

# 2017 QUARTERLY REPORT

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TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

Second Quarter: April – June 2017



TAHOE  
REGIONAL  
PLANNING  
AGENCY



*Photo by Drone Promotions*



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### TRPA STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Thresholds Update Strategic Initiative.....	2
Shoreline Plan Initiative .....	2
Development Rights Strategic Initiative .....	3
Transportation Strategic Initiative.....	4
Stormwater Management Operations & Maintenance Strategic Initiative.....	6
Forest Health Strategic Initiative .....	8
Aquatic Invasive Species Strategic Initiative .....	10

### ONGOING INITIATIVES AND ANNUAL ACTIVITIES

Long Range Planning Division .....	11
Current Planning Division .....	13
Environmental Improvement Program Administration .....	15
Research & Analysis Division.....	16
External Affairs .....	17
Finance, Information Technology, Human Resources, & Facilities .....	19
New TRPA Staff.....	20

## TRPA STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

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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.

### THRESHOLDS UPDATE STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

Most of the threshold standards TRPA adopted in 1982 are based on science that is now over 30 years old. The cost of fully and consistently monitoring and measuring the existing threshold system has also 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.*

In the initiative's first phase, the existing threshold standards are being comprehensively assessed against best practice to highlight aspects of the system that are well-designed and identify where improvements may be needed. The Tahoe Science Advisory Council collaborated with TRPA during the first quarter of 2017 to develop the assessment methodology, and TRPA presented the draft results of the assessment to the TRPA Advisory Planning Commission (APC) in May. The assessment methodology and findings were open for public comment for a month before returning to APC in June with a plan to finalize the assessment findings. Based on the guidance received from the APC, the next step is to develop proposals for future action. Both the assessment findings and the draft work plan will go to the TRPA Governing Board in August for review.

### SHORELINE PLAN INITIATIVE



TRPA launched the shoreline initiative to enhance the recreational experience along Lake Tahoe's shores while protecting the environment and responsibly planning for potential future development in the shorezone. TRPA and partner agencies initiated planning by engaging the Consensus Building Institute (CBI), a third-party mediation firm, to convene stakeholders and complete a stakeholder issue assessment. The assessment aided the development of a planning process and work program accepted by the TRPA Governing Board in April 2016.

The shoreline plan scope of work focuses on the extent of allowed development of shoreline structures (marinas, piers, buoys, slips, and boat ramps) to support water-dependent recreation and effective resource management to ensure threshold attainment. The scope of work is detailed in the scope memo on [www.shorelineplan.org](http://www.shorelineplan.org).

***Strategic Initiative Desired Outcomes:*** The shoreline plan initiative will result in updated goals and policies in TRPA's Regional Plan and new regulations in the TRPA Code of Ordinances (Chapters 80 to 86) aimed at enhancing recreation and protecting the 72-miles of Lake Tahoe's shoreline.

Last fall, the Steering Committee began developing a recommended Shoreline Plan project scope and policy proposals for consideration by the Regional Plan Implementation Committee (RPIC), a committee of the TRPA Governing Board. Over a series of meetings, RPIC voted to endorse the project scope and a comprehensive set of policy proposals regarding low lake level adaptation, ramps, buoys, marinas, and piers to include in the Shoreline Plan project description. Having met this critical milestone, TRPA is starting environmental review of the proposed Shoreline Plan. Public scoping has begun for the environmental impact statement to provide input for a range of alternatives that will be evaluated before finalizing the Shoreline Plan by the end of 2018.

## DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

Private investment in environmentally beneficial redevelopment is critical to implementing the Regional Plan. The development rights strategic initiative is evaluating the effectiveness of the existing transferable development rights system in accomplishing Regional Plan goals. The initiative is considering potential changes to the development rights system to better manage growth, support environmentally beneficial and economically feasible redevelopment, and improve the effectiveness and predictability of the development rights system. This initiative is evaluating commercial, tourist accommodation, and residential development units; the timing of development rights allocations; and related codes and policies. It will also examine alternative systems to implement Regional Plan policies while considering existing development rights. Affordable housing and vacation home rentals are being addressed primarily by local governments and in this TRPA initiative will be addressed only in terms of the quantity and type of development rights and allocations available.



***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.

The status briefing to the TRPA Governing Board in June marked the halfway point of phase two tasks of the initiative's work program. The Development Rights Working Group held four productive meetings leading to the selection of a range of options for more detailed evaluation. Best practices and ideas from discussions are synthesized in a report presented to the TRPA Governing Board in June.

A fiscal impact analysis needed to support the future evaluation of the Working Group's selected options was completed this quarter. It was funded by the California Strategic Growth Council

Proposition 84, Sustainable Communities Planning and Monitoring Program technical assistance grant. The report describes the fiscal impact of alternative growth patterns that reflect potential changes to the Tahoe Region's development rights system, including revenue and expenditure impacts for the City of South Lake Tahoe and Placer County.

A further GIS-based analysis completed this quarter showed how existing maximum-allowable densities, often referred to as zoning, in adopted local plans (area plans, community plans, or plan area statements) would compare to the allowable development under the existing development rights system. The analysis found that densities allowed in the adopted local plans would allow substantially more development when compared to available development rights. Consequently, the Working Group did not recommend pursuing a purely zoning based option.

More information about the development rights strategic initiative is on the project website at: <http://www.trpa.org/about-trpa/how-we-operate/strategic-plan/development-rights/>

## TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

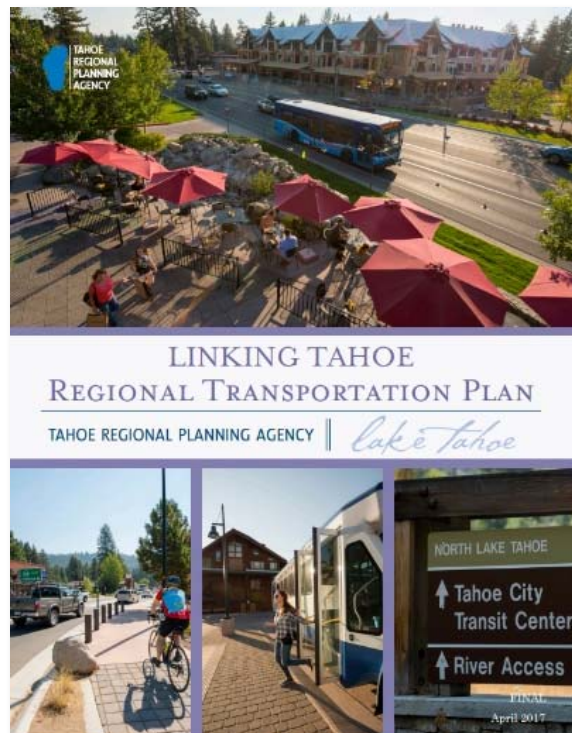
TRPA's transportation initiative will enhance Lake Tahoe's transportation system with improved trails, transit, and technology. Completing the 2017 Regional Transportation Plan, Linking Tahoe, is a first essential step.

***Strategic Initiative Desired Outcomes:** Accelerate threshold attainment by implementing the Regional Transportation Plan, reducing air pollution, improving water quality, enhancing recreational opportunities and mobility, and shifting people to biking, walking, and transit use.*

### 2017 Linking Tahoe: Regional Transportation Plan Approved

The TRPA Governing Board unanimously approved the 2017 Regional Transportation Plan, Linking Tahoe, this quarter. The regional transportation plan is updated every four years and acts as a blueprint to prioritize investments needed to improve Lake Tahoe's transportation system over the next 20-plus years.

The priority investments of the 2017 update key in on enhanced transit, trails, and technology. The Plan's policies and projects promote seamless, frequent, and free-to-the-user bus transit service throughout the Tahoe Region. The updated plan will also close gaps in the active transportation network of trails, bike lanes, and sidewalks, and will enhance real-time information, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and incentive programs using technology to better link community centers and high-use recreation sites with non-automotive travel options. A bi-state task force to aid in accelerating implementation of the Plan's priorities is expected to convene next quarter.



## Electric Vehicle Readiness Planning

The Tahoe-Truckee Plug-In Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan was completed and released this quarter. This plan assesses the existing and forecasted electric vehicle growth and the corresponding infrastructure needs. It prioritizes electric vehicle charging locations in the Tahoe-Truckee Region for workplace, destination, and home charging and outlines goals, recommendations, and an action plan to accelerate infrastructure development, permitting, outreach, and the adoption of electric vehicles over the next 10 years. The goal is to establish the Tahoe Region as an electric vehicle destination, gateway, and leader in mass deployment with robust education and engagement, a convenient network of charging infrastructure, streamlined charger installation, and standardized policies.

This planning was guided by a cross-regional coordinating council and participation from different localities and interests. Public outreach and educational materials include a new project website, [www.tahoealternativefuels.com](http://www.tahoealternativefuels.com), a new brochure addressing 10 common myths about electric vehicles, new fact sheets, and regular email updates.



Implementation of the readiness plan has begun through a second California Energy Commission grant. Activities include the creation of a regional ombudsman, site-specific analyses, public outreach, and permit streamlining. This grant will identify locations, partners, and funding for the construction of charging infrastructure.

## Safe Routes to School

TRPA led the development of the Safe Routes to School educational program to implement the 2016 Active Transportation Plan. After a successful 2016 Bike to School event, the Safe Routes to School educational program expanded the focus of the annual Tahoe Bike Challenge to promote alternative modes of getting to school. The educational program for 2017 included presentations on pedestrian, bicycle, and traffic safety for all second, fourth, and sixth-grade classes in the Lake Tahoe Unified School District. In addition to in-class lessons, TRPA and the Lake Tahoe Bicycle Coalition organized an extensive bike rodeo for the South Tahoe Middle School. More than 800 students participated, learning about nutrition, bike fit and repair, and riding skills. With the success of this program, TRPA is looking to include the North Shore schools in next year's program.

## Transportation Performance Measures

This quarter, TRPA convened a transportation measures working group in collaboration with the APC. TRPA has initiated the development of a comprehensive white paper that surveys the field of transportation measures and identifies those measures most suitable for tracking progress towards regional transportation objectives. The final white paper will be released in coming months.

## Partnerships and Collaboration

TRPA transportation staff partnered with Caltrans, the Town of Truckee, Placer County, and Nevada Department of Transportation to host a June 14 peer exchange. This was a special statewide



audience of Caltrans personnel who are supporting implementation of the statewide Intersection Control Evaluation Policy in their respective districts and regions of the state.

This quarter, TRPA assembled a stakeholder group to coordinate and discuss upcoming bike share pilot programs being launched by the Truckee Airport District, Squaw Valley, and the League to Save Lake Tahoe. These pilot programs are part of the larger transportation demand management program being implemented as part of the 2017 Regional Transportation Plan.

Transportation staff presented to the Governing Board Environmental Improvement Program Committee this quarter on actions needed to accelerate implementation of the 2017 Regional Transportation Plan. The committee and the public had an opportunity to discuss and add to the list of needed actions that could lay the framework for a future committee focused on transportation. The next step will be convening again to continue working on the framework and possible actions for the future transportation committee.

## **STORMWATER MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE STRATEGIC INITIATIVE**

TRPA's stormwater initiative will improve water quality and advance threshold attainment by helping local governments establish sustainable long-term funding for stormwater operations and maintenance. A Tahoe Resource Conservation District stakeholder assessment is being used to develop a financial outlook and unified action plan for California local governments to fund 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 operations and maintenance that will help to maintain threshold and federal water quality standards.*

### **BMP Certificates Issued**

TRPA issues best management practices (BMP) certificates to recognize a parcel's compliance with BMP requirements in TRPA's 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 concentrating on commercial and large multi-family (six units or more) properties that the Total Maximum Daily Load Program shows generate more pollutant load compared to single family residential properties.

BMP Certificates issued from January 1 to June 30, 2017					
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	19	12	7	0
	Multi-Family Residential	14	11	3	0
	Commercial	3	1	0	2
	<b>California Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>
Nevada	Single Family Residential	15	8	6	1
	Multi-Family Residential	4	0	4	0
	Commercial	1	0	0	1
	<b>Nevada Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>Total Certificates Issued</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>4</b>

### Lake-Friendly Business Program

At the end of June, 80 businesses were members of the Lake-Friendly Business Program, up from 57 businesses at the same time last year. The program recognizes local businesses that install and maintain their BMPs by publicly acknowledging them as good stewards of the lake through print advertisements and social media campaigns.

### Stormwater Strategic Initiative

The California "Road to Blue" initiative sent out property owner surveys to assess support for different stormwater funding mechanisms. Results are being analyzed and will be reported back to TRPA and other members of the initiative's core team by the end of July. The results aim to inform what options may gain public support for funding stormwater infrastructure operations and maintenance as well as for funding the Environmental Improvement Program, transportation, road maintenance, and snow removal.

Building on the approach for the California portion of the Region, Nevada jurisdictions are undertaking their own processes to evaluate funding options and TRPA is developing a Sustainable Funding Strategy to address its own program funding needs.

### Education and Outreach

Stormwater management program staff assisted at the Tahoe Truckee Earth Day Festival at Squaw Valley on April 22. Staff reached out to locals and visitors at the event, discussing a wide variety of topics and answering questions about TRPA policy.

TRPA staff helped organize, presented at, and served on a panel for partner jurisdiction training on April 24 and April 25. Washoe County, Placer County, City of South Lake Tahoe, and El Dorado County attended the training, which addressed general TRPA background, permitting, coverage, land capability, BMPs, compliance, and how to inspect properties.



## FOREST HEALTH STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

TRPA's forest health strategic 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 and extending forest management actions into the general forest to accomplish large, landscape-scale, multi-benefit restoration through a collaborative multi-agency process. Other objectives include building a shared vision for forest management in the Tahoe Region, making Tahoe a good investment for the public and private sector for forest/watershed restoration, and identifying and addressing current and future threats to Tahoe's forest and watersheds.

***Strategic Initiative Desired Outcomes:** Reduce the threat of fire in the wildland-urban interface and implement forest restoration at a large-landscape scale.*

### Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership

The Lake Tahoe West (LTW) Restoration Partnership is a multi-jurisdictional, science-based approach for planning large landscape forest restoration on the West Shore of the Tahoe Basin. The goal of the LTW Partnership is to build resilience on the West Shore to wildfire, drought, climate change and other stressors through a collaborative process. The planning area includes 59,013 acres of federal, state, local, and private lands, from Emerald Bay to Squaw Valley.

TRPA is a member of the Core Team along with the California Tahoe Conservancy, California State Parks, and the U.S. Forest Service. TRPA leads the Design Team and co-leads the Documentation and Permitting Team. The teams work closely with the Science Team and Stakeholder Science Committee.

The Planning Scenarios and Essential Management Questions developed collaboratively by LTW agency teams and scientists were finalized and accepted by the Executive Team during the past quarter. The planning scenarios are possibilities of what conditions might look like in the Tahoe Basin 40 to 50 years in the future allowing decision-makers to better anticipate and manage uncertainty, and thereby improve restoration outcomes. The essential management questions identify the primary issues of concern and provide sideboards to guide the inquiry and information used to develop the Landscape Resilience Assessment, Landscape Restoration Strategy, and Restoration Project Planning, as well as future monitoring activities.

The Interagency Design Team made major progress on the Landscape Resilience Assessment which assesses the West Shore's current conditions and resilience to stressors. TRPA was a lead organizer for a Lake Tahoe West field trip in June. The field trip visited sites on the West Shore that demonstrate challenging resource management issues, including steep slopes, stream



*Lake Tahoe West Stakeholders and agency representatives during their field visit on June 7, 2017. Photo by Mason Bindl.*

environment zones, and difficulty to access. The sites provided an opportunity for meaningful discussions among the group on management goals, forest ecology, principals of resilience, and potential trade-offs. The field trip was well attended by Lake Tahoe West Community and Science Stakeholder Committees, agency Teams, and Executive Team.

### Forest Health Funding

The Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT) has been collaboratively preparing and submitting SNPLMA Round 17 funding proposals. The main proposal this round was for \$3,171,730 to support the Lake Tahoe West Partnership. The TFFT also collaboratively updated the Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy to add large landscape forest restoration, such as the Lake Tahoe West Partnership, to the strategy.

### Angora Commemoration Wildfire Awareness Month

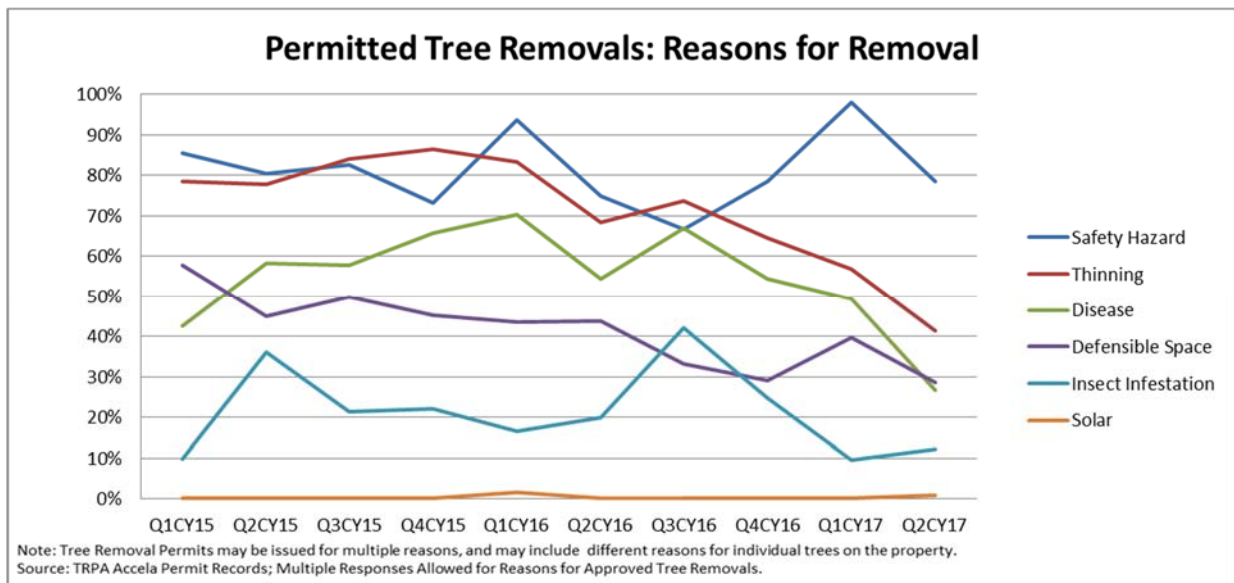
June was Wildfire Awareness Month at Lake Tahoe and was also the 10-year anniversary of the Angora Fire. TRPA leads the TFFT Fire Public Information Team, and TRPA staff worked closely with the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board and Cal Fire to prepare a summary of the status of accomplishments and responses to all 90 recommendations issued by the California-Nevada Tahoe Basin Fire Commission shortly after the Angora Fire. The responses are summarized in a 57-page report issued by TFFT for the Angora Commemoration event. TRPA presented at the Angora Fire 10 Years Later Symposium on changes in policy, attitudes, and understanding of wildfire issues related to the Angora Fire and the results of the California-Nevada Tahoe Basin Fire Commission.

### Urban Forestry/Tree Removal Permits

TRPA foresters provide expertise in tree risk assessment and serve the Tahoe Basin with thorough tree evaluations. The table below summarizes tree removal applications by quarter since the beginning of 2016. In the second quarter of 2017, TRPA received 1,032 tree removal applications.

**Summary of TRPA Tree Removal Application and Permitting Activity  
Q1 2016 through Q2 2017**

	Q1 CY2016	Q2 CY 2016	Q3 CY2016	Q4 CY2016	Q1 CY2017	Q2 CY2017
<b>Tree Removal Applications Received</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>270</b>
<b>Number of Trees Permitted for Removal</b>	265	1,022	1,225	489	164	1,032
<b>Percent Applications Submitted Online</b>	58%	64%	58%	60%	49%	61%
<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. Last year, TRPA successfully filled the AIS prevention program funding gap by securing stable funding from California and Nevada to continue the boat inspection prevention program. The primary need going forward is to secure AIS control program funding to implement Tahoe's science-based AIS Control Implementation Plan and prioritize effective projects to push back existing populations of AIS.

***Strategic Initiative Desired Outcomes:** Secure funding for the AIS control program, implement the 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 Program Funding Awarded

TRPA was awarded approximately \$400,000 from Nevada Division of State Lands to survey and control Asian clams at Sand Harbor. Work at Sand Harbor began this quarter and is expected to continue for the next 12 months. TRPA was also awarded approximately \$48,000 from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to implement control work with the primary goal of testing innovative Asian clam removal techniques. TRPA will be working with partners to implement this trial. The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board notified TRPA that they will be amending an existing agreement with TRPA to include \$300,000 of SB630 funds from California to perform lake-wide surveillance monitoring of AIS.

### AIS Program 2017 Season Prevention and Control

Tahoe boat inspection stations opened for the 2017 summer season this quarter. Within the first two months of operations, 14 boats with AIS were intercepted and prevented from entering Lake Tahoe, including two boats with quagga mussels attached to the vessel.



Asian clam control work began at Sand Harbor State Park in Nevada, and plant control work began at the Lakeside Beach & Marina and the Tahoe Vista boat ramp. The Lakeside Beach & Marina locations will also include tests this summer of ultraviolet light as a potential tool to control invasive aquatic plants.

TRPA and Lahontan jointly selected a consultant to perform the environmental analysis of a proposed Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association project that seeks to test herbicide use as an aquatic invasive plant control method as part of an integrated approach with other control methods.

AIS Program staff finalized seal inspection contracts for 2017 with marina and ramp partners and provided seal inspection trainings. This includes working with new partners who have not operated launch ramps in the past but can this season because of higher water levels.

### **AIS Code Amendments**

The TRPA Governing Board this quarter adopted amendments to the TRPA Code of Ordinances to provide additional protections and deterrents to prevent aquatic invasive species from entering the Region. These amendments clarified code language to require authorization for the launching of watercraft by a trained and certified inspector before each launch, as well as prohibiting the unauthorized use of program materials and willful attempts to launch without a Tahoe inspection seal.

The Governing Board also adopted a Code of Ordinances amendment that requires boaters to remove drain/bilge plugs from a vessel after exiting the lake. This rule is consistent with new Nevada state law and will help prevent the spread of AIS within the lake and the Region.

## **ONGOING INITIATIVES AND ANNUAL ACTIVITIES**

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### **LONG RANGE PLANNING DIVISION**

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

### **Tahoe Basin Area Plan Awards**

The Sacramento Valley Section of the American Planning Association awarded the Placer County Tahoe Basin Area Plan its Award of Excellence in Comprehensive Planning: Small Jurisdiction. The award recognizes outstanding achievement in planning. The Tahoe Basin Area Plan was nominated for the award by Ascent Environmental, the consulting firm that prepared the environmental impact statement for the plan.

The plan, developed in cooperation with TRPA, took five years to complete and included more than 100 public meetings, and replaces all other planning documents for Placer County's portion of North Lake Tahoe. It seeks to improve the fragile ecosystem of Lake Tahoe by encouraging environmentally-beneficial redevelopment in town centers, away from outlying and environmentally-sensitive areas. The plan was unanimously approved by the county board of supervisors in December and TRPA in January.

The final environmental impact report for the Tahoe Basin Area Plan and Tahoe City Lodge Project also was recently recognized with an Outstanding Environmental Document Award by the Association of Environmental Professionals.



*The Outstanding Environmental Document award for the Tahoe Basin Area Plan and Tahoe City Lodge EIS/EIR.*

### **Sustainable Communities Program**

Last year, the Tahoe Interagency Executive Steering Committee authorized the EIP partnership to convene a multi-sector Sustainable Recreation Working Group to increase coordination and alignment around recreation management policies and practices for the Region. The work group, co-led by the USFS and TRPA, met for the first time this quarter. Accomplishments to date include the formation of the working group structure, issue identification, and a start on identifying goals and objectives.



*Ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new science center at Zephyr Cove Elementary School.*

TRPA staff played a critical role in securing funding and supplies for a new science center at Zephyr Cove Elementary School. The center is helping Lake Tahoe students take their understanding of the environment around them to the next level. The classroom helps to expand environmental education programs taking place on the South Shore into Douglas County.

TRPA staff worked with the City of South Lake Tahoe to adopt a resolution to achieve 100 percent renewable electricity by 2032. This resolution aims to bring large scale renewable energy to Lake Tahoe and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from one of Tahoe's three largest sources. The resolution directly implements multiple actions of the award-winning Lake Tahoe Sustainability Action Plan.

TRPA hosted 25 delegates from Africa through UC Davis and the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders. The delegation spent six weeks learning about U.S. energy policy and sustainability actions being implemented at Lake Tahoe.



*Delegates from Africa at the Heavenly Gondola mid-station.*

## CURRENT PLANNING DIVISION

TRPA achieves environmental threshold benefits through project implementation by the public and private sectors. The Current Planning Division reviews applications in a timely and consistent manner to serve the public and help facilitate environmental improvement and economic investment in Lake Tahoe communities.

### Permit Application Review

The number of permit applications received this quarter is slightly down compared to the same time in 2016.



**Summary of TRPA Application and Permitting Activity  
Q1 2016 through Q1 2017**

	Q1 CY2016	Q2 CY 2016	Q3 CY2016	Q4 CY2016	Q1 CY2017	Q2 CY2017
<b>Applications Recieved<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>166</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>225</b>
Residential Projects <sup>2</sup>	37	38	45	27	34	34
Commercial Projects <sup>2</sup>	2	2	3	1	3	3
Recreation/Public Service Projects <sup>2</sup>	16	10	9	5	10	8
Environmental Improvement Construction Projects	2	3	1	2	6	5
Shorezone/Lakezone Projects <sup>2</sup>	2	14	6	5	9	7
Grading Projects	4	14	18	2	3	10
Verifications and Banking <sup>3</sup>	78	116	166	119	63	132
Transfers of Development	6	20	25	6	10	10
Other <sup>4</sup>	19	18	18	20	14	16
<b>Notes:</b>						
1 Does not include Exempt projects, Qualified Exempt declarations, Tree Removal applications, or Administrative 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 'Other' includes Historic determinations, Lot Line Adjustments, Temporary projects, Scenic, Underground Tank Removal, Subdivision of Existing Uses, Sign, Allocation Assignments, and other miscellaneous project types						
<u>Source:</u> TRPA Accela Permit Records						

### Permitting Assistance/Welcome Mat Development

TRPA's Current Planning Division launched the "Welcome Mat" initiative in fall 2015. This important initiative aims to improve customer experience and streamline permitting across the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Permitting process improvements are not only "good business," they help get environmentally beneficial projects on the ground and spur our local economies. The initiative is ongoing and iterative continually identifying needed improvements in collaboration with stakeholders and local partners, prioritizing and refining solutions, and implementing projects to reach our goals.



Welcome Mat projects and improvements during the last quarter include:

- Launched an express permitting program for minor projects and activities and a self-help survey tool for applicants to assess their eligibility.
- Hosted workshops for customer input on process improvements.
- Presented at community forums for local real estate groups.
- Facilitated an environmental review refresher course for local jurisdictional partners.

- Restructured the TRPA applications web page.
- Hosted bi-monthly permitting process improvement coordination meetings with local jurisdictions.

### **Residential Allocation Distribution**

In May, the Governing Board adopted a resolution distributing residential allocations to local jurisdictions for 2017 and 2018. Distribution is based on results from a performance review of Total Maximum Daily Load implementation and an audit of memorandum of understanding permit monitoring and compliance. The results are reviewed by a performance review committee who then recommends allocation distribution to the Governing Board. One hundred and twenty allocations will be distributed each year. Limiting new residential units to 120 per year is part of TRPA's growth management system.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

TRPA's Environmental Improvement Division leads the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP), a collaborative public and private, multi-jurisdictional capital investment program to conserve and restore Lake Tahoe's environment and enhance public recreation opportunities. The division leads the development of new financing strategies for future projects and programs, sets priorities so limited funding achieves maximum threshold gain, and builds new associations beyond the Tahoe Region to improve implementation and leverage new funding sources.

### **EIP Working Group Briefings**

EIP Working Group representatives briefed the Tahoe Science Advisory Council at its meeting on May 11. TRPA coordinated the briefings to exchange information with the council on science needs and the role of science in EIP programs.

### **California Land Stewardship Network Workshop in Tahoe**

In June, TRPA and the League to Save Lake Tahoe jointly hosted a workshop in Tahoe for the California Land Stewardship Network. The Network, formed in late 2016, promotes information and resource exchange, relationship building, and innovation among land stewardship practitioners. Six collaborative networks attended the workshop: the Tamalpais Lands Collaborative, Peninsula Working Group, Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network, Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program, Redwoods Rising, and the Irvine Ranch Conservancy.

The specific purposes of the workshop were:

- To review history of convening and planning to date
- To increase understanding of goals, structures, challenges, and opportunities
- To build relationships within the network
- To launch the California Land Stewardship Peer Exchange Network, and reach agreement on the Network's purpose, desired outcomes, and membership
- To discuss possible models for the Network's structure
- To share best practices
- To plan next steps and draft a strategy for achieving desired outcomes

The participants affirmed the potential value of the Network for advancing landscape-scale stewardship. The next meeting is scheduled for November in the San Francisco Bay Area.

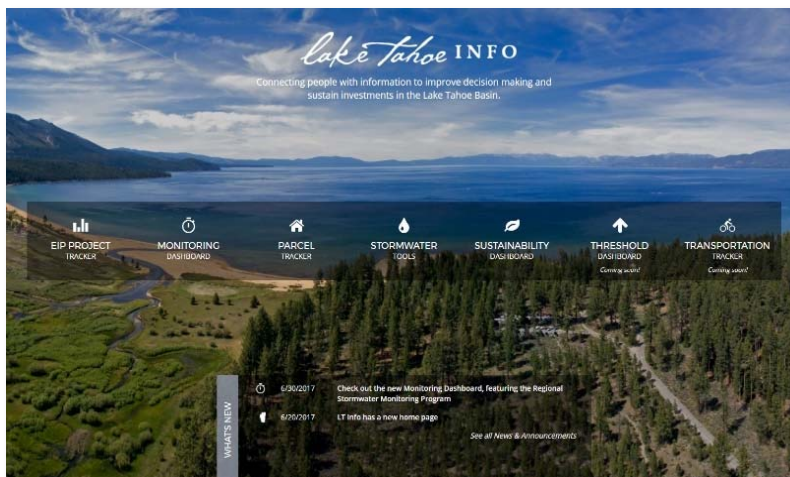
## RESEARCH & ANALYSIS DIVISION

TRPA monitors hundreds of environmental threshold standards, performance measures, and management actions for progress and effectiveness. The agency formed a Research and Analysis Division to strengthen its relationship with the science community and provide the best possible information for policy decisions, operations, and accountability.

### LakeTahoeInfo.org Development

TRPA continued to develop the [laketahoeinfo.org](http://laketahoeinfo.org) website this quarter. Highlights and new features include:

- The home page on [www.laketahoeinfo.org](http://www.laketahoeinfo.org) has been redesigned to accommodate additional information portals for monitoring and transportation. It also includes a “What’s New” section to highlight new additions and information on the website.



*New homepage for [www.laketahoeinfo.org](http://www.laketahoeinfo.org)*

- The EIP Project Tracker software is available as open source, allowing new participants to add technical improvements to the site at no charge to TRPA. This past quarter, a group of 12 California Resource Conservation Districts have joined and will be utilizing the EIP Project Tracker software for annual reporting of greenhouse gas emission reductions and watershed restoration projects within their districts.
- Launched a new Monitoring Dashboard. TRPA partnered with the Tahoe Resource Conservation District to display data from the Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program, data considered essential to tracking the effectiveness of the TMDL. The dashboard is designed to allow future expansions that will highlight other monitoring programs and data.

### 2017 Threshold Monitoring Field Season

TRPA’s annual threshold monitoring field season started May 15 and will continue through October 15. Monitoring scheduled for this field season includes:

- 40 stream bio-assessment sites (20 long-term trend sites and 20 one-time status sites).
- Stream environment zone assessments at 41 monitoring sites (21 long-term trend sites and 20 one-time status sites) using the California rapid assessment method.
- Community noise equivalent monitoring for 34 plan area sites, eight transportation corridor (highway) sites, and 10 shorezone single-event noise sites.
- Three basin-wide osprey surveys.
- Peregrine falcon surveys at five sites (Castle Rock, Luther Rock, Echo Summit, North Maggie’s Peak, and Eagle Falls).
- Weekly maintenance and filter replacements at two air quality stations (Lake Tahoe Community College and TRPA).



- Bicycle and pedestrian monitoring at 15 to 20 sites around the basin using automated bicycle and pedestrian counters.

For this year's field monitoring, TRPA-created tools improve the osprey, peregrine falcon, and stream environment zone field monitoring. The new tools on mobile applications allow TRPA field staff and monitoring partners to securely enter monitoring data in the field, saving time and data entry needs in the office.

## 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.


**Remembering Angora:** TRPA worked with Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team partners to publish a special "Remembering Angora" edition of the award-winning Tahoe In Depth newspaper to mark the 10-year anniversary of the Angora Fire. Stories focused on the fire and the impact it had on Lake Tahoe's landscape and communities, rebuilding after the fire, and how agencies and residents are working to prevent wildfires, reduce hazardous fuels in Tahoe's forests, improve wildfire preparedness, and create fire adapted communities.

**Outdoor Explore:** External Affairs staff participated in the South Tahoe Environmental Education Coalition's Outdoor Explore program, helping hundreds of South Shore elementary students learn more about Lake Tahoe's hydrologic cycle and why the lake needs environmental protections.



**Public Opinion Survey:** In June, TRPA surveyed local residents and part-time homeowners on a host of environmental education topics. The results from the annual questionnaire showed support for the Agency from local residents is up three percentage points at 54 percent favorable. Support from Bay Area part-time homeowners continues to be at an all-time high of 73 percent favorable.


**SAVE THE DATE** *June 24, 2017*  
 ANGORA FIRE COMMEMORATION 10:30 a.m. to noon



SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2017 MARKS THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANGORA FIRE, the most destructive wildfire in memory at Lake Tahoe. Local, state, and federal agency executives, fire chiefs, elected officials, and others will gather on the shore of Lake Tahoe to discuss the fire and its impact, the recovery of the community, lessons learned, and actions that have been taken to improve fire preparedness at Lake Tahoe.

**WHAT:** ANGORA FIRE COMMEMORATION, sponsored by the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team  
**WHEN:** Saturday, June 24, 2017, 10:30 a.m. to noon  
**WHERE:** Valhalla Grand Lawn, 1 Valhalla Road, SR 89, South Lake Tahoe

For more information, contact Tom Lotshaw at [tlotshaw@trpa.org](mailto:tlotshaw@trpa.org) or 775-589-5278



**Angora Commemoration:** TRPA and Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team partners organized a wide range of community events and activities to promote wildfire education and preparedness as part of Lake Tahoe Wildfire Awareness Month in June. Events included an Angora Commemoration that brought together local, state, and federal partners to discuss the impact of the Angora Fire and how partners are working to improve wildfire preparedness and forest health.

**Lake Spirit Awards:** In April, TRPA recognized four people with Lake Spirit Awards for their passion and dedication to the conservation and restoration of Lake Tahoe's environment. This year's award winners are Karen Mullen-Ehly, Forest Schafer, Nicole Cartwright, and Karen Fink. TRPA also executed an advertising campaign to highlight the contribution of these award winners to raise public awareness and help inspire the next generation of Tahoe's stewards.

### Aquatic Invasive Species Advertisements:

External Affairs staff worked with other members of the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Program to create new advertisements and public service announcements for the program. These highlight the importance of boaters showing up to Lake Tahoe with their watercraft "Cleaned, Drained, and Dry" to prevent the introduction and spread of harmful aquatic invasive species.

*3 steps closer to fun*

☒ CLEAN ☒ DRAIN ☒ DRY



Clean, drain, and dry all watercraft before arriving at a Lake Tahoe watercraft inspection station. A friendly, certified inspector will ensure your boat is free of invasive species and get you and your family on the water.

[TahoeBoatInspections.com](http://TahoeBoatInspections.com) • 888-824-6267



**Legislative Affairs:** Following the submittal of the Lake Tahoe EIP Priority List to the US Congress in March, TRPA worked with basin partners to advocate for up to \$46.6 million in Lake Tahoe Restoration Act funding for Tahoe in the next federal budget. Given the fiscal constraints of current federal spending, obtaining additional federal funding will be challenging. On the state level, however, TRPA gained support for \$500,000 in additional funding from the states of California and Nevada for the Shoreline Plan Strategic Initiative. In May, the External Affairs team played a key role in a "Tahoe Day at the Capitol" in Sacramento. TRPA visited with staff and members of the California legislature to educate them about critical Tahoe issues in pursuit of the goal to grow new legislative champions for Lake Tahoe.

## FINANCE, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, HUMAN RESOURCES, & FACILITIES

### Finance Update

The California and Nevada state budgets are now final, and TRPA has secured funding for the 2017-18 fiscal year. This year's budget requests to the states included \$500,000 in supplemental funding to support the shoreline plan strategic initiative. Internal budgets for fiscal year 2017-18 were developed and approved by the Governing Board in June and TRPA's Finance Department completed all fiscal year quarter three invoices and status reports for grantors. TRPA's financial audit for the current fiscal year is underway.

### Facilities Update

During the second quarter of 2017, TRPA called \$2.9 million of its long-term debt which will significantly reduce interest expense over the next 10 years. The debt was originally issued to finance the purchase of the TRPA office building. Several routine maintenance projects are underway for the TRPA building, including updating the BMPs. These projects will be completed in the third quarter.

### Human Resources Update

TRPA continues to experience strong employee retention. The turnover rate through the first half of this year is five percent.

In May, TRPA hosted a three-day Project Management Essentials class for 20 TRPA staff. The class was customized and delivered through the University of Nevada, Reno's Extended Studies Program. Since the class, a group of attendees formed an implementation team to put processes, tools, and skills from the class to good use in planning and implementing agency projects.

The focus of TRPA's staffing efforts during the second quarter of 2017 was the realization of a robust intern program, designed to create a pipeline of strong talent, build relationships with universities that have accredited planning programs, and get important work done for the agency. We are excited to welcome a great group of talented interns for a variety of summer work assignments:

- **Jordan Pruitt** recently completed her bachelor of science with distinction in biology and honors from University of Nevada, Reno. She has experience in scientific aquatic research and data analysis as well as extensive office administration skills. She is interning in the Research and Analysis Division.
- **Haley Proehl** is interning in the Long Range Planning Division. She has a bachelor of science degree in environmental analysis and planning with a minor in



*TRPA's summer 2017 interns (from left to right) Jordan Pruitt, Carlie Teague, Rachel Ward, Haley Proehl, and Mikaela Hiatt.*



communications from University of California, Davis. She is working on a master's degree in environmental science and policy at the University of Chicago.

- **Mikaela Hiatt** is enrolled at University of California Berkeley, working on a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture with a minor in city planning. Her intern role this summer is in the Transportation Planning Division.
- **Carlie Teague** is interning this summer and putting her GIS skills to work in the Research and Analysis Division. She graduated from the University of Utah with three bachelor of science degrees: Urban planning, geography, and environmental and sustainability studies.
- **Rachel Ward**, who is studying environmental science at University of Nevada, Reno, has a "split" internship assignment supporting both External Affairs and the Research and Analysis Division.

## NEW TRPA STAFF



### Reid Haefer, Research & Analysis Division

Reid Haefer joined TRPA in June as a data modeler/analyst in the Research and Analysis Division. Reid is responsible for maintaining TRPA's transportation travel demand model, regional plan development right inventories, and other key datasets. He has a master's degree in urban planning from the University of Washington and several years of work experience in transportation planning and data analysis at the Puget Sound Regional Council. He also has a bachelor of science degree in environmental studies. His experience will be invaluable in helping TRPA with transportation data modeling as well as expected roles in support of the transportation measures working group and transportation project environmental reviews. His work in transportation funding while at

the Puget Sound Regional Council will align well with the build out of [www.LakeTahoeInfo.org](http://www.LakeTahoeInfo.org) and future work to better integrate transportation information into the web platform.