



# 2015 QUARTERLY REPORT

TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY  
January – March 2015

|| *lake Tahoe*



*Tahoe Basin waterfall, Spring 2006*

45  
YEARS  
OF PROGRESS



TAHOE  
REGIONAL  
PLANNING  
AGENCY

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# ACCELERATE THRESHOLD ATTAINMENT

**Implement the 2012 Regional Plan** – Focus on regional issues such as adapting to climate change.

TRPA's three Planning Divisions – Long Range, Current, and Transportation – implement ongoing regional planning that fulfills the Bi-State Compact requirement for a Regional Plan and related ordinances, rules, and regulations to achieve and maintain environmental threshold carrying capacities and allow for development consistent with those standards. Rather than waiting years for plan updates, regular and continual amendments are now identified through annual Governing Board priority setting, lessening the time for response to regional issues. Targeted modifications to address identified barriers and encourage implementation of the 2012 Regional Plan are currently the primary focus of TRPA's Planning Divisions.

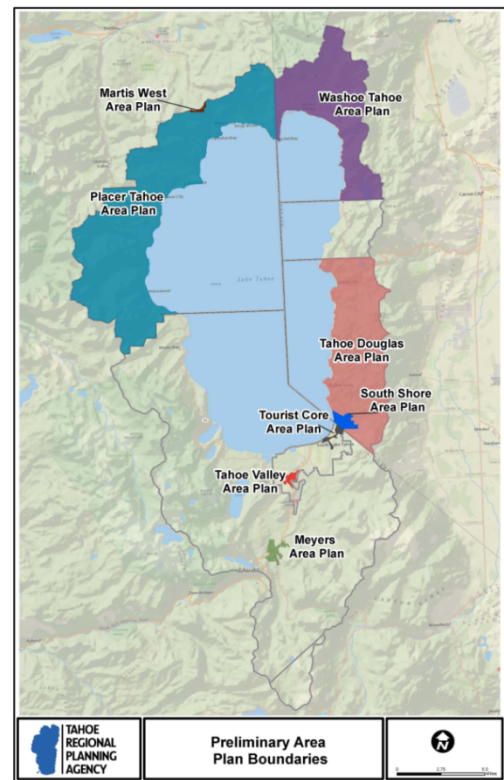
## LONG RANGE PLANNING DIVISION

Annual priority-setting by the Governing Board identifies resulting Plan and Code amendments, and Regional Plan and Code of Ordinances reviews that are based on evaluation of every four years of progress toward achieving and maintaining the environmental thresholds.

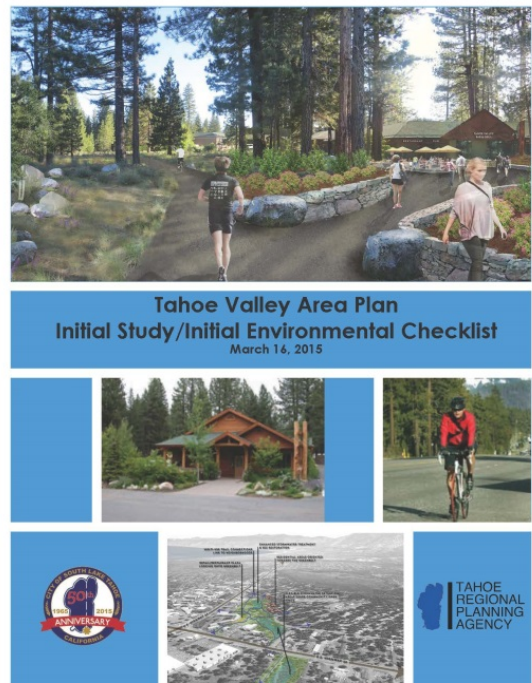
At its 2013 and 2014 strategic planning retreats, the Governing Board set a number of priorities for Long Range Planning on which we continue to make progress. The next Governing Board strategic planning retreat is scheduled for April 2015.

### Area Plans

Two area plans have been approved by the TRPA Governing Board and six area plans are under development by local jurisdictions. Area plans are the 2012 Regional Plan's approach to meet each local community's unique character and needs for integrating environmental improvements with community revitalization. Once an area plan is found to conform with TRPA's regional environmental goals, TRPA can delegate additional project reviews to local jurisdictions to streamline the permitting process with one-stop shop permitting and inspections for most projects.



- Placer County's Tahoe Basin Area Plan:** Placer County is developing an area plan for the entire portion of the county within the Tahoe Basin. The plan's focus will be on facilitating environmental improvements associated with redevelopment in Town Centers, and will address the need to update and modestly add to existing hotel stock on the North Shore. Placer County presented a remade and streamlined area plan concept proposal to TRPA and the public in March, and plans to submit a final area plan to TRPA for conformance review in 2016.
- Tahoe Douglas Area Plan and Updated South Shore Area Plan:** On January 15, 2015, the Douglas County Board of Commissioners adopted the Tahoe Douglas Area Plan and updates to the South Shore Area Plan. The two Area Plans encompass all Douglas County lands within the Tahoe Basin. The new Tahoe Douglas Area Plan includes significant areas of public land and open space, as well as residential neighborhoods and a few small commercial areas (Lower Kingsbury/Kahle, Roundhill Center). The Plan focuses on improving consistency between TRPA and county regulations, and coordinating multiple community benefits with water quality improvements. Highlights include integrated pedestrian, bicycle, stormwater management, and stream restoration near the corner of Kahle Drive and U.S. Highway 50. The South Shore Area Plan update added an energy efficiency strategy for buildings located within the Plan and expanded the Town Center to encompass the entire Kingsbury Manor Mobile Home Park. The County plans to submit both Area Plans to TRPA for conformance review in 2015.
- City's Tahoe Valley Area Plan and Memorandum of Understanding:** After extensive public outreach, the City of South Lake Tahoe released an updated draft of the proposed Tahoe Valley Area Plan and associated Initial Environmental Checklist/Initial Study in March. The Plan includes the mixed-use areas around the "South Y." Its provisions facilitate the implementation of area-wide Best Management Practices (BMPs), accelerate transfers of development out of sensitive lands, and promote more vibrant and walkable community centers through redevelopment and expansion of the bike/pedestrian system. The City plans to submit the Area Plan to TRPA in May 2015 for conformance review. The City and Governing Board also approved a memorandum of understanding streamlining project review and improving consistency in monitoring and reporting on project activities within all of the City's adopted Area Plans.



## **Land Coverage Working Group & Commodity Pilot Programs**

Targeted improvements to the regulatory system needed to remove obstacles preventing environmentally beneficial redevelopment are underway. Responding to a policy priority set during the 2012 Regional Plan's bi-state consultation, TRPA is finalizing the recommendations and evaluating the potential environmental impacts of policy change recommendations that came from the Coverage Working Group. Recommendations will be forwarded to the Advisory Planning Commission and Governing Board for consideration later in 2015.

Redevelopment projects to promote transfers of development off sensitive lands and environmentally beneficial redevelopment within Town Centers are being unintentionally delayed because of pre-existing regulatory obstacles in the transfer of development rights system. In response to Governing Board direction, two pilot projects targeted at testing improvements to the regulatory incentive system are under development. One pilot program would provide adequate Tourist Accommodation Bonus Units for transfers of development from sensitive lands to non-sensitive lands in Town Centers. A second pilot project would apply more generally to allow a transfer resulting in environmental threshold gain through redevelopment of existing substandard, legacy development.

## **Shorezone Ordinance Update**

In response to drought conditions and longer periods of low Lake levels, TRPA is considering the need to re-scope the proposed Shorezone Ordinance Update. What once may have been thought as sharpening the 2008 rules may now need to be rethought. TRPA continues to work to secure funding for what may now be more complex environmental review of these proposed ordinances. To address needs most critical this boating season, coordination with public safety providers who respond to emergencies on Lake Tahoe is underway to ensure they have adequate access from identified piers as lake levels continue to drop. The Shorezone Ordinance Update will be discussed at the Governing Board strategic planning retreat in April 2015.

## CURRENT PLANNING DIVISION

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

Having consistent and predictable review times creates trust in the process and fosters applicant cooperation in project compliance and implementation needed to deliver environmental improvements. Current Planning Division staff continue to substantially meet performance targets.

The following status report on the Current Planning Division application processing times shows applications are up 22 percent in 2015 when compared to last year.

<b>Measure</b>	<b>2013/2014 Actuals</b>	<b>2014/2015 Target</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Number of applications	592	800	472
Percent of applications deemed complete/not complete within 30 days.	99%	90%	89%
Percent of applications requiring Hearing Officer review completed within 45 days of application being deemed complete.	78%	90%	55%
Percent of applications requiring Governing Board review (excluding those requiring an environmental impact statement) completed within 60 days of application being deemed complete.	100%	90%	100%
Percent of applications requiring Governing Board review with an environmental impact statement completed within 120 days of application being deemed complete.	0%	90%	100%
Percent of all applications reviewed within 120 days of application being deemed complete.	98%	100%	92%
Percent of surveyed customers rating their overall experience with the Customer Service Counter as good or exceptional (i.e., 4 or 5 on a scale of 1 to 5).	100%	80%	100%

## Distribution of 2015 and 2016 Residential Allocations

In February, the Governing Board approved the distribution of residential allocations for 2015 and 2016. TRPA assigns residential allocations to local governments biennially as part of TRPA's growth management system. The timing and phasing of allocations released is linked to each local jurisdiction meeting performance targets to ensure steady progress towards attainment and maintenance of environmental thresholds for the Lake Tahoe Region. A total of 240 allocations were released.

Jurisdiction	Total 2015 & 2016 Allocations Released
Douglas County	20
El Dorado County	60
Placer County	74
City of South Lake Tahoe	66
Washoe County	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>240</b>

## Heavenly Epic Discovery Project Brings Year-Round Recreation Improvements

In March 2015, the Governing Board unanimously approved the Heavenly Epic Discovery Project after certifying the Final Environmental Impact Statement and amending the 2007 Heavenly Master Plan to add year-round summer recreation activities and access.

The project responds to national legislation opening Forest Service ski areas to summer uses and broadens the recreational opportunities at Heavenly in a changing economic climate that is responding to year-round outdoor recreation demand. The expanded activities are designed to



suit a wide range of visitors and abilities. They include zipline and sky cycle tree canopy tours, a mountain bike park and trails, ropes courses, and interpretive and educational tours to teach visitors about the Lake Tahoe Region's cultural and environmental resources. The programs improve the Regional Plan's recreation goals. Construction is planned to begin this summer and activities will be open to the public next year.

## TRANSPORTATION PLANNING DIVISION

The Transportation Planning Division develops and drives implementation of regional transportation plans required by the Bi-State Compact. The Region's transportation plans integrate land use with parkways, highways, transit routes, waterways, bicycle facilities, terminals for the movement of people and goods within the Region and more. The TRPA Governing Board, along with a U.S. Forest Service representative, is the designated Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization (TMPO) for the Lake Tahoe Region and the Transportation Division serves as the TMPO staff. The TMPO coordinates regional transportation planning for a Regional Transportation Plan, the Federal Transportation Program and an Overall Work Program.

### Tahoe Talks Brown Bag Lunch Program Focuses on Community Solutions

The support and input of other people is often the key to an idea taking shape and taking hold. That is the concept behind the Tahoe Talks Brown Bag Lunch series, a recent initiative launched by TRPA, the TMPO and other partners in the fall of 2014. Heading into next year's update of the



Regional Transportation Plan, the TRPA/TMPO wanted a way for new, innovative ideas in transportation, community vitality, and environmental improvement to surface, be mulled over by the community,

and re-emerge as practical solutions that can lead to accelerated attainment of Lake Tahoe's regional thresholds and goals.

The TRPA/TMPO, partnering with the Lake Tahoe Bicycle Coalition, League to Save Lake Tahoe, One South Shore, and Lake Tahoe Sustainability Collaborative Community Mobility Group, invites monthly lunchtime "talks" that showcase ideas from around the country, including ideas from within Lake Tahoe. Following a 45-minute to one hour pre-recorded webinar or in-person expert presentation, discussion focuses on highlighting new ideas in transportation and transit, giving people the opportunity in a casual setting to discuss and consider their applicability to Lake Tahoe.

Since November, the lunchtime talks have grown attracting between 15 and 50 people at each event. Topic highlights include:

- E-Bikes, electric assist bikes, and transportation policy.
- Protected bike lane pilot projects.
- Modern roundabouts and changing our intersection landscape.
- Volunteer monitoring.

The spring Tahoe Talks series begins April 15, 2015 and continues into June. Discussion topics will cover dealing with drought and climate change at Sierra ski resorts, a panel discussion on how biking contributes to Lake Tahoe's economy, and in June, for Tahoe Bike Month, a two-part webinar series on the legal rights of pedestrians and bicyclists and enforcement strategies to protect bicycle and pedestrian safety.

Tahoe Talks are held at Lake Tahoe Community College and are free to the public. For more information about upcoming talks and an archive of presentations, visit [www.tahoempo.org](http://www.tahoempo.org).

# Tahoe Talks

## SPRING BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES



Come share ideas  
for making our  
communities safer,  
healthier, and greener.

**Location/Time:**  
Lake Tahoe Community College, Aspen Room, One College Drive, South Lake Tahoe  
Snacks provided. All events are free and from 12 - 1:30pm.

**Spring Schedule of Events:**  
Wed, April 15 – Dealing with Drought – Stewardship Practices at Sierra-at-Tahoe  
Wed, May 20 – The Bike's Impact on Tahoe's Economy  
Wed, June 17 – Legal Rights and Issues for Pedestrians and Bicyclists  
Wed, June 24 – Law Enforcement Strategies to Improve Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety

For more details on each event, visit [www.tahoempo.org](http://www.tahoempo.org).  
Interested in hosting a Tahoe Talk? Contact Karen Fink, [kfink@trpa.org](mailto:kfink@trpa.org)

The Spring Tahoe Talks are brought to you by:



Tahoe  
Metropolitan  
Planning  
Organization



KEEP  
TAHOE  
BLUE.  
League to Save Lake Tahoe



ONE  
South  
Shore  
WE ARE HomeSouthShore



LAKE TAHOE  
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LAKE TAHOE  
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"THE BEST FOR A HEALTHY COMMUNITY"

**Develop and Implement New Funding Strategies for the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP)** – Maintaining momentum in implementing the EIP means confronting constrained state funding and the decline of federal grants that have supported restoration, science, and monitoring programs.

The Environmental Improvement Division leads and coordinates the implementation of the Tahoe ecosystem restoration initiative, 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 ever-more-limited funding is being used on EIP projects that will achieve maximum threshold gain. The Division also identifies and builds new associations beyond the Lake Tahoe Region to strategically leverage new and innovative funding sources. The External Affairs team works in partnership with EIP staff to secure new funds for high priority programs.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUNDING SUPPORT**

During the first quarter of 2015, TRPA External Affairs staff coordinated a coalition to support the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act in Washington, D.C. and joined EIP staff for meetings on Capitol Hill during National Invasive Species Awareness Week. The meetings, in partnership with invasive species managers from throughout the West, enhanced key legislative relationships which could result in new funding opportunities from the Water Resources Reform and Development Act for the invasive species program.

TRPA team members also assisted Tahoe stakeholders in positioning the EIP competitively for California water bond funding, a potential California parks bond, and cap and trade revenues. The resulting “California Tahoe Alliance” stakeholder group is collaborating, with TRPA as a foundational advisory member, to ensure Tahoe receives its fair share of California environmental restoration funding.

An initiative is also underway with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In two important meetings during the first quarter of 2015 with Army Corps staff, TRPA proposed new funding partnerships for aquatic invasive species control and shorezone program changes.

#### **STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

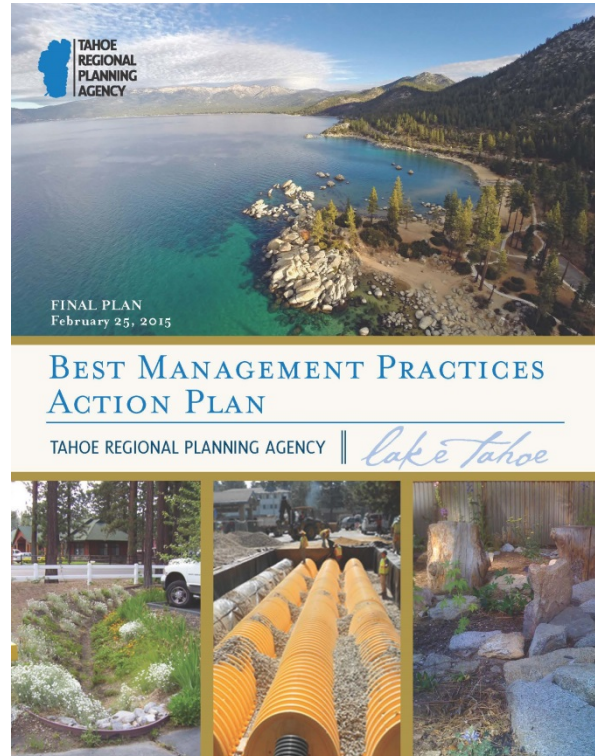
The Stormwater Management Program’s purpose is to reduce the amount of pollutants flowing into Lake Tahoe and accelerate attainment of water quality thresholds. The primarily grant-funded program focuses on mitigating the impacts of development through roadway infrastructure projects, area-wide water quality treatment projects, and the installation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) on private parcels. TRPA actions supplement and support rather than replace or duplicate the actions required by the Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). TRPA coordinates with local jurisdictions and partner agencies to identify priority locations for pollutant load reduction projects for the most effective use of limited implementation dollars.

## Best Management Practices Action Plan Approved

The TRPA Governing Board approved the Best Management Practices (BMP) Action Plan at its February 25, 2015 meeting. The BMP Compliance Working Group recommended specific actions to improve BMP implementation programs based on the most current water quality science used to develop the TMDL. The Action Plan fulfills the Governing Board-directed priority to explore options related to BMP compliance and to guide TRPA's limited resources toward the most effective stormwater management strategies.

BMP Action Plan recommendations fall into three categories:

1. **Focus stormwater efforts on the most effective pollutant load reduction strategies.** Focus work where dedicated funding exists and where the greatest pollutant load reductions are achieved, including environmental redevelopment and area-wide BMPs.
2. **Coordinate targeted implementation to accelerate BMP compliance.** Target implementation to accelerate BMP compliance by prioritizing projects in proximity to public water quality improvement projects and with relatively large contribution to pollutant loading. Better align TRPA implementation priorities with local jurisdiction TMDL load reduction plans and Area Plans in order to support the TMDL and implement the 2012 Regional Plan.
3. **Improve BMP information systems and complete process improvements.** The Action Plan calls for improved communication and consistent practices. Currently, BMP data from multiple agencies and jurisdictions are collected and provided to TRPA in different timeframes and formats. Internally, TRPA maintains multiple databases to track BMP information. Streamline TRPA processes to improve the quality and reliability of BMP data.



Following BMP Action Plan approval, outreach presentations to the real estate community explained recommendations related to BMP requirements at the point of sale. An enhanced BMP disclosure form can be completed online and submitted to TRPA electronically. TRPA will continue to partner with real estate professionals to provide BMP education at the point of sale.

## BMP Certificates Issued

From January 1 through March 23, 2015, TRPA issued 612 BMP Certificates. Thirty-seven were the result of area-wide water quality treatment projects. Area-wide projects often offer efficiencies to meet parcel specific BMP requirements, provide revenue for routine maintenance, and help local jurisdictions meet TMDL requirements.

BMP Certificates Issued from January to March 23, 2015				
California	Land Use	Total Certificates	Area-Wide	Compliance
	Single Family	542	0	0
	Multi-Family	1	0	0
	Commercial	6	6	5
Nevada				
	Single Family	14	8	1
	Multi-Family	49	23	0
	Commercial	0	0	0
TOTAL		612	37	1

On average, approximately 600 single family residential BMP certificates are issued each year and the number issued during this first quarter of 2015 is significantly higher than a typical year. TRPA improved on its single family residential BMP accomplishments during this past quarter, identifying and correcting a large number of record keeping errors. While working with MOU partners to improve BMP information systems, TRPA identified parcels with installed BMPs and valid compliance inspections but without certificates. These parcel records have been updated and BMP certificates issued as reflected in the single family residential certificates number.

## New Lake-Friendly Business Program Features

TRPA has been using social media for new Lake Friendly Business member announcements and ad blasts to more than 3,000 Facebook users. A newly re-designed print advertisement captures the eye and inspires community interest. The first quarter of 2015 has also seen two new features added to the Lake-Friendly Business Program. First, an online Lake-Friendly Business Album Directory on the TRPA Facebook page now publicizes each business's BMP projects and links viewers to Lake-Friendly Business member websites and Facebook pages to increase community awareness and adds program value. Public response has been enthusiastic and business inquiries to join the program are up.



## Are you a Lake-Friendly Business?

Thank You!

Advanced Computers • Alpine Animal Hospital • Alpine Realty International • Anthony Romero's Barber Shop • Bank of the West • Best in Show Pet Grooming • Blue Angel Café • Bob Dog Pizza • Dirk Yurich Photography • Inn by the Lake • Integrated Environmental Restoration Services • Kingsbury Automotive & Supply • Kingsbury Hardware • Lakeside Glass • League to Save Lake Tahoe • RAH Hair Salon • ReMax Realty • South Shore Glass & Door • Tahoe House Bakery & Gourmet • Tahoe Landscaping • The Brewery at Lake Tahoe Boulevard • The Village Board Shop • Youth Sports and Recreation • Dr. Frederick Wenck, DDS

TRPA recognizes that businesses are protecting Lake Tahoe by completing and maintaining their BMPs. Contact us today to see if you are qualified to participate at 775-589-5202.




[trpa.org](http://trpa.org) • [tahoebmp.org](http://tahoebmp.org)

Printed in Tahoe Mountain News, March 2015 Edition

In addition, the newly created online BMP Inspection and Maintenance Log can be custom-tailored for every Lake-Friendly Business member, making the required semi-annual maintenance submission process smooth, simple, and more attractive to the busy property or business owner. As of March 2015, there were 29 Lake-Friendly Business members.

In March, TRPA participated in the Tahoe Business Expo 2015, an annual Lake Tahoe event that brings more than 100 South Tahoe Chamber of Commerce members together, and puts TRPA in touch with more than 1,200 people, on average, from the general public. Lake-Friendly Business outreach materials and one-on-one discussions with the public educate and bring awareness of the program to more Tahoe business owners.

## AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM

During the first quarter of 2015, the AIS Coordinating Committee, representing 40 agencies, completed the annual AIS work program prioritization for the coming year. Prevention continues to be the top priority program for AIS. Other priorities include Lake-wide weed control projects and warm water fish control. TRPA is working with the Committee on a comprehensive weed control strategy, due this summer, to guide future funding priorities and drive fundraising initiatives.

TRPA participated in the first-ever meeting between AIS program managers nationwide and leading representatives of the boat industry. The summit, hosted by the American Boat and Yacht Council, is a significant first step toward boat manufacturers designing boats to reduce the risk of AIS spread.

TRPA secured \$200,000 from the California Quagga Fee Grant program to support the watercraft inspection station at Alpine Meadows. Tahoe will also be partnering with the Town of Truckee's prevention program to operate a joint inspection station in Truckee. The new partnership allows for more protection of lakes near Tahoe as well as cost sharing opportunities.

## FOREST AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Forest and Vegetation Management Program restores and maintains healthy and fire-safe forests and provides prioritized direction for fuel reduction and forest management activities to promote ecosystem resiliency. In collaboration with partners implementing projects that protect and manage vegetation and the forests in the Lake Tahoe Basin, the purpose of TRPA's program actions are to improve water, air, land, recreation, and scenic resources and protect the Basin from potential hazards such as catastrophic wildfire.

### Forest Management

This quarter, TRPA with the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team is planning the forestry and fuels projects to be implemented during the upcoming field season. Four years of severe drought not only put Tahoe's forests at increased risk of wildfire, but also at higher risk for insect and disease outbreaks. The past several years of accelerated fuels reduction/forest health treatments are implementing the adopted 10-Year Fuels Strategy needed to provide protection for the communities in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Attention is also now being focused on creating forests that are resilient to drought and insects. Drought reminds us that that Tahoe and the greater Sierras forests are nature's water factories. Good forest management is not merely a localized need but may be a statewide imperative for adequate water supply.

### CAL FIRE Grants Awarded to TRPA

The continuing drought and elevated risk of wildland fire is raising the import of completing all defensible space work in and near our Tahoe communities. TRPA applied for and received two grants from CAL FIRE during the first quarter of 2015: \$200,000 over two years for the continued development of Fire Adapted Communities on the California-side of the Lake, and \$80,000 for public education and outreach, specifically for Wildfire Awareness Month and the next iteration of the very successful "Get Defensive" media campaign.



The funding for developing Fire Adapted Communities will support fire districts on the California side of the Lake as they identify and continue to advance the work of creating fire-adapted human communities and organize fire council networks. A Fire Adapted Community integrates people, buildings, businesses, infrastructure, cultural resources, and natural areas into the preparedness for the effects of wildland fire. Community leaders and residents accept responsibility for living in an area with wildfire hazards and adopt tools and behaviors to prepare in advance for their community's resilience in a wildfire prone environment.

### Tahoe Yellow Cress

The recent low water years have been good for Tahoe yellow cress. As the water recedes, Tahoe yellow cress colonizes the freshly exposed sandy beach areas and the increased size of the beaches usually means less pressure from recreation activities. The Tahoe Yellow Cress Conservation Strategy update is near a final draft and will be available by the end of April 2015.

# ESTABLISH TRPA AS A LEADER IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMS

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**Establish New Cutting-Edge, Nationally Recognized Environmental and Sustainability Approaches and Programs.** The agency operates on a world stage and the time is ripe for growing TRPA's reputation nationally and internationally as a leader in environmental restoration and sustainability approaches. We will use best practices and form new strategic alliances.

The Lake Tahoe Region has a long history of balancing the natural and human systems to protect the landscape for future generations. To that end, TRPA has been building a framework for sustainability since before it became a common catchphrase. Climate change effects have arrived in the Sierra Nevada and are projected to continue into the foreseeable future. Increased air and water temperatures, reduced winter snowpack, altered precipitation patterns, and more frequent storm events are expected trends. Potential effects such as increased wildfire risk, drought, public health and safety issues, and aquatic invasive species infestations affect the environment and may impact economic prosperity. Mountain resort communities such as Lake Tahoe are especially vulnerable to these changes because our economy and sense of community are intrinsically linked to our environment.

Ecosystem sustainability is larger than TRPA alone and requires multi-sector public and private partners to succeed. By doing our part and spurring others to do theirs, we can adapt to climate change effects. The TRPA-adopted 2012 Sustainable Communities Strategy achieves California greenhouse gas reduction targets for transportation-related emissions. The recently completed award-winning Lake Tahoe Sustainability Action Plan is an even broader action blueprint for both public and private sector participants to address greenhouse gas reduction and the effects of climate change.

## PLUG-IN ELECTRIC VEHICLE READINESS PLANNING GRANT

The States are moving full on with policies favoring low and no carbon vehicles, and TRPA is responding to keep pace. The California Energy Commission approved a \$200,000 grant for TRPA to create a Plug-In Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan for the Tahoe-Truckee Region. The plan will assess current conditions and charging locations and identify public and private locations where additional charging stations would best serve the public. Completion of the plan will help the Tahoe-Truckee Region attract public and private investment to improve charging station infrastructure, give regional partners a better understanding of the current and future market for electric vehicles and infrastructure, and put forth a strategy for how best to plan for it.

As the states foster new vehicle technologies, the Region too needs to make electric vehicle travel within the Tahoe-Truckee area convenient for residents, visitors, and businesses. Providing needed electric vehicle transportation infrastructure here in Tahoe-Truckee for visitors and second

homeowners, who increasingly own plug-in electric vehicles in the Bay Area and Sacramento, will be part of the plan. Because of its location as a key stop on the Interstate 80 and U.S. Highway 50 corridors, putting the Tahoe-Truckee Region on the 'electric highway' would also open large areas of the Northern and Eastern Sierra that are currently inaccessible to electric vehicles. Once equipped with this regional plan to direct and ensure strategic and effective outreach and infrastructure development, the Tahoe-Truckee Region could play a key role in implementing state policies for electric vehicles.

TRPA's partners in this arena have seen a dramatic increase in plug-in electric vehicles in the Region and this trend will only increase. With a Tahoe-Truckee Plug-In Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan, the Region can begin to meet the need to accommodate plug-in electric vehicles.

The plan will be developed with key stakeholders in the Tahoe-Truckee Region, as well as partners in adjacent regions such as the Bay Area, Sacramento, and Reno, and across the state of California. Work on the Plug-In Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan is anticipated to start in the fall of 2015 and ample opportunities for public involvement are being planned.

## **LARGE LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION PRACTITIONER'S NETWORK PARTICIPATION**

We are remaining watchful and stepping into opportunities to form new alliances that could benefit funding, reveal best practices, and inform science based approaches. To this end, TRPA is working to secure a



**PRACTITIONERS' NETWORK**  
Large Landscape Conservation

leadership position in the national Large Landscape Conservation Practitioners' Network. The Network is an alliance of professionals and citizens working to advance large landscape conservation initiatives. These initiatives are focused on large areas of recognized conservation value, the Tahoe watershed being a pertinent example, that require a broad-based, multi-jurisdictional, multi-purpose (economic, social and environmental) approach with specific, measureable conservation objectives. Primary objectives include:

- Building capacity for large landscape conservation at various scales.
- Linking existing and emerging large landscape conservation initiatives.
- Improving policies to promote and support large landscape conservation.

TRPA is a member of the Network Coordinating Committee and its Executive Committee. Committee members represent the Network's national scope and breadth of experience.

Julie Regan, Chief of External Affairs, attended the National Workshop on Large Landscape Conservation in Washington, D.C. in October 2014 and serves as TRPA's representative to the Network. She attended a workshop with the Network Coordinating Committee in January 2015 to help determine future directions for the Network and is working with the group to develop a strategic plan and operating charter.

## SQUAW VALLEY PREPARATORY SCHOOL PROJECT

Among TRPA's key strategies is outreach to youth to teach environmental stewardship and sustainability principles they will carry with them throughout life. TRPA has been working with students at the Squaw Valley Preparatory School for the past two years. The tuition-free, California public school serves residents of Placer County and adjacent counties. Its mission is to cultivate student success through perseverance, critical thinking, resourcefulness, and advanced knowledge; integrate the individuality and passions of each student; and utilize the Olympic Valley environment in preparing students for global success in school, work, and life. Through the TRPA-Squaw Valley Preparatory partnership, students learn the complexities of the planning process in the Tahoe/Reno area.

In 2014, with TRPA staff acting as advisors to the student project presentations, students completed urban design/sustainability projects. Below is one example of the urban design/sustainability projects completed by Squaw Valley Preparatory students.

### **Student Project Example: Green Schools**

Objective: Reduce the impact that Reno/Tahoe schools have on the environment through food, campus, community, teaching, and learning.

Goal: Replace, convert, or create a total of 10 schools into green schools. Schools would aim to decrease harmful emissions and energy and water use.

Solution: By beginning with small things such as composting, planting a few trees, and adopting a green mission statement, a school can quickly turn into a green school. Beginning small and slowly working up is key to becoming a green school.



*Squaw Valley Preparatory School student rendering of a Green School.*

## TRPA GREEN TEAM LAUNCHED

The Agency's commitment to creating a sustainable Lake Tahoe Region is at the heart of its vision, mission, and is further emphasized in its Strategic Plan – *"to establish Tahoe as a leader in sustainability and environmental programs."* To become a leader in sustainability, TRPA can 'walk its talk' with action in workplace sustainability. A Green Team has been formed to make the TRPA workplace 'greener' and more sustainable.

Launched in February 2015, the Green Team recommendations will be based on best practices, cost-benefit analyses, and baseline information garnered through a green audit. With an annual action plan, sponsorship by the Senior Management Team, and participation from all staff, the Green Team will be responsible for promoting sustainability initiatives. Practices are being looked at in the following areas: building, waste, kitchen, catering/food, transportation, operations, wellness, public outreach, and purchasing.

The Green Team's action plan for 2015 proposes LED light conversion and dual flush adapters. Also planned is an energy audit. Another basic first step is distributing paper recycling boxes to individual work spaces. The Green Team target is to decrease paper waste by 50 percent through this initiative.

# PROPEL THE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF BEST INFORMATION, DATA, AND SCIENCE FOR DECISION-MAKING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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**Provide Excellent Information for Policy Decisions, Accountability, and Operations** – TRPA is committed to continuing strong relations with the science community and improving measurement and reporting for programmatic and fiscal accountability.

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

## COORDINATED FILE INFORMATION REQUESTS

During the first quarter of 2015, at the request of the City of South Lake Tahoe, TRPA streamlined file information requests for projects being permitted by the City. Rather than having to visit multiple offices, use several information systems, and talk to staff of different agencies to complete a simple Land Capability Verification application, project applicants now have a “one-stop shop” at the City Building Department to complete the process. One-stop shopping provides better customer service and reduces vehicle trips. Further efficiency and customer service improvements are possible once area plan agreements (MOUs) come into full effect, delegating more permitting to the City.

## ELECTRONIC APPROVAL NOW AVAILABLE FOR SMALL BMP RETROFIT PLANS

As another step in TRPA’s work toward continuous improvement, streamlined electronic approval is now available for small BMP retrofit plans disturbing less than seven cubic yards of soil. Property owners may now submit site plans, a description of proposed BMP treatments and the BMP calculation spreadsheet electronically through TRPA’s citizen access portal at [trpa.org](http://trpa.org) for approval electronically. This process improvement moves forward the agency’s paperless initiative and saves time for property owners by reducing trips to TRPA’s office.

# OPERATE AS A HIGH PERFORMANCE ORGANIZATION

**Create an Enduring Organizational Culture of High Performance and Continuous Improvement** – The agency will improve its performance management system to ensure each individual is in alignment with, evaluated against, and rewarded for achieving performance targets.

## FINANCE UPDATE

The Nevada Legislature held a hearing on TRPA's biennial budget request during the first quarter. TRPA is optimistic that the budget request, seeking enhancements for the AIS prevention program and for threshold evaluation monitoring and analysis will be fully funded for the next two fiscal years. The Agency's California budget hearing is in late April.

TRPA is performing well against the current fiscal year budget and is starting the budget process for the next fiscal year in conjunction with the Governing Board priority setting retreat in April 2015.

## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH EFFORTS

TRPA supports an internal culture committed to public education and outreach and community engagement to implement the Regional Plan. The External Affairs team leads public engagement initiatives in collaboration with a wide variety of Agency and non-profit stakeholders.



*TRPA staff member Devin Middlebrook discussing water quality with Bijou Elementary School 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students.*

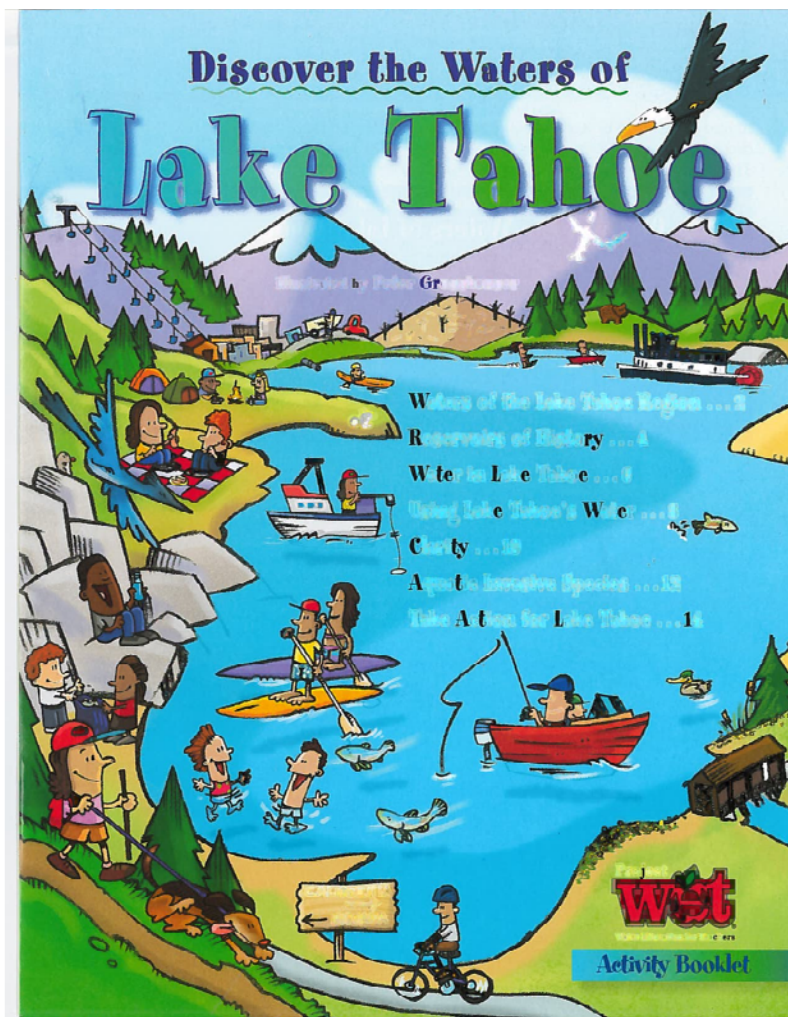
Throughout the first quarter of 2015, TRPA continued ongoing education and outreach in the Lake Tahoe Region to raise public awareness about issues at Lake Tahoe and to improve public understanding about the role of TRPA.

- Delivered eight classroom presentations in area schools, reaching 900 students.
- Expanded the classroom education program to Sparks, Nevada, reaching 90 students.

- Participated in three community events, reaching more than 250 people and the Business Expo reaching more than 1,000 community members.
- Hosted "TRPA 101" and "Science Educator" workshops attended by 70 participants.



TRPA staff at the Go Green Day expo at Diamond Peak Ski Resort educated attendees about aquatic invasive species, stormwater management, wildlife, and wildfires.



- Staff will be using a new publication created by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection -- "Discover the Waters of Lake Tahoe," -- for ongoing classroom education projects.

## NEW TRPA STAFF

During the first quarter of 2015, a number of staff vacancies were filled. Outlined below are new team members who joined TRPA.



### **Kimberly Caringer, Environmental Improvement Division**

Kim joined TRPA in January as the Environmental Improvement Division Manager after serving more than nine years at the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution. Kim has extensive experience working with all levels of local government and the public, helping to address complex and often contentious national, regional, and local land use issues. She has broad experience working across a variety of organizations to develop funding strategies in support of local and regional environmental programs. She also holds related certifications in mediation, public participation, and facilitating effective environmental agreements. Kim has

a Master's Degree in Public Administration (emphasis on Natural Resource Management) and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Public Administration and Policy (emphasis on Environmental Policy) from the University of Arizona.

### **Louis Cariola, Stormwater Management Program**

Louis was hired in February to work with the Stormwater Management Program in a new grant funded Associate Environmental Specialist position. Louis will be working primarily on BMP compliance, permitting, and maintenance tasks. He has four years of previous BMP experience with TRPA and spent more than three years working at the City of Sparks as a planner and as a sworn-in peace officer in the Environmental Control Section working on stormwater and waste stream compliance and permitting. He has a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies/Natural Resources from Binghamton University in New York.





### **Tiffany Good, Current Planning**

Tiffany is a South Lake Tahoe native. She started work as an Associate Planner with TRPA in mid-March. Tiffany has a Master's Degree in Public Policy and Administration and a Master's Certificate in Collaborative Governance. She previously worked as a contractor/consultant and project manager with Ben Fagan Designs, supported Hill Planning as a scenic mitigation consultant, and managed projects for Eric Sudhausen Design and Draft. She has almost 10 years of experience processing single family dwelling permits. Tiffany is not new to TRPA, having worked as an intern on the recent programmatic revisions to the residential allocation program.

### **Sean Tevlin, Research & Analysis**

Sean has worked the past two summers with TRPA as a seasonal monitoring technician and is excited to become a year-round employee in an Assistant Environmental Specialist role. He has more than five years of experience with non-profit and government organizations assisting with environmental restoration and monitoring projects. Most of his prior projects focused on stream and riparian improvements. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Community and Environmental Planning from the University of Washington in Seattle.

