actively treat infested areas at risk of tree mortality.

Urban Forestry/Tree Removal Permits

TRPA foresters provide expertise in tree risk assessment and serve the Tahoe Basin through thorough tree evaluations. The table below contains a summary of tree removal applications by quarter since the beginning of 2015. As shown in the table, during the third quarter of 2016, TRPA received 259 tree removal applications:

**Summary of TRPA Tree Removal Application and Permitting Activity
Q1 2015 through Q3 2016**

TRPA Tree Removal Applications, Q1 2015 - Q2 2016							
	Q1 CY15	Q2 CY15	Q3 CY15	Q4 CY15	Q1 CY16	Q2 CY16	Q3 CY16
Tree Removal Applications Received	86	232	287	138	57	243	259
Number of Trees Permitted for Removal	366	957	1,140	742	265	994	1,122
Percent Applications Submitted Online	58%	60%	55%	57%	58%	65%	59%
<u>Source:</u> TRPA Accela Permit Records							



AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

Control of existing aquatic invasive species (AIS) is one of three core AIS programs, complementing the well-known prevention program as well as early detection/rapid response. Over the last year, TRPA set and met the goal of filling the AIS prevention program funding gap by securing stable funding from the two states to continue the boat inspection program. The primary need for the next five years is to secure AIS control program funding to prioritize and implement effective projects to push back existing populations of AIS.

***Strategic Initiative Desired Outcomes:** Secure funding for the AIS control program, establish an effective and prioritized implementation plan, and align control projects to reduce existing AIS. Control is important to enhance and restore Tahoe's unique ecosystem impacted by the introduction of invasive weeds, clams, and fish. In addition to environmental protection, the program protects Tahoe's recreation and tourist-based economy.*

AIS Plant Control Projects

Aquatic invasive species such as Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed are detrimental to Tahoe's environment and recreation based economy. Projects to control existing infestations of these plants during this past quarter were performed at Crystal Shores (Nevada), the Truckee River (California), and Lakeside Beach and Marina (California). Divers deployed mats and used suction to remove invasive plants from these locations. Retreatment of these locations will occur in 2017 as well.

Prevention Program Quality Assurance/Quality Control

Efficacy of the AIS prevention program is critical to ensure the goals and objectives of the program are being met. Quality control of the program was performed by an independent party during this

past quarter to ensure that inspection and decontamination protocols are being followed and that good customer service is being provided at the watercraft inspection stations, and that only sealed boats are launching at ramps and marinas. The results will be available in the next quarter and adjustments to the program will be made based on the results.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

TRPA's stormwater initiative will improve water quality and advance threshold attainment by supporting the establishment of a sustainable structure and funding source for operations and maintenance of parcel-level, area-wide, and transportation-related stormwater facilities and programs. It complements the ongoing U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-funded strategy being administered through the Tahoe Resource Conservation District (TRCD). TRCD's stakeholder assessment is being used to develop a financial outlook and unified action plan for California local governments to fund long-term stormwater operations and maintenance. TRPA is assisting stakeholders from Nevada that want to join the process.

***Strategic Initiative Desired Outcomes:** A sustainable structure and action plan to secure regional funding for stormwater management system operations and maintenance that will help to maintain threshold and federal water quality standards.*

TRPA continues to work with partner agencies to pursue stable, long-term funding for stormwater operations and maintenance. Operations and maintenance is necessary to ensure stormwater infrastructure continues to reduce pollutant loads as originally designed. Draft voter surveys have been in development this quarter and are expected to be reviewed by the Road to Blue team in early October 2016. Because a number of local measures will be on the ballot in November, the team has decided to delay polling until after the election. This will help avoid community confusion about Road to Blue versus other initiatives happening this election year and potentially give the Road to Blue team valuable insight into voters' values.

BMP Certificates Issued

TRPA issues best management practices (BMP) certificates to recognize a parcel's compliance with BMP requirements pursuant to Section 60.4 of TRPA Code of Ordinances. The Stormwater Management Program targets properties for BMP compliance in coordination with the local jurisdictions to achieve the greatest pollutant load reduction. This includes focusing on commercial and large multi-family (six units or more) properties that the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program shows generate more pollutant load compared to single family residential properties.

BMP certificates issued from January 1 to September 30, 2016					
California	Land Use	Total Certificates Issued Year to Date	Certificates Issued Through Permitted Projects	Certificates Issued Through Voluntary Compliance	Certificates Issued Through Enforced Compliance
	Single Family Residential	156	85	67	4
	Multi-Family Residential	65	32	33	0
	Commercial	7	4	3	0
	California Total	228	121	103	4
Nevada	Single Family Residential	60	16	32	12
	Multi-Family Residential	15	2	12	1
	Commercial	66	0	5	61
	Nevada Total	141	18	49	74
	Total Certificates Issued	360	139	152	78

Lake-Friendly Business Program

The Lake-Friendly Business Program encourages local businesses to install and maintain their BMPs, supporting local jurisdictions in achieving the TMDL load reduction requirements.

During this quarter, Stormwater Management Program staff focused on BMP maintenance outreach to Lake-Friendly Businesses and continued to assist these property owners with their maintenance projects.

Advertisements for Lake-Friendly Businesses ran in the Tahoe Mountain News in July and August and in the North Lake Tahoe Bonanza for September. In addition, the program continues its presence on the TRPA Facebook page. Community awareness of the program increased through boost posts on the TRPA Facebook page. As of September 30, there are 57 Lake-Friendly Business members.

BMP Maintenance

Certified letters were sent to 519 commercial and multi-family properties in El Dorado and Douglas counties. Seven hundred and six responses were received for this quarter's letters, as well as from letters of previous quarters. Staff will continue to work with these property owners to ensure BMPs are maintained and functioning so they continue to provide the benefits to the Lake Tahoe watershed. Once commercial property owners complete their maintenance requirements they are invited to become a member of the Lake-Friendly Business Program.

**Shop Local.
Shop Lake-Friendly.**

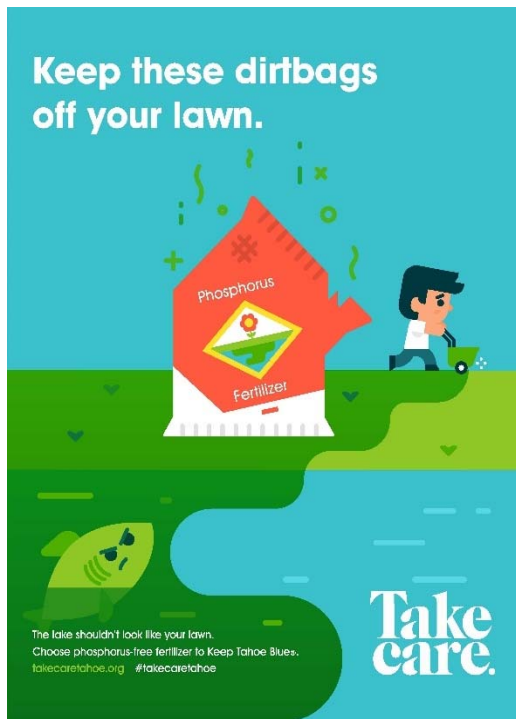
Thank You
Photos by Louise Associations

Al Tahoe Laundry Center • Alpenrose Inn • Alpine Animal Hospital • Alpine Realty International • Alpine SelfStorage • Anthony Romero's Barber Shop • Bank of the West • Bargains Galore Thrift Boutique • Best in Show Pet Grooming • Bliss Salon • Blue Angel Café • Bob Dog Pizza • Dirk Yurich Photography • Dr. Nicole Gordon DDS • Elevate Blue • FATCO • Flowers by Terri • Gaia-licious • Gift Shop at Lake Tahoe • Heal Integrative Veterinary Medicine • Howard Johnson Express Inn • Incline Boat Storage & Marine • Inn by the Lake • Integrated Environmental Restoration Services • Inversion Gym • Johns Cleaners • Kingsbury Automotive & Supply • Kingsbury Hardware • Lakeside Glass • League to Save Lake Tahoe • Mary's Drapery & Interior Design • NCE • Parkside Inn at Incline • RAH Hair Studio • ReMax Realty • Rojo's Tavern • Sierra Cabinetry & Drafting • Sierra Veterinary Hospital • Sno-Flake Drive-In • South Shore Bikes • South Shore Glass & Door • SUP Tahoe • Tahoe Chamber of Commerce • Tahoe House Bakery & Gourmet • Tahoe Landscaping • Tahoe Tails & Trails • Tahoe Toys & Treasures • Tep's Villa Roma • The Brewery at Lake Tahoe Boulevard • The Design Shoppe • The Village Board Shop • Dr. Frederick Wenck, DDS • Wells Fargo Bank, Incline • Wildwood DIY Boutique • Yellow Submarine

Shop at these businesses that are protecting Lake Tahoe by completing and maintaining their BMPs. Contact us today to learn how to participate at 775-589-5202.

LAKE-FRIENDLY BUSINESS LAKE TAHOE EIP LAKE TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY trpa.org tahoebmp.org

Lake-Friendly Business advertisement that ran in local newspapers during the third quarter of 2016.



An example of Take Care Fertilizer campaign outreach materials.

Education and Outreach

BMP education and outreach informs the public of the importance of BMP installation and maintenance and its relation to protecting lake clarity. Outlined below are some of the education and outreach highlights from the third quarter of 2016:

- Take Care Fertilizer Campaign stickers were produced and distributed with other fertilizer campaign outreach materials to Lake Tahoe Basin retailers.
- On September 13, Stormwater Management Program staff met with the Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association to discuss BMP compliance. Specific site conditions within the Tahoe Keys were discussed along with how to increase compliance. BMP information and materials were distributed and questions answered.
- On August 25, staff presented “Low Impact Development Best Management Practices” at the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection - Bureau of Water Pollution Control summer training.

SHORELINE INITIATIVE

TRPA’s shoreline initiative is underway with important but distinct components:

1. The shorezone plan and code update will address the prohibition on new structures in fish habitat and policies governing access and recreation.
2. Nearshore water quality is also being assessed. Ongoing research and monitoring will enhance the understanding of the ecosystem dynamics of the nearshore needed in order to explore potential policy changes, especially given alternative climate change scenarios. TRPA is working with other nearshore agency and science working groups and will engage the new Bi-State Tahoe Science Advisory Council on nearshore science inquiries.



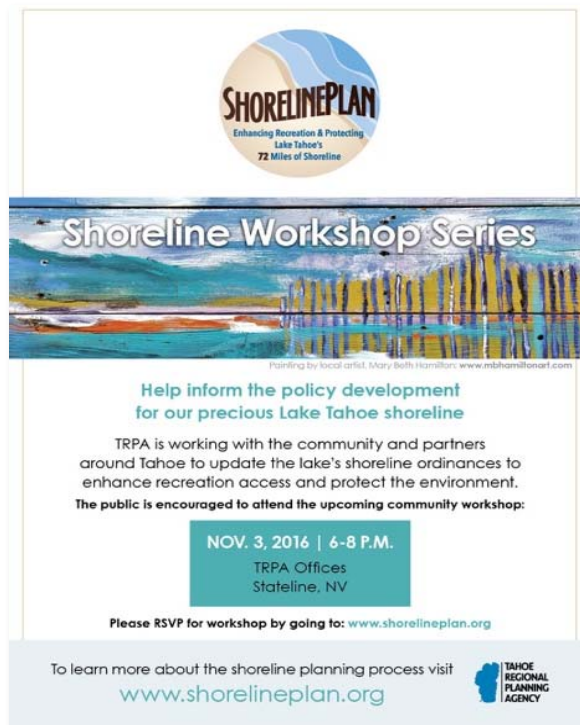
Baseline information on shoreline conditions is being gathered, including the most recent inventories of boat ramps, piers, buoys, permits, pier head line, dredging and related access data; climate change scenarios; and related information. The planning baseline information will be compiled through collaborative joint fact finding and will use existing data sources. This summer boating season, an updated buoy survey was completed with cooperation of the California State Lands Commission, Nevada Department of Wildlife, and TRPA.

Strategic Initiative Desired Outcomes: Updated policies and code to provide public access and an environmentally healthy nearshore under variable climate conditions.

Shoreline Public Outreach

To engage the public early in the planning process and identify policy issues that need consideration, TRPA launched a public outreach campaign this summer.

1. **Shoreline Plan Website:** The Shoreline Plan website (www.shorelineplan.org) has important information on the planning process, policy issues being addressed, committee membership, meeting packets, upcoming meetings and public engagement opportunities, and a link to the on-line interactive Shoreline Plan Map.
2. **Community Meetings:** TRPA attended wide ranging community meetings to inform and engage the public in the planning process.
3. **Shoreline Workshop Series:** In September, TRPA hosted the first of four community workshops to engage the public and identify policy issues that need consideration.



Flyer for the November 3 Shoreline Workshop.

Shoreline Steering Committee and Joint Fact Finding Committee

During the spring and summer, the Consensus Building Institute worked with the Shoreline Steering Committee to identify policy issues and begin developing a policy framework. Policy issues are summarized on the Shoreline Plan website in the following shoreline policy memos:

- Boating Facilities
- Access Issues
- Marina Issues
- Pier Issues
- Low Lake Level Adaptation

The Joint Fact Finding Committee also began working to identify the best available information and science on which to base the Shoreline Plan. All studies identified by the committee have been posted on the TRPA website at <http://www.trpa.org/programs/shorezone/>.

This fall, the Steering Committee will be working on establishing a plan and policy framework and the Joint Fact Finding Committee will continue to work to identify the best available information and science to use in the Shoreline Plan. TRPA will also be working with other permitting agencies to identify opportunities for streamlining the shorezone permitting process.

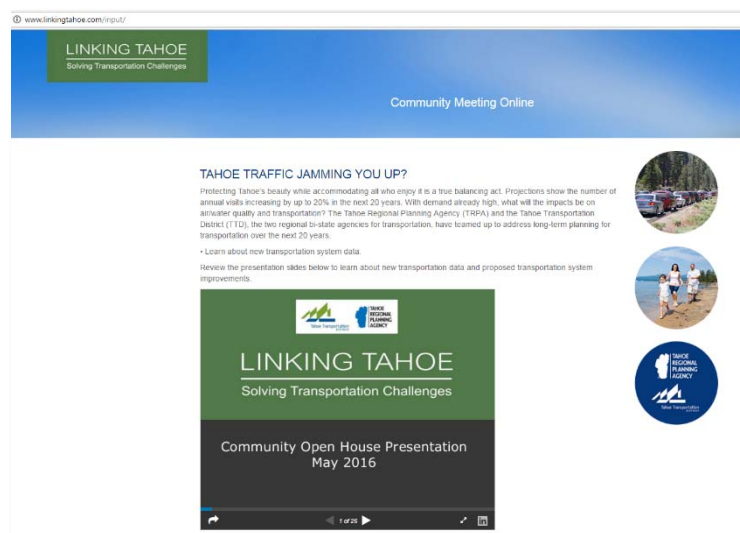
TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

TRPA's transportation initiative involves completing the 2016 Regional Transportation Plan, Linking Tahoe, and enhancing Lake Tahoe's transportation system with improved trails, transit, and technology.

***Strategic Initiative Desired Outcomes:** Accelerated threshold attainment by implementing the Regional Transportation Plan, and as a result reducing air pollution, improving water quality and enhancing recreational opportunities and mobility, and achieving a specific modal shift to biking, walking, and transit use.*

Online Community Meeting on Regional Transportation Plan, Corridor Strategies, and Visitor Data

The Regional Transportation Plan lays out the transportation system needed to help the Lake Tahoe Region meet regional and community goals over the next 20 years. Public input ensures the plan captures current community challenges and needs. TRPA and the Tahoe Transportation District jointly launched an online version of the community open houses presented in May. Over 300 people provided input through the online survey, including 100 responses in Spanish. This was in addition to feedback received from the 150 people who attended the North Shore and South Shore open houses. The online meeting focused on visitor and resident travel and proposed transportation system strategies, and allowed respondents to identify needed improvements to the system and provide input on transportation goals.

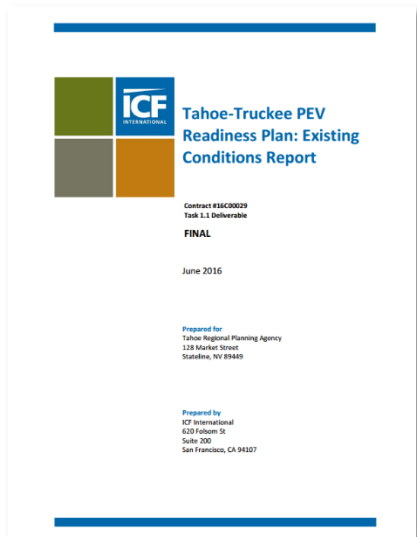


Screenshot from linkingtahoe.com where the online community meetings are held.

Tahoe-Truckee Plug-in Electric Vehicle Alternative Fuel Readiness Assessment Report Completed

The report establishes the existing conditions and identifies the key needs in the Tahoe-Truckee region to prepare for and coordinate plug-in electric vehicle (PEV) infrastructure deployment.

An assessment report was completed during this past quarter. The assessment provides an overview of the current PEV ecosystem in the area and identifies key needs to prepare for and coordinate PEV infrastructure deployment. This report focuses on two broad aspects of the PEV ecosystem: 1) current regional PEV use and charging infrastructure availability, and 2) a review of regional policies and programs relevant to PEVs and charging infrastructure.



The assessment report is a key deliverable toward the development of a regional and comprehensive strategic readiness plan that addresses the immediate needs as well as long-term planning objectives for Truckee-Tahoe to be a PEV destination, corridor, and gateway. The final report is online at

http://www.trpa.org/wp-content/uploads/TahoeTruckee_PEVReadiness_ExistingConditions_6.20.2016_Draft.pdf

THRESHOLDS UPDATE STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

The majority of the threshold standards TRPA adopted in 1982 are based on science that is now over 30 years old. In addition, even with fiscal year 2015-16 budget enhancements, the cost of fully and consistently monitoring and measuring the existing threshold system has proved unsustainable. A broad bi-state consensus supports considering updates to the thresholds and monitoring systems. TRPA is working with the new Bi-State Tahoe Science Advisory Council and science community to create a sustainable, prioritized, and relevant monitoring plan, and to review and consider modifying the threshold standards to reflect the latest science and the significant values in the Lake Tahoe Region.

***Strategic Initiative Desired Outcomes:** Relevant and scientifically rigorous threshold standards and a cost-efficient, feasible, and informative comprehensive monitoring and evaluation plan.*

Draft 2015 Threshold Evaluation Report Released

A draft of the 2015 Threshold Evaluation Report was released this past quarter. The report offers a detailed assessment of the health of Lake Tahoe and its treasured natural environment as indicated by 178 threshold standards in nine categories: Air quality, water quality, soil conservation, vegetation, fisheries, wildlife, scenic resources, noise, and recreation. TRPA leads the development of a threshold evaluation report every four years to examine the health of Lake Tahoe's environment and help inform future program and policy decisions.

More than 60 people from 25 organizations contributed data, time, or analysis to the 2015 Threshold Evaluation Report. This report also marks the second evaluation to undergo an independent scientific peer review. Fifteen scientists examined the report's findings, analysis, and conclusions; found them to be sound; and offered suggestions to improve the threshold standards and their monitoring and evaluation.

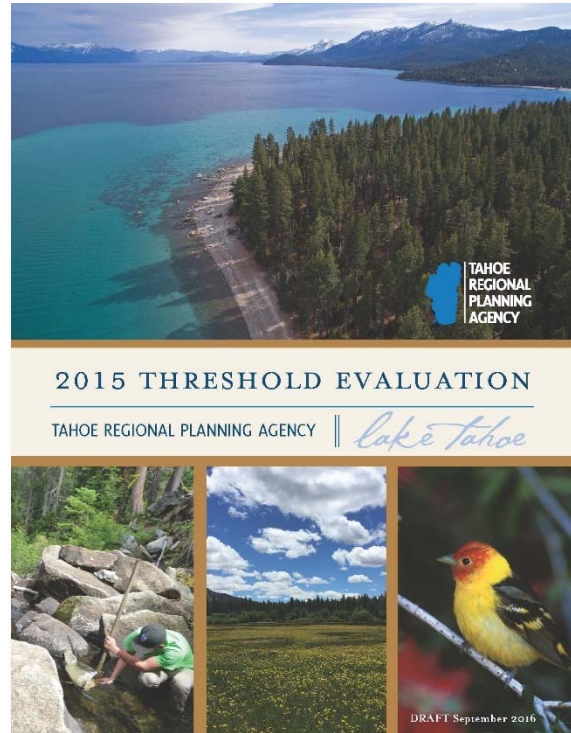
The 2015 evaluation was able to make status determinations for 110 of the 178 threshold standards. It found 77 of the standards to be in attainment, either at or better than target, or considerably better than target. That's up from 58 standards found to be in attainment by the 2011 evaluation.

Only two threshold standards—cushion plant communities on Freel Peak and open water productivity (algal growth)—were found to be in a declining trend compared to the last threshold evaluation.

The 2015 threshold evaluation contains a new analysis of Lake Tahoe's streams. It found that pollution from non-urban upland streams is decreasing as the 500-square-mile watershed recovers from the historic impacts of grazing, logging, and other activities. This improvement is critical in the ongoing work to restore Lake Tahoe's famous water clarity, which is projected to take several decades.

Most of the threshold standards have not been updated since they were adopted in the 1980s with the first Regional Plan. The update initiative, undertaken with the Bi-State Tahoe Science Advisory Council and many other partners in the Lake Tahoe Basin, will focus on making sure standards are measurable, scientifically sound, and provide the information needed to assess Lake Tahoe's environmental health and ensure programs and projects are as effective as possible.

The draft 2015 Threshold Evaluation Report is available online at <http://www.trpa.org/regional-plan/threshold-evaluation/>. The TRPA Governing Board is scheduled to consider the final report at its meeting in December 2016.



ONGOING INITIATIVES AND ANNUAL ACTIVITIES

LONG RANGE PLANNING DIVISION

Long range planning priorities are established by TRPA's Governing Board annually and reviewed based on evaluations every four years of progress toward achieving and maintaining environmental threshold standards.

Public Comment Period Concludes for the Draft Environmental Document for the Placer County Tahoe Basin Area Plan and Tahoe City Lodge Project

The Draft EIR/EIS for the Placer County Tahoe Basin Area Plan and Tahoe City Lodge Project was released on June 15 for a 60-day public comment period which closed during this past quarter. Written comments on the adequacy of the environmental analysis were received, and oral comments were received at each of the July Advisory Planning Commission, Regional Plan Implementation Committee, and Governing Board public hearings. TRPA and Placer County are now preparing a final environmental document that will include responses to all relevant comments received during the comment period. TRPA action on the project, including certification of the final environmental document by the Governing Board, is tentatively scheduled for January 2017.

Code Amendments for Essential Public Safety Facilities Within the Shorezone

TRPA has been working to address the needs of law enforcement, fire, and Coast Guard emergency first responders for suitable and reliable lake access for almost a decade. At its September 2016 meeting, the TRPA Governing Board unanimously approved amendments to the TRPA Code of Ordinances that address these needs.

Throughout a series of TRPA-hosted public health and safety meetings over the past two boating seasons, first responders expressed an increased concern about lake access and egress for emergency response and public safety from prolonged drought. These informational briefings focused on the Region's need for short- and long-term public safety facilities in order to maintain acceptable emergency response level of service during low-water years, including for fire suppression, rescue, and hazardous materials spills.

These amendments will allow additional length for certain piers, enabling them to reach navigable water in drought conditions; a second boatlift to accommodate both sheriff and fire; and pier head modifications to facilitate ingress and egress. TRPA worked with first responders to geographically distribute the designated essential public safety facilities to each quadrant of the lake and to consolidate the facilities into one non-federal facility per county.

CURRENT PLANNING DIVISION

The Current Planning Division implements the 2012 Regional Plan by providing timely and consistent review of project applications to achieve environmental improvement and economic investment consistent with the Regional Plan and TRPA Code of Ordinances. The division supports local governments and other public and quasi-public entities to implement the Regional Plan and facilitate removal of development and development rights from sensitive and remote lands through a system of transferring and retiring development commodities.

The following table is a status report on applications received by quarter. The number of applications received during this past quarter is up when compared to the same quarter in 2015.

Many of the applications received during this past quarter are for verifications and banking of existing development rights on a parcel. This type of application is generally the first step of a development project or a transfer off of the property.

Summary of TRPA Application and Permitting Activity Q1 2015 through Q3 2016

Table 1. TRPA Project Applications, Q1 2015 – Q3 2016							
	Q1 CY15	Q2 CY15	Q3 CY15	Q4 CY15	Q1 CY 16	Q2 CY16	Q3 CY16
Applications Recieved¹	174	197	214	151	164	229	290
Residential Projects ²	47	33	32	22	37	38	45
Commercial Projects ²	2	4	3	1	2	2	3
Recreation/Public Service Projects ²	8	9	8	6	16	10	9
Shorezone/Lakezone Projects ²	8	2	8	4	2	14	6
Grading Projects	4	8	9	5	4	14	18
Verifications and Banking ³	83	107	117	92	78	116	166
Transfers of Development	11	10	7	1	6	20	25
Other ⁴	11	24	30	20	19	15	18
Notes: 1 Does not include Exempt or Qualified Exempt declarations or other Administrative applications, Tree Removal applications or Environmental Improvement Project applications. 2 Includes New Development and Additions/Modification 3 Includes Soils/Hydrology Verifications, IPES, Land Capability Verifications, Land Capability Challenges, Verifications of Coverage, Verifications of Uses, Site Assessments and Standalone Banking Applications 4 Includes Historic, Lot Line Adjustments, Temporary, Scenic, Underground Tank Removal, Subdivision of Existing Uses, Sign, Allocation Assignments, and other miscellaneous project types							
Source: TRPA Accela Permit Records							

Permitting Assistance/Welcome Mat Development

The Current Planning Division launched the permitting assistance “Welcome Mat” initiative in the fall of 2015. This important initiative aims to promote coordinated customer service and permitting across the Lake Tahoe Basin. Streamlined permitting is not only good business, it also helps to get environmentally beneficial projects on the ground and spur our local economies.

The Welcome Mat initiative aims to promote permitting processes that are consistent, predictable, and streamlined with our partner agencies. The Current Planning Division formed an interdisciplinary team to implement improvements in six core focal areas. Projects within each of these focal areas are currently underway. The Current Planning Division views this initiative as an

iterative process where staff will continue to identify needed improvements, prioritize and refine solutions, and implement projects to reach our goals.

Welcome Mat projects and improvements ongoing or accomplished during the last quarter include:

- Initiated bi-monthly workshops with local jurisdictions to better coordinate process improvements and streamlining efforts.
- Provided online access to land capability and parcel records through LakeTahoeinfo.org.
- Partnered with a community volunteer group, HackTahoe, to develop innovative and user-friendly permitting software applications.
- Launched a permitting process mapping workshop to pinpoint inefficiencies.
- Continuing “Tahoe Talks” community forum on permitting FAQs for residential property owners.
- Gathering customer service information through our front counter digital sign-in platform to better serve the needs of our customers.
- Researching permitting and streamlining best practices across the western United States.
- Developing instructional “how-to” videos.

CODE COMPLIANCE

It has been another successful season by the TRPA watercraft program. The 2016 TRPA watercraft team consists of returning members Ted Truscott, Kristian Moorehead, and Jeff Miller. The watercraft team started in mid-May this year and is expected to run through October 14, 2016.

The primary responsibility of the seasonal watercraft crew is educating the public, assisting in monitoring, and enforcing the TRPA Code of Ordinances related to watercraft use on the lakes of the Tahoe Region. Some of the daily duties of the watercraft team include assisting in wildlife and water quality monitoring, public education and enforcement of the carbureted two-stroke engine prohibition, watercraft noise ordinances, shorezone regulations, and the 600-foot no-wake zone. Additional duties include other TRPA shorezone compliance issues such as monitoring of moorings and other shorezone structures and activities. The team also educates boaters about aquatic invasive species issues as they pertain to boaters.

There is no better way to educate, monitor, or discuss issues regarding Lake Tahoe than being right on the lake. During the 2016 boating season, the watercraft team educated over 300 boaters on TRPA boating rules, led 20 educational tours, conducted four separate water quality tests, and assisted the TRPA Long Range Planning Division with a buoy survey.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

The Environmental Improvement Division leads and coordinates implementation of the Tahoe ecosystem restoration, the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP). The division provides leadership within the EIP partnership to develop new financing strategies for future projects and programs and sets priorities so that limited funding is applied to achieve maximum threshold gain. The division also identifies and builds new associations beyond the Tahoe Region to strategically leverage new funding sources. External Affairs works with EIP staff to secure new funds for high priority programs.

The Lake Tahoe Federal Summit

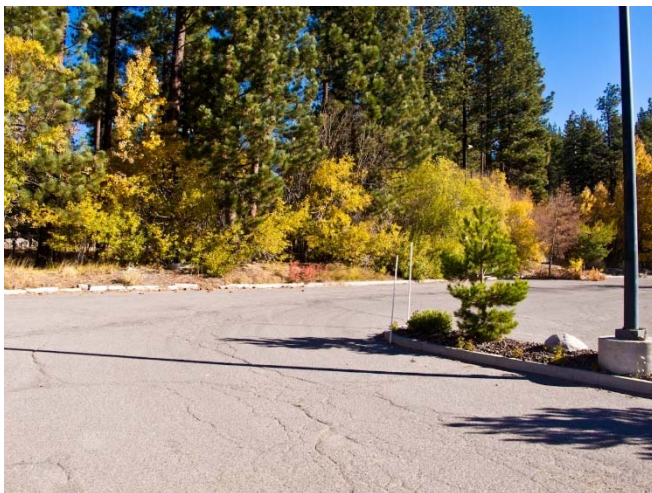
Numerous accomplishments under the EIP were highlighted at the 2016 Lake Tahoe Summit, including:

- A recent award of approximately \$27 million for forest health projects through the White Pine category of the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act
- Progress on development and passage of the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act

The EIP Coordinating Committee worked together with the Tahoe Interagency Executives Steering Committee to collaboratively develop Summit fact sheets summarizing all EIP accomplishments over the last 20 years, which are attached in the appendix of this report.

Ground-Breaking for Two Highly Anticipated EIP Projects:

- Nevada to Nevada Stateline Bikeway Incline Village to Sand Harbor Project: The Incline Village to Sand Harbor bike trail marks a major connector for the Lake Tahoe Trail adding a 3-mile shared-use path along the East Shore. This is a multi-benefit project that includes stormwater and safety improvements along the State Route 28 corridor while adding a major recreational benefit for Tahoe residents and visitors. Construction is anticipated to be complete in 2018.
- Burke Creek Highway 50 Crossing and Realignment Project: After more than five years of planning and interagency collaboration, construction began to remove a portion of a parking lot to realign and restore Burke Creek. This project will implement a more natural alignment to the creek, which will flow underneath U.S. Highway 50 to be treated on U.S. Forest Service land before entering the lake. Construction will be complete this season.



Burke Creek realignment project before (left) and just after realignment (right).

RESEARCH & ANALYSIS DIVISION

To continually assess progress and effectiveness of regional partners, TRPA is charged with monitoring and measuring hundreds of threshold standards, Regional Plan performance measures, and management actions at a regional cost of millions of dollars. The Research and Analysis Division brings all data systems and monitoring, evaluation, and reporting resources together for more efficient response to continually growing information needs for decision making. The division

manages both internal and external coordination among TRPA, partner agencies, and the scientific community on applied research, status and trend monitoring related to TRPA standards, and partner agency data needs.



Front page of a card to be distributed around Tahoe to promote awareness of Lake Tahoe Info and the Parcel Tracker.

Parcel Tracker

TRPA released a new application, the Parcel Tracker, on LakeTahoeinfo.org to connect residents, stakeholders, decision makers, and agency staff with information to improve decision-making and promote environmentally beneficial projects. Using the site, <https://parcels.laketahoeinfo.org>, people can get information about a property, including verified land capability, TRPA permit history, existing and available development rights, and where transfers or allocations are occurring. The site features a simple interface, easy-to-use maps, and downloadable property fact sheets.

Updates to Accela

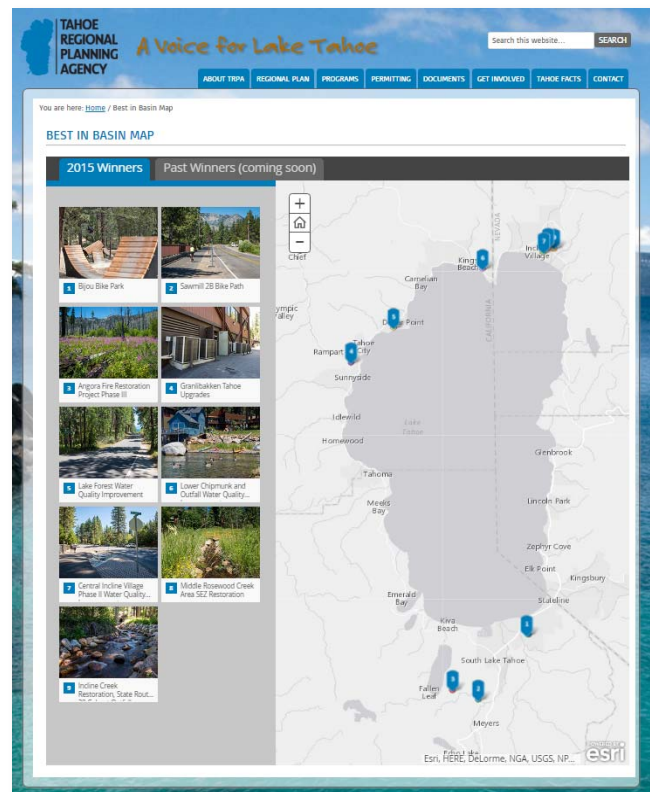
Accela, TRPA's permitting software, was updated during the past quarter. The upgrade improved the user interface and functionality for users inside the agency and for those who access it from outside the agency. The inspector application was improved, enabling the TRPA forester to work 100 percent paperless for all tree removal applications that are applied for online. This upgrade will allow TRPA to move forward with putting more permits online and streamline those processes.

Interactive Maps Updated

TRPA's geographic information systems (GIS) team continued to enhance the publicly available tools for creating maps and visualizing data in the Tahoe Region. Recently, TRPA introduced three new interactive maps:

- Active Transportation Map: <http://gis.trpa.org/bikemap/> This tool allows users to view existing and proposed bike routes, dirt trails, and special assessment districts.

- **Shoreline Map:**
<http://gis.trpa.org/ShorelineMap/>
 This map provides a current inventory of shoreline structures such as marinas and boat ramps, natural features, and environmental constraints. This tool supports the examination of different areas along the 72 miles of Lake Tahoe shoreline. This information is provided to inform shoreline policy discussions.
- **Best in Basin Map:**
<http://www.trpa.org/best-in-basin-map/>
 Now in its 26th year, TRPA's Best in Basin program recognizes and showcases projects that demonstrate exceptional planning, implementation and compatibility with Lake Tahoe's environment and communities. This map illustrates the 2015 Best in Basin award winners and includes project descriptions, locations, and photos of projects.



Screenshot of the Best in Basin Map interactive map on TRPA's website.

In addition, <http://www.trpa.org/gis/> has been updated with additional maps and resources to help inform the public of all available GIS resources.

Annual Field Monitoring

The Research and Analysis Field Team just completed its annual monitoring season. This year marked one of the busiest monitoring seasons. Among its highlights:

- Completed 38 stream "bioassessment" sites across Tahoe's tributaries. This program documents the status and trend of biotic integrity in streams throughout the Tahoe Basin and the impact of water quality, forest health, and stream restoration projects on Tahoe tributaries.
- Completed 40 stream environment zone (SEZ) assessments using the newly developed program for assessing the health of wetlands across California, the California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM). TRPA's monitoring program documents the overall integrity of Tahoe's wetlands, with a special focus on urban SEZs. This program, in combination with wetland monitoring by the U.S. Forest Service, California Tahoe Conservancy, and other partners, provides scientifically-defensible information on the overall health of the basin's SEZs and the impact of policies and programs put in place to protect and enhance SEZ areas.

- Completed noise monitoring for 34 plan area statements. Past efforts have monitored only a fraction of the basin's plan areas. Based on noise experts who reviewed the 2011 Threshold Evaluation and recommended increasing the number of sites monitored, 34 plan areas are now monitored on a four-year rotating schedule, for a total of 136 plan areas monitored every four years. This increased monitoring allows TRPA to better understand areas in the basin that may be exceeding noise thresholds.
- Completed noise monitoring at eight transportation corridor sites. In the past, highway noise monitoring has relied on consultants. Beginning in 2016, transportation corridor noise monitoring has been spread out over four years (eight sites every year for a total of 32 sites every four years) to allow TRPA to do the monitoring in-house at a reduced cost.
- Completed shorezone noise monitoring at nine sites. To help inform the decision making process of the shoreline initiative, boat traffic noise was monitored around Lake Tahoe during the peak boating season.
- In partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, Nevada Department of Wildlife, and California State Parks, TRPA completed the annual osprey breeding surveys for the Lake Tahoe Basin. Lake Tahoe osprey populations continue to appear healthy and have increased dramatically since 1982.
- In partnership with Nevada Department of Wildlife, TRPA completed surveys of known peregrine falcon nests in the Tahoe Basin. U.S. Forest Service budget reductions did not allow them to complete their regular monitoring of peregrine falcon nests, but Nevada Department of Wildlife and TRPA were able to step in to keep this important monitoring going. For the second consecutive year, a record four peregrine falcon nests were confirmed active, a great sign of progress after no nesting birds were found in the Tahoe Basin up until 2006.
- Completed regular maintenance and upkeep of TRPA's visibility and air quality monitoring stations at DL Bliss State Park, Lake Tahoe Community College, and the TRPA building in Stateline, Nevada.

FINANCE, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, HUMAN RESOURCES, & FACILITIES UPDATE

TRPA's support departments – Finance, Information Technology, Human Resources, and Facilities Management – work continuously to assure the availability of adequate funding, systems, and facilities to accomplish the Bi-State Compact's mission.

Finance Update

TRPA continues to work with the states of California and Nevada to prepare budgets for the upcoming fiscal year. Budget requests were submitted to both states in August. Staff met with the Nevada Department of Administration Budget Division in September to discuss TRPA's Nevada budget request. The priority for the upcoming budget is to fund the shoreline initiative.

TRPA's Finance Department completed all fiscal year quarter four invoices and status reports for grantors. Preliminary support work for the annual independent financial audit is underway. The

audit will be completed in the fourth quarter of the calendar year with submission to the Governing Board in December.

TRPA has now fully leased surplus space in its headquarters building and BMP maintenance projects for this year have been completed. TRPA uses solar electricity to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. Year to date, this system has avoided over 239 tons of carbon emissions.

TRPA completed the process of transitioning outsourced IT support from the initial contractor to a new vendor. Information Technology continues migrating key TRPA services to cloud-based systems. Email, HR/payroll, and the accounting systems have been fully transitioned to cloud suppliers. TRPA's primary website, trpa.org, is also hosted externally.

Human Resources Update

TRPA was pleased to welcome and onboard Adam Jensen as TRPA's new environmental education specialist, replacing Devin Middlebrook in that role. A new GIS analyst, Mason Bindl, was also hired and started work early October.

Key staff development events included a leadership workshop on conflict and negotiation skills, and a working session on a leadership skills model. The model will be used to develop skills of individual managers and serve as the foundation for a manager/leader curriculum. Staff pay scales are actively under review. A workshop on pay and job design was held as the kickoff to create updated pay ranges for specific job families. A job family to capture the career progression of planners, environmental specialists, and analysts was built and validated by incumbents.

We are updating the employee policy manual. The Governing Board Operations Committee was briefed on the initiative during the past quarter and gave its support to move forward.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

TRPA supports a culture committed to public education, outreach, and community engagement to implement the 2012 Regional Plan. The External Affairs team leads public engagement initiatives in collaboration with a wide variety of agency and nonprofit stakeholders. During this past quarter, TRPA continued ongoing education and outreach in the Lake Tahoe Region to raise public awareness about issues at Lake Tahoe and improve public understanding about the role of TRPA.

Legislative Affairs

- **Senate Passes Lake Tahoe Restoration Act:** The U.S. Senate passed its \$415 million version of the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act during this past quarter as part of a vote to adopt the \$10 billion Water Resources Development Act of 2016, a national water infrastructure bill for the next two years. This milestone marks the first time that legislation to reauthorize Lake Tahoe Restoration Act has cleared the full Senate, having been stopped in the process after succeeding at the committee level several times over the last decade.

The bipartisan Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, sponsored by Senators Dean Heller (R-Nevada), Harry Reid (D-Nevada), Dianne Feinstein (D-California), and Barbara Boxer (D-California), would authorize up to \$415 million in federal funding over 10 years for federal, state, and local partners in the Tahoe Basin to continue their work to reduce wildfire threats, improve water clarity, jumpstart innovative infrastructure projects, combat aquatic invasive species, and reintroduce the Lahontan cutthroat trout. The House of Representatives is anticipated to consider its version of the Water Resources Development Act soon.

Environmental Education

External Affairs participated in Wonders of Water Expanded Edition events at each South Shore elementary school as part of its involvement in the South Tahoe Environmental Education Coalition. Approximately 1,000 students were involved in these events. Topics covered during the events included Lake Tahoe Basin wildlife, aquatic invasive species, and water quality testing.

Public Outreach

- **AIS Outreach:** TRPA participated in an all-day AIS retreat to prioritize tasks for upcoming years and strengthen the agency's partnership with the Tahoe Resource Conservation District. Staff completed a three-day photoshoot in preparation for the 2017 watercraft inspection season.

- **Transportation Outreach:** TRPA managed a photoshoot to capture transportation outreach imagery that included redevelopment, transit, traffic congestion, and economic vitality in Tahoe Basin communities.



The External Affairs team represented TRPA at the 20th Annual Lake Tahoe Summit at an education booth; the team also sponsored multiple field and lake tours over the course of Summit week for visiting legislative and administration officials.

- **Think First:** Working with the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team, TRPA helped launch and run the Think First wildfire awareness campaign from June to October 2016. Funded by CAL FIRE, the outreach campaign (www.ThinkFirstTahoe.org) reminded visitors to Lake Tahoe that they are in a wildfire prone area and need to help prevent wildfire ignitions. The campaign also worked with Tahoe residents, to remind them that they need to be prepared now for the next wildfire by creating defensible space on their properties and having an evacuation plan ready. The campaign reached thousands of people through advertising, news stories, social media pages, and outreach at local events.
- **Fire Fest 2016:** TRPA participated in Fire Fest 2016 at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in September, joining with dozens of agency partners to help raise awareness about wildfire prevention and preparedness and home fire safety. An estimated 750 people attended the annual event.
- **Society of Environmental Journalists:** Two dozen members of the Society of Environmental Journalists toured Lake Tahoe in September to learn more about environmental issues facing the lake and the work that is being done to conserve and restore Tahoe's unique natural environment. Working with University of Nevada, Reno and University of California,

Davis, TRPA led the journalists on a boat tour to learn more about Lake Tahoe and the work TRPA does.

- **Best in Basin:** The External Affairs team presented the 2015 Best in the Basin Awards to the TRPA Governing Board in September. TRPA recognized nine projects that made exceptional contributions to Lake Tahoe's environment and communities with awards through this program, now in its 26th year.



2015 Best in Basin Awards Winners

- Granlibakken Energy Upgrades (Granlibakken Tahoe, Sierra Business Council, & Placer County)
- Bijou Bike Park (City of South Lake Tahoe, Tahoe Area Mountain Biking Association)
- Central Incline Village Phase II Water Quality Improvement Project (Washoe County)
- Sawmill 2B Bike Path & Erosion Control Project (El Dorado County)
- Middle Rosewood Creek Area A Stream Environment Zone Restoration (Nevada Tahoe Conservation District)
- Lower Chipmunk & Outfall Water Quality Improvement Project (Placer County)
- Incline Creek Restoration, State Route 28 Culvert (Incline Village General Improvement District)
- Lake Forest Water Quality Improvement Project (Placer County)
- Angora Burn Area Restoration Phase III (U.S. Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit)

Special Summit Edition of Tahoe In Depth Published

With President Barack Obama visiting Lake Tahoe for the landmark 20th annual Lake Tahoe Summit in August, TRPA published a special summit edition of Tahoe in Depth. This special edition of the award-winning newspaper tells the story of 20 years of summits at Lake Tahoe—from the organization and importance of the first-ever summit to the successful work it sparked and major issues such as climate change that will confront the Tahoe Region in the decades to come.

Stories in this edition of Tahoe In Depth highlight some of the Tahoe Region's biggest environmental challenges and its work to address them, from lake clarity to forest health, invasive species, conservation, and environmental restoration and basin-wide collaboration among federal, state, and local agencies, nonprofit groups, and private sector partners through the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program. This special edition was distributed around the lake, handed out at the 2016 Lake Tahoe Summit, and is available online at http://www.trpa.org/wp-content/uploads/Summit2016_FINAL_sml.pdf.



NEW TRPA STAFF



Adam Jensen, External Affairs

Adam Jensen started with the TRPA in August, joining the External Affairs team, where he will lead a variety of education projects and outreach initiatives. Adam is a native of Modesto, California, but has lived in South Lake Tahoe for the past 10 years. He comes to TRPA from Swift Communications, where he worked as an environmental reporter for the Tahoe Daily Tribune and as editor of Lake Tahoe Action. Adam is a graduate of California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, with a degree in ecology and systematic biology. He has previously worked with threatened species for California State Parks and on Owens Valley water issues with the Inyo County Water Department. Adam will work with the External Affairs team to ensure effective communication continues with the public and TRPA's many partner agencies.

APPENDIX A

Environmental Improvement Program Handouts from the 2016 Lake Tahoe Summit

celebrating 20 *years*
OF LAKE TAHOE RESTORATION



Photo by Jarvis Photography

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
AUGUST 2016



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Tahoe's Turning Point

In 1997, at the first Presidential Tahoe Forum, the driving consensus was that Lake Tahoe was a national treasure in trouble. The lake's famous water clarity, once measuring 100 feet, hit an all-time low of 64 feet that year. Researchers predicted clarity would continue to worsen without immediate intervention. Stormwater pollution from roads and urban areas threatened the lake's clarity and health. Forests were overgrown and choked with brush. And solutions to broad environmental problems were challenging to implement across two states, with federal, state, local, and private land ownership intertwined throughout the Tahoe Basin. Local, state, and federal agencies, private interests, and the Washoe Tribe committed to working together through the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) to not only restore Lake Tahoe's water clarity, but also improve its air quality, forest health, fish and wildlife habitat, and public recreation.

Twenty years later, EIP partners have completed nearly 500 projects to improve the environmental quality of the Tahoe Basin. These investments are critical to building resiliency in the Tahoe Basin and preparing for new threats posed by climate change, prolonged droughts, and invasive species.

EIP ACCOMPLISHMENTS: 1997-2015

16,343

acres of **wildlife habitat** restored

1,558

acres of **stream environment zone*** restored

2,770

feet of **shoreline** made public

729

miles of **roadway** upgraded to reduce erosion and stormwater pollution



65,380

acres of treatment to clear forests of hazardous fuels

46,853

boats inspected for **aquatic invasive species**

23,502

boats **decontaminated**

41

acres of treatments for **invasive clams and plants**

39

transit facilities updated

152

miles of **bike and pedestrian routes** constructed



The collective impact of these actions has stopped the decline in Tahoe's water clarity. Clarity has stabilized and the annual average is 73 feet, according to UC Davis data from 2015.

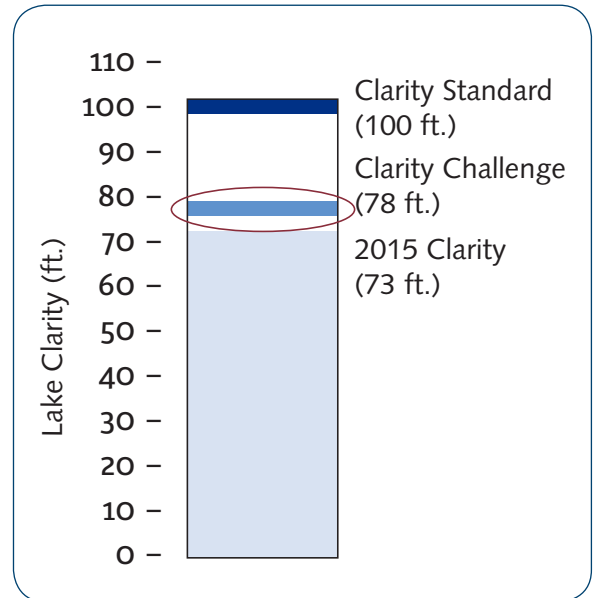
** This includes the 592 acres of the Upper Truckee River Marsh Restoration Project which is currently in the planning phase. The project will be one of the largest SEZ restorations undertaken at Lake Tahoe. The Upper Truckee River watershed is the largest contributor of fine sediment to the lake.*

PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT 20 YEARS

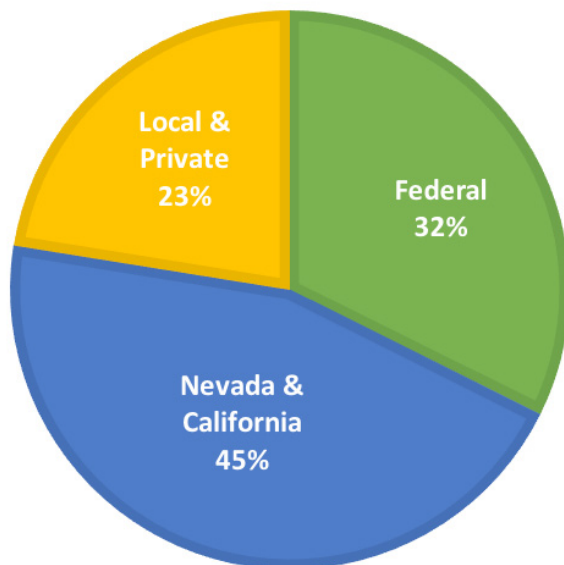
- Continue to improve lake clarity and achieve the "Clarity Challenge" of 78 feet by 2026
- Continue to prevent new introductions of aquatic invasive species at Lake Tahoe and manage existing invasive populations
- Complete initial forest thinning in the wildland urban interface and move into large landscape treatment approaches in the forest upland areas
- Complete the basin-wide bike path network
- Continue streamlining regulations to increase the pace and scale of environmental restoration projects
- Update environmental threshold standards to incorporate the best available science and new threats to Lake Tahoe's health
- Link science with land management through the bi-state Tahoe Science Advisory Council
- Facilitate new environmental redevelopment projects by the private sector
- Establish sustainable funding to continue implementing the EIP and maintain past investments

THE CLARITY CHALLENGE

The Clarity Challenge has unified the Tahoe Basin around one common goal: to reduce the flow of fine sediments and nutrients into Lake Tahoe and to restore lake clarity to 78 feet by 2026.



EIP INVESTMENT BY SECTOR: 1997-2015



FUNDING PRIORITIES

- **Federal:** Reauthorize the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act for \$415 million in federal funding and seek additional funding from all applicable federal programs
- **Nevada:** Access remainder of \$105 million in authorized bond funding
- **California:** Seek \$200 million from bonds and other sources
- **Local:** Increase commitments for operation and maintenance
- **Private:** Increase private sector contributions through investments, partnerships, and philanthropy

celebrating
20
years

Published by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
August 2016





WATER QUALITY AND CLARITY

Lake Tahoe's clear and stunningly blue water is one of the first things that comes to mind when people think about the Tahoe Region. In 1997, the region faced many environmental issues that a development boom in previous decades had imposed on the lake and its watershed, threatening its famous water clarity. Stormwater runoff from roads, parking lots, and other developed areas, as well as erosion from streams damaged by historic logging, cattle grazing, and development, was delivering large amounts of fine sediment pollution into the lake. People once could see as much as 100 feet down into Lake Tahoe's clear, blue waters. But between 1968 and 2000, approximately one-third of that water clarity was lost.

Tahoe's water clarity has been measured regularly since 1968, when the UC Davis first started lowering a white Secchi disk into the lake and recording the depth to which it remained visible. In 2011, the Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load Program was established, with specific targets to reduce the amount of fine sediment pollution washing into the lake. In 2015, the five-year average Secchi depth was 73.1 feet—about 18 feet greater than was forecast back in 2000.

20-YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Created and implemented the Total Maximum Daily Load Program, the science-based plan to reduce fine sediment pollution and restore Tahoe's clarity
- Upgraded 729 miles of roadways with measures to reduce erosion and stormwater pollution

- Completed major restoration projects on Blackwood Creek, Third/Rosewood and Incline Creek watersheds, and the Upper Truckee River
- Completed major area-wide stormwater pollution projects such as Bijou Erosion Control, Harrison Avenue Streetscape Improvement, and Kings Beach Commercial Core Improvement
- Became a national leader in low-impact development
- Completed major public land acquisitions to improve water quality and protect sensitive habitats
- Completed innovative water quality projects such as Central Incline Village Phases I and II

PRIORITIES AND CHALLENGES

- Continue making progress on the Clarity Challenge
- Continue to research and improve understanding of nearshore water quality conditions
- Prioritize the next generation of projects to reduce erosion and stormwater pollution through science-based processes and restore streams and habitats
- Complete watershed restoration projects and key acquisitions, including those in the Upper Truckee River Watershed





AIR QUALITY AND TRANSPORTATION

Motor vehicles are one of the most significant sources of air pollution at Lake Tahoe. In 1997, visitors and residents had few transportation options other than their cars. Bike paths were sparse and disconnected. Transit services were limited. And town centers around the lake suffered from severe traffic congestion.

Since then, agency partners have built 152 miles of new bike and pedestrian paths and invested in coordinated transit systems to help get residents and visitors out of their cars. Agencies are providing incentives to develop pedestrian-friendly streetscapes that link residents and visitors to retail, commercial, lodging, and recreation areas. Transit, trails, and technology are the focus areas of the Lake Tahoe Regional Transportation Plan 2016 update to further improve mobility and reduce vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions.

20-YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Developed a basin-wide trail network plan
- Completed 152 miles of new bike and pedestrian routes and completed three of five high-priority transportation projects, including the Kings Beach Commercial Core Improvement Project
- Attained the threshold standard for reduction of vehicle miles traveled
- Built the Tahoe City Transit Center and upgraded 39 transit facilities
- Completed the roundabout connecting State Routes 28 and 431 for improved traffic flow

- Secured transportation funding from federal, state, local, and private sources. Importantly, the Tahoe Basin secured language in the federal Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act in 2015 that will fund future transportation improvements.

PRIORITIES AND CHALLENGES

- Complete buildout of the trail network including the Lake Tahoe Bikeway, a premier separated bikeway circling Lake Tahoe
- Complete corridor-level planning for the Lake Tahoe Region and implement identified revitalization projects that support multiple modes of transportation, provide environmental gains, and support economic vitality
- Manage the visitor traffic influx through integration of new technologies and better transit services to move people throughout the Lake Tahoe Region more effectively and reduce dependence on personal vehicles to reduce vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions
- Meet regional greenhouse gas reduction targets through transportation planning and project implementation along Highway 50 and other areas. Establish cross-lake ferry service to help reduce traffic congestion and improve mobility





AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

In 1997, aquatic invasive species were barely on the radar screen as an environmental threat at Lake Tahoe. While invasive plants had been detected in the lake, species such as the quagga mussel had not yet been discovered in the western United States. When quagga mussels found in Lake Mead in 2007, Lake Tahoe officials recognized the immediate threat to the lake and economy and acted swiftly to prevent introductions of harmful aquatic invasive species. Through the collaborative partnership established by the EIP, a full boat inspection program was put into place for 2009 requiring all boats to be inspected and potentially decontaminated before entering Lake Tahoe. Now in operation for seven years, the boat inspection program has successfully prevented any new introductions of aquatic invasive species.

10-YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Inspected 46,853 motorized watercraft
- Decontaminated 23,502 high-risk watercraft
- Intercepted hundreds of boats carrying aquatic invasive species
- Established sustainable funding sources for aquatic invasive species prevention from both states and the boating public
- Became a leader in national policy on aquatic invasive species
- Successfully treated Emerald Bay for invasive plants

- Conducted more than 41 acres of treatments for invasive plants and clams
- Implemented citizen-science programs such as Eyes on the Lake to enhance monitoring
- Established the Tahoe Keepers non-motorized stewardship group. Membership is 3,100 volunteers.

PRIORITIES AND CHALLENGES

The EIP has identified controlling existing populations of invasive plants and warm water fish as imperative to continue to improve water quality and native habitat.

- Implement the Aquatic Invasive Species Implementation Plan, a science-based strategic guide for control projects
- Establish sustainable funding for control projects, monitoring, and research and rapid response to new threats
- Research and implement techniques to treat invasive milfoil and pondweed in the Tahoe Keys and keep it from spreading to other parts of the lake
- Continue the successful implementation of the boat inspection program to prevent invasions of quagga mussel and other aquatic invasive species
- Seek innovative approaches to control and prevent aquatic invasive species





FOREST HEALTH AND FUELS REDUCTION

Intense logging during the Comstock era in the late 1800s clear cut almost the entire Lake Tahoe Basin and left the forest decimated. While the forests grew back over the next 100 years, they grew back in an unnaturally thick and even-aged state. By 1997, Tahoe's forests were in a state of emergency. Years of fire suppression and hazardous fuels accumulation had left Tahoe's forest extremely vulnerable to catastrophic wildfire, with no natural fire breaks and long periods of drought. The Angora Fire in 2007 burned more than 3,000 acres and destroyed more than 250 homes, raising critical awareness about the need to thin and treat forested areas in the wildland urban interface (WUI) where our forests and communities meet.

20-YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Achieved collaboration throughout the Tahoe Region with more than 18 partner agencies working as the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team to reduce wildfire risk and create fire adapted communities. This collaboration has resulted in 65,380 acres of forest fuels treatments in the highest-priority WUI areas—about 56 percent of the WUI.
- Updated the Community Wildfire Protection Plans and the 10-year Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy. These documents provide a road map for implementing projects to improve forest health and reduce wildfire risk.

- Restored and enhanced 16,343 acres of habitat
- Completed all major Angora Fire restoration projects, including 1,100 acres of reforestation and 2,000 feet of stream channel restoration

PRIORITIES AND CHALLENGES

- Implement a landscape-scale approach to forest restoration and watershed health
- Complete initial treatment of the WUI while maintaining effectiveness of previous treatments
- Continue streamlining regulations across jurisdictions to increase the pace and scale of projects that strengthen our forest's resilience to wildfire, climate change, drought, insects, and disease
- Monitor forest conditions and develop a strategy to address drought-related mortality
- Increase resources and support biomass facilities to handle material from tree-thinning projects





SUSTAINABILITY, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL REDEVELOPMENT

In 1997, legacy development in Lake Tahoe communities was aged, blighted, and a major source of stormwater pollution. Communities were not pedestrian friendly. The region needed an overarching, long-term plan to spur and guide redevelopment to rebuild the economy and restore the environment. Years of negotiations produced that blueprint, the 2012 Regional Plan, as well as a recommitment by California, Nevada, and local jurisdictions to work together and with the private sector. The Regional Plan offers new incentives for redevelopment projects that strengthen Tahoe's town centers, restore Tahoe's environment, and provide improved transit services and bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.

20-YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed the collaboratively developed 2012 Regional Plan Update, the road map for Tahoe's environmental and economic renaissance
- Developed the nationally-recognized Lake Tahoe Sustainability Action Plan
- Certified three local area plans that include incentives for environmentally beneficial redevelopment

ENVIRONMENTAL REDEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

- Heavenly Gondola
- Heavenly Village
- Ski Run Boulevard

- Tahoe City Streetscape and Commons Beach
- Harrison Avenue Streetscape
- Kings Beach Commercial Core
- Edgewood Lodge (opening 2017)

PRIORITIES AND CHALLENGES

- Update Lake Tahoe's complex development rights system to accelerate environmentally-beneficial redevelopment
- Support local government plans for improved affordable housing
- Continue to engage the private sector to invest in redevelopment projects and diversify the economy
- Work with jurisdictions to finalize local area plans and implement projects
- Coordinate implementation of the Regional Plan and Sustainability Action Plan to bring climate change resiliency to the Lake Tahoe Region
- Meet state and federal greenhouse gas reduction targets





RECREATION

For decades, gaming and casinos drove the tourism engine bringing millions of visitors to Lake Tahoe. By 1997, that industry was in decline and being surpassed by a new generation of visitors coming to Tahoe for outdoor recreation. While recreation opportunities existed, access to the lake was limited. EIP partners recognized that recreation was a growing economic driver for the region's \$5 billion economy, and that projects to improve recreation could be packaged with projects to conserve and restore Lake Tahoe's unique natural environment.

20-YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Made public 2,770 feet of shoreline
- Built popular lake access facilities such as Commons Beach and Lakeview Commons
- Opened Van Sickle Bi-State Park
- Completed comprehensive upgrades to Sand Harbor public beach including improved lake access, facilities, and trails
- Built 152 miles of new bicycle and pedestrian routes including Lakeside Trail in Tahoe City, South Tahoe Greenway Trail (Phase I), and the trail connecting Kahle Drive to Roundhill Pines Beach
- Completed the Tahoe Rim Trail
- Completed the Lake Tahoe Water Trail
- Opened interpretive centers, including the University of California, Davis fish hatchery,

Sand Harbor Visitor Center, and Explore Tahoe

- Built the Bijou Bike Park in South Lake Tahoe
- Started construction on another 3-mile segment of the Lake Tahoe Bikeway from Incline Village to Sand Harbor State Park

PRIORITIES AND CHALLENGES

- Manage the growing visitor population to improve access, reduce congestion, and enhance the overall recreational experience at Lake Tahoe
- Complete a collaborative planning process to update the lake's shoreline ordinances to enhance access and protect the lake's shoreline scenery
- Integrated planning to manage growing recreation demands and protect the natural environment
- Complete the Kings Beach Pier Reconstruction Project
- Complete the Nevada Stateline-to-Stateline Trail, the Dollar Point Shared-Use Trail, and the South Tahoe Greenway Bike Trail
- Implement the Heavenly Epic Discovery Project
- Expand trail network working with groups like the Tahoe Area Mountain Biking Association

