



TAHOE
REGIONAL
PLANNING
AGENCY

CHAPTER 7

Glossary

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adaptive management: The process of implementing policy (and management) decisions as scientifically driven management experiments and/or monitoring programs that test predictions and assumptions in management plans, and using the resulting information to improve the plans.

air quality attainment area: A geographical area identified to have air quality as good as, or better than, the national and/or California ambient air quality standards (National Ambient Air Quality Standards/California Ambient Air Quality Standards). An area may be an attainment area for one pollutant and a nonattainment area for others.

aquatic invasive species (AIS): A nonindigenous species that threatens the diversity or abundance of the native species or the ecological stability of infested waters, or the commercial, agricultural, aquacultural, or recreational activities dependent on such waters, as identified in the Lake Tahoe Region Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan. Aquatic Invasive Species include but are not limited to: zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*), quagga mussel (*Dreissena bugensis*), Eurasian water milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum* L.), curly leaf pond weed (*Potamogeton crispus* L.), and large-mouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*).

aquifer: The underground layer of water-bearing rock, sand, or gravel through which water can seep or be held in natural storage. Such water holding rock layers hold sufficient water to be used as a water supply.

archaeological: pertaining to the material remains of past human life, culture, or activities.

area of wave run-up: The area landward of the shoreline that is subjected to wave run-up during high water conditions and an extreme wind event. An extreme wind event is an 80 miles-per-hour onshore wind of one-hour duration.

backshore: The land area located between the highwater line of the lake and the upland area of instability or the wave run-up area.

Basin: The Lake Tahoe Basin.

bedrock: The solid rock underlying unconsolidated surface materials.

best management practices (BMP): The most current methods, treatments, or actions in regard to environmental mitigation responses.

bollard: A short post used to divert traffic from an area or road.

buffer: Land that protects natural and/or cultural values of a resource or park from adverse effects arising outside the buffer. A buffer may also provide screening from noise generated at adjacent land uses.

buoy: A float anchored to a lake bottom that serves as a boat mooring, navigation guide, hazard warning, or similar use.

caisson: A retaining structure in which the water can be pumped out to create a dry work environment.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): A state law (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et al.) requiring state and local agencies to take actions on projects with consideration for environmental protection. If a proposed activity may result in a significant adverse effect on the environment, an environmental impact report (EIR) must be prepared. General Plans normally require a “program EIR” and park development projects require a project environmental document.

California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR): This program encourages public recognition and protection of resources of architectural, historical, archeological and cultural significance, identifies historical resources for state and local planning purposes, determines eligibility for state historic preservation grant funding, and affords certain protections under the California Environmental Quality Act. The list includes buildings, sites, structures, objects and districts significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California.

California State Parks and Recreation Commission: Established in 1927 to advise the Director of State Parks on the recreational needs of the people of California. In 1928, it gathered support for the first state park bond issue. The Commission schedules public hearings to consider classification or reclassification and the approval of State Parks’ general plan (and amendments) for each park unit.

carrying capacity: As it refers to recreation, is a prescribed number and type of visitors that an area will accommodate given the desired natural/cultural resource conditions, visitor experiences, and management programs.

classification: Official designation of units of the State Park System. Classifications are established by the State Parks and Recreation Commission at the recommendation of Department staff and are based on the sensitivity and kind of unit’s most important resources and what types of use the unit will receive from the public.

Clean Water Act (CWA): Enacted in 1972 to create a basic framework for current programs to control water pollution; provides statutory authority for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).

concessionaire: Persons, corporations, partnerships, or associations that have a contract with CSP (or other landowner) for the provision of products, facilities, programs, and management and visitor services that will provide for the enhancement of park visitor use, enjoyment, safety, and convenience. Concession developments, programs, and services must be compatible with a park unit’s classification and general plan provisions.

constraints: Restrictions or limitations within prescribed bounds.

criteria air pollutant: An air pollutant for which acceptable levels of exposure can be determined and for which an ambient air quality standard has been set. Criteria air pollutants include ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5}.

cultural landscape: A geographic area (including both the cultural and natural resources) associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting cultural or aesthetic values. This type is a landscape that evolved through use by people whose activities or occupancy shaped it.

cultural resource: A resource that exists because of human activities. Cultural resources can be prehistoric (dating from before European settlement) or historic (post-European contact).

cumulative impact: As defined by the state CEQA Guidelines (Section 15355) two or more individual effects that, when considered together, are considerable or compound or increase other environmental impacts.

dredging: Removing or rearranging earthen materials that are lakeward of the high-water line.

easement: Acquisition of rights and interests to a property. Easements may apply to entire parcels of land or to specific parts of the property. Most are permanent, although term easements pose restrictions for a limited number of years.

ecosystem: A community consisting of all biological organisms (plant, animals, insects, etc.) in a given area interacting with the physical environment (soil, water, air) to function together as a unit of nature.

effect/impact: An environmental change; as defined by State CEQA Guidelines Section 15358: (1) Direct or primary effects are caused by the project and occur at the same time and place (2) Indirect or secondary effects that are caused by the project and are late in time or farther removed in distance, but still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect or secondary effects may include growth-inducing effects and other effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density, or growth rate, and related effects on air and water quality and other natural systems including ecosystems.

endangered species: A species of animal or plant is considered to be endangered when its prospects for survival and reproduction are in immediate jeopardy from one or more causes. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the California Department of Fish and Wildlife make this designation.

environment: As defined in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15360, “the physical conditions which exist within the area which will be affected by a proposed project, including land, air, water, mineral, flora, fauna, noise, and objects of historical and aesthetic significance.”

environmental impact report (EIR): A report required by CEQA that assesses all the environmental characteristics of an area and determines what effects of impacts will result if the area is altered or disturbed by a proposed action. If a proposed activity may result in a significant adverse effect on the environment, an EIR must be prepared. General plans normally require the preparation of a “program” EIR appropriate to its level of specificity.

environmental impact statement (EIS): An EIS is prepared to analyze, among other things, whether a proposed project will have a significant effect on the environment, provide alternatives to the proposed project, recommend methods to mitigate significant effects, and identify significant adverse impacts that cannot be avoided. The Tahoe Regional Planning Compact (Public Law 96-551) and TRPA Regional Plan and Rules of Procedure require that TRPA perform an environmental review for all projects within the Lake Tahoe Region, and prepare an EIS prior to approving any project that could have a significant effect on the environment.

environmentally sensitive: An area in which plant or animal life or their habitats are either rare or especially valuable because of their role in an ecosystem. Such areas can be easily disturbed or degraded by human activities and developments.

erosion control: Structural or nonstructural techniques applied to a particular site or region to prevent or minimize over land loss of soil or nutrients.

exotic species: A species occurring in an area outside of its historically known natural range that has been intentionally introduced to, or have inadvertently infiltrated into, the system. Also known as non-native, ornamental, or introduced species. Exotic animals may prey upon native species and compete with them for food and habitat. Exotic plant species can convert native ecosystems into a non-native dominated system that provides little benefit to other species in the ecosystem.

fill: Any rock, soil, gravel, sand, or other material deposited by man.

fish habitat: The combination of qualities that creates suitable conditions for the growth, reproduction, and production of fish. The term specifically refers to the environmental characteristics necessary for food, water, cover, and reproduction needs.

floating docks or platforms: Structures designed to float on a water surface that are attached either to the shoreline or to a lake bottom.

floodplain: A lowland or relatively flat area adjoining inland or coastal waters that is subject to a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year (i.e., 100-year flood).

floodway: The channel of a natural stream or river and portions of the floodplain adjoining the channel, which are necessary to carry and discharge the reasonably-expected floodwater or flood flow of any natural stream or river. Floodways may also be designated by flood control agencies.

General Plan (GP): A general plan is a legal planning document that provides guidelines for the development, management, and operation of a unit of the state park system. A general plan evaluates and defines land uses, resource management, facilities, interpretation, concessions, and operations of a park unit as well as addressing environmental impacts in a programmatic manner. A park unit must have an approved general plan prior to implementing any major development project.

geology: The scientific study of the origin, history, and structure of the earth.

grading: Cutting through or otherwise disturbing the layers of the soil mantle so as to change the existing landform, including, but not limited to, disturbing the soil mantle for construction of a driveway, parking area, utility line, building, or other structure. Also includes filling, excavation, and clearing.

grading season: The period each year during which grading is permitted in the Tahoe Basin commencing May 1 and ending October 15.

habitat: The physical location or type of environment, in which an organism or biological population lives or occurs. It involves an environment of a particular kind, defined by characteristics such as climate, terrain, elevation, soil type, and vegetation. Habitat typically includes shelter and/or sustenance.

hazardous material: Any substance that, because of its quantity, concentration, physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant presence or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment. Lead-based paint is an example of a hazardous material.

high-water elevation: Also referred to as “high-water line.” The established upper elevation limit of the surface of a body of water. (For Lake Tahoe, the high-water elevation is 6,229.1 Feet Lake Tahoe Datum.)

hydrology: Pertaining to the study of water on the surface of the land, in the soil and underlying geology, and in the air.

impervious surface: Any material, which reduces or prevents absorption of water into land.

infrastructure: Public services and utilities, such as sewage-disposal systems, water supply systems, and other utility systems. Often includes transportation systems.

interpretation: In this planning document, it refers to a communication process, designed to reveal meanings and relationships of our cultural and natural heritage, through involvement with objects, artifacts, landscapes, sites, and oral histories.

invasive species: The term refers to species, both aquatic and terrestrial, that establish and reproduce rapidly outside of their native range and may threaten the diversity or abundance of native species through competition for resources, predation, parasitism, hybridization with native populations, introduction of pathogens, or physical or chemical alteration of the invaded habitat. Through their impacts on natural ecosystems, agricultural and other developed lands, water delivery and flood protection systems, invasive species may also negatively affect human health and/or the economy.

kilowatt: A measure of the rate of electrical flow equal to one thousand watts.

kilowatt-hour: A measure of quantity of electrical consumption equal to the power of one kilowatt acting for one hour.

lakeward: In the direction of a lake or other body of water as applicable.

lakezone: The zone including that area of a lake located beyond the lakeward limits of the nearshore.

land capability district (LCD): A soils unit designated on the adopted TRPA land capability map and denominated by a numerical rating of one through seven (e.g., Land Capability District 1). The system was devised by Dr. Robert G. Bailey for the U. S. Forest Service and is detailed in the Bailey Report.

land coverage (coverage): A man-made structure, improvement, or covering, either created before February 10, 1972, or created after February 10, 1972, pursuant to either TRPA Ordinance No. 4, as amended, or other TRPA approval, that prevents normal precipitation from directly reaching the surface of the land underlying the structure, improvement, or covering. Such structures, improvements, and coverings include, but are not limited to, roofs, decks, surfaces that are paved with asphalt, concrete, or stone, roads, streets, sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, patios; and lands so used before February 10, 1972, for such uses as for the parking of cars and heavy and repeated pedestrian traffic that the soil is compacted so as to prevent substantial infiltration. A structure, improvement, or covering shall not be considered as land coverage if it permits at least 75 percent of normal precipitation directly to reach the ground and permits growth of vegetation on the approved species list.

level of service (LOS): For an intersection or roadway segment, the level of service is the delay to motorized vehicles and the volume/capacity ratio and is expressed by a series of letter grades from A (low v/c ratio and delay) through E (high v/c ratio and delay) and F (blocked).

littoral processes: The redistribution of sediments within the foreshore or nearshore in response to energy generated by waves or longshore currents that have not been disrupted by man-made structures.

low-water elevation: The established lower surface elevation for fluctuation within a body of water. (For Lake Tahoe, the low water elevation is 6,223.0 Feet Lake Tahoe Datum.)

maximum land coverage: Allowable base land coverage plus allowed transferred coverage.

mean sea level (MSL): The average altitude of sea surface for all tidal stages.

mitigation measure: A measure proposed that would eliminate, avoid, rectify, compensate for, or reduce significant environmental effects (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15370).

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP): The official federal list of buildings, structures, objects, sites and districts worthy of historic preservation. The register recognizes resources of local, state, and national significance. The register lists only those properties that have retained enough physical integrity to accurately convey their appearance during their period of significance.

native species: A plant or animal that is historically indigenous to a specific site area.

nearshore: The zone extending from the low water elevation of Lake Tahoe (6,223.0 feet Lake Tahoe Datum) to a lake bottom elevation of 6,193.0 feet Lake Tahoe Datum, but in any case, a minimum lateral distance of 350 feet measured from the shoreline.

non-attainment area: A geographic area identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and/or California Air Resources Board as not meeting either National Ambient Air Quality Standards or California Ambient Air Quality Standards for a given pollutant.

Office of Historic Preservation (OHP): The governmental agency primarily responsible for the statewide administration of the historic preservation program in California. Its responsibilities include identifying, evaluating, and registering historic properties and ensuring compliance with federal and state regulatory obligations.

open space: An area with few or no paved surfaces or buildings, which may be primarily in its natural state or improved for use as a park.

paleontological resources: Any fossilized remains, traces, or imprints of organisms, preserved in or on the earth's crust, that are of paleontological interest and that provide information about the history of life on earth, except that the term does not include any materials associated with an archaeological resource or any cultural item.

prime fish habitat: In Lake Tahoe, the zone of water and substrate less than 30 feet deep where suitable habitat exists for purposes of spawning, feeding, or escape cover, or as designated on TRPA Prime Fish Habitat Maps.

project: As defined by the State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378, a project can be one of the following: (a) activities undertaken by any public agency; (b) activities undertaken by a person which are supported in whole or in part through contracts, grants, subsidies, loans or other forms of assistance from one or more public agencies; or (c) activities involving the issuance to a person of a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement for use by one or more public agencies.

Public Resources Code (PRC): In addition to the State Constitution and Statutes, California Law consists of 29 codes covering various subject areas. The PRC addresses natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreation resources of the State.

resource management: Uses, facilities, and activities pertaining to the utilization, management, or conservation of natural resources.

riparian: Riparian habitat represents the vegetative and wildlife areas adjacent to perennial and intermittent streams. They are delineated by the existence of plant species normally found growing near fresh water.

riprap: A loose assemblage of broken rock or concrete often used to prevent erosion. A type of bank reinforcement.

runoff: That portion of rainfall or surplus water that does not percolate into the ground and flows overland and is discharged into surface drainages or bodies of water.

scenic highway and corridor: As designated by TRPA, a roadway that has been determined to have outstanding scenic value. The scenic corridor includes the roadway right-of-way and extends 100 feet perpendicularly from the edge of the right-of-way boundary.

scenic route: A segment of roadway that has been officially designated by the Director of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) as a scenic corridor.

sensitive receptor: Sensitive receptors are people, which could be categorized by land use type, that may have a significantly increased sensitivity or exposure to excessive noise or contaminants by virtue of their age and health (e.g., schools, day care centers, hospitals, nursing homes), status (e.g., sensitive or endangered species), proximity to the noise source or contamination, dwelling construction (e.g., basement), or the facilities they use (e.g., water supply well).

shoreline: The highest line normally covered by waters of a lake or body of water. (For Lake Tahoe, the shoreline elevation is 6,229.1 feet Lake Tahoe Datum.)

shorezone: The area including the nearshore, foreshore, and backshore.

shoulder season: The months of the year immediately before and after a park's busy recreation season. This term generally refers to April and October, but could also extend into late March and early November, depending upon activities under discussion.

significant effect on the environment: As defined by State CEQA Guidelines Section 15382, substantial or potentially substantial, adverse change on any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance. An economic or social change by itself shall not be considered a

significant effect on the environment. A social or economic change related to physical change may be considered in determining whether the physical change is significant.

siltation: The process of silt deposition. Silt is a loose sedimentary material composed of finely divided particles of soil or rock, often carried in cloudy suspension in water.

solid waste: A mixture of items discarded by agricultural, residential, and non-residential activities.

special-status species: Plant or animal species that are typically listed (state and federal) as endangered, rare and threatened, plus those species considered by the scientific community to be deserving of such listing.

State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO): The chief administrative officer for the Office of Historic Preservation and is also the executive secretary of the State Historic Resources Commission.

stream environment zone (SEZ): Generally, an area that owes its biological and physical characteristics to the presence of surface or groundwater. The criteria for identifying a SEZ is set forth in Section 53.9 of the TRPA Code of Ordinances.

sub-classification: A separate classification for a portion or unit of the State Park System. The California State Park and Recreation Commission establish these at the recommendation of CSP staff. For example, Cultural Preserves and Wilderness are sub-classifications.

threatened species: An animal or plant species that is considered likely to become endangered throughout a significant portion of its range within the foreseeable future, because its prospects for survival and reproduction are in jeopardy from one or more causes. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the California Department of Fish and Wildlife make this designation.

topography: Graphic representation of the surface features of a place or region on a map, indicating their relative positions and elevations.

toxic air contaminant: An air pollutant that may cause or contribute to an increase in mortality or in serious illness, or that may pose a hazard to human health.

watercraft: A waterborne vessel of any type or size including, but not limited to, boats, barges, ferries, yachts, houseboats, floating homes, kayaks, rafts, canoes, personal watercraft, pleasure craft, marine craft, and amphibious vehicles.

watershed: The total area above a given point on a watercourse that contributes water to the flow of the watercourse; entire region drained by a watercourse.

wetland: Land including marshes or swamps; saturated land.

viewshed: The area that can be seen from a specified location.