



# 2015 QUARTERLY REPORT

TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY  
Third Quarter: July – September 2015

|| *lake Tahoe*



45  
YEARS  
OF PROGRESS

TAHOE  
REGIONAL  
PLANNING  
AGENCY

*Photo by David Safanda*



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### ACCELERATE THRESHOLD ATTAINMENT

#### *Implement the 2012 Regional Plan*

Long Range Planning Division .....	2
Current Planning Division.....	4
Transportation Planning Division .....	5

#### *Develop and Implement New Funding Strategies for the Environmental Improvement Program*

Environmental Improvement Program Administration .....	7
Stormwater Management Program.....	9
Aquatic Resources Program .....	12
Forest and Vegetation Management Program .....	13

### ESTABLISH TRPA AS A LEADER IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

Stakeholder Affiliate Group for Water for the Seasons .....	16
Sierra Climate Adaptation Mitigation Project .....	17
Plug-In Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan.....	17

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

Geographic Information Systems Improvements .....	18
Simplified Permitting Work Flows in Accela .....	18

### OPERATE AS A HIGH PERFORMANCE ORGANIZATION

Finance, Information Technology, Human Resources, & Facilities Update.....	20
External Affairs .....	20
New TRPA Staff.....	23
Internal Staff Changes .....	24

#### **Appendix A:** 2014 EIP Accomplishment Summary and Program Area Fact Sheets

## 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 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. Targeted modifications to address identified barriers and encourage implementation of the 2012 Regional Plan are currently the primary focus of TRPA's Planning Divisions.

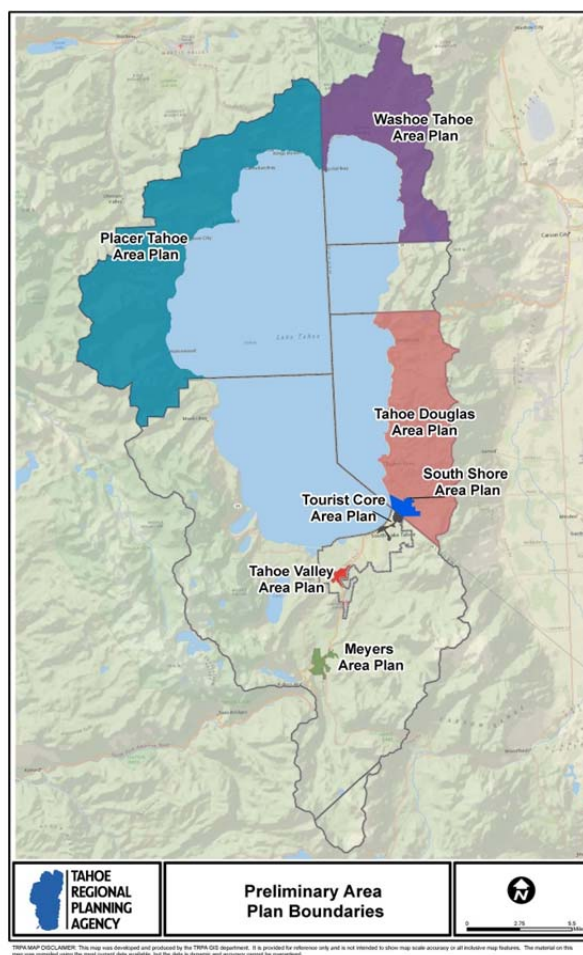
**LONG RANGE PLANNING DIVISION**

Annual priority setting by the TRPA's Governing Board identifies resulting plan and code amendments and Regional Plan and Code of Ordinances reviews based on evaluations every four years of progress toward achieving and maintaining environmental Threshold Standards.

## Area Plans

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. Area plans identify implementation strategies, projects, programs, and incentives to implement the area plan goals and policies and further threshold attainment and gain.

The Governing Board has approved three area plans and five more are under development by local jurisdictions.



- Tahoe Valley Area Plan:** On July 22, the Governing Board unanimously approved the City of South Lake Tahoe's Tahoe Valley Area Plan. This is the second area plan approved in South Lake Tahoe, following adoption of the Tourist Core Area Plan in 2013. The Tahoe Valley Area Plan will guide community revitalization and environmental restoration in a district centered around the "Y" intersection of Highways 89 and 50. Major aspects of the plan include:
  - The Tahoe Valley Greenbelt, a pedestrian and bicycle trail connecting neighborhoods to the commercial core;
  - A Town Center Healthcare District around Barton Hospital;
  - A Mixed-Use Commercial and Entertainment Town Center at the "Y" intersection; and,
  - Redevelopment incentives for projects.



- Meyers Area Plan:** In August, El Dorado County's Board of Supervisors voted to move the Meyers Area Plan forward to environmental review. This comprehensive land-use document updates 20-year old policies to streamline permitting for small projects, simplify El Dorado County and TRPA policies and development standards, promote recreation and non-auto transportation improvements, establish zoning to better reflect current conditions, conserve land around the Upper Truckee River, formalize a local citizens advisory council, and integrate design standards and guidelines. During the next quarter, TRPA staff will coordinate with El Dorado County staff to determine the appropriate level of environmental analysis for the plan.
- Placer County Tahoe Basin Area Plan:** Working in coordination with TRPA and stakeholders, Placer County is developing an area plan for the entire Tahoe Basin portion of Placer County. A draft plan focuses on implementing the 2012 Regional Plan with town center redevelopment incentives. A notice of preparation for environmental review of the draft area plan and the Tahoe City Lodge Project was released for public review and comment in June and the comment period closed during this past quarter. Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) is underway to evaluate both the Placer County Tahoe Basin Area Plan and the Tahoe City Lodge project. Environmental analysis for the plan and the pilot project are being combined to maximize efficiency and allow the Tahoe City Lodge Project to provide specific examples of the implementation of the proposed area plan standards. TRPA staff has been working closely with Placer County to incorporate more details of community improvements for



walking, biking, and transit. The EIR/EIS is evaluating four alternatives that address specific comments and concerns raised during public scoping. Public review of the draft EIR/EIS and adoption of the area plan are anticipated to occur in 2016. The draft area plan and associated documents are online at:

[http://www.placer.ca.gov/departments/communitydevelopment/planning/tahoebasinarea plan](http://www.placer.ca.gov/departments/communitydevelopment/planning/tahoebasinarea%20plan)

## CURRENT PLANNING DIVISION

The Current Planning Division implements the 2012 Regional Plan by providing timely and consistent review of project applications to achieve environmental improvement and economic investment consistent with the 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 facilitate removal of development and development rights from sensitive and remote lands through a system of transferring and retiring development commodities.

The following table is a status report on application processing times. Having consistent review times creates trust in the application process and fosters applicant cooperation in project compliance and implementation needed to deliver environmental improvements.

Measure	2013/2014 Actuals	2014/2015 Target	YTD
Number of applications.	592	800	351
Percent of applications deemed complete/not complete within 30 days.	99%	90%	100%
Percent of applications requiring Hearings Officer review completed within 45 days of application being deemed complete.	78%	90%	64%
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%	99%
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%

## City of South Lake Tahoe Expanded Permitting Implemented

In 2014, the City of South Lake Tahoe and TRPA adopted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that consolidated and replaced five existing delegation MOUs. Taking into account the City's approved area plans, the new consolidated MOU provides for additional delegated permitting authority within the geographic boundaries of the new plans. During this past quarter, the City began operating under the new MOU after extensive training with TRPA staff. Customer service will improve since the City will issue permits and inspect projects on behalf of TRPA and will now provide more streamlined "one stop" permitting for MOU-specified projects. The City will remain accountable to TRPA and the Regional Plan through regular reporting, ongoing training, and appeals processes.

### TRANSPORTATION PLANNING DIVISION

The Transportation Planning Division develops and drives implementation of the Regional Transportation Plan required by the Bi-State Compact and other federal and state legislation. The Regional Transportation Plan and supporting plans lay out the implementation strategy for a transportation system that meets the goals identified by the community and stakeholders and integrates housing, jobs, commerce, and recreation with a multi-modal transportation system. The TRPA Governing Board and a U.S. Forest Service representative serve as the Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization (TMPO) for the Lake Tahoe Region and the Transportation Planning Division serves as its staff. TRPA coordinates planning for a regional transportation system as both the TRPA and TMPO.

### Update to the Regional Transportation Plan

TRPA is working to update the Regional Transportation Plan, "Linking Tahoe," in 2016. Linking Tahoe includes not only the Regional Transportation Plan but also a family of supporting plans, including corridor plans, transit plans, bike/pedestrian plans, as well as local government area plans. Two specific areas have been active this quarter: the Intelligent Transportation Systems Plan and the Active Transportation Plan, both of which recently completed major milestones.

1. **Tahoe Basin Intelligent Transportation Systems Strategic (ITS) Plan Approved:** New cutting-edge technology is emerging nationally that will likely transform transportation and transit systems as we know them today. Tahoe recently took one small step in these new directions. TMPO approved its ITS strategic plan in August 2015. It is a roadmap of new technology solutions to better meet the transportation needs in the Tahoe Region. It recommends projects to ease congestion such as roadway traveler information, real-time transit information, and parking lot detection systems.

New technology can tell us numbers of visitors and help us better design and manage for how to move more people around while limiting use of the private automobile. New strategies will be tested elsewhere and are expected to find their

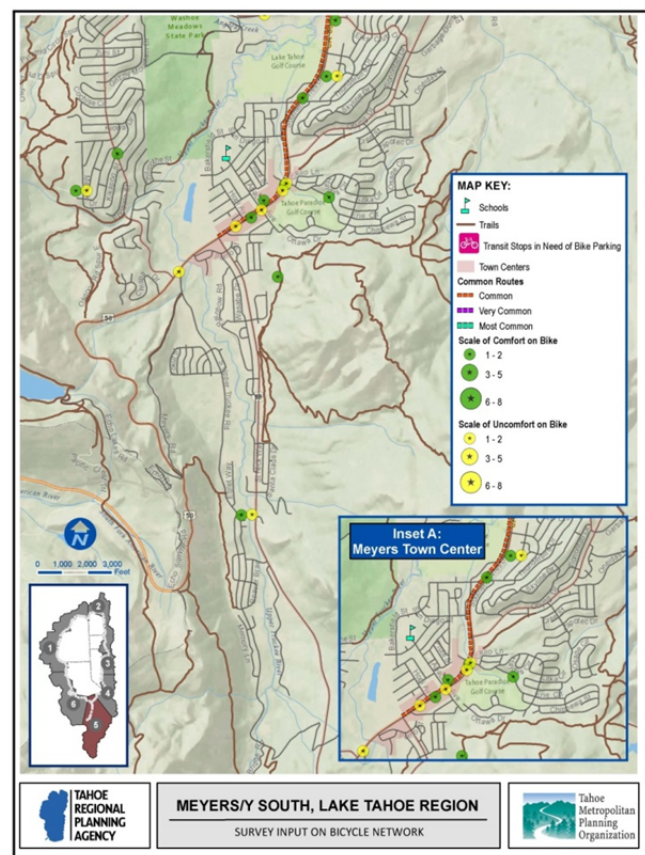




way into Tahoe's transit and transportation systems sooner than we think.

TMPO hosts a 20-organization steering committee to coordinate and work with others outside the Region to further intelligent transportation system projects. The goal is to improve the transportation connections inter-regionally in response to projections of increased visitors to Tahoe.

2. **Active Transportation Survey Completed:** TRPA is in the midst of a new update to its 2010 Lake Tahoe Region Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, now renamed the "Active Transportation Plan". Between March and June 2015, 662 user and stakeholder surveys were completed to learn more about user needs and system gaps. Public input is an essential part of creating a strong Active Transportation Plan that guides funding, planning, and implementation of the existing and future active transportation network. An active transportation network includes bicycling, walking, and other forms of transportation that engage people physically. One of the key roles of the active transportation survey was to identify areas in the existing transportation network that function well and areas that need improvements. TRPA marketed the survey through flier distribution, advertisements in print and online newspapers, social media, organization list-serves, and targeted mailings. The survey asked respondents to describe common routes and intersections of high use for both biking and walking, and identify areas that function well or need improvement. The survey also asked respondents to identify ways that transit could better integrate with biking and walking. Approximately 10 areas around the Tahoe Basin emerged as areas of high concern, often due to a lack of protected facilities for bicyclists and pedestrians, or high potential for conflict between bicyclists, pedestrians, and vehicles. Survey results are being analyzed and will inform the Active Transportation Plan, which is due to be completed in spring 2016.



*Map of a portion of the south shore of Lake Tahoe showing responses to a survey on the bicycle network which will be used to inform the Active Transportation Plan.*

**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 Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP). The EIP serves to implement the 2012 Regional Plan through public projects that maintain and attain the adopted Environmental Thresholds. EIP partners implement projects that include everything from new bike trails to creek restorations and programs that protect the lake from aquatic invasive species. The Environmental Improvement Division coordinates the many agencies involved in the EIP partnership, assists in project prioritization, and seeks funding for the program.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

### **EIP Assessment Completed & Tahoe Interagency Executives Steering Committee Retreat**

Good adaptive management means occasionally taking a hard look at ourselves. That's just what we've done over the past six months for the 20 year long EIP. An EIP assessment conducted by EIP Division Manager Kimberly Caringer collected thoughts and perspectives from many of the EIP partners to determine key issues, things that are working well, and current challenges to determine next steps for the EIP. More than 50 people were interviewed for the assessment during the months of February through May 2015. Assessment results included key recommendations for the program and were presented to the Tahoe Interagency Executives Committee Steering Committee (TIE-SC) during the past quarter. The TIE-SC agreed to prioritize and implement a subset of the assessment recommendations including reenergizing the EIP Coordinating Committee, reviewing and renewing the charter for the TIE-SC, updating the EIP Five-Year Project List, developing better communication among the EIP work groups and the TIE-SC, and rolling out the new EIP Project Tracker.

The TIE-SC is a body representing the funding sectors and 50+ agencies of the EIP partnership. From its half-day retreat this past quarter, the TIE-SC committed to working together to increase its effectiveness in providing leadership and guidance to the EIP. Jointly framed 10-year goals, framing and discussion of major policy issues, more transparent interagency coordination, and better prioritization of EIP needs were some of the positive outcomes from the retreat.

### **The 2015 Lake Tahoe Summit**

Every year, elected leaders come to Lake Tahoe to show their commitment to Lake Tahoe, highlight accomplishments, and discuss the needs to continue environmental restoration Basin-wide across the many physical and political boundaries. The 19<sup>th</sup> annual Lake Tahoe Summit was held on August 24 at the Round Hill Pines Beach Resort in Zephyr Cove, Nevada. U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-Nev.) hosted the event. Elected leaders, including California Governor Jerry Brown, U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), and Nevada Lieutenant Governor Mark Hutchison, came together to raise greater awareness about Lake Tahoe's environmental challenges and the successful work being done to conserve and restore Tahoe's unique natural environment. Environmental Improvement Division staff, along with TRPA's External Affairs Team, worked with many EIP partners to report on this year's accomplishments and priorities for the future. Efforts to



pass the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, the continuing need to address wildfire risk, innovation in transportation, and aquatic invasive species control took center stage as discussion topics. Materials prepared for the Lake Tahoe Summit are in Appendix A.

The annual Summit is always an excellent opportunity to host numerous field tours for legislative staff members and other dignitaries. Staff members from Congressman Mark Amodei and Tom McClintock's offices, along with staff from the offices of U.S. Senators Dean Heller and Dianne Feinstein participated in a lake tour showcasing aquatic invasive species challenges. TRPA staff also hosted officials from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on a lake tour as well.



*U.S. Senator Dean Heller speaking at the 2015 Lake Tahoe Summit held August 24 at Round Hill Pines Beach Resort.*

## EIP Project Tracker Launched

With more than 50 different entities participating in the EIP and more than 400 projects completed, it has been challenging to track the many important accomplishments, facts and details surrounding the EIP projects that have occurred over time. Now, a web-based tool, the EIP Lake-Saving Project Tracker, allows project implementers to upload project information. The Tracker is versatile and information can be sorted or organized by location, program or threshold category, project focus area, start or end dates, and more . The public can access all this



information online and discover what projects are occurring in their area, what agencies are involved, how projects were funded, and what the projects are accomplishing. This tool is critical to providing accountability and transparency for public funding expenditures. TRPA launched the EIP Tracker at the 2015 Lake Tahoe Summit and continues promoting the website to EIP project implementers and the public.

## STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Stormwater Management Program aims to reduce the amount of stormwater pollutants flowing into Lake Tahoe and accelerate attainment of water quality thresholds. The primarily grant-funded program focuses on permitting large public water quality improvement projects, public/private area-wide water quality treatment projects, and the installation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) on private parcels. The BMP Action Plan approved by TRPA's Governing Board in February 2015 guides recent improvements to the Stormwater Management Program's actions, which supplement and support rather than replace or duplicate the comprehensive water quality program of the 2012 Regional Plan and the actions required by the two state's Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load Program (TMDL). TRPA coordinates with local jurisdictions and partner agencies to identify priority locations for pollutant load reduction projects and the most effective use of limited implementation dollars.

### Lake-Friendly Business Program

Different strategies combine to encourage property owners to complete and maintain BMPs. One important program TRPA leads is the Lake-Friendly Business Program, funded by California and Nevada state grants, incentivizes local businesses to maintain their BMPs and works to increase the number of commercial properties with BMP certificates. The program publically acknowledges businesses that maintain their BMPs as being good stewards to the Lake.

To raise awareness about the Lake-Friendly Business Program, TRPA staff presented the program to the membership of the Tahoe Chamber of Commerce during this past quarter. The chamber acknowledged the program's benefits to the local business community. Added reach is accomplished by collaboration with the League to Save Lake Tahoe. The League distributes Lake-Friendly Business outreach materials to League Sticker Businesses via their community engagement team. The Harrison Avenue Streetscape Project Lake-Friendly Businesses were the focus of the most recent ad in local and social media. As of September 2015, there are 42 Lake-Friendly Business members.

Thanks to **HARRISON AVENUE STREETSCAPE PROJECT PARTICIPANTS** for being **LAKE-FRIENDLY BUSINESSES**.



Along with contributions from the City and U.S. Forest Service, property owners in the area created a special district to help pay for a portion of the project costs. Public infrastructure installed as part of this Lake-Saving Project will prevent about 5,000 pounds of fine sediment from washing into Lake Tahoe with stormwater every year. It also gives private property owners another mechanism to get Best Management Practice certificates for their properties. Partner agencies for the Harrison Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project include the City of South Lake Tahoe, U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, El Dorado County, California Tahoe Conservancy, Caltrans, South Tahoe Public Utility District, State Water Resources Control Board, and TRPA.

#### SHOP LOCAL! SHOP LAKE-FRIENDLY!

- Al Tahoe Laundry Center
- Bargains Galore Thrift Boutique
- Gaia-Licious
- Rojo's Tavern
- Sierra Veterinary Hospital
- Sno-Flake Drive-In
- Wildwood DIY Boutique & Workshop
- Yellow Submarine

Next time you visit a local business, check to see if they have a "Lake-Friendly Business" sticker in their window. If they do, you can be assured that this business property has installed its BMPs and is doing its part to help protect Lake Tahoe.

To find out how to become a Lake-Friendly Business  
visit [tahoebmp.org](http://tahoebmp.org) or [trpa.org](http://trpa.org).





## BMP Maintenance

Routine BMP maintenance preserves the lifespan of installed BMPs and keeps them functioning to minimize the potential for discharges of stormwater runoff and pollutants to Lake Tahoe. This past summer, the Stormwater Management Program kicked off a letter mailing campaign to notify owners of commercial and large multi-family parcels with BMP Certificates issued more than five years ago, that maintenance of those BMPs is due. Commercial and large multi-family land uses contribute high pollutant and sediments loads. During this past quarter, TRPA sent maintenance letters to parcels in priority locations in coordination with local jurisdictions. TRPA notified owners of 766 parcels and inspected 664 parcels in order to bring those parcels into BMP compliance. To improve the efficiency and tracking of BMP maintenance, TRPA developed an easy to use inspection and maintenance log now available online. Property owners can fill out the log online and submit it electronically or print it out and mail it to TRPA. Stormwater Management Program staff are available for on-site maintenance inspections and can assist with completing the inspection and maintenance log. Once TRPA verifies maintenance activities have occurred, staff reissues the BMP Certificate with a current date, which helps local jurisdictions meet their TMDL requirements. To find out more about BMP maintenance visit [www.tahoebmp.org/maintenance.asp](http://www.tahoebmp.org/maintenance.asp).

## Eighth Annual Conservation Landscape Tour and Stormwater Awareness Week

The Stormwater Management Program held a BMP maintenance demonstration at the eighth annual Conservation Landscape Tour which occurred during the past quarter. The tour began at the Lake Tahoe Community College Demonstration Garden where staff met with members of the public and explained the importance of completing BMPs and continued maintenance, and held a live demonstration on how to clean out gravel dripline infiltration trenches. Staff covered many BMP topics including the purpose of BMPs, BMP maintenance, installation, the BMP permitting process, technical sizing details, and inspection. While on tour, participants viewed numerous houses within the local community that are good examples of sustainable landscaping. Topics covered at each location included attracting pollinators to your garden, integrated pest management, sustainable turf care, habitat gardening, erosion control, defensible space, and gardening with native and climate appropriate plants. Approximately 75 people attended the event.

On September 25, TRPA held the first annual Stormwater Awareness Workshop in conjunction with events across California to highlight commercial and large multi-family property BMP maintenance. Attendees watched a presentation by TRPA about the



*A demonstration of BMP maintenance during the first annual Storm Water Awareness Workshop on September 25.*

new BMP inspection and maintenance log process and learned about water quality improvement products that were introduced by vendors. A live demonstration of BMP maintenance work performed on-site showed the effectiveness of stormwater infiltration systems. During this demonstration, participants saw first-hand the sediment and debris accumulation captured by storm drain cartridge filters and watched a vacuum truck suction out the remaining standing water and debris from the storm drain BMP. The event was a success and highlighted the importance of BMP maintenance for protecting the water quality and clarity of Lake Tahoe.

## BMP Compliance in the Oliver Park Neighborhood

On August 18, the Stormwater Management Program sent source control compliance letters to 76 properties in the Oliver Park area of Stateline, Nevada. Oliver Park is a priority location for BMP compliance as it is in close proximity to sensitive lands, stream environment zones, and the Lake. The Oliver Park area is characterized by slow infiltrating soils and high groundwater, making infiltration of stormwater runoff impractical. Owners of the 76 identified properties received certified letters asking them to respond to TRPA by September 17. Stormwater Management Program staff have been communicating with the property owners and conducting site evaluations to help these property owners come into BMP compliance. To date, 46 out of the 76 property owners have responded to the letters and 46 site visits have occurred. TRPA has issued 12 certificates through this effort so far.

## BMP Certificates Issued

The Stormwater Management Program continues to issue BMP Certificates for private and public parcels within the Tahoe Basin. Below is a summary of certificates issued during the past quarter and total certificates issued to date in 2015.

BMP Certificates Issued from January 1 to September 29, 2015			
California	Land Use	Total Certificates Issued During the Past Quarter (July-Sept. 2015)	Total Certificates Issued Year To Date
	Single Family	61	665
	Multi-Family	12	95
	Commercial	8	18
<b>Nevada</b>			
	Single Family	45	88
	Multi-Family	161	213
	Commercial	4	4
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>291</b>	<b>1,083</b>



## AQUATIC RESOURCES PROGRAM

TRPA's Aquatic Resources Program leads the Lake Tahoe Region partnership in actions needed to prevent the introduction of new aquatic invasive species (AIS) and eradicate or control the spread of existing AIS. The program implements the regional Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan and has a key goal of securing long term, stable funding for continued AIS prevention and control needs.

### AIS Western Regional Panel Meeting Hosted in Tahoe

During this past quarter, TRPA hosted the annual conference of the Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species. This conference brings together AIS managers, experts, and stakeholders to discuss policies, protocols, and current science surrounding AIS issues throughout the West. The conference had over 100 attendees who had the chance to see first-hand why Lake Tahoe's AIS program is one of the best in the country. Several presentations covered Tahoe-specific topics, and the conference included field trips to AIS inspection stations and AIS control project sites.

During the business portion of the meeting, TRPA Aquatic Resources Program Manager Dennis Zabaglo was elected Vice Chair of the Western Regional Panel. The Panel is encouraging the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force to develop a Boat Industry Working Group, and TRPA expressed interest in chairing this new working group when it is developed.



*Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species conference attendees during a presentation at the TRPA offices in September 2015.*

### Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Membership

TRPA is now an ex-officio voting member of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF), a federal advisory committee. ANSTF is the body that guides national AIS policy and reports directly to the U.S. Congress. It is the body that approves all AIS management plans across the country, including the Lake Tahoe Region AIS Management Plan. TRPA will be one of only two western entities that are members of the ANSTF, which will further the ability to ensure western AIS concerns are understood at the national level. In addition, TRPA will be able to learn from other members about what challenges they have faced and how they overcame them. TRPA will attend the next ANSTF meeting in November 2015 in Silver Spring, Maryland.

## International Boat Builders Exposition

TRPA staff participated in the first AIS presentation to boat builders at the International Boat Builders Exposition, the largest boat industry trade show in the country. TRPA hosted a booth



*TRPA Aquatic Resources Program Manager Dennis Zabaglo staffing an AIS booth at the International Boat Builders Exposition in September 2015.*

along with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, the State of Minnesota, and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission to encourage the boat industry to consider AIS management when building and designing boats. For the first time ever at this event, an AIS specific presentation was given to the industry and was a great success. TRPA and its public partners throughout the country continue to foster this new relationship with the boat industry in order to encourage innovation in boat design and potentially develop official AIS boating standards supported by the American Boat and Yacht Council and the National Marine Manufacturers Association.

## 2015 AIS Season Ending

Monitoring for AIS continued this past summer. TRPA monitoring shows evidence that prevention of new AIS infestations is paying off, as no new invasions have been detected since 2008.

Invasive weed control work implemented through the Tahoe Resource Conservation District continued at Lakeside Marina and Beach, Crystal Shores Condominiums, along the Truckee River and on the lakeside of the Tahoe City dam. These control projects were funded by California Senate Bill 630, the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act, California State Parks, Nevada Division of State Lands, the Tahoe Fund, and private contributions from the Crystal Shores Condominium homeowners. Warm water fish removal was conducted in the Tahoe Keys during this past quarter.

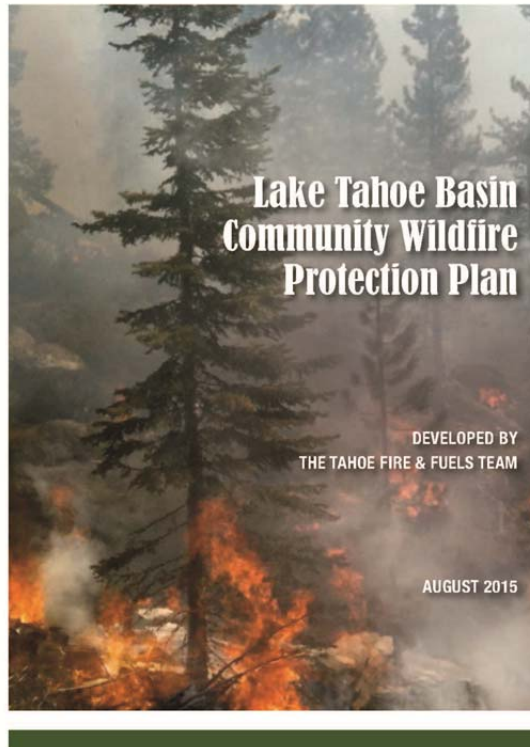
## FOREST AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

As part of the EIP, the Forest Management Program works to restore and maintain healthy forests that are resilient to wildfire, drought, insects, and disease. By working closely with partner agencies, this program provides prioritized direction for fuel reduction and forest management activities to promote multiple ecosystem benefits. In addition to collaboration with land management partners through the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team, 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.



## Tahoe Basin Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update

An important update of the 2004 Tahoe Basin Community Wildfire Protection Plan was unveiled during this past quarter and includes updated projects to guide fuel reduction efforts in the future. On December 3, 2003, President Bush signed into law the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to reduce the threat of destructive wildfires while upholding environmental standards and encouraging early public input during review and planning processes. One of the key outcomes of the legislation was to encourage communities to create community wildfire protection plans (CWPP). The 2015 Lake Tahoe Basin CWPP was a multi-agency effort created through the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT) and community input to provide a detailed plan for the implementation of the Lake Tahoe Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy. The CWPP was made possible through a collaborative that included 18 TFFT members, including TRPA staff, as contributing authors. The CWPP is available online at: [http://tahoe.livingwithfire.info/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/LTBCWPP\\_01-07\\_BasinWideNarrative\\_Reduced.pdf](http://tahoe.livingwithfire.info/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/LTBCWPP_01-07_BasinWideNarrative_Reduced.pdf)



## Fuels Reduction Project Implementation and Funding

The U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit continued work on three large fuel reduction/forest health projects located within the wildland urban interface (WUI) during this past quarter: the South Shore Fuels Reduction and Healthy Forest Restoration Project (totaling approximately 10,000 acres), the Carnelian Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Healthy Forest Restoration Project (totaling approximately 3,300 acres), and the Incline Fuels Reduction and Healthy Forest Restoration Project (totaling approximately 3,800 acres). These three projects represent big steps forward in community protection and forest resilience. The Carnelian and Incline projects were reviewed by TRPA and letters of threshold compliance were issued, while the South Shore project was permitted by the Lahontan Water Quality Control Board several years ago.

Smaller fuel reduction/forest health projects within the WUI also continue to be implemented around the Region through the work of the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District, the Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District, Nevada State Lands, and California State Parks.

The Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (White Pine amendment) program continues to be an important source of funding for fuel reduction projects in the Tahoe Basin. During this past quarter, the SNPLMA Executive Committee recommended funding for eight Tahoe Basin fuel reduction proposals totaling more than \$3 million. The projects are on federal, state, and private lands.

### **TRPA Urban Forestry Program Update**

TRPA provides urban forestry expertise through expert evaluation of trees in the urban landscape. There has been an increase in demand for tree evaluations in 2015, particularly during the past quarter. The increase may be attributed to a number of factors including but not limited to the increased awareness of fire danger, trees being stressed and diseased by prolonged drought, or the ease of submitting tree removal applications through the online application tool launched in June 2014. In 2014, from January 1 through September 23, TRPA issued 377 tree removal permits. In 2015, over the same time period, TRPA issued 599 tree removal permits, an increase of more than 60 percent. Tree removal for defensible space is still accessible through local fire protection districts and departments.



# ESTABLISH TRPA AS A LEADER IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMS

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**Establish 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 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.

## STAKEHOLDER AFFILIATE GROUP FOR WATER FOR THE SEASONS

During this past quarter, TRPA was one of 12 stakeholders invited to serve on the Stakeholder Affiliate Group for Water for the Seasons, a National Science Foundation/U.S. Department of Agriculture funded project. The project aims to partner scientists with community water managers



and water users in the Truckee-Carson River System to explore strategies and solutions for dealing with extreme climate events such as drought and floods. TRPA will provide the 'headwaters' perspective for the group, an integral component of a healthy and resilient water system. The first stakeholder meeting was held on September 15.

Over the next three years, TRPA will work directly with scientists to guide research and outreach activities as a part of this project. The goal is to link science with decision-making to create a model for improving community climate resiliency and the ability to adapt to extreme climatic conditions. Stakeholder

involvement in the process is highly important and will provide the practicality and usefulness of the research. The result of Water for the Seasons will be an integrated suite of models that can be used for planning purposes for water managers, agricultural producers, and municipalities in snow-fed arid land systems around the world.

## **SIERRA CLIMATE ADAPTATION MITIGATION PROJECT**

During the past quarter, TRPA was invited to serve as an ex-officio member of the Sierra Climate Adaptation Mitigation Project (Sierra CAMP). A public-private, cross-sector partnership, Sierra CAMP is a key partnership for Tahoe because it works to identify and promote climate adaptation and mitigation strategies across the region, and build connections with downstream urban areas to develop broader support for investment in Sierra resources that are critical to the rest of California. Sierra CAMP is one of the five regional climate adaptation and mitigation collaboratives supported and facilitated by the California Governor's Office and is part of the Alliance of Regional Collaboratives for Climate Adaptation.



With decreased snowpack, continued drought, and more numerous and damaging wildfires as the new 'normal,' there is a need to protect communities and the resources they depend on. Sierra CAMP is bringing together key voices within the Sierra region, but it goes a step further by also engaging urban downstream communities and decision-makers in crafting solutions. Sierra CAMP's collective goal is to have community leaders spanning the geography from Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, and the San Francisco Bay Area urging lawmakers to invest in the upper watershed to ensure reliability of their water, energy, recreation, and other resources. As the state makes historic decisions about where to invest billions of dollars in new and existing funding, Sierra CAMP offers a collaborative mechanism for ensuring that the connection between urban population centers and the rural resources they depend on is recognized and valued.

## **PLUG-IN ELECTRIC VEHICLE READINESS PLAN**

This past quarter, TRPA released a request for proposals for development of a Tahoe-Truckee Regional Plug-In Electric Vehicle (PEV) Readiness Plan and created the PEV Coordinating Council (PEVCC) for the Region. The PEVCC will serve as the stakeholder group for the project and includes key stakeholders from inside the Region and from adjacent regions. The project will get underway in November 2015 and is expected to take two-years.

TRPA received a grant from the California Energy Commission to develop a Tahoe-Truckee Regional PEV Readiness Plan. The goal is to make the Tahoe-Truckee Region 'PEV-ready' by creating a plan that identifies, reduces, and resolves barriers to the widespread deployment of private and public PEV infrastructure, in part by leveraging previous PEV efforts inside and outside the region and bringing outside expertise into the region. Putting the Tahoe-Truckee region and the Interstate 80 and Highway 50 corridors on the map as a PEV-ready region could benefit the economy and environment of local communities and surrounding regions, and could fill in a key gap in California's 'electric highway.' Finally, because of the Tahoe Truckee region's small permanent resident population and its role as a destination, corridor, and gateway, this PEV Plan if successful could be replicated not only in other rural areas, but in other tourist destinations popular with California's large metro areas.



# 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 hundreds of threshold standards, Regional Plan performance measures, and management actions for progress and effectiveness at a regional cost of millions of dollars. The Research and Analysis Division brings all data systems and monitoring, evaluation, and reporting resources together for more efficient response to continually growing information needs. 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.

## GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENTS

It is undisputed that Geographic Information System (GIS) is a foundational tool of planners and resource managers everywhere to understand the interplay of management inputs. TRPA recently completed a continuous improvement project to evaluate the Agency's mapping needs and create a mapping action plan. This action plan addresses the transition from hard-copy maps to electronic data layers using GIS tools. GIS allows TRPA staff, partners, project proponents, consultants, stakeholders, and the public to visualize data and use maps and geospatial information in project planning, evaluation, and policy-making decisions.

TRPA is requiring broader GIS skills among its staff and recently added another GIS specialist to create and update available data layers and enable new interactive information tools. This past quarter, Alex Quintero joined TRPA as a GIS data analyst. Alex's top priorities will be maintaining and updating TRPA parcel data, jurisdictional and ownership information, creating and updating GIS data layers from older paper and Mylar maps, responding to map requests, and expanding TRPA's existing mapping tools to enable more internal and external users to easily create, save, and print standard maps.

## SIMPLIFIED PERMITTING WORK FLOWS IN ACCELA

TRPA is growing its abilities to question whether our processes are efficient and achieving the results we need or intent. Toward this goal, the Research and Analysis Division is working with the Current Planning and Code Compliance Divisions to streamline and simplify project workflows in TRPA's permit tracking software, Accela, and implement new timesaving tools for planners and field inspectors. In simple terms, a workflow is the number and order of different steps, personnel, and divisions that touch a plan, project or permit review. TRPA contracted with TruePoint Solutions to evaluate, recommend, and implement solutions to streamline TRPA's permit tracking software and simplify project review processes, workflows, and reporting. With TruePoint's assistance, TRPA has implemented several enhancements and prioritized short- and long-term improvements to implement during the next quarter. These improvements include:

- Fewer and simpler workflows to make permit processing more understandable;
- Simplified reporting to save planners' time;
- Improved tracking of major plan revisions;
- New reports from TRPA's permit tracking software that are easier to run, maintain, and produce; and,
- Mobile applications for TRPA inspectors and the TRPA Forester to process inspections and permits in the field.

## OPERATE AS A HIGH PERFORMANCE ORGANIZATION

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**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, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, HUMAN RESOURCES, & FACILITIES UPDATE

The Agency support departments – Finance, Information Technology, Human Resources and Facilities Management – work continuously to assure the availability of adequate funding, systems, and facilities to accomplish the Compact’s expansive mission.

TRPA’s Finance Department completed all fiscal year quarter four invoices to grantors and secured the state contributions to TRPA’s annual budget. The department has made significant progress to generate schedules and information for the fiscal year 2014-15 financial audit, and will complete and present final audit work to the Governing Board during the upcoming quarter.

The Human Resources Department has upgraded key ADP software to the most current version, adding capabilities for recruiting, performance management, and online Human Resources Information System documentation. At this time, TRPA has three open positions, with preliminary interviews complete for two of them. The department’s focus for the upcoming quarter will be to hire staff for all three openings and to capitalize on the new features of ADP.

During the past quarter, 4,000 square feet of warehouse space on the second floor of TRPA’s building was leased to a local electrical contractor. TRPA is doing routine BMP maintenance on site and anticipates completing that work in the next quarter.

Information Technology continues migrating key TRPA services to cloud-based systems. Email has begun transitioning to a Microsoft hosted service with approximately 20 percent of employees moved so far. In conjunction with the Research and Analysis Division, TRPA updated its key planning software, Accela, to the latest version. By the end of 2015, TRPA anticipates that all employees will be moved to the cloud email product and have access to the most current version of standard Microsoft Office software.

### 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.

- External Affairs Chief Julie Regan worked with Lake Tahoe’s U.S. Senate and House delegations to reintroduce the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act of 2015. The Senate’s bipartisan legislation would authorize up to \$415 million in federal funding over 10 years to continue important environmental restoration and conservation measures at Lake Tahoe. While the House bill has a reduced funding amount, the External Affairs team is an active member of



the Tahoe Partnership, which is advocating for compromise in Washington, D.C. between the two bills and urging for the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act's ultimate passage.

- The South Tahoe Public Utility District hosted a Wildland Fire Forum on July 15 where Julie Regan presented the history and present status of the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act. This well-attended event focused on how Lake Tahoe agencies are working together to reduce wildfire risk with hazardous fuels reduction projects and encouraging property owners to create defensible space. Staff representatives from all members of the Lake Tahoe Congressional delegation attended.
- The External Affairs team represented TRPA at FireFest 2015 on September 26. The well-attended annual event in South Lake Tahoe helps inform the community about fire safety as well as how people can reduce wildfire risk.



*Julie Regan speaking at the Wildland Fire Forum on July 15.*



*Devin Middlebrook leading a volunteer during the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Tahoe Forest Stewardship Day.*

- Staff led a team of volunteers during the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Tahoe Forest Stewardship Day. Overall, 100 volunteers worked on a stretch of the Upper Truckee River to plant native vegetation and enhance restoration work done in the area by the U.S. Forest Service, California Tahoe Conservancy, and City of South Lake Tahoe.

- The External Affairs team presented the 2014 Best in the Basin Awards before the TRPA Governing Board on September 23. TRPA recognized 10 projects that made exceptional contributions to Lake Tahoe's environment and communities with awards through this program, now in its 25<sup>th</sup> year.



*2014 Best In Basin Award winners with TRPA Governing Board Chair Casey Beyer and Executive Director Joanne Marchetta.*

### *2014 Best in Basin Awards Winners*

#### *Environmental Improvement Program/Public Project Category*

- Bijou Erosion Control Project
- Harrison Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project
- Highway 50 Water Quality Improvement Project
- Lake Tahoe Boulevard Enhancement Project
- State Route 207/Kingsbury Grade Reconstruction Project

#### *Water Quality Improvement Category*

- Kingswood 500 Tank/120 Booster Pump Demolition and Griff Creek Restoration Project
- Smith BMP Retrofit Project

#### *Building and General Construction Category*

- SUP Tahoe – South Shore Bikes Project

#### *Defensible Space/Forest Health Category*

- Incline Pines Homeowners Association Defensible Space Project

#### *Sustainability/Community Benefit Category*

- Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation Community House Project

## NEW TRPA STAFF

During the third quarter of 2015, TRPA filled various positions.



### **Angela Stevens, Stormwater Management Program**

Angela Stevens joined the Stormwater Management Program in July as an Associate Environmental Specialist working on private parcel BMP implementation and area-wide projects to improve water quality. Angela is from Washington State and has a background in forestry and wildland fire. She has a master's degree in hydrology from University of Nevada, Reno, and a bachelor's degree in natural resources and environmental management from University of Hawaii, Manoa. While studying at UNR she travelled to Panama and Kenya to educate rural communities about sanitation and water quality issues and implement sanitation, soil erosion, and water conservation projects. Most recently, Angela was a research assistant with the Desert Research Institute in Reno working on nearshore water clarity at Lake Tahoe.

### **Alex Quintero, Research and Analysis Division**

In September, TRPA hired Alex Quintero as a Geographic Information System (GIS) Analyst, responsible for creating, maintaining, and analyzing TRPA's enterprise GIS datasets. Alex brings more than eight years of GIS experience, database design, web service management, application creation, and spatial analysis. Alex has helped support national exercises for the Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center as well as international events including the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster. He has a bachelor's degree in geography from University of Nevada, Reno, a master's degree in GIS from University of Redlands, and a certificate in information systems cybersecurity from Penn State. He moved to Tahoe from the Las Vegas area.







### **Taylor Currier, Code Compliance Program**

Taylor Currier began working at TRPA in July as an Associate Environmental Specialist in the Code Compliance Program. Taylor previously worked as an environmental scientist for the Lahontan Water Board. He has worked with various agencies and nonprofit organizations in Tahoe for several years. Before calling Tahoe home, Taylor grew up in Texas and graduated from the University of North Texas with a bachelor's degree in geography.

## **INTERNAL STAFF CHANGES**

Along with filling vacancies with external candidates, TRPA moved and promoted a number of internal staff this past quarter. Promoting existing employees is an important way to continue to invest in staff and to advance TRPA programs.

In Long Range Planning, Lucia Maloney and Jennifer Cannon were promoted from associate to senior planner positions and work is underway to backfill their positions with recruitments underway. To better integrate land use and transportation planning, Nick Haven is now leading the Long Range Planning Division and Transportation Planning Division.

In Current Planning, TRPA promoted Tiffany Good and Shannon Friedman to senior planner positions in that division. Sarah Jones joined the Stormwater Management Program from her position in Code Compliance to facilitate private parcel BMP implementation and area-wide water quality improvement projects.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **2014 EIP ACCOMPLISHMENT SUMMARY AND PROGRAM AREA FACT SHEETS**



# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

## AUGUST 2015

LAUNCHED IN 1997, the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) is a partnership of federal, state, and local agencies; private interests; and the Washoe Tribe, created to protect and improve the extraordinary natural and recreational resources of the Tahoe Basin. EIP partners implement projects that include everything from new bike trails to creek restorations to programs that protect the Lake from aquatic invasive species.

Between 1997 and December 2014, all sectors collectively invested \$1.8 billion which includes \$593.4 million by the federal government, \$693.4 million by California, \$118.8 million by Nevada, \$77.1 million by local governments, and \$328.3 million by the private sector.

### EIP PRIORITIES

- Improve forest health and reduce forest fuels
- Treat stormwater to improve Lake clarity
- Prevent and control aquatic invasive species
- Complete Basin-wide bike trail network
- Acquire and remove blighted structures, and transfer development rights from sensitive lands to town centers
- Restore Upper Truckee River and other key Tahoe watersheds.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS: 1997-2014

**More than 450 projects have been completed and 100 more projects are currently being implemented by EIP partners.**

**Accomplishments include:**

- Improving erosion control measures on 703 miles of roadways
- Treating 59,520 acres of hazardous fuels
- Restoring over 16,000 acres of wildlife habitat, including 1,532\* acres of stream environment zones
- Increasing public lake access by acquiring or enhancing 2,770 linear feet of shoreline
- Creating or improving 143 miles of bike and pedestrian routes
- Since 2009 the Aquatic Invasive Species Program has:
  - Conducted approximately 44,000 watercraft inspections
  - Performed over 21,000 watercraft decontaminations for all aquatic invasive species
  - Treated 38.85 acres of weeds and Asian clams (includes multiple treatments on some acres).

*\* This includes the 592 acres of the Upper Truckee River Marsh Restoration Project which is currently in the planning phase. It will be one of the largest SEZ restoration projects undertaken in Lake Tahoe and the watershed is the largest contributor of fine sediment to the Lake.*



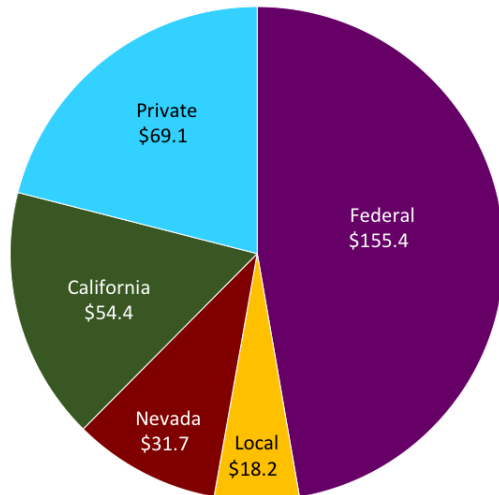


## EIP FUNDING

As programs move forward, EIP partners continue to work together to identify the highest priority projects and funding needed to continue the commitment to restoring and protecting Lake Tahoe.

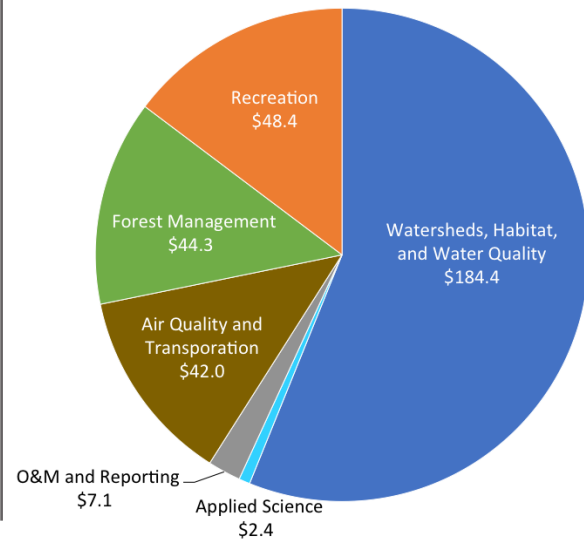
### EIP FUNDING BY SOURCE

*EIP investments are highly leveraged  
(2010–14, in millions)*



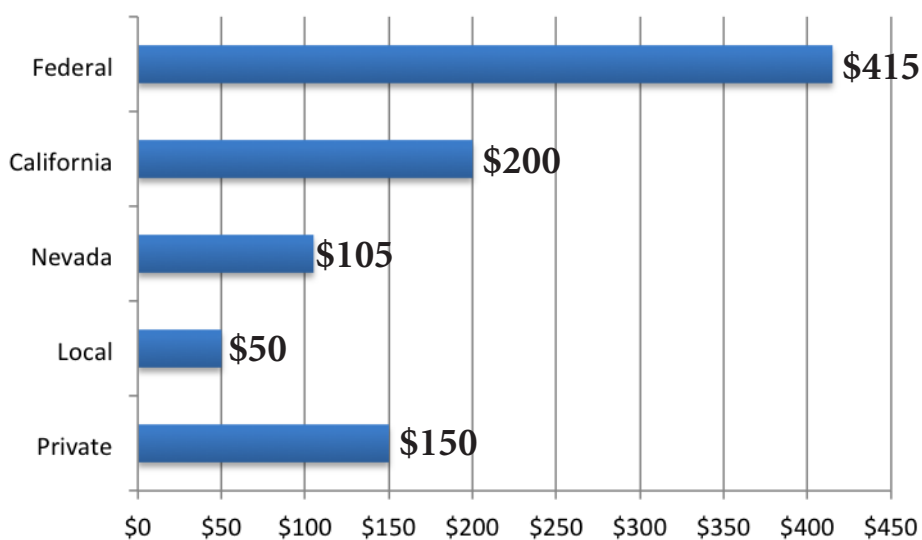
### EIP FUNDING BY FOCUS AREA

*EIP funding supports a broad range of projects  
(2010–14, in millions)*



### 10-YEAR EIP FUNDING TARGETS

*(in millions)*



**Federal:** Reauthorize the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act (LTRA) for \$415 million and seek funding from all applicable federal programs.

**Nevada:** Access \$105 million in authorized bond funding (in phases).

**California:** Seek \$200 million from Prop. 1, cap and trade, potential parks bond, and other sources.

**Local:** Maintain and increase O&M commitments and local assessments.

**Private:** Attract new investments, donations, and partnerships.



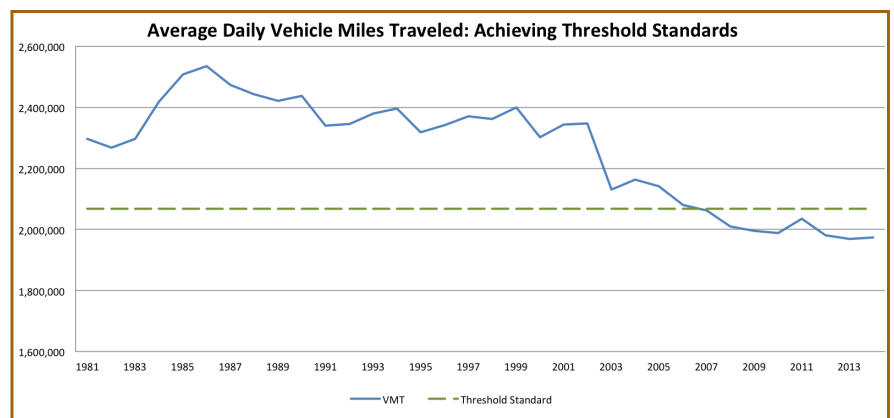
# AIR QUALITY AND TRANSPORTATION

## BACKGROUND

Mobile sources of air pollution, mainly from motor vehicles, are among the most significant sources of pollution in the Tahoe Basin. Since 1997, Basin partners have constructed 143 miles of bike trails and pedestrian facilities and invested in coordinated transit systems to help get residents and visitors out of their cars. Recent investments in the transit system include new service to popular recreation areas and neighborhoods, night-time routes, and the construction of 18 new transit shelters Basin-wide. Providing incentives to develop pedestrian-friendly streetscapes that are within walking distance to retail, commercial, and lodging opportunities is a focus of the updated 2012 TRPA Regional Plan and will be an important component of the 2016 update to the Regional Transportation Plan.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Fall 2015 expected completion of the Sawmill Boulevard Bike Trail connecting Meyers to the South Tahoe "Y."
- New transit servicing State Route 267, connecting Truckee with Kings Beach. TART will continue this service year-round beginning winter 2015.



## PRIORITIES

- Completing the Lake Tahoe Bikeway serving communities around Lake Tahoe.
- Creating a coordinated regional highway, transit, and parking system.
- Investing in mixed-use town centers served by reliable and convenient public transit, with complete streets that encourage biking and walking.
- Integrating new technology and innovation into transit systems to create a seamless transit experience.

## GUIDING POLICY

Regional Transportation Plan  
Update, Mobility 2035







# WATER QUALITY AND CLARITY

## BACKGROUND

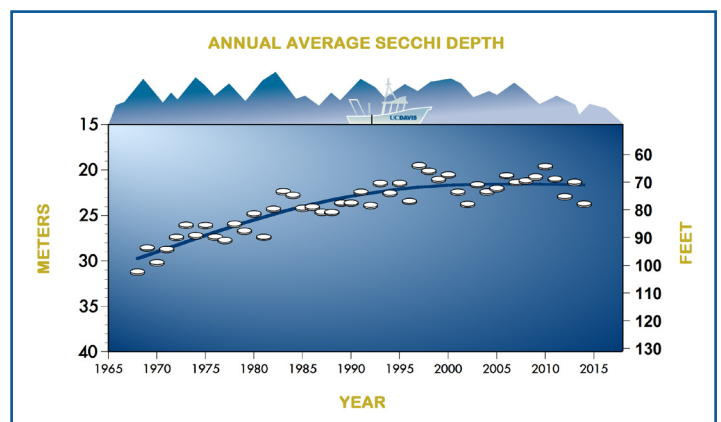
According to the 2015 State of the Lake Report by the Tahoe Environmental Research Center, average annual water clarity was the best in more than a decade, improving from 70.2 feet in 2013 to 77.8 feet in 2014. While some of this increased clarity can be attributed to the drought, research also indicates that investments in stormwater treatment facilities through the EIP are likely also driving this positive progress. Stormwater management projects on roadways, retrofitting parking areas on recreational facilities adjacent to the Lake, and installing Best Management Practices (BMPs) on private properties have all contributed to reversing the declining clarity trend.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed new major area-wide treatment projects including the Bijou Erosion Control Project, the Harrison Avenue Water Quality Improvement and Streetscape Project, and the Cave Rock Area-Wide Stormwater Treatment Basin Retrofit.
- Continued watershed restoration projects on the Upper Truckee River, Rosewood and Third Creeks, and other priority locations.

## PRIORITIES

- Implementing area-wide water quality treatments.
- Focusing private-parcel BMP installation on locations with high pollutant loading.



- Improving nearshore and deep Lake clarity.
- Continuing stormwater and tributary monitoring.

## GUIDING POLICY

- Lake Tahoe Water Quality Management Plan
- Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)
- BMP Action Plan







# INVASIVE SPECIES

## BACKGROUND

Lake Tahoe continues to administer one of the most comprehensive and collaborative Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) prevention programs in the country. All motorized watercraft are required to be inspected before entering Lake Tahoe. This year, California and Nevada recognized the importance of continuing these inspections by committing to fund half the program through their respective state budgets while the other half continues to be funded by boater fees.

This new stable funding for the prevention program has allowed agencies to prioritize projects that control AIS currently in the Lake. Controlling invasive weeds, warm water fish, and Asian clams is crucial to reducing the threat to native species and improving water quality.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- No detections of new aquatic invasive species.
- Adoption of the AIS Control Implementation Plan.
- Expanded national leadership role through new membership on the Federal Advisory Committee that guides national AIS policy.
- California funding source (SB630) for control projects.
- Since 2009, 44,000 watercraft inspections and 38 acres of weeds and Asian clams treated (includes multiple treatments on some acres).



*At left: Eurasian watermilfoil pre-treatment in Emerald Bay (2010). At right: the same location after treatment (2012) using diver-assisted suction and bottom barriers.*

## PRIORITIES

- Obtaining funding for control projects and research to maintain a science-based program.
- Limiting the spread of existing invasive species.
- Continuing collaboration among all partner agencies through the Aquatic Invasive Species Coordination Committee.
- Continuing public education and outreach through the Take Care, Tahoe Keepers, and Eyes on the Lake programs.

## GUIDING POLICY

- Lake Tahoe Region Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan
- Lake Tahoe AIS Implementation Plan







# FOREST HEALTH AND FUELS REDUCTION

## BACKGROUND

The forests of Lake Tahoe provide many benefits: wildlife habitat, clean air, scenic beauty, and clean water. Over the past several years, forest management activities have focused on fuel reduction in the wildland urban interface (WUI). WUI treatments have not only been successful in reducing fuel loadings around communities at risk, but also in building resilience to wildfire, climate change, drought, insects, and disease. Public land managers, fire protection districts, and regulatory agencies continue to address this threat by working together through the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team/Multi-Agency Coordinating Group and implementing the Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy, the newly updated Tahoe Basin Community Wildfire Protection Plan and supporting the development of Fire Adapted Communities.

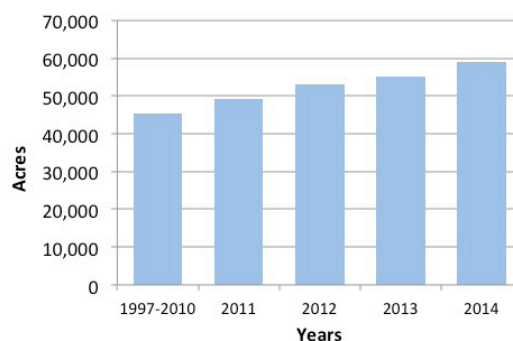
## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- From 1997 to 2014, 59,520 acres of forest have been treated for hazardous fuels reduction.
- Updated the Lake Tahoe Basin Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

## PRIORITIES

- Community protection and creation of Fire Adapted Communities.

**Cumulative Forest Fuels Acres Treated**



- Transition to large-scale forest health and watershed improvement projects.
- USFS South Shore Fuel Reduction and Healthy Forest Restoration Project.
- Incline Fuels Reduction and Healthy Forest Restoration Project.

## GUIDING POLICY

- Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy
- Lake Tahoe Basin Community Wildfire Protection Plan







# SUSTAINABILITY AND REGIONAL PLAN

## BACKGROUND

Sustainability for Lake Tahoe communities includes bringing new transportation options, finding innovative ways to build new infrastructure, encouraging health and social well-being, and building a healthy economy.

The Regional Plan and the Lake Tahoe Sustainability Action Plan serve as a framework for the Basin to implement strategies that will create more resilient communities in the face of a changing climate.

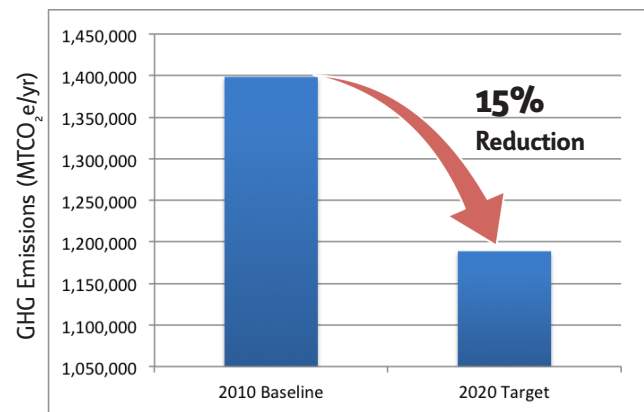
## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The inaugural Connections sustainability conference brought leaders together to discuss building more resilient communities through mountain-urban partnerships.
- The Sustainability Action Plan won the National American Planning Association's Award for Green Innovation.

## PRIORITIES

- Reexamining the regional development rights commodities system and determining how to accelerate environmental redevelopment.
- Working with the newly formed Bi-State Science Council to address nearshore and climate change implications.

## Regional Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Target



- Implementing local Area Plans. To date, the TRPA Governing Board has approved three Area Plans and five more are under development by local jurisdictions.
- Implementing the Sustainability Action Plan and continuing the citizen-led Tahoe-Truckee collaborative.
- Working with regional partners to develop a Tahoe-Truckee Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan.

## GUIDING POLICY

- Regional Plan
- Sustainability Action Plan

