

# 2020 QUARTERLY REPORT

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TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

First Quarter: January – March 2020



TAHOE  
REGIONAL  
PLANNING  
AGENCY



*Photo: Drone Promotions*



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In mid-March 2020, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) announced that it was taking further steps to adapt to changing circumstances in preventing the spread of COVID-19 illnesses. The agency moved to online, electronic, and virtual operations to the greatest extent possible to protect its customers, staff, and the community. The agency asked all staff to work from home and continue to be available for customers while maintaining its core services and operations. References to this shift are made throughout this report that outline how the agency is still open for business and continues to provide a high level of customer service. TRPA maintains up-to-date information about the closure on its website at <https://www.trpa.org/>.

## TRPA STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

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TRPA is moving forward with strategic initiatives the Governing Board identified as major priorities for the agency. These initiatives align directly with the four objectives in the agency's Strategic Plan.

### TRANSPORTATION

#### U.S. 50 South Shore Community Revitalization Project

The U.S. 50 South Shore Community Revitalization Project is a transformational and regionally significant project identified as a top Regional Plan implementation priority for Lake Tahoe. The project will catalyze improvements to the South Shore's housing, transit, parking management, recreation access, and business development by realigning approximately one mile of U.S. Highway 50 behind Heavenly Village and the casino core. The redevelopment will create a pedestrian-friendly and transit-oriented local main street corridor that extends throughout the project area in Stateline and South Lake Tahoe.

#### *Main Street Management Plan:*

- In February 2020, the Tahoe Transportation District held a parking symposium for stakeholders and interested parties from the North and South Shores to begin the Parking Management Plan, a component of the Main Street Management Plan. The conversation shifted to the broader topic of transportation in the Tahoe Region, including parking wayfinding and technology, parking pricing and inventory, transit resource needs, and public/private partnerships to support transit. The symposium will help shape the recommendations for a parking management system for the Main Street Management Plan in the upcoming months.
- During this quarter, TRPA staff launched a new website (<https://trpa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=77d16821f11a49bf8a1d9c9976fd654b>) highlighting the work that has been developed through the Main Street Management Plan Stakeholder Working Group so far. The website gives the public an overview of the Main Street Management Plan in relation to the South Shore Community Revitalization Project, the process for development of the plan, and the design concepts that were decided upon

during the November stakeholder meeting. TRPA staff continue to provide updates to interested agencies and organizations.

### **Bi-State Transportation Consultation Reconvenes**

In January 2020, the two states reconvened the Bi-State Consultation on Transportation to build on the outcomes from the first consultation concluded in December 2018. Director Bradley Crowell, Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Secretary Wade Crowfoot, California National Resources Agency, reconvened a cross section of public and private local partners to tackle long standing transportation challenges in Tahoe. The consultation will align basin stakeholders around Tahoe's transportation priorities over the next 10 years and is expected to dig into issues related to funding strategies, transit service priorities needed to address visitation and localized congestion, and top priority transportation projects. The consultation's recommendations will guide future planning, including the ongoing Regional Transportation Plan update, and implementation strategies and advocacy.

The second meeting for the consultation will take place in the second quarter of 2020.

### **Regional Transportation Plan Outreach**

The 2020 Regional Transportation Plan update is proceeding on schedule for adoption by the end of calendar year 2020. TRPA continued extensive community outreach for the Regional Transportation Plan update during the first quarter of 2020. This included presentations at over a dozen community groups and events. The input and feedback received at these meetings has helped to inform the plan and priority project development such as transit routes, bike paths, and safety enhancements.

Late last year, TRPA launched the website for the plan update at [www.trpa.org/rtp](http://www.trpa.org/rtp). This quarter, new interactive map features have been added that let the public explore the data and travel patterns being used to develop the transportation plan update. The website is a critical tool for reaching the public and inviting public engagement in the plan update.



*A screen shot of the new Regional Transportation Plan update website at [www.trpa.org/rtp](http://www.trpa.org/rtp).*

## Regional Transportation Plan Development

- The planning and transportation teams, contracting with Rincon Consultants, began work on the environmental analysis for the Regional Transportation Plan update. The analysis will evaluate how the transportation program and projects meets both TRPA threshold requirements and the California Environmental Quality Act, including new legislation related to transportation impacts and greenhouse gas analysis. This update will also utilize updated travel demand model inputs/outputs, including new socioeconomic, travel behavior, and other related data updates, as well as improved model forecast outputs based on the new data.
- **Mobility in the 21st Century:** Following the Transportation in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century stakeholder workshop last quarter, TRPA and a team of expert consultants finalized a white paper on newer forms of travel. The report provides suggestions and recommendations to implement emerging transportation solutions at Lake Tahoe such as e-bikes and on-demand transit. The report will be the basis for policy updates for the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan.
- **Unmet Needs Transit Report:** TRPA released the 2019 Unmet Transit Needs annual report in February 2020. This report identifies gaps in the transit network for underserved riders and will inform transit project updates and priorities for the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan. The final report is available online at <https://www.trpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019-UTN-Report-FINAL.pdf>.
- **Air quality mitigation fee update:** An additional tool in the transportation system implementation toolbox is the air quality mitigation fee that helps fund projects and programs in the Regional Transportation Plan. Staff are working on updating the TRPA air quality mitigation fee, which was last updated in 2007, to create a closer tie to development impacts. Work began in February 2020 and is scheduled to be completed by fall 2020.

## FOREST ECOSYSTEM HEALTH

### Code of Ordinance Changes in Support of Prescribed Burning and Tree Removal Provisions

An initiative is underway to bring TRPA's forestry rules fully current and consistent with best forest practice rules adopted by the states of California and Nevada. In the first quarter of 2020, after review and recommended approval by the Regional Plan Implementation Committee and the Advisory Planning Commission, the Governing Board approved TRPA Code amendments aligning the code with more stringent forest practice regulations set forth by both California and Nevada agencies. Additionally, the changes provide clarity and improved organization for the user, while streamlining the permitting process and maintaining necessary TRPA regulatory oversight in the areas of prescribed burning and tree removal in the Tahoe Region.

### Lake Tahoe West Partnership

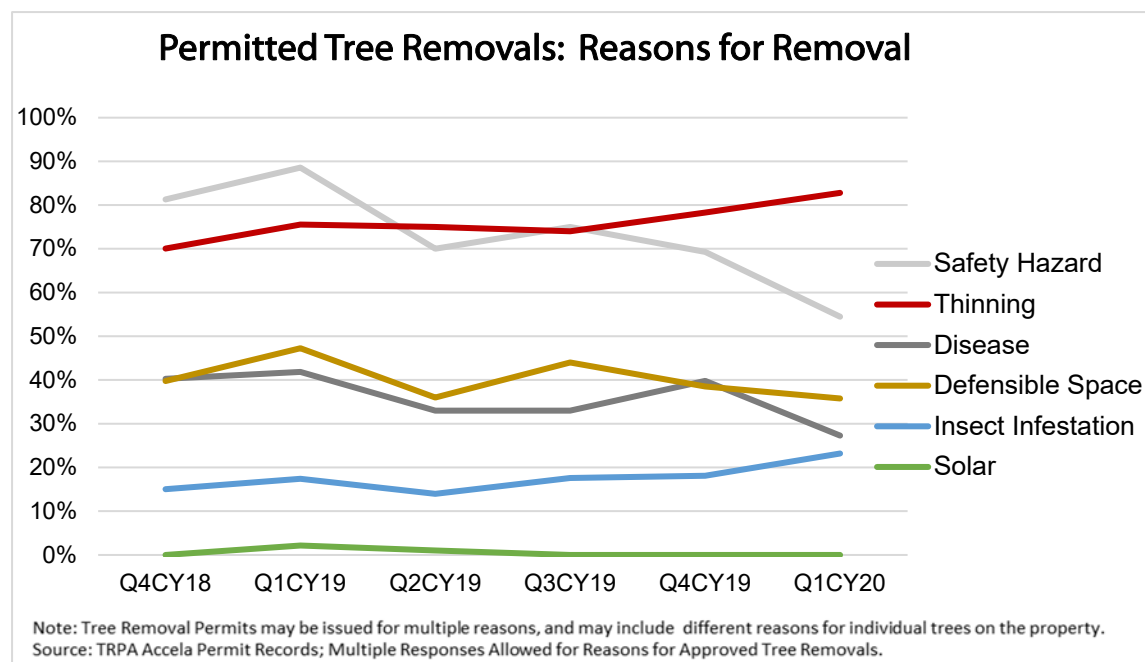
The West Shore landscape is vulnerable to high-severity wildfire, drought, climate change, and forest insect and disease outbreaks. The Lake Tahoe West Restoration Project will use forest thinning, prescribed burning, reforestation, and habitat restoration of forests, meadows, streams, and wildlife habitat to improve the landscape's resilience to future

disturbances. The Lake Tahoe West Partnership is moving into environmental review of the landscape restoration strategies for the project. The Partnership is releasing in early April 2020 a Scoping Notice and Notice of Preparation for a joint environmental analysis document that will support implementing decisions by TRPA, the California Tahoe Conservancy, and the USDA Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. The project area covers approximately 59,000 acres in the western portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin and consists of federal, state, local, and private lands, and the project proposal will more than double the amount of forest restoration conducted each year on the West Shore.

### Urban Forestry/Tree Removal Permits on Private Property

TRPA's forester is part of the network of forestry and fire professionals who help private landowners keep their property safe and defensible from wildfire. The forester provides expertise in tree risk assessment and serves Tahoe's private property owners with thorough tree evaluations. In the first quarter of 2020, TRPA received 103 tree removal applications, up significantly when compared with the same quarter in 2019. Tree thinning and safety hazards are the primary reasons for marking trees for removal.

Summary of TRPA Tree Removal Applications & Permitting Activity Quarter 1 2019 through Quarter 1 2020					
	Q1 CY2019	Q2 CY2019	Q3 CY2019	Q4 CY2019	Q1 CY2020
Tree Removal Applications Received	42	340	439	188	103
Number of Trees Permitted for Removal	184	1,358	1,611	801	466
Percent Applications Submitted Online	60%	77%	80%	83%	82%
Source : TRPA Accela Permit Records					



## TAHOE KEYS WEED MANAGEMENT

### Stakeholder Process and Environmental Documentation

In response to the need to control the abundant growth of non-native and nuisance aquatic weeds, the Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association developed the Tahoe Keys Lagoons Aquatic Weeds Control Methods Test. The Control Methods Test will test various methods of weed control in the Tahoe Keys Lagoons. TRPA and the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board initiated the review of the administrative draft of the environmental document needed to understand potential impacts of the Tahoe Keys Lagoon Control Methods Test project. The team met this critical milestone on schedule. The draft document is expected to be released in June 2020 for public comment.

TRPA convened two stakeholder workshops to summarize a million data points collected by the technical science team in 2019. This baseline information helps us understand the current environmental conditions and dynamics of the Tahoe Keys ecosystem and is a critical tool to inform the project and long-term weed control activities in the future. TRPA also presented this information to the Tahoe Science Advisory Council and received valuable technical feedback.

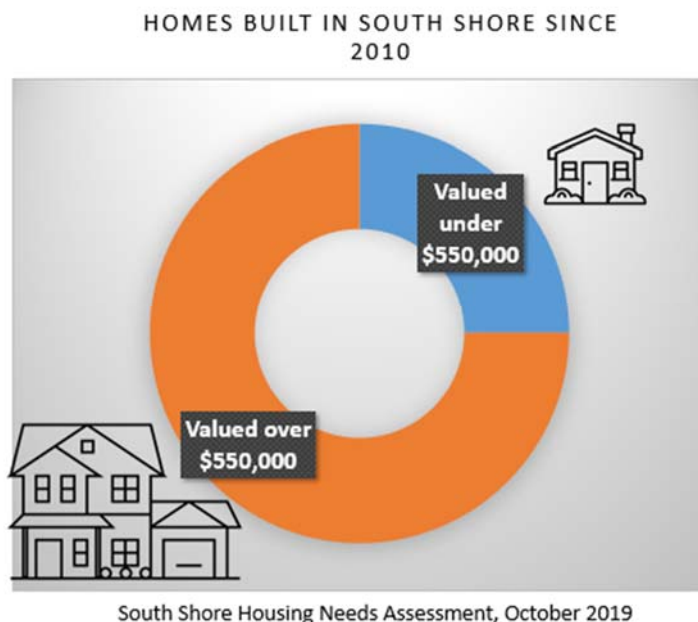
TRPA staff also presented to the Tahoe Fund board at its January 2020 meeting to continue the extensive and transparent public engagement process.

## LIVABLE AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

### South Shore Housing Action Plan

TRPA and South Shore partners collaborated to develop strategies to shift the housing balance towards more homes priced for residents. As an active member of Tahoe Prosperity Center's Housing Tahoe Partnership South Shore Housing Action Plan Advisory Committee, TRPA helped see the South Shore Housing Action Plan through to completion in mid-March

2020. The Housing Action Plan, a collaborative effort amongst 16 South Shore entities, identifies specific housing strategies, priorities, lead agencies, and recommended timing for a comprehensive South Shore housing effort. TRPA is identified as the lead agency on updating regional policy to incentivize housing; growing an inventory of local resident housing that is attainable and insulated from investor/second home buyers; and simplifying code to facilitate infrastructure improvements that would support affordable housing.





## Accessory Dwelling Units

TRPA's Local Government and Housing Committee began consideration of updates to TRPA's policies related to secondary residences (also known as accessory dwelling units) to allow construction of small-scale housing that is affordable by design, makes good use of existing infrastructure, and supports transit.

## Housing Work Plan

In January 2020 the TRPA Governing Board approved TRPA's Housing Work Plan, which lays the groundwork for TRPA to launch key housing initiatives that align with South Shore and North Shore Housing Action Plans. Placer County and Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau provided updates on recent California and Nevada housing legislation that affects Tahoe jurisdictions.

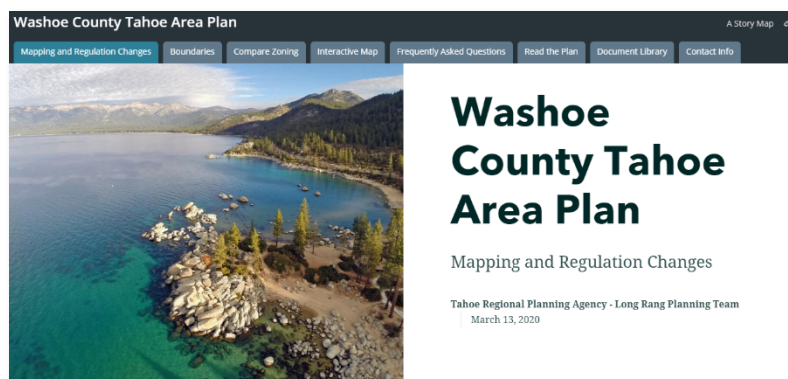
# ONGOING INITIATIVES AND ANNUAL ACTIVITIES

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## LONG RANGE & TRANSPORTATION PLANNING DIVISION

### Washoe County Tahoe Area Plan

In January 2020, TRPA staff developed a "story map" webpage ([https://trpa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=8b48e824e888427994ace0051b](https://trpa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=8b48e824e888427994ace0051b04dd6f)



*A screen shot of the Washoe County Area Plan story map webpage.*

[04dd6f](https://trpa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=8b48e824e888427994ace0051b04dd6f)) to help communicate to the public how the Washoe County Tahoe Area Plan affects policies and zoning. The page features interactive maps and a repository for documents related to the area plan. Staff continues to update the website to reflect revisions as the plan goes through the adoption process.

In February 2020, the Washoe County Planning Commission recommended approval of the Washoe County Area Plan based on the January 2020 draft. The County Commissioners completed the first reading of the implementing ordinance, with a few slight modifications, in March. The second reading of the ordinance has been postponed, but completion is anticipated soon. The March 2020 draft of the area plan is the latest version.

Following the county's final action on the area plan, TRPA will review and consider the plan for approval in coming months. This area plan would be the first in Washoe County and help to advance the goals and policies of the Regional Plan and advance threshold attainment.



## Meeks Bay Restoration Project

TRPA, in partnership with the USDA Forest Service, began work with Ascent Environmental and the Consensus Building Institute on the Meeks Bay Restoration Project environmental analysis and public engagement strategy. The first phase of the project will include a stakeholder assessment and outreach plan to develop project alternatives for restoration and redevelopment of the site. Removing the marina and restoring Meeks Creek is a high priority restoration project for the Tahoe Basin and will complement the upstream restoration in Meeks Meadow led by the Washoe Tribe. The USDA Forest Service has proposed replacing the marina with a public boat ramp and public pier. TRPA is partnering with the USDA Forest Service to manage the consultant contracts for the project and help design and engage collaborative public outreach on a range of alternatives.

## Sustainable Recreation

TRPA staff with the Sustainable Recreation Working Group members, developed shared language for the COVID-19 emergency for recreation and land managers to post at various recreation sites around Tahoe. The fast response by land managers exemplifies the importance of collaboration that working groups bring to the Tahoe Basin under the Environmental Improvement Program.

## State Route 89 Recreation Corridor Management Plan

The State Route 89 transportation corridor includes some of the most heavily visited recreation sites in the Tahoe Region. Staff continued to engage stakeholders and public in development of the State Route 89 Corridor Plan seeking feedback on the planning framework, plan goals, concept projects, and funding. Outreach included a stakeholder workshop with 35 participants and two public open houses with 81 attendees.

Staff completed the 'travel options analysis' for the corridor plan, which outlines the scope of transit, parking, and trail infrastructure needs for each plan alternative. Staff and partners will use this analysis to develop strategies that meet corridor plan goals.

## Climate Change

TRPA first organized a coalition of Tahoe Region partners to address climate change response for Tahoe in 2013. With the support of funding from the California Strategic Growth Council, the partners produced the award winning 2015 Sustainability Action Plan. Many of its actions have been voluntarily implemented, and it is now time to update that climate action plan for Tahoe. The California Tahoe Conservancy

*You're Invited*

**State Route 89: The Future of Tahoe's West Shore**  
- Open Houses & Webinar -

TRPA, USDA Forest Service, and Tahoe Transportation District invite you to explore the future of Lake Tahoe's West Shore. The State Route 89 Recreation Corridor Management Plan will outline the projects needed to improve the visitor experience, reduce traffic congestion, and preserve the environment from South Lake Tahoe to Tahama.

Learn more about the proposed tools and strategies and give feedback to help shape the future of Tahoe's West Shore.

OPEN HOUSES	WEBINAR
<b>March 10 – South Lake Tahoe</b> <b>When:</b> 4 - 7 p.m. <b>Where:</b> Camp Richardson Historic Hotel <b>What:</b> Open house, stop by any time and learn about the plan	<b>April 2 - Online from anywhere</b> <b>When:</b> Noon - 1:30 p.m. <b>Where:</b> <a href="https://trpa.org/SR89-webinar">trpa.org/SR89-webinar</a> <b>What:</b> Take a deep dive into the plan, projects, and strategies
<b>March 11 – North Lake Tahoe</b> <b>When:</b> 4 - 7 p.m. <b>Where:</b> West Shore Cafe <b>What:</b> Open house, stop by any time and learn about the plan	<b>Proposed Tools and Strategies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transit and shuttle services</li><li>• Active transportation</li><li>• Parking management and enforcement</li><li>• Equitable access and visitor management</li><li>• Infrastructure improvements</li></ul>

Learn more: [www.trpa.org/SR-89](https://www.trpa.org/SR-89)

Tahoe Transportation District UAS TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

*The flyer inviting the public to participate in open houses and webinars for the State Route 89 Recreation Corridor Management Plan.*

awarded TRPA a \$100,000 grant to complete an updated greenhouse gas inventory report. This report will update regional baseline emission totals, future projection scenarios, and calculate the carbon sequestration potential of Tahoe Basin forests and wetlands. This report will also help the Tahoe Region respond to climate reporting mandates in both Nevada and California and track progress of the Tahoe Region's Sustainability Action Plan.

TRPA hosted a climate adaptation workshop for the public with the California Tahoe Conservancy, South Tahoe Public Utility District, Tahoe Transportation District, and Nevada Department of Environmental Protection this quarter. The workshop educated the public about ongoing climate adaptation actions in the Tahoe Region and highlighted the importance of community driven climate action.

## CURRENT PLANNING DIVISION

### Permit Application Review

Permit applications submitted to TRPA increased by 28 percent in the first quarter of 2020 compared to the first quarter of 2019. The increase was driven by an 83 percent increase in verification and banking applications, which are typically a leading indicator of development projects, as these verifications are required to be performed prior to the submittal of most residential and commercial projects. Sixty-five applications were submitted in March 2020, despite the agency moving to online, electronic, and virtual operations in the middle of March.

Summary of TRPA Project Applications Received Quarter 1 2019 through Quarter 1 2020					
	Q1 CY2019	Q2 CY2019	Q3 CY2019	Q4 CY2019	Q1 CY2020
<b>Applications Received<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>161</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>244</b>
Residential Projects <sup>2</sup>	57	57	68	26	41
Commercial Projects <sup>2</sup>	5	6	4	3	4
Recreation/Public Service Projects <sup>2</sup>	10	12	6	7	9
Environmental Improvement Construction Projects	2	4	3	1	1
Shorezone/Lakezone Projects <sup>2</sup>	6	9	10	15	17
Grading Projects	3	10	11	7	8
Verifications and Banking <sup>3</sup>	52	99	121	126	95
Buoys	0	0	3	26	38
Transfers of Development	6	10	6	3	9
Other <sup>4</sup>	20	23	40	22	22
<u>Notes:</u> (Data is sourced from TRPA Accela Permit Records)					
1 Does not include Exempt projects, Qualified Exempt declarations, Tree Removal applications, or Administrative applications					
2 Includes New Development and Additions/Modification					
3 Includes Soils/Hydrology Verifications, IPES, Land Capability Verifications, Land Capability Challenges, Verifications of Coverage, Verifications of Uses, Site Assessments and Standalone Banking Applications					
4 Includes Historic determinations, Lot Line Adjustments, Temporary projects, Scenic, Underground Tank Removal, Subdivision of Existing Uses, Sign, Allocation Assignments, and other miscellaneous project types					

## Hearings Officer Meetings

The Hearings Officer approved 10 project applications this quarter, including:

- Relocation and partial undergrounding of approximately 2,500 linear feet of overhead powerlines near Cascade Creek, California. The relocation will ease any maintenance needs for these lines in the future;
- Upgrades to an existing powerline serving Vikingsholm in Emerald Bay to help prevent wildfires;
- The repair of a 160-foot section of shoreline abutting State Route 89 near Homewood, California. This section of shoreline within Caltrans right-of-way eroded away in the fall of 2019, severely undermining the section of State Route 89 immediately upland of the shoreline, threatening both water quality and public health and safety;
- The partial reconstruction and expansion of an existing unoccupied commercial building to be operated as a tavern in Sunnyside, California;
- Relocation and reconstruction of five studio cabins near Homewood, California;
- The rehabilitation and reconstruction of a legally existing, non-conforming bathhouse (superstructure) on an existing pier. The bathhouse and associated upland lodge were determined by TRPA to be historically significant;
- An addition to an existing single-family dwelling located within an avalanche zone (Crystal Bay, Nevada);
- The rebuild of a lakefront residence that includes upgrades to the existing water intake line to meet fire department requirements near Meeks Bay, California; and,
- Two land capability challenges.

## TRPA Governing Board Approves Event Center Project

At the March meeting, the Governing Board unanimously approved Tahoe Douglas Visitor's Authority's proposed \$100 million event center project. The proposed project will create a 138,000 square-foot, 6,000 seat center for performances, trade shows, ice shows, and sporting events. Non-peak period events will allow a capacity of 6,000 seats. Attendance will be capped at 2,500 people during peak summer months to manage traffic congestion. The South Tahoe Events Center will be located at the corner of the Highway 50 and Lake Parkway in Stateline, Nevada. This property currently serves as a parking lot for the Mont Bleu Hotel and Casino.



*A rendering of the South Tahoe Events Center to be built on the Mont Bleu parking lot at the intersection of U.S. Highway and Lake Parkway in Stateline, Nevada.*



To meet TRPA transportation and transit goals, Tahoe Douglas Visitor's Authority agreed to provide next-generation transit and parking management to decrease traffic congestion. Transportation elements of the project include:

- Free and frequent year-round transit service to surrounding neighborhoods.
- Consistent paid parking at four neighboring hotel/casinos.
- Creation of a new mobility hub for public buses and microtransit (van) shuttles located at the gateway to the Stateline.
- Use of smart phone technologies to connect people to transportation, ridesharing, parking information, transit, and alternative transportation options.
- Bus and shuttle lane turnouts and separate areas for Uber/Lyft access.
- Traffic control officers deployed at key intersections during peak times.

The Event Center project heads to the Douglas County Board of Commissioners for final approval. The Tahoe Douglas Visitor's Authority aims to break ground on the project this summer.

### **Local Government Coordination**

In January 2020, TRPA delegated additional permitting to El Dorado County as a part of a new delegation memorandum of understanding approved in 2019. In addition to the residential permitting that the county already performs on TRPA's behalf, El Dorado County's Community Development Services Department now processes commercial verifications (which determine a property's development potential), commercial qualified exempt activity permits for minor exterior and interior improvements, and permits for new signs and temporary activities.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM DIVISION**



### **Tahoe Interagency Executives Steering Committee & EIP Coordination**

The Tahoe Interagency Executives Steering Committee unanimously adopted the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) Update this quarter. The update shown on the next page outlines shared action priorities for

EIP partners. This update is the result of a year of hard work by the EIP Coordinating Committee to align inter-agency goals and priorities.

The Tahoe Interagency Executives Steering Committee worked collaboratively to compile and submit the FY2021 Basin-wide EIP priority list for potential Lake Tahoe Restoration Act funding. Over the last three years, the Tahoe Basin has realized more than \$37 million in federal funding through the 2016 Lake Tahoe Restoration Act.

# THE LAKE TAHOE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

A Blueprint For Climate Resilience

*lake tahoe*

## WATERSHEDS AND WATER QUALITY

### GOALS

1. Maintain and improve lake clarity and water quality.
2. Restore ecosystem health and resilience.
3. Improve and enhance fish and wildlife habitat.

### ACTION PRIORITIES

#### Stormwater Management Program

- Reduce Stormwater Pollution from: Roads and Highways, Forest Roads, Public and Private Parcels

#### Watershed Restoration Program

- Acquire Environmentally Sensitive Lands for Restoration and Protection
- Restore Priority Meadows, Wetlands, and Lake Tahoe Tributaries
- Prevent, Control, or Eradicate Terrestrial Invasive Species

#### Aquatic Invasive Species Program

- Prevent, Control, or Eradicate Aquatic Invasive Species

## FOREST HEALTH

### GOALS

1. Protect communities from damaging wildfire.
2. Restore ecosystem health and resilience.
3. Improve and enhance wildlife habitat.

### ACTION PRIORITIES

#### Community Wildfire and Protection Program

- Implement Defensible Space on Public and Private Parcels and Utility Corridors
- Upgrade Priority Water Infrastructure to Fight Catastrophic Wildfire

#### Forest Restoration Program

- Reduce Hazardous Fuels
- Restore Native Forest Communities
- Implement Prescribed Fire
- Restore and Protect Native Wildlife

## SCIENCE, STEWARDSHIP, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

### GOALS

1. Implement leading-edge science to continuously improve projects and promote adaptive management.
2. Protect EIP investments and benefits.
3. Maintain transparency and accountability.
4. Cultivate environmental stewardship.

### ACTION PRIORITIES

- Conduct Applied Scientific Research
- Implement Programmatic Monitoring and Reporting
- Engage Communities in Environmental Stewardship \*
- Utilize Innovative Technology\*
- Operate and Maintain Capital Projects

## SUSTAINABLE RECREATION AND TRANSPORTATION

### GOALS

1. Maintain and improve air quality.
2. Improve outdoor experiences for visitors and residents while protecting natural resources.
3. Increase the use of alternative modes of transportation and decrease reliance on the private automobile.

### ACTION PRIORITIES

- Improve Public Access
- Build and Enhance Trail Networks
- Build and Enhance Transit Systems
- Improve Public Recreation Facilities



**LAKE TAHOE**  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPROVEMENT  
PROGRAM

FINAL  
- March 2020 -

## Cutting the Green Tape Roundtables

This quarter, TRPA staff facilitated two “Cutting the Green Tape” roundtables convened by the California Natural Resource Agency and the California Landscape Stewardship Network. These meetings are part of a series of visionary and action-oriented roundtables to increase the effectiveness, quality, and quantity of environmental restoration statewide by improving processes and permitting. The State postponed the third and final meeting of the roundtable planned for mid-April due to the COVID19 pandemic.

## Spooner Front Country Improvement Project

In February 2020 the Governing Board approved the Spooner Front Country Improvement Project, a critical recreation access project to enhance Spooner Lake State Park, a popular destination in Nevada for hiking, mountain biking, and fishing. The project will redesign and update the facilities and provide access to popular backcountry recreation. The project is proposed in two phases. Phase one includes a visitor center, amphitheater, pathways, interpretive and wayfinding signs, and improvements to the entrance road. Phase two includes improved and relocated picnic areas, six additional restrooms, a group event area, improved pathways, new and enhanced parking, an enhanced maintenance area, and stormwater best management practices for the entire Spooner Front Country project area. Construction for phase one will begin in 2020 and is anticipated to take two years to complete. Phase two construction will commence shortly after phase one completion.



*A rendering of the approved visitor center amphitheater improvements for the Spooner Front Country Improvement Project.*

## Stormwater Management Program

### ***Best Management Practices (BMP) Certificates Issued***

TRPA issues best management practices (BMP) certificates to recognize a parcel's compliance with stormwater management requirements in TRPA's Code of Ordinances. The Stormwater Management Program at TRPA targets priority properties for BMP compliance in coordination with local jurisdictions to achieve required pollutant load reductions for the benefit of water quality. Concentrating BMP compliance on commercial and large multi-family (six units or more) properties reduces more pollutant load compared to single-family residential properties. This quarter, TRPA issued 20 BMP certificates: 18 for single-family residential parcels and two for commercial parcels. Of the total, five are source control certificates.



BMP Certificates issued from January 1 to March 31, 2020					
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	9	3	6	0
	Multi-Family Residential	0	0	0	0
	Commercial	2	1	0	1
	<b>California Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>
Nevada	Single Family Residential	9	3	4	2
	Multi-Family Residential	0	0	0	0
	Commercial	0	0	0	0
	<b>Nevada Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>Total Certificates Issued</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>

***Reissued Certificates:*** During this quarter, TRPA re-issued four BMP certificates (three for single-family residential parcels and one for a commercial parcel). These certificates were reissued to these properties following a verification of BMP maintenance and effectiveness.

***Accelerated Best Management Practices Implementation and Maintenance:*** During the first quarter of 2020, Stormwater Management Program staff issued a notice of failure to install or maintain BMPs to 36 non-compliant commercial and multi-family parcels.

***Program Funding:*** TRPA has been seeking more opportunities to implement area wide stormwater treatment to accelerate stormwater BMP compliance. During this quarter, TRPA's Stormwater Management Program applied for Lake Tahoe Restoration Act watershed funding through the USDA Forest Service and was selected to receive an award to fund areawide stormwater infrastructure planning for the Ski Run "Mountain to Marina" Green Infrastructure Project. TRPA and USDA Forest Service staff are working on contracts to implement this project.

## Aquatic Invasive Species Program

### ***Prevention:***

- Ordinarily through the winter, only two public ramp locations are open for AIS inspections and boat launch. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as of March 21, 2020, boat inspections have been suspended at these sites to ensure safety of the staff and public. TRPA staff are monitoring the situation closely and working with

partners to resume operations as soon as possible consistent with California's and Nevada's stay-at-home-executive orders.

- Prior to the temporary closure, 106 inspections occurred in the first quarter of 2020 at the Lake Forest and Cave Rock boat ramps (the only public facilities open during the winter months). Two boats required decontamination.

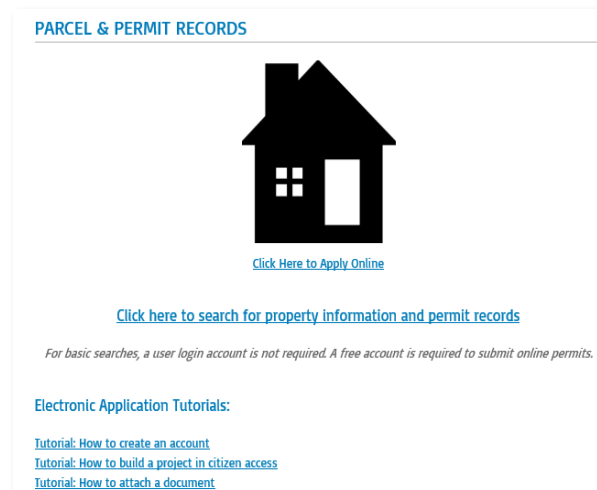
### ***Control:***

- As a top priority identified in the AIS Implementation Plan and Control Action Agenda, TRPA will lead an invasive aquatic plant control project at Taylor Creek and Tallac Marsh this summer. TRPA and the USDA Forest Service are providing funds from the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act to implement the first such project in a marsh environment in Tahoe.
- TRPA is releasing a request for proposals to install bubble curtains at the Tahoe Keys east channel and the Elk Point Country Club Marina. The League to Save Lake Tahoe, the Tahoe Fund, and the Elk Point Country Club Homeowners Association are providing complementary funds to implement this innovative approach to preventing invasive aquatic plant fragments from spreading out of the Tahoe Keys, and preventing them from entering Elk Point Marina where control work has already taken place to eliminate remnant invasive weed populations.

## **RESEARCH & ANALYSIS DIVISION**

### **Online Permit Applications**

TRPA had been slowly transitioning to online permit application submittals through the Agency's permitting software, Accela. In response to the office closure in mid-March due to the COVID-19 stay-at-home directives from both the California and Nevada governors, Research and Analysis Division staff accelerated the deployment of additional online permit applications. The agency went from eight online applications to 21 by the end of the quarter, drastically increasing efficiency and ease of public access to TRPA permit services.



*A screenshot from the TRPA website with a link to the electronic permit application submittal portal.*

### **Parcel Tracker Updates**

The Lake Tahoe Info Parcel Tracker (<https://parcels.laketahoeinfo.org/>) is the best source of detailed public information about the land use characteristics of property in the Lake Tahoe Basin. TRPA staff reviewed and updated information on almost 700 parcels in the tracker during the quarter. TRPA responded to 60 unique requests from property owners, real estate agents, and local government partners for updated permitting information on

parcels. The number of help requests submitted through the Parcel Tracker is up due in large measure to knowledge of the site's property information becoming more widespread and because of increased use of the new mooring registration portal on the Parcel Tracker.

### **Geographic Information Systems Updates**

During this quarter staff made several updates to the agency's geographic information systems. Specifically,

- Developed an interactive map that displays confirmed COVID-19 cases in the counties in and around the Tahoe Region. As of the end of the quarter the map had been viewed 1,100 times in the first few days it was up prior to the end of this quarter. The map can be viewed on Tahoe Open Data at <https://www.tahoeopendata.org/pages/covid-19>.
- Updated the parcel history data and web map to incorporate 2019 parcel boundary changes.
- Developed a Regional Transportation Plan polling map that allows the public to leave comments and vote for transportation projects in the Region.
- Deployed a parcel geometry review map that allows planners to review and either accept or decline changes in parcel geometry.
- Added boat inspection stations to the Tahoe boating map mobile app. Staff are working on a new version of the mobile application to be released this spring.

### **2019 Threshold Evaluation: Conversion to An Online Dashboard**

TRPA is in process of producing its seventh required threshold evaluation report. Staff, with the aid of scientists and consultants, are evaluating and summarizing data collected in the 2019 field season and analyzing threshold status to be reported in the 2019 Threshold Evaluation Report. Staff is converting what has previously been a 1,500-page written report to an online dashboard format. The online dashboard on Lake Tahoe Info (<https://thresholds.laketahoeinfo.org/>) will allow the public to view comprehensive results and information about each threshold standard: the current status of each threshold indicator, maps and charts associated with that indicator, key messages about the indicator and its status, past statuses and evaluations, and monitoring data associated with the indicator. There will also be a section linking the threshold indicators to Environmental Improvement Program projects that work to improve the indicator. The updated dashboard with the 2019 threshold status information will be released later this year.

## **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

TRPA supports a culture committed to public education, outreach, and community engagement to implement the Tahoe Regional Plan. The external affairs team leads public engagement initiatives in collaboration with a wide variety of agency and nonprofit stakeholders. This quarter, TRPA continued ongoing education and outreach in the Lake Tahoe Region to raise awareness about Lake Tahoe's issues and improve public understanding of TRPA's role and the EIP multi-sector collaborative partnership.



## Legislative Affairs

The 2020 first quarter's legislative affairs activities focused on budget matters in California and Nevada and federal appropriations for the Tahoe Basin under the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act (LTRA). The LTRA, passed in December 2016, authorized up to \$415 million over seven years for the federal share of the Environmental Improvement Program. With the passage of the 2020 federal budget, approximately \$16 million in federal funds were appropriated for forest health, invasive species, and watershed restoration and water quality projects bringing the three-year LTRA funding total to \$37 million. Importantly, the budget contains an additional \$1 million for aquatic invasive species because of the strong support of the congressional delegation and TRPA's work with partners to raise awareness of the urgent needs in the Tahoe Keys and throughout the lake.

TRPA staff testified before the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power Hearing on the impact of invasive species on Lake Tahoe. U.S. Senator

Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.) spoke about the importance of a comprehensive, collaborative and science-based approach to protect Lake Tahoe from the threat of climate change and invasive species. During the hearing, she congratulated TRPA on the collaboration to protect the lake's fragile ecosystem and improve environmental protection measures.



TRPA staff also spoke at a briefing event hosted by the National Marine Manufacturers Association for nearly 50 congressional staff in Washington, D.C. to examine the role Congress can play in combatting aquatic invasive species.

In January, TRPA and the Tahoe Prosperity Center hosted Lenny Mendonca, California Governor's (now former) Chief Economic and Business Advisor and Director of GO-Biz, for a tour around Lake Tahoe. The tour featured stakeholders across the Basin and reviewed topics including housing, environmental redevelopment, economic development, and job creation. The tour was the first step in building a new relationship with California Go Biz and the Regions Rising Program being championed by Governor Newsom.

TRPA staff participated in "Sierra Day in the Capitol" in Sacramento co-hosted by the Sierra Business Council and Sierra Nevada Alliance. Staff spent the day building and strengthening relationships with elected leaders and staff in the Capitol. This work reinforces the importance of Lake Tahoe to the state of California and provides insight for decision makers as to what support is needed for the Region.

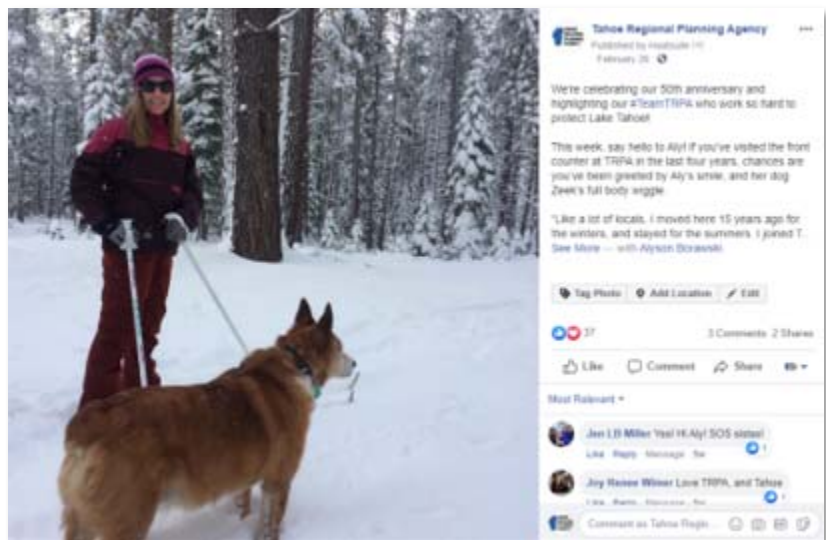
Nevada's Committee for the Review and Oversight of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency also kicked off its interim schedule of meetings in January. TRPA participated in two meetings this quarter and briefed the 6-member legislative committee on important Tahoe issues as part of field tours and formal hearings.

### Agency's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Program

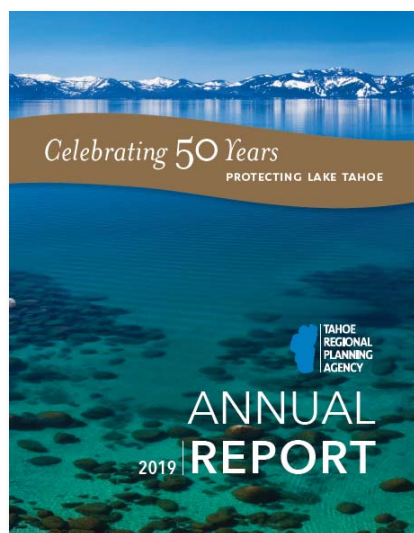
A commemorative flag celebrating TRPA's 50-year anniversary was flown over the U.S. Capitol on December 18, 2019. Upon receiving the flag, local Cub Scout Pack 592 and Boy Scout Troop 594 ceremoniously folded the flag, which was then put in a beautiful display along with the accompanying proclamation and presented to the Governing Board and Advisory Planning Commission. The display now hangs permanently in the TRPA office.

In light of COVID-19, plans for a reception celebrating TRPA's 50-year anniversary have been postponed. Staff continue to make progress on a special Tahoe in Depth edition to be published this summer, along with the creation of a Tahoe coin, a custom Tahoe deck of cards, and more.

Staff are also being highlighted on social media channels using the hashtag #TeamTRPA. Each week short bios and photos of staff are shared to showcase their role and how they serve the community.



*An example of a #TeamTRPA social media post celebrating TRPA's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and highlighting TRPA staff's important work.*



### 2019 Annual Report

TRPA published the 2019 Annual Report to include a special 50-year anniversary three-page timeline featuring important milestones from the last five decades. The 26-page report highlights key 2019 accomplishments and future focuses by program area as well as project spotlights. The report can be found on the TRPA website at <https://www.trpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019-TRPA-Annual-Report-2.25.20.pdf>.

### Aquatic Invasive Species Outreach

TRPA continues to educate boaters and paddlers on the Clean, Drain, and Dry messaging by using billboards, rack cards, advertising, social media, and television spots. The

campaign is working – boaters are arriving aware of the program and are supportive of boat inspections.

### **Take Care Tahoe**

Visitation to the Take Care website grew 130 percent during this quarter, year over year (1,003 users in 2019 to 2,309 in 2020). The Instagram channel has acquired 223 new followers (747 followers at the beginning of January to 970 followers by the end of March 2020), resulting in a 30 percent increase in following since January 1, 2020. This growth is particularly notable considering that spikes in website traffic traditionally occur in the summer during peak visitation. Partners attribute some of this growth to the placement of two digital billboards along U.S. Highway 50 near Folsom, California and Interstate 80 near Colfax, California which targets people entering the Tahoe Basin. These billboards encourage responsible recreation using messaging created by the Take Care creative team and will remain in place through April 2020.

The Tahoe Fund hosted an Alpenglowl Festival fundraiser event that generated about \$20,000, and their board determined that 100 percent of the revenue should support the Take Care program. Partners also introduced the Take Care Bear (a large bear suit akin to Smokey the Bear) to the public during a busy holiday weekend, which generated media coverage from local news channels and asked visitors to clean up their broken sled debris and other trash.

Lastly, Take Care partners have quickly adapted messaging to the COVID-19 crisis. They have shared new creative content blending the CDC and Sustainable Recreation Working Group's recommendations to the public using the established characters and Tahoe-specific jargon.

### **Environmental Education**

TRPA staff coordinated the 5th annual EpicPromise Winter Adventure Program, which allowed more than 200 fifth-grade students at the South Shore to snowshoe at the top of Heavenly Mountain Resort's Aerial Tram and learn about snowmaking, avalanche safety, and winter wildlife survival through a series of stations with agency partners. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 two local schools were unable to participate.

### **Social Media Outreach**

Posts on TRPA's Facebook page between January 1 and March 30 reached over 17,000 users and generated more than 1,700 likes, shares, comments, or clicks.

## **FINANCE, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, & FACILITIES**

### **Finance Update**

The COVID-19 outbreak has had a significant impact on all government entities, including TRPA. At this time, Finance and Executive staff cannot predict the financial fallout and the effect on the Agency's budget, although budget cuts are already in effect from Nevada. Staff are developing plans to anticipate further impacts and make any necessary changes. This coincides with the beginning of the FY 2020/21 fiscal year budget process and it will have a significant impact on that process.



Finance and Human Resources continue to finalize implementation of a new human resources information software. This software, provided by Kronos, handles time and attendance, payroll, and all Human Resources systems. The time and attendance and payroll modules are now in place, staff is being trained, and the configuration is being finalized.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

### In-House Training

Human Resources kicked off a new series of in-house delivered management training in January 2020. The topic focus for this session was transitioning to management, and the first of several perspectives on defining leadership.

### TRPA Staffing

#### *Jeff Cowen, External Affairs*

Jeff Cowen rejoined the agency this quarter as TRPA's Public Information Officer, joining the TRPA "Boomerang Club." Jeff originally joined TRPA in 2006 as TRPA's first Community Liaison and then transitioned to Public Information Officer until leaving in 2014 to help run a family owned business. Jeff has a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism and environmental history from the University of Nevada Reno. He is currently serving in his sixth year as a trustee on the Lake Tahoe Community College's Board of Trustees.

#### *Katherine Hangeland, Senior Management Assistant*

Katherine Hangeland joined TRPA this quarter as the Legal Executive Assistant, and also supports Finance and Human Resources. Katherine relocated to Tahoe from the Bay Area and she has a Bachelor of Arts in History and Classics from the University of New Hampshire.

#### *Victoria Ortiz, External Affairs*

Victoria joined TRPA in early January as the Community Engagement Manager. Victoria comes to TRPA from Santa Barbara, California where she worked for the Santa Barbara Middle School as its development manager and scholarship director. Victoria is not new to Tahoe having worked for the California Tahoe Conservancy from 2012 to 2015. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Geography/Environmental Studies from the University of California Los Angeles.