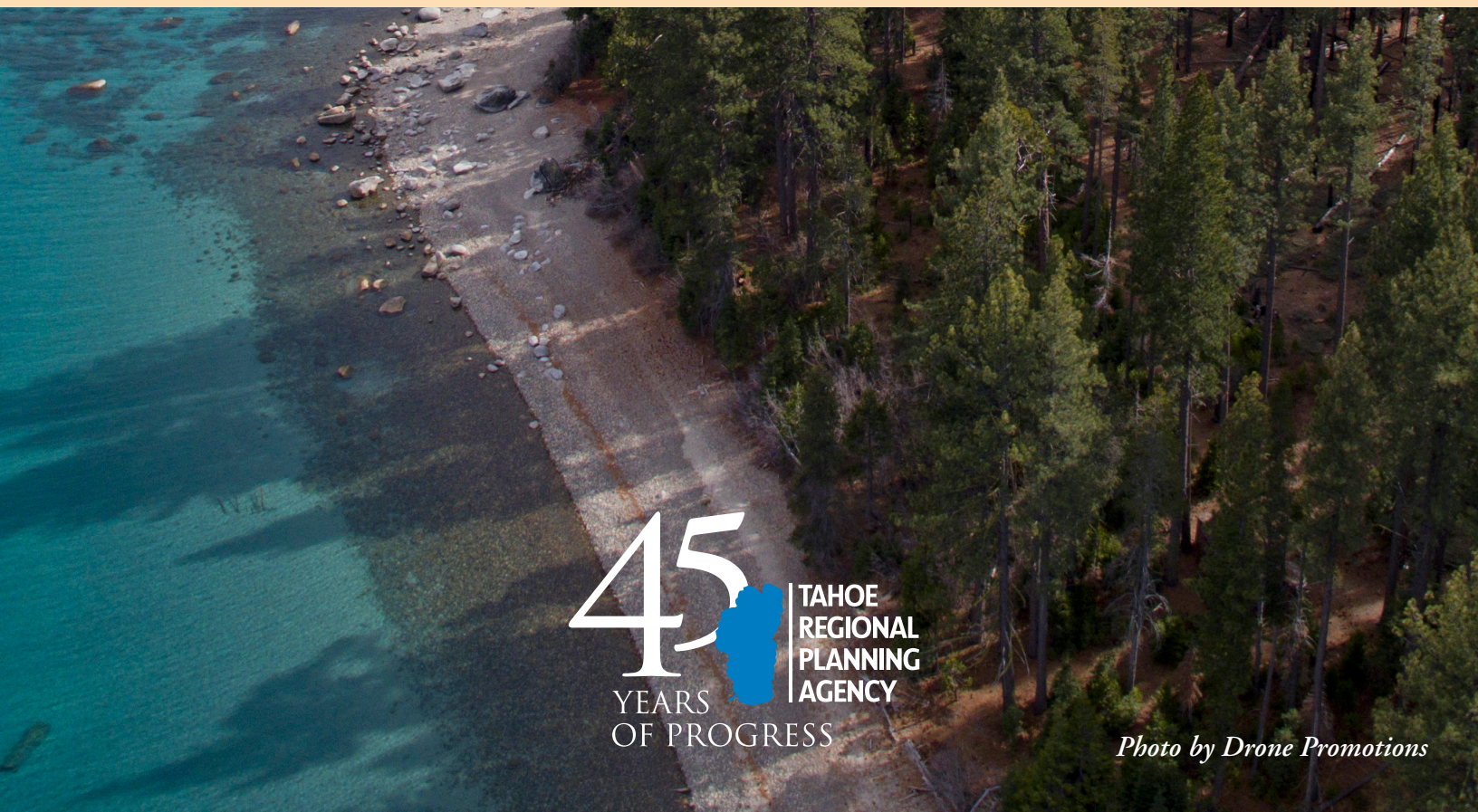




2016 QUARTERLY REPORT

TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY
Second Quarter: April – June 2016

|| *lake Tahoe*



45
YEARS
OF PROGRESS

TAHOE
REGIONAL
PLANNING
AGENCY

Photo by Drone Promotions

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TRPA STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

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

DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

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

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

Development Rights Stakeholder Assessment Report Completed

Based on the discussions with 55 stakeholders, the stakeholder assessment report is a benchmark for identifying the issues and needs related to the development rights system and helping to inform future work tasks and process development. Commodities are units of development rights unique to the Lake Tahoe Region. These include land coverage, commercial floor area, tourist accommodation units, existing residential units, residential development rights and allocations, and restoration credits. The system for allocating development rights and the Transfer of Development Rights Program are central elements of TRPA's growth management system.

The following summarizes the central findings and major takeaways from the stakeholder assessment:

1. The permitting and commodities systems are ripe for evaluation. TRPA should take a hard look at process and policy improvements that will help improve the implementation and effectiveness of the 2012 Regional Plan.
2. Permitting enhancements are needed to improve predictability related to timelines, costs, and requirements and consistency in the process.
3. Opportunities are available to streamline multi-jurisdictional permitting processes.

4. Stakeholders want to be engaged with the evaluation of these systems, policy decisions, and the planning process moving forward.

5. TRPA commodities and permitting process are directly inhibiting environmentally beneficial redevelopment. The scarcity of redevelopment over the past several decades is a consequence of too many “sticks” such as costs and regulation complexity and lack of “carrots” such as incentives and support previously provided through redevelopment agencies.

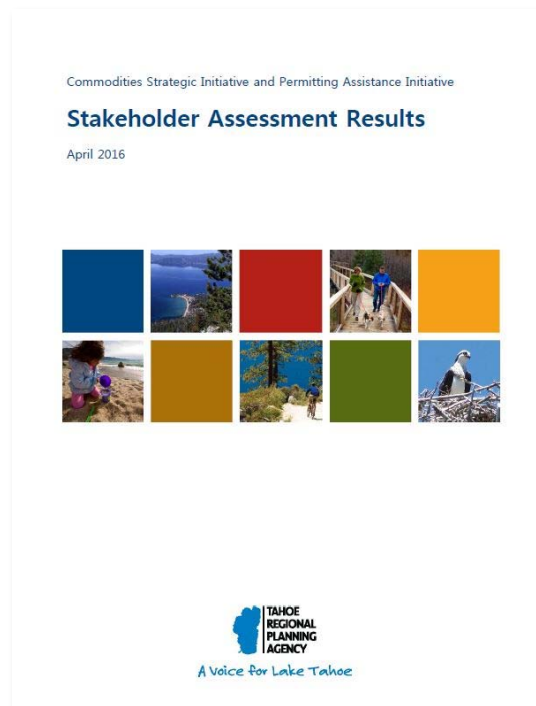
6. TRPA commodities and permitting processes were specifically designed for the growth management needs of the 1960s – 1980s. Today’s needs have evolved. The original intent of the commodities system should be compared to more recent policies such as the 2012 Regional Plan. The commodities system should be evaluated for comprehensive change and alternatives to the existing system should simultaneously support environmental restoration and redevelopment and manage growth.

7. Applicants need improved access to information to better understand terminology, processes, commodities supply, how to navigate through regulatory systems, and the purpose behind land use regulations in the Lake Tahoe Region.

8. Overly complicated regulations have made it difficult for applicants to develop and implement “good projects,” or those projects that place environmental improvements on the ground and/or provide community benefits. Policies, ordinances, programs, and processes should be straightforward and more user-friendly.

9. The commodities system has created an inflated market value for these units of development. Contributing causes are lack of knowledge about how many there are and where they exist, and a “false” sense of monetary value. This perceived market restricts access to commodities and obstructs the movement or transfer of commodities. As a result, community redevelopment has become stagnant.

10. The commodities system contributes to the lack of attainable and diverse housing needed for full-time residents and the workforce.



More details of the findings of the assessment are in the report which can be viewed and downloaded from TRPA’s website at:

http://www.trpa.org/wp-content/uploads/StkhldrAssess_Report_5_16_Final.pdf

Development Rights Work Program Being Finalized

The development rights work program proposes priorities, tasks, and a collaborative public approach for moving forward with the development rights strategic initiative. The Governing Board will consider next steps and work program endorsement at its July meeting.

FOREST HEALTH STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

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

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

Wildfire Awareness "Think First" Education Campaign

The first new wildfire education and outreach campaign in five years about fire in the Tahoe Region was launched during the past quarter in time for Lake Tahoe Wildfire Awareness Month. The



Infographic from the Think First campaign outlining fire safety tips for Tahoe visitors at campgrounds.

campaign continues to educate visitors to Lake Tahoe about the importance of fire prevention and how to be responsible while recreating, and educates residents about the importance of creating defensible space and fire adapted communities. The website www.ThinkFirstTahoe.org offers numerous fire prevention and preparedness tips and links to additional information. Local fire districts are incorporating the Think First campaign into their summer outreach activities to reach as many visitors and residents as possible.

Funding Requests to Continue Fuels Reduction/Forest Health Work

The continued success of the Tahoe Basin fuels reduction/forest health program depends on sustained funding. Six requests from Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team partners totaling over \$40 million were submitted for Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 16 White Pine Bill funding in April 2016. The requests ranged from wildland urban interface projects to Tahoe West large landscape project planning and development of fire adapted communities.

If the grants are awarded, it would enable the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team to make significant progress on the strategic goal to fully complete the initial treatment of the wildland urban interface.

Urban Forestry/Tree Removal Permits

TRPA foresters provide expertise in tree risk assessment and serve the Tahoe Basin through thorough tree evaluations. During the second quarter, 237 tree removal permits were issued for a total of 321 permits issued so far in 2016. This is slightly less than the 347 permits issued by the same time in 2015.

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

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

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

AIS Inspection Stations Open

Boat inspection stations are the primary tool to prevent the introduction of new AIS into Lake Tahoe. Since 2008, Lake Tahoe has performed boat inspections with great success as no new invasions have occurred. This year, inspection stations in Meyers, Alpine Meadows and Spooner Summit opened on May 1, while the station in Truckee opened on May 19. Stations will remain open through September, when inspections will return to Cave Rock and Lake Forest boat ramps for the winter. Funding for prevention is through the boat inspection fees and the states of California and Nevada. The cost share for running the stations is roughly a 50 percent split between public funding and fees paid by boaters, continuing the successful private/public structure in place for four years.

TRPA Awarded Funds for AIS Prevention Program

Funds above the existing baseline budget for the AIS prevention program were needed to increase performance at the inspection stations. TRPA was awarded over \$300,000 from the California Department of Boating and Waterways for process improvements at the ramps and to share high risk boat histories with other AIS programs in the West. Awarded funds are also furthering development of the shared inspection station in Truckee, California with the Town of Truckee. TRPA will be purchasing an additional decontamination unit for this station along with a small permanent pre-fabricated office building. The Town of Truckee will be prepping the site by installing utilities and paving.

Federal Funding for Weed Removal Work in the Tahoe Keys

During the past quarter, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service awarded approximately \$50,000 to TRPA for aquatic weed removal in the Tahoe Keys. These funds will complement funds previously committed by the Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association for this work.

The Tahoe Keys is the main source of aquatic invasive weeds for the rest of Lake Tahoe. The Tahoe Keys is two separate main channels that connect directly to Lake Tahoe, each having a series of lagoons and smaller back channels with a combined surface area of 1,723 acres. These waterways are almost 100 percent infested with invasive warmwater fish and weeds. With more than 1,500 boat slips being used in the Tahoe Keys, weeds being transported by boat to the rest of the lake is significant.

Funding Awarded for Aquatic Invasive Weed Work in Lake Tahoe

During the past quarter, AIS partners obtained over \$1 million dollars in grant funds for weed control work. Funds were awarded from the California Tahoe Conservancy from California Proposition 1 funds and Senate Bill 630 funds, and from the Nevada Division of State Lands License Plate Program. Control work will be implemented by the Tahoe Resource Conservation District at the following locations: Lakeside Beach (California), Truckee River (California), Tahoe City Dam (California) and Crystal Shores (Nevada).

TRPA to Host the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force

TRPA has been chosen to host the spring 2017 meeting of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF). The ANSTF is the federal advisory committee that guides national AIS policy and is the body that approves all AIS management plans. The committee holds two meetings a year, one in the fall in Washington, D.C., and a spring meeting hosted by a member of a regional panel. Lake Tahoe was asked to host on behalf of the Western Regional Panel as it is a national leader in AIS activities and hosted an extremely successful annual meeting of the panel in 2015. This will provide TRPA an opportunity to showcase Tahoe's regional AIS program to national AIS leaders.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

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

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

BMP Certificates Issued

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

BMP certificates issued from January 1 to June 30, 2016					
California	Land Use	Total Certificates Issued Year to Date	Certificates Issued Through Permitted Projects	Certificates Issued Through Voluntary Compliance	Certificates Issued Through Enforced Compliance
	Single Family Residential	79	49	30	0
	Multi-Family Residential	62	30	32	0
	Commercial	2	1	1	0
	California Total	143	80	63	0
Nevada	Single Family Residential	36	10	21	5
	Multi-Family Residential	3	0	2	1
	Commercial	61	0	0	61
	Nevada Total	100	10	23	67
	Total Certificates Issued	243	90	86	67

Stormwater Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Initiative

TRPA continues to work with partner agencies to pursue long term stable funding for stormwater operations and maintenance. Operations and maintenance is necessary to ensure stormwater infrastructure continues to reduce pollutant loads as originally designed.

During the second quarter of 2016 the Tahoe Resource Conservation District worked with partners to garner funding and execute a contract with the consulting team for Phase 2 of the stormwater operations and maintenance initiative. Phase 2 involves financial analysis and planning and developing a survey to evaluate public support for potential revenue options.

BMP Maintenance

TRPA sent 1,172 certified letters to commercial and multi-family properties in Douglas and Washoe counties during the past quarter to ensure that their installed BMPs have been maintained. So far the owners of 627 properties have responded to these letters. Stormwater Management Program

staff are working with these property owners to ensure their BMPs are maintained and functioning to continue to provide the benefits to the Lake Tahoe watershed. Once commercial property owners complete their maintenance requirements they are invited to become a member of the Lake Friendly Business Program.

Lake-Friendly Business Program

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

During the second quarter, Stormwater Management Program staff attended the 2016 Lake Tahoe Business Expo and networked with existing and potential Lake-Friendly Business program members. Two Nevada businesses joined the program during the event.

Ads for the program ran in the North Lake Tahoe Bonanza in May and in Moonshine Ink in June. In addition, the program continues its presence on the TRPA Facebook page. Community awareness of the program increased through boost posts on the TRPA Facebook page. As of June 29, there are 57 Lake-Friendly Business Program members.

Marina BMP Compliance

Marina BMPs are important because of the close proximity of marinas to Lake Tahoe and the high potential of pollutant loading and detriment to water quality. TRPA staff are working to ensure marina BMP compliance in conjunction with Lahontan's update of the Marina General Permit. A meeting was held at TRPA with stakeholders from local marinas and they were notified that TRPA stormwater management program staff would be in contact with them to schedule site visits to inspect BMPs to make sure they are maintained and functioning.

Parcel BMP Working Group Meeting

The BMP Working Group regularly coordinates work on stormwater management issues. During a May 6 meeting the group:

- Shared the final BMP mapping tool with partners. The tool provides data and a uniform process to help local jurisdictions use parcel scale BMPs to meet TMDL load reduction requirements. The tool can be accessed at <http://gis.trpa.org/bmpmappingtool/>



Screen shot from the TRPA Facebook page highlighting a Lake-Friendly business.

- Reviewed a Tahoe Resource Conservation District guidance memo on using the Pollutant Load Reduction Model to generate pollutant load reduction estimates for parcel scale BMPs from different land uses.
- Discussed process improvements for security return letters and BMP certificate requests from local jurisdiction memorandum of understanding partners who approve BMPs on TRPA's behalf through permitted projects.

Assuring that our BMP agency partners and stakeholders are well informed ensures coordination and informs policy decisions.

Education and Outreach

BMP education and outreach to inform the public of the importance of BMP installation and maintenance and its relation to protecting lake clarity. Outlined below are some of the education and outreach highlights that occurred during the second quarter of 2016:

- Stormwater Management Program staffed a booth at the Tahoe Truckee Earth Day festival at Squaw Valley on April 16 and at the South Lake Tahoe Earth Day at Bijou Park on April 23. Staff interacted with hundreds of people, both locals and visitors, discussing a wide variety of topics and answering questions about TRPA policy. Informational pamphlets and brochures were handed out and stormwater infiltration and runoff was demonstrated with a hands on display.
- Stormwater Management staff participated in developing a stormwater and fertilizer message for the Take Care campaign. Take Care is a series of illustrated messages that aim to promote a culture of environmental stewardship, using one voice to inspire people to take care of Tahoe.
- Stormwater Management Program staff hosted a BMP Workshop for Small BMP Retrofit Plans, Inspection, and Maintenance on April 29 to educate BMP designers and installers about TRPA regulations and processes for BMPs. The workshop was attended by 57 people including contractors, consultants, landscapers, engineers, and planners. The following topics were covered: BMP site analysis and design, small BMP retrofit plans and submittal process, BMP calculation spreadsheet, temporary construction BMPs, commercial and multifamily residential BMPs, TRPA coverage regulations, and tips on how to pass a final BMP inspection. Additionally, the Water Conservation Specialist from South Tahoe Public Utility District presented current water restrictions and the Turf Buy-Back Program.
- Outdoor Explore is an annual field trip to get local elementary students outside and teach them about forestry, wildlife, and water in the Tahoe Region. TRPA Stormwater Management Program staff assisted the TRPA outreach coordinator at Outdoor Explore to educate elementary children about groundwater.



- A fertilizer awareness article, “Think twice before fertilizing,” was published in the spring edition of Tahoe in Depth.

SHORELINE INITIATIVE

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

1. The shorezone plan and code update will address the dated prohibition on new structures in fish habitat and policies governing access and recreation. If necessary due to continuing drought conditions, public safety and health-related access issues will be addressed on an accelerated schedule.
2. Nearshore water quality is also being assessed. Ongoing research and monitoring will enhance the understanding of the ecosystem dynamics of the nearshore needed in order to explore potential policy changes, especially given alternative climate change scenarios. TRPA is working with other nearshore agency and science working groups and will engage the new Bi-State Science Advisory Council on nearshore science inquiries.



Baseline information on shoreline conditions will be gathered, likely including the most recent inventories of boat ramps, piers, buoys, permits, pier head line, dredging and related access data; climate change scenarios; and related information. The planning baseline information will be compiled through collaborative joint fact finding and will use existing data sources.

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

Shoreline Plan Website Launched

In order to engage the public and create a transparent planning process, a Shoreline Plan website www.shorelineplan.org was launched during this past quarter with important information on the planning process, policy issues being addressed, committee membership, meeting packets, and upcoming meetings and public engagement opportunities. The shoreline planning initiative is a consensus based multi-stakeholder planning process initiated to bring closure to a 30-year old effort to update regulations related to accessing Lake Tahoe from the shoreline.

Stakeholder Assessment Finalized and Shoreline Work Program Implemented

The Consensus Building Institute, an impartial nonprofit that helps groups collaborate, completed 21 in-depth interviews with 34 stakeholders and finalized the stakeholder assessment report. The report was prepared to engage stakeholders, identify opportunities for building consensus, and to help design the planning process and inform the development of a work program. In April, the Consensus Building Institute and TRPA presented the stakeholder assessment and work program to the Governing Board and received direction to move forward with the proposed planning process.

The stakeholder assessment and work program are available on the Shoreline Plan website www.shorelineplan.org.

Shoreline Policy Framework and Joint Fact Finding Committee on Data Collection

The objective is for the Shoreline Steering Committee to come to a consensus on a policy framework. Key policy issues that the Committee is discussing are:

- Public and private access to the lake
- Environmental effects of access
- Recreational access
- Marinas and boating
- Low lake-levels
- Streamlining the approval process

The objective of the Joint Fact Finding Committee is to come to a consensus on baseline conditions, best available information, and needed data collection. The committee worked with TRPA to define the data collection needs for the 2016 boating season needed to inform both policy decisions and the environmental analysis.

The Shoreline Steering Committee and Joint Fact Finding Committee membership, meeting packets, and meeting notes are available on the Shoreline Plan website www.shorelineplan.org.

TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

TRPA's transportation initiative involves updating the Regional Transportation Plan and enhancing the transportation system with improved trails, transit and technology.

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

Community Open Houses on Regional Transportation Plan and Corridor Strategies

The Regional Transportation Plan lays out the transportation system needed to help Lake Tahoe meet regional and community goals over the next 20 years. Public input ensures that the plan captures current community challenges and needs.

TRPA and the Tahoe Transportation District jointly produced two community workshops in May 2016. Over 150 people attended the North and South shore events. At the workshops attendees



Attendees providing input on the transportation system at one of two community open houses held in May 2016.

learned about the magnitude of visitor and resident travel demonstrated by new mobile device data, saw and commented on proposed transportation system strategies, helped identify needed improvements to the transportation system, and provided input on transportation goals. Some of the public's comments touched on providing better accommodation of bikes on transit, more transit shuttles to beaches, more inter-regional transit and bus shelters, and reducing congestion caused by weekend traffic in neighborhoods.

Plug-In Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Existing Conditions Report

TRPA, Truckee-Donner Public Utility District, and a team of consultants recently partnered to accelerate transportation electrification in the Tahoe-Truckee Region. Plug-in electric vehicles (PEVs) have the potential to dramatically reduce petroleum consumption and greenhouse gas emissions and increase energy independence.

The first draft of the existing conditions report was completed this past quarter. It offers an overview of the regional use of PEVs, charging infrastructure availability, state of PEV offerings in the region, applicable policies and incentives, and driver needs.

A vehicle ownership survey was disseminated to Tahoe and Truckee residents and visitors to understand the potential for adoption and integration of new transportation technologies. See: https://survey.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9NTWNZOHOTT8xHT

Tahoe-Truckee Plug-in Electric Vehicle (PEV) Coordinating Council Meeting

The Tahoe-Truckee PEV Coordinating Council convened in early June 2016 to provide guidance on the Plug-In Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Existing Conditions Assessment and discuss opportunities to make the readiness planning more useful. Including broad and diverse representation from different sectors around the Tahoe-Truckee Region, the council was set up to provide recommendations, act as ambassadors and educators for expanding electric charging infrastructure, and to support goals and implementation.

2016 Lake-Wide Bike Challenge

The 2016 Tahoe Bike Challenge from June 1-14 showcased the Tahoe Region's commitment to using alternative transportation. With a majority of typical daily trips less than two miles, people are discovering the ease and enjoyment of riding a bicycle to get around. TRPA partnered with the Lake

Tahoe Bicycle Coalition to produce the Bike Challenge this year, the Region's 10th annual production of this event. Below are some of the results from the Bike Challenge showing the impact of this program:

Total Participation:	236 riders
Total Number of Trips:	2,237
Total Number of Miles:	10,503
Total Number of Teams:	38
Total School Participants:	219
Total School Trips:	1,002

In the team competition, TRPA won the South Shore title with the most trips and the most miles recorded. On the North Shore, Tieslau Civil Engineering recorded the most trips and most miles as well. This friendly competition proves to be a great way to get more people involved. The camaraderie amongst co-workers and friends makes cycling even more enjoyable.

This year, Lake Tahoe Unified School District schools on the South Shore made great strides in the Bike Challenge by generating excitement around riding bicycles to school. Teachers and parents led "bike buses" to and from school during the challenge, as well as hosting educational school assemblies and bike rodeos. The effort paid off as this year's school participation was up about 50 percent over last year and many students continued to ride through the end of the school year.



Bikes from the many Bijou Community School students who participated in the Bike Challenge.

THRESHOLDS UPDATE STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

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

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

Peer Review of the 2015 Threshold Evaluation Report Initiated

Conservation Science Partners Inc. (CSP), was awarded the contract to coordinate the peer review of the 2015 Threshold Evaluation Report in April 2016. CSP, based in Truckee, California, is a recognized leader in leveraging interdisciplinary science teams to solve complex conservation challenges. CSP has an extensive global network of experts and deep ties to academic institutions, which made them an ideal partner to coordinate the peer review. CSP successfully recruited 12 scientists from 12 different institutions (including 10 universities, a federal agency, and a private consulting firm) to participate in the peer review. All chapters have been sent out to peer review and the peer review will be completed by the end of the summer.

Initial peer review comments have already been received for some subject areas, and the initial results are encouraging. The two reviewers of the fisheries chapter provided thoughtful comments that will improve both the quality of the analysis presented in the 2015 Threshold Evaluation Report and will help inform planning going forward.

Thresholds Update Initiative

The threshold update initiative is still in its infancy, but progress on the update continues. A framework to assess the existing standards against best practice in the field has been identified. The assessment method is the result of review of the national and international literature and guidance on goal setting and standard development. The goal of the assessment will be to provide an evidence base from which informed suggestions for review and modification of the threshold standard system can be made.

At the June Governing Board meeting, Zach Hymanson, the program coordinator for the Tahoe Science Advisory Council, presented an overview of the council and how it will function. The council has appointed Alan Heyvaert, director of the Center for Watersheds and Environmental Sustainability Desert Research Institute, and Geoffrey Schladow, director of the Tahoe Environmental Research Center at University of California-Davis, as its two co-chairs. TRPA is continuing to coordinate closely with the Tahoe Science Advisory Council as it forms. At the first meeting of the Tahoe Science Advisory Council in May, the proposed process for assessing the threshold standards was presented by TRPA staff.

TRPA also provided an overview of the existing threshold standards and the proposed process to assess those standards against best practice to the Nevada Legislative Committee for the Review and Oversight of the TRPA and Marlette Lake Water System.

In May, the Tahoe Interagency Executive Steering Committee also endorsed the threshold update initiative as a consensus high priority for the first technical project for the Tahoe Science Advisory Council.

ONGOING INITIATIVES AND ANNUAL ACTIVITIES

LONG RANGE PLANNING DIVISION

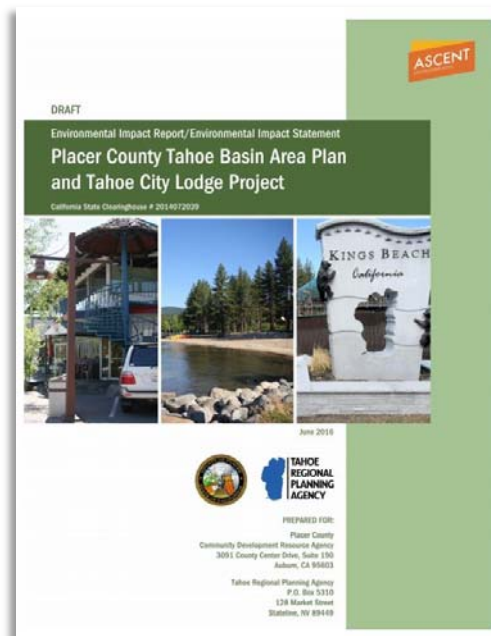
Long range planning priorities are established by TRPA's Governing Board annually and reviewed based on evaluations every four years of progress toward achieving and maintaining environmental threshold standards.

Draft Environmental Review Released for Placer County Tahoe Basin Area Plan and Tahoe City Lodge Project

Placer County and TRPA released the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Placer County Tahoe Basin Area Plan and Tahoe City Lodge Project on June 15 for a 60-day public comment period closing on August 15, 2016.

The comment period takes input from the public regarding the elements of the plan and adequacy of the draft EIR/EIS impact analysis and proposed mitigation measures. At the conclusion of the comment period the plan will be finalized and a final EIR/EIS will be prepared responding to comments received during the comment period. TRPA action on the project, including certification of the final EIR/EIS by the Governing Board, is tentatively scheduled for December 2016. Copies of the draft EIR/EIS are available for download at:

<http://www.trpa.org/document/projects-plans/>.



CURRENT PLANNING DIVISION

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

The following table is a status report on 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	2014/2015 Actual	2015/2016 Target	YTD
Number of applications	699	800	965
Percent of applications deemed complete/not complete within 30 days.	99%	100%	100%
Percent of applications requiring Hearing Officer review completed within 45 days of application being deemed complete.	78%	90%	100%
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.	100%	100%	100%
Percent of all applications reviewed within 120 days of application being deemed complete.	98%	100%	100%
Percent of surveyed customers rating their overall experience with the Customer Service Counter as good or exceptional (4 or 5 on a scale of 1 to 5).	100%	80%	100%

Permitting Assistance/Welcome Mat Development

The permitting assistance “Welcome Mat” initiative aims to promote integrated permitting processes in the Lake Tahoe Basin that are consistent, predictable, transparent, and streamlined with partner agencies. In September 2015, TRPA’s Current Planning Division formed an interdisciplinary team tasked with implementing process improvements and examining innovative permitting solutions happening across the country that can be modeled in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

The Welcome Mat team is sub-divided into six tasks, or focal areas. Projects within each of these focal areas are underway. The Current Planning Division views this initiative as an iterative process where staff will continue to identify needed improvements and implement projects to address them. Projects and improvements implemented during the last quarter include:

- Initial outreach to local jurisdictions to coordinate permit process improvement programs.
- Cross-training between TRPA and local jurisdiction planning staff.
- Improved accountability for application processing.
- Informational table for where an applicant can obtain a permit based on project scope.
- Online access to land capability records.

- Trainings and informational sessions with community groups, such as Tahoe Talks, a forum for property owners to ask questions about permitting in the Lake Tahoe Basin.
- Testing software for electronic plan submittals and review.
- Integrating technology in day-to-day operations – such as front counter sign-in and field inspections.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

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

The Tahoe Interagency Executives Steering Committee Continued EIP Work Group Engagement and Priority Setting

At the end of 2015, the Tahoe Interagency Executive Steering Committee (TIE-SC), who provide guidance and leadership to the EIP, committed to meet monthly in 2016 to strengthen the relationship between EIP working groups and the TIE-SC, review program priorities, and revisit short-term and long-term goals for the TIE-SC and the EIP.

In April, the AIS Coordinating Committee presented to the TIE-SC. TIE-SC executives agreed to assist the working group in streamlining rapid response protocols for quicker and easier response to potential AIS infestations.

In June, the TIE-SC completed a six-month review of EIP working group reports, prioritized its work program for the next quarter and selected areas to cover in the fall retreat. The identified priorities include organizing the many agencies involved in recreation plans and programs, further discussion of science priorities, and identifying actions implicated by the threshold evaluation.

RESEARCH & ANALYSIS DIVISION

To continually assess progress and effectiveness of regional partners, TRPA is charged with monitoring and measuring hundreds of threshold standards, Regional Plan performance measures, and management actions at a regional cost of millions of dollars. The Research and Analysis Division brings all data systems and monitoring, evaluation, and reporting resources together for more efficient response to continually growing information needs for decision making. The division manages both internal and external coordination among TRPA, partner agencies, and the scientific community on applied research, status and trend monitoring related to TRPA standards, and partner agency data needs.

Conservation Managers Roundtable

During this past quarter, Research and Analysis Division staff participated in a Conservation Managers Roundtable in Portland, Oregon. The conference focused on the challenges and opportunities of being a conservation manager and was attended by representatives from eight different organizations from Oregon, Washington, and Nevada; each one focused on protecting and conserving parks, watersheds, natural areas, and the people who depend on them.

Topics covered during the session were focused around how to fund and measure the success of conservation programs, open standards for conservation practices, and how to develop meaningful indicators. There was a lot of discussion on how to develop dashboards that show relevant information without overwhelming people with too much information. Participants also shared insightful lessons learned and what has made programs successful. These and other best practices are being studied for integration into the Threshold Update Initiative.

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 Bi-State Compact’s mission.

Next year’s budget for the upcoming fiscal year starting July 1, 2016 is now complete. The budget was presented to, and approved by, the Governing Board at its June 22, 2016 meeting. This budget is balanced and provides resources to support the initial phases of two major policy initiatives, the shoreline and development rights initiatives. TRPA’s Finance Department completed all fiscal year quarter three invoices and status reports for grantors. TRPA senior staff continue to meet with the Nevada Department of Administration Budget Division to begin work on that state’s next biennial budget. Budget submissions to both states are due in August.

TRPA has now fully leased surplus space in its office building and routine BMP maintenance projects will be completed during the third quarter. Repairs have been completed on the solar panels on the roof of the TRPA office building. The panels generated 14,000 kWh of electricity in June and reduced carbon emissions by 231 tons.

Information Technology for TRPA was outsourced to a managed services provider two years ago and is being changed to a new provider firm. The transition has begun and will be finished by the end of July. Information Technology continues migrating key TRPA services to cloud-based systems. Email, HR/payroll, and the accounting systems have been fully transitioned to cloud suppliers. In conjunction with the Research and Analysis Division, TRPA is updating its key planning and permit management software, Accela, to the latest version, and that activity should be completed next quarter.

During the second quarter, Human Resources filled several regular and seasonal staff positions. Devin Middlebrook accepted a promotional opportunity and moved to the Long Range Planning and Transportation Division as the agency’s new sustainable communities program coordinator. The Code Compliance team under Steve Sweet’s leadership rehired the previous year’s boat crew, and two new interns recently joined Transportation Planning.

Continuing with the agency’s focus on continual learning and development, Human Resources led three leadership workshops on the topics “Neuroscience for Leaders,” “Performance Management: Enhancing the Employee Experience,” and “Critical Thinking.” Managers and employees completed annual performance reviews and performance bonuses were distributed during the past quarter.

Human Resources also hosted an open enrollment for certain benefit programs and provided educational sessions with key health insurance plan providers in June.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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

- **Legislative Affairs:** In April, TRPA joined the Mountain Pact in the nation's capital to advance conservation and climate change initiatives. In addition, in June, TRPA accompanied the Tahoe Alliance on legislative and administration meetings in Sacramento to raise awareness of Tahoe issues in the California Capitol. The External Affairs team also organized a lake field tour for Nevada officials from the Office of Budget and assisted with a special recognition luncheon for retiring California Senator Fran Pavley, Chair of the Natural Resources and Water Committee.



- **Tahoe Hackathon:** TRPA staff partnered with a local volunteer group through Code for America to host the first ever Tahoe Hackathon. The two-day event brought together 20 community members working to make government services simple, effective, and easy to use through improved technology. Products created included a permit tracking application similar to the Domino's Pizza Tracker and Tahoe.gov, a platform for all government agencies in the Tahoe Region to better interact with the public and share important information.



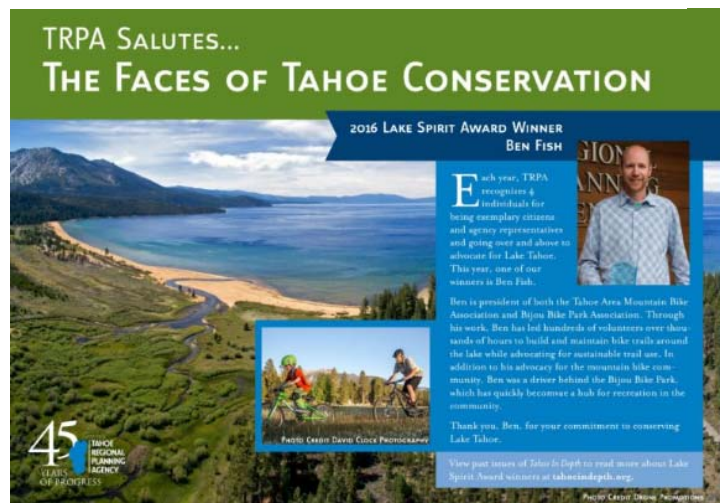
California Senator Fran Pavley, left, with Joanne Marchetta and Darcie Collins at Sugar Pine Point State Park.

- **Lake Spirit Awards:** In April, TRPA recognized four people with Lake Spirit Awards for their strong personal commitment to preserving Lake Tahoe. This year's award recipients are Beth Quandt, Ben Fish, Lisa Wallace, and Cyrus Miller.



Lake Spirit Award winners with TRPA Executive Director Joanne Marchetta and TRPA Governing Board Chair Casey Beyer.

- **Faces of Tahoe Conservation Campaign:** Staff launched and executed a campaign highlighting Lake Spirit Award winners to increase awareness of the program and those working hard to protect the lake. The campaign included advertisements online, in all three local newspapers, monthly papers, and various e-newsletters and Facebook.
- **International Visitors:** External Affairs hosted climate change and natural resource experts from 21 countries as part of an International Climate Change Delegation with University of Nevada, Reno. Staff shared the story of TRPA's creation and role in environmental conservation and restoration at Lake Tahoe with these visitors.
- **Think First—Keep Tahoe Fire Safe:** Working with local fire agencies and key partners like Cal Fire and the U.S. Forest Service, TRPA and the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team launched the Think First campaign to continue to educate visitors and residents about wildfire prevention and preparedness.
- **Community Events:** External Affairs staff participated in seven community events reaching hundreds of local residents and visitors, educating them about TRPA initiatives and work programs and environmental issues in the Tahoe Basin. Events included Earth Day festivals, the Wildfire Safety Expo in South Lake Tahoe, and Snapshot Day.





• **Tahoe In Depth:** In April 2016, the eighth issue of Tahoe In Depth was published and mailed to readers and was very well received. Tahoe In Depth also won the Public Relations Society of America's prestigious Bronze Anvil award for excellence.

• **Leave No Trace:** Staff participated in a new partnership with the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics for a week of intensive trainings, workshops, and volunteer days. Trainers met with front line agency staff to improve their skills at interacting with the public and communicating environmental issues.

• **AIS:** External Affairs helped organize and host the sixth annual aquatic invasive species community open house in Incline Village. The

event brings together experts and the public to discuss AIS work at Lake Tahoe. Ads for the 2016 boating season were placed in local and regional papers and online to increase boater awareness of the inspection/prevention program. In addition, three billboards were placed in the Sacramento area to reach boaters prior to planning their trips to Tahoe. An updated Tahoe Keepers training video was produced and posted online.

- **TRPA Staff Trash Pick-up Day:** As a part of Earth Day in April, TRPA staff picked up over 100 pounds of trash near the TRPA office building.

- **Environmental Education:** TRPA staff participated in spring school field trips through the South Tahoe Environmental Education Coalition. Field trips took place over two weeks and reached 6,500 local students. Staff also helped expand environmental education programs to Zephyr Cove Elementary School.

- **Transportation:** External Affairs worked with the TRPA Transportation team to integrate the Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization's identity with TRPA, including the website and logos. Staff also produced a Linking Tahoe postcard and accomplishments banner to help with outreach surrounding the Regional Transportation Plan update.



TRPA staff Sean Tevlin, Joe Marzocco, Aly Borawski, and Amy Fish picking up trash during a TRPA trash pick-up day in April 2016.

NEW TRPA STAFF



Matt Driscoll, Associate Environmental Specialist

Matt Driscoll started with TRPA in June joining the aquatic invasive species prevention program in the Environmental Improvement Division. Matt will oversee the boat inspection and implement process improvements to ensure the program maintains its high level of effectiveness. Matt is a Placerville native and comes to TRPA from the Tahoe Resource Conservation District where he worked with the California Tahoe Conservancy on forestry issues for the past four years. He is a graduate of Chico State, majoring in parks and natural resource management. He also has a graduate certificate in GIS from University of Denver and has boating and outreach experience from Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming. Matt will also be assisting with managing the EIP Tracker and coordinating with our EIP partners to ensure the accuracy of the information in the tracker.