

2020 QUARTERLY REPORT

TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY
Third Quarter: July – September 2020



Photo: Tom Lotshaw

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TRPA STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

<i>Keep Tahoe Moving:</i> Transportation & Sustainable Recreation Strategic Initiative	2
<i>Tahoe Living:</i> Housing & Community Revitalization Strategic Initiative	5
<i>Restoration Blueprint:</i> Environmental Improvement Program	6

ONGOING INITIATIVES AND ANNUAL ACTIVITIES

Long Range & Transportation Planning Division	8
Current Planning Division	8
Environmental Improvement Program Division	11
Research & Analysis Division	13
External Affairs	14
Finance, Information Technology, & Facilities	18
Human Resources	19

TRPA STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

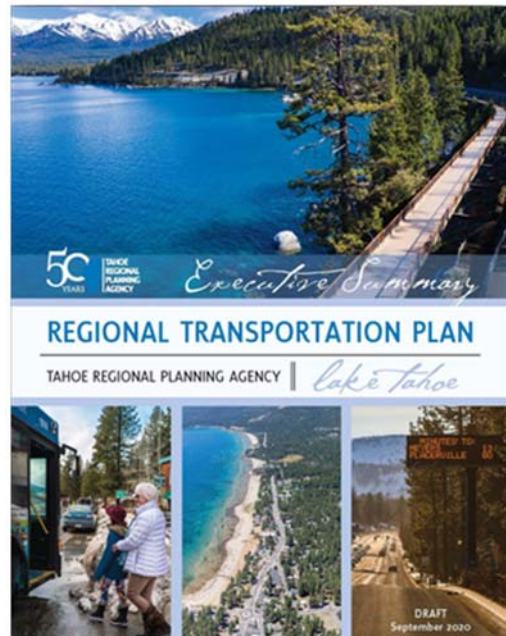
TRPA is moving forward with strategic initiatives the Governing Board identified as major priorities for the agency. These initiatives align directly with the four objectives in the agency's Strategic Plan.

KEEP TAHOE MOVING: TRANSPORTATION & SUSTAINABLE RECREATION STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

This initiative includes an update of the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy which encompasses greenhouse gas reduction, the Bi-State Consultation on Transportation Action Plan, Sustainable Recreation Planning, and ongoing transportation corridor planning.

Regional Transportation Plan Update

Tahoe's Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), the blueprint for connecting land uses to transportation services both regionally and inter-regionally, is due to be updated again by the end of 2020 and will emphasize improvements to transit, technology, and equity of access to further reduce reliance on the auto and greenhouse gas emissions. TRPA released the Draft Lake Tahoe Regional Transportation Plan this quarter for public review and input through October 25. The Regional Transportation Plan will help reduce harmful greenhouse gases while improving water quality, air quality, scenic resources, noise levels, and recreation resources across the Tahoe Region. The 25-year plan identifies projects and programs that meet the daily needs of transit-dependent riders and employees, make it easier for recreational travelers to use transit, and assure visitors they can get around without their cars.



The changes to the plan since the last update in 2016 focus on:

- **Travel Demand Management:** Creating more choices and incentives for travelers.
- **Transit:** Adding services to provide 15-minute service between town centers and recreation destinations, 30-to 60-minute service between neighborhoods and town centers, and inter-regional service for commuters and visitors from neighboring regions.
- **Technology:** Connecting people with information about the many ways to travel around the Region, providing better data and analysis, and ensuring charging facilities are available for electric vehicles.
- **Trails:** Increasing trips by foot and bike by providing walking and biking routes.

- **Communities and Corridors:** Bringing plan elements together with a corridor planning framework connecting workers to jobs, visitors to recreation, and residents to town centers, housing, and recreation.

The plan curbs growth of vehicle miles traveled to just 1.2 percent over the 25-year horizon and tops California Air Resource Board targets for reducing 2005 mobile-source greenhouse gas levels by five percent in 2035 with a reduction of 12.4 percent.

The update has been developed with significant public input and consultation. A total of 8,500 individuals helped inform the development of the draft plan. With the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, the agency successfully reached more than 2,000 people remotely through online workshops. The collaborative Bi-State Consultation on Transportation for the Tahoe Region, a partnership formed by the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the California Natural Resources Agency, also assisted with establishing initial priority projects that have state, local, and regional support. The consultation represents a diverse group of stakeholders that work together to strengthen public-private partnerships and identify funding to implement transformative projects at Tahoe.

Public hearings on the draft RTP were held at the end of September and beginning of October. The plan will be considered for adoption by the TRPA Governing Board no later than the first quarter of 2021.

Bi-State Transportation Consultation

State and local partners continued collaborative work this quarter to identify highest priority near-term transportation projects and programs from the Regional Transportation Plan. The consulting parties are working on a coordinated vision and cooperative funding strategies to fund the unmet needs within these priorities. This effort will require coordination across multiple interests. A work plan is being developed that lays out the steps to gain agreement on aspects of a regional aligned revenue strategy.

Project Impact Assessment and Air Quality Mitigation Fee Update

Following up on the earlier work of the Transportation Modeling Work Group, staff began working with the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee to receive guidance on proposed changes to the existing TRPA processes for assessing and mitigating the impacts of development projects to transportation. The changes will align with TRPA's vehicle miles traveled threshold update and better address today's concerns for climate change and mobility, specifically greenhouse gas emissions, the importance of diversifying land uses, and offering multimodal transportation networks to reduce reliance on the personal automobile. Work began in February and is scheduled to be completed by year end.

Corridor Plans

Three transportation corridor plans saw significant advances this quarter: one urban corridor on the south shore, a high priority recreation corridor on the west shore, and an important inter-regional corridor, connecting north Tahoe to Truckee.

U.S. 50 South Shore Community Revitalization Project – Main Street Management Plan:

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.

The Main Street Management Plan serves as the transportation corridor plan linking land uses to transportation services for this most intensely developed section of Highway 50 on the south shore and is in the final design phase. The plan is anticipated to be complete by the end of the year. During this quarter, TRPA, the Tahoe Transportation



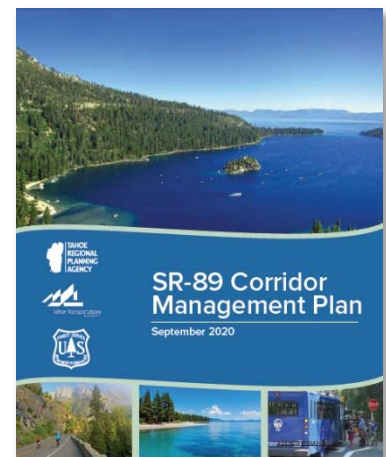
Conceptual rendering of Main Street, between Heavenly Village and Zalanta, during a street closure for a farmer's market.

District (TTD), and the consultant team completed the draft plan. TRPA and TTD staff held the final stakeholder working group meeting for the Main Street Management Plan on September 10 where the draft plan was presented for feedback.

The plan includes recommendations for the street design, parking management, wayfinding,

transit, and performance metrics. The public draft Main Street Management Plan will be available for public review and feedback from early October until early November and will be presented to the Governing Board for approval by the end of the year.

Final State Route 89 Recreation Corridor Plan Adopted: The State Route 89 transportation corridor includes some of the most heavily visited recreation destinations in Tahoe, including Emerald Bay and the south shore beaches. The final State Route 89 Recreation Corridor Plan was adopted by the TRPA Governing Board in September. The final plan is the result of over two years of detailed and collaborative planning. The plan recognizes the need for action in the corridor and identifies three phases of projects. Quick wins within the Pope-Baldwin segment, Tahoe Trail Feasibility Study, and additional planning will ensure momentum continues and the plan ultimately succeeds.



The plan includes potential projects, management strategies, and policy changes needed to achieve corridor goals and would see a potential reduction of 37,400 cars in the corridor every summer month. This would be accomplished by increasing transit availability, expanding bike paths, and implementing parking management strategies such as reservations and congestion pricing. Next steps include plan adoption and incorporation by TRPA and partner agencies.

Placer County Resort Triangle Transportation Plan: Placer County released the final Resort Triangle Transportation Plan, which seeks to improve the transportation system in the Resort Triangle, which is generally defined as the area shaped by State Route 89, State Route 267, and State Route 28 in eastern Placer County and at the northern end of the Tahoe Basin. The plan will enhance transit, parking management, roadway operations, and equip employers with employee trip reduction resources to encourage people to take transit, carpool, walk, bike, and/or park one time or leave their car behind. TRPA participated on the project development team for the Resort Triangle Plan and will continue to collaborate with Placer County on the further development and implementation of projects and programs identified in the plan.

Sustainable Recreation Working Group – COVID-19 Response

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Tahoe Region is experiencing growing recreation visitation pressures due to public health messages favoring activity outdoors. The Sustainable Recreation Working Group continued to meet twice a week this quarter to coordinate recreation response to the new pressures. Regional challenges continually addressed by the group include litter, crowding, safe recreation, outreach and marketing, and coordination across the larger region. The meetings have facilitated a sharing of issues and solutions across disparate organizations that may never have coordinated otherwise. The outcomes have been greater communication, coordination, and strengthened partnerships. Destination marketing organizations now understand the challenges of public agency COVID response and are actively working to aid in our efforts. The working group will continue to meet on a regular basis and focus on winter operations and lessons learned from the summer season. Future recreation management discussions will continue to move the Basin in a more sustainable direction.

TAHOE LIVING: HOUSING & COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

This initiative addresses strategies for implementing affordable and “achievable” workforce housing as a key component of the Region’s communities, the TRPA Regional Plan, the housing needs identified in the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, and the Regional Housing Needs Allocation.

Tahoe Living: Housing and Community Revitalization Launch

In August, TRPA launched a new strategic initiative – Tahoe Living: Housing and Community Revitalization. Building off the results of the regional housing needs assessment prepared by BAE Urban Economics (2014), the Mountain Housing Council’s policy papers (2017-2019), and the South Shore Housing Action Plan (2020), this new initiative will identify complementary local and regional actions that will help increase the availability of housing

for local residents and will result in Regional Plan, Sustainable Communities Strategy, and California Regional Housing Needs Assessment implementation. The Tahoe Living Working Group met in August to confirm the housing need and process for identifying actions to address the need and will meet again on November 4 to assess an initial set of priority actions.

The Regional Plan Implementation Committee in August considered proposed amendments to Placer County's Tahoe Basin Area Plan to provide more diverse types of workforce housing. The Board Committee considered expanding opportunities for accessory dwelling units from "affordable" only to moderate and achievable households as well. The amendments would also add multi-family and multi-person land uses to the Kings Beach Industrial District Plan Area Statement. The amendments are aimed at accelerating the production and supply of affordable/achievable housing for those who live and work in the North Tahoe-Placer County region.

TRPA also continues to provide consultation and permitting assistance on significant projects in the pipeline in the City of South Lake Tahoe and Placer County that could add approximately 500 affordable/achievable units in the Region over the next three to five years.

RESTORATION BLUEPRINT: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

This initiative includes implementing transportation and community revitalization projects of regional significance, seeking additional funding sources for the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP), creating forest health implementation tools based on the results from the Lake Tahoe West landscape-scale restoration project, implementing the Aquatic Invasive Species Control Action Plan Agenda, and focusing on areawide stormwater management projects with multiple benefits. EIP restoration programs will be responsive to climate adaptation and resilience measures as they are developed under the Climate Change and Sustainability Initiative.

Ski Run "Mountain to Marina" Green Infrastructure Project

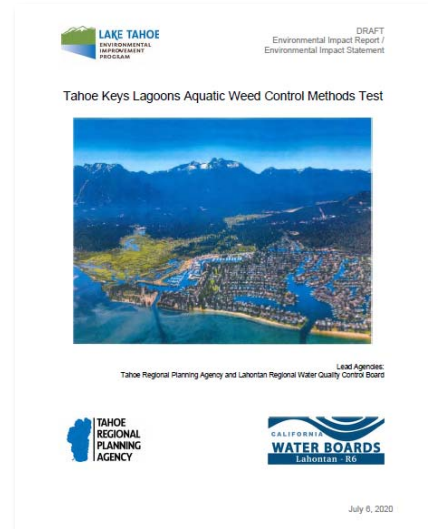
Area wide projects like this one that elevate the role of natural infiltration strategies are a centerpiece of meeting water quality standards as well as multiple benefit climate mitigation. TRPA began key stakeholder interviews for this project this quarter. Interview questions covered a range of topics to inform multiple-benefit green infrastructure planning for the watersheds draining to Ski Run Marina. The multiple benefit watershed planning project focuses on regional stormwater treatment, bicycle and pedestrian connectivity, parking, enhanced recreational access, fuels reduction, and wildlife enhancement within the Bijou Park Creek watershed in South Lake Tahoe, California.

Tahoe Keys Weed Management Environmental Documentation

Aquatic weeds in the Tahoe Keys lagoons are the highest priority aquatic invasive species control threat in the Tahoe Region. In response to the need to control and prevent the spread of the abundant growth of non-native and nuisance aquatic weeds, the Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association worked with agencies and key stakeholders to develop the

Tahoe Keys Lagoons Aquatic Weeds Control Methods Test. The control methods test will evaluate a range of aquatic weed control methods independently and in combination in the Tahoe Keys lagoons.

The Draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement was released on July 6 and an extended 60-day public review and comment period on the report concluded on September 3. During that time, TRPA, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Lahontan), and the consultants held six events where stakeholders and the public could learn about the proposed project and alternatives, potential environmental impacts, and project schedule. The workshops gave the public opportunities to submit formal comments or ask questions of agency staff and the scientists who prepared the technical analysis and reports. This quarter, TRPA also presented on the project to members of the Tahoe Science Advisory Council.



TRPA, Lahontan, and the consultants have begun review of comments received and preparation of responses. Responses to comments will be available when the Final EIR/EIS is released in quarter four or beginning of 2021.

Code of Ordinance Changes in Support of Vegetation Protection and Management Provisions

With the severity of fires growing season over season, forest management and fire agencies at every level of government have been looking hard at the efficiency of forest management practices. TRPA has been streamlining, removing redundancy, and adding best practices to vegetation provisions of the Regional Plan as well. At its September meeting, the TRPA Governing Board approved key updates to forest management ordinances that will streamline large-scale fuel reduction projects and improve the ability of forest managers to use vehicles and equipment in sensitive stream environment zones during winter months when the work will not harm the ecosystem. Vehicles were already allowed to work in these areas over snow, and can now operate over hard, frozen ground as well.

Researchers predict snow levels will continue to decline as temperatures in the Sierra Nevada continue to rise, and this change will make it easier for fire protection agencies and other land managers to improve forest health throughout the year.

Lake Tahoe West Forest and Watershed Health Restoration Partnership

The West Shore landscape, 60,000 acres of over dense second growth forest, 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.

This quarter the Lake Tahoe West partnership focused on project management improvements including streamlining staff teams and organizational structure and downscaled contracting to support efficiency and cost savings. These changes will position the project to meet a revised schedule and budget for the environmental review phase. Currently, the Lake Tahoe West team is working to develop and refine a project description and alternatives for environmental review.

ONGOING INITIATIVES AND ANNUAL ACTIVITIES

LONG RANGE & TRANSPORTATION PLANNING DIVISION

Meeks Bay Restoration Project

The team of agencies and consultants has been focused on active community engagement to develop project alternatives that will achieve restoration objectives while providing a sustainable recreation experience at Meeks Bay. Community representatives on the stakeholder forum and members of the public provided input at a virtual public workshop in August attended by more than 70 interested parties. The stakeholder representatives continue to collaborate with agency planners to develop preliminary design alternatives and explore the feasibility of providing motorized launch facilities and a publicly accessible pier. While community participants and forum members generally agree that the recreation experience at Meeks Bay could be improved through creative redesign of multi-use paths, parking, and camping, the placement of additional shoreline infrastructure would be challenging given the site constraints.

Three project alternatives in development with input from agency and stakeholder forum participants will be presented to the Governing Board for input and acceptance prior to the environmental analysis. Staff will continue to coordinate with partners to integrate Meeks Bay site planning with the larger planning context of the State Route 89 Corridor Management Plan. More information can be found at the project website www.meeksbayproject.org.

Climate Resiliency Strategy Strategic Initiative Update

At the September Governing Board meeting TRPA staff presented an update on the Climate Resiliency Strategic Initiative. This initiative will accelerate climate action at Tahoe and work with both states to achieve their climate goals. Next steps include completing the basin wide greenhouse gas inventory update and identification of key gaps in climate action. Expected outcomes include an updated Basin Wide Climate Strategy with prioritized climate actions.

CURRENT PLANNING DIVISION

Permit Application Review

The number of permit applications submitted this quarter was in line with the number submitted during the same period a year ago. Compared to the second quarter of 2020, residential and commercial development applications increased in the third quarter.

COVID-19 closures accelerated the development and availability of online application submittals and 74 percent of applications during the third quarter were submitted electronically, up from 25 percent electronically submitted during the first quarter of 2020.

Summary of TRPA Project Applications Received Quarter 3 2019 through Quarter 3 2020					
	Q3 CY2019	Q4 CY2019	Q1 CY2020	Q2 CY2020	Q3 CY2020
Applications Received¹	269	236	244	234	270
Residential Projects ²	68	26	41	64	71
Commercial Projects ²	4	3	4	0	5
Recreation/Public Service Projects ²	6	7	9	4	7
Environmental Improvement Construction Projects	3	1	1	1	3
Shorezone/Lakezone Projects ²	10	15	17	10	15
Grading Projects	11	7	8	11	15
Verifications and Banking ³	121	126	95	64	102
Buoys	3	26	38	48	20
Transfers of Development	6	3	9	7	10
Other ⁴	40	22	22	25	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

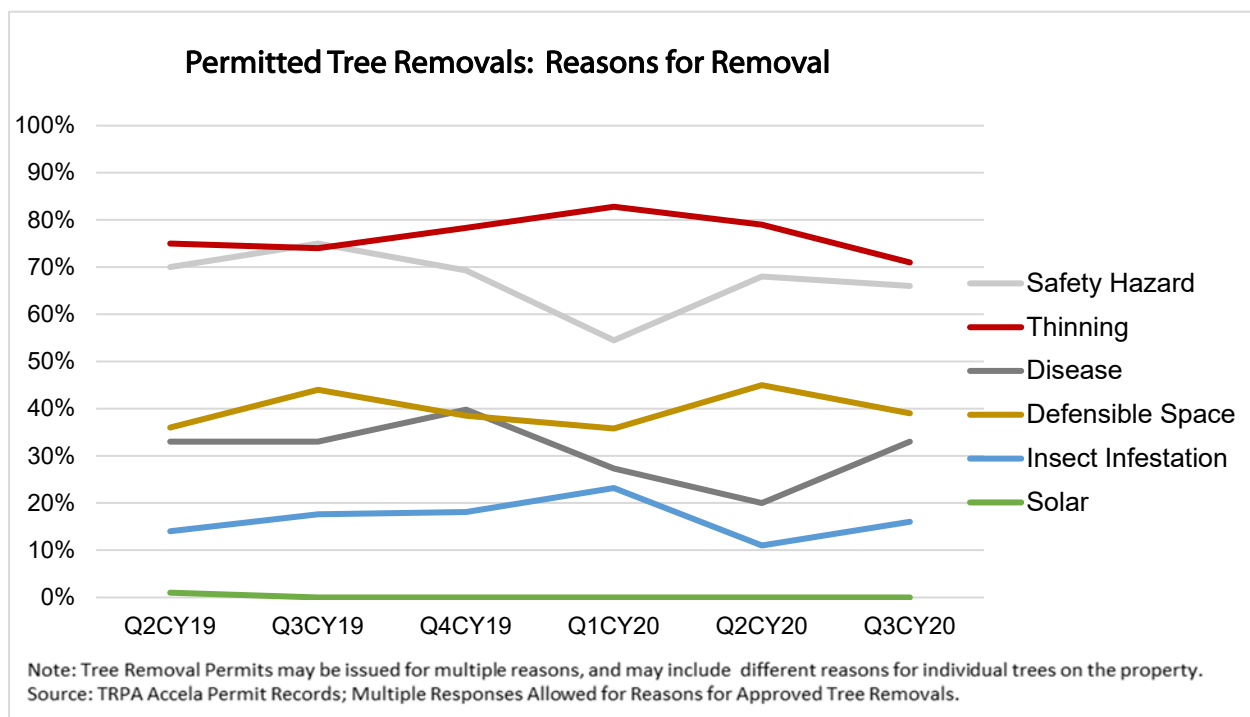
The Hearings Officer approved 18 project applications this quarter, including:

- A new monopine cellular communication tower that will fill in several gaps in service in the Tahoe Vista area in Placer County.
- Replacement of an aging sewer main located along the shoreline near Marla Bay in Douglas County.
- A new shoreline revetment on a lakefront parcel in Douglas County to protect an eroding bluff.
- The reconstruction of a lakefront single family residence and the construction of a new residence in Crystal Bay, Nevada.
- Two new single-use piers in Placer County: one in the Tahoma area and the other in the Rocky Ridge area.
- Eleven land capability challenge applications.

Urban Forestry/Tree Removal Permits on Private Property

TRPA forester Bruce Barr is part of a network of forestry and fire professionals in the Tahoe Basin who help private landowners keep their property safe and defensible from wildfire. He provides expertise in tree risk assessment and serves property owners with thorough tree evaluations. In the third quarter of 2020, TRPA received 557 tree removal applications, a record high number for a quarter and almost all were submitted electronically. TRPA permitted the removal of 2,390 individual trees during the third quarter with thinning and safety hazard being the primary reasons for removal.

Summary of TRPA Tree Removal Applications & Permitting Activity Quarter 3 2019 through Quarter 3 2020					
	Q3 CY2019	Q4 CY2019	Q1 CY2020	Q2 CY2020	Q3 CY2020
Tree Removal Applications Received	439	188	103	485	557
Number of Trees Permitted for Removal	1,611	801	466	2,018	2,390
Percent Applications Submitted Online	80%	83%	82%	94%	92%
Source: TRPA Accela Permit Records					



Shoreline Plan Implementation and Permitting

Phase 1 - Permitting & Registration of Existing Moorings: Permitting and registration of existing moorings continued through this quarter. Review and registration have been completed on nearly 80 percent of the submissions for existing moorings.

Phase 2 - New Mooring Permitting and Registration: Work in support of an upcoming lottery for the allocation of new moorings was started this quarter. Mooring lottery submissions will be accepted starting December 1 through March 1 with the lottery being held on April 1. Selected applicants will be notified immediately and will be eligible to submit an application for the desired mooring(s).

Pier Permitting: Review of the 12 new pier applications received as a result of the 2019 new pier lottery is almost complete. Eight new piers have been approved by the Governing Board and Hearings Officer (five multiple parcel piers and three single parcel piers) with the remaining applications to be considered within the next quarter. The next lottery for new piers is planned for next June.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM DIVISION

Aquatic Invasive Species Program

Prevention: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, watercraft inspections were available by appointment only, except during the lead up to the Fourth of July holiday. During the holiday, three inspection stations were open on a first-come, first-served basis. Demand was significant and long waits were experienced by boaters. Additional resources were brought in to help with the demand including:

- Non-program TRPA staff helped with operations and traffic management.
- California Highway Patrol and a private traffic control company were used for inspection station traffic control.
- A company that specializes in use of canine detection dogs was used at the Meyers inspection station for four days. The canines checked over 200 boats and detected quagga mussel presence on one boat. This boat was otherwise clean, drained, and dry, but the canine was able to sense previous presence of mussel larvae, or veligers. Inspectors discovered the boat had previously been in Lake Havasu, known to have quagga mussels.

During the quarter, inspectors conducted over 4,600 inspections at the three inspection stations (Meyers, Truckee, and Spooner) with approximately 58 percent needing a decontamination. Although this is a higher rate than last year, more mussel boats were intercepted this quarter (20) than during all four quarters of last year (11).

Control: TRPA contracted the Tahoe Resource Conservation District this quarter to start weed control work offshore of the Tahoe Keys. Divers are using a method over approximately three-acres in the boating channel outside the west lagoon of the Tahoe Keys and are expected to continue through the end of 2020. The League to Save Lake Tahoe has also provided funds through a private donation. Localized eradication is not an expected outcome at this time due to the size of the total infestation and proximity to the Tahoe Keys. The work is expected to keep the infestation from becoming unmanageable while program partners work to find solutions in the Tahoe Keys proper.

Stormwater Management Program

Best Management Practices (BMP) Certificates Issued: TRPA, in partnership with the states and federal government, establishes the water quality programs for the Region and looks to implementers in every sector to carry out those programs. 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. TRPA itself issues BMP certificates to private property owners to recognize a parcel's compliance with stormwater management requirements in TRPA's Code of Ordinances. 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 110 BMP certificates: 90 for single-family residential parcels, 12 for multi-family residential parcels, and eight for commercial parcels. Of the total, 39 are source control certificates and seven were the result of accelerated enforcement. Cumulative year-to-date BMP certificates issued are shown in the table below:

BMP Certificates issued from January 1 to September 30, 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	119	74	45	0
	Multi-Family Residential	10	9	1	0
	Commercial	8	5	1	2
	California Total	137	88	47	2
Nevada	Single-Family Residential	64	33	23	8
	Multi-Family Residential	9	0	5	4
	Commercial	5	2	1	2
	Nevada Total	78	35	29	14
	Total Certificates Issued	215	123	76	16

Reissued Certificates: During this quarter, TRPA reissued 15 BMP certificates following verification of BMP maintenance and effectiveness. Fourteen of these were for single-family residential parcels and one for a multi-family residence.

RESEARCH & ANALYSIS DIVISION

Parcel Tracker Updates & File Requests

The Lake Tahoe Info Parcel Tracker (<https://parcels.laketahoeinfo.org/>) is the best source of detailed public information about the land use characteristics of properties in the Lake Tahoe Basin. TRPA staff reviewed and updated information on 355 parcels in the tracker during the quarter. TRPA responded to 243 unique requests from property owners, real estate agents, and local government partners for updated permitting information on parcels, more than double from the second quarter. The number of help requests submitted and the number of parcels updated are up due to awareness of the site's usefulness becoming more widespread.

While the front counter remains closed, public requests to review files are satisfied electronically. During this quarter over 150 individual requests to view files were received with most requesting to view multiple files. With each request, TRPA staff converts a paper file to electronic format, and converted 258 complete files this quarter.

Geographic Information Systems Updates

TRPA's operating goal is to be the region's best source of GIS information and services. During this quarter, staff made several updates to the agency's geographic information systems. Specifically:

- **GIS Websites**
 - Created the **Tahoe Keys Story Map** to show what has been done to date to control weeds in the Tahoe Keys. The site includes a mix of images, videos, and maps: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/44b2767b31a64c9aa4f5dbf0ce99e8a0>.
 - Created a **Forest Boundary Web Map** to address USDA Forest Service shutdowns and restrictions: <https://gis.trpa.org/forestboundary/>.
 - Improved the **Tahoe Smoke Forecast Map** to include AirNow stations. The site was viewed over 8,000 times in August and September.
 - Created the **Regional Transportation Plan Polling Map** for transportation planning to allow the public to "like" and comment on different categories of projects: <https://gis.trpa.org/rtp polling/>.
 - Assisted with creating the **Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership** story map and added new layers to the web map to highlight current and proposed projects on the West Shore: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/c4458064cded4574bcb29687dfbcc22e>
- Conducted **system and server improvements** to ensure that TRPA systems are updated and to support internal and external use by partners and stakeholders.
- Deployed version 2.0 of the **Tahoe Boating App** to the Android and Apple stores. With collaboration with the Lake Tahoe Water Trail, new datasets were added to address the non-motorized boating and paddling community. The app now has the option to download all layers along with reference background data directly to the device to work when there is no internet connectivity.

- Added additional content to TRPA's regional data warehouse, **Tahoe Open Data** (<https://www.tahoeopendata.org/>). GIS staff added a section for aerial imagery that provides links for users to utilize the 1940, 1969, 2015, and 2018 imagery. This additional imagery allows property owners, regional partners, and stakeholders the ability to view how the landscape has changed over time and to analyze these changes for potential land management solutions. For example, the recently released stream environment zone baseline assessment by TRPA and partners evaluated the historical extent of wetlands in the region using aerial imagery to assess the historical changes to these important and sensitive areas.
- Provided **2019 Threshold Evaluation Support** for data collection, analysis, and publishing. Distributed code for web-based maps and charts to a public github repository. Deployed air quality and noise indicators to Lake Tahoe Info. Created a method that is both transparent and reproducible to improve future updates: <https://www.laketahoeinfo.org/Indicator/Detail/78/Overview>.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

TRPA supports a culture committed to public education, outreach, and community engagement to implement the Regional Plan. The External Affairs team leads public engagement initiatives in collaboration with a variety of agency and nonprofit stakeholders. This quarter, TRPA continued ongoing virtual 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 Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) multi-sector collaborative partnership, particularly amid the COVID-19 outbreak.

Legislative Affairs

This quarter's activities included the **24th Annual Lake Tahoe Summit**. This year, US Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev) virtually hosted this signature event. Urging resilience, Lake Tahoe's legislative leaders and the governors of both states came together to bolster the collaborative work to restore Lake Tahoe and address the impacts of climate change on this spectacular environment. Approximately 1,400 people watched the Summit live, and



thousands more have since viewed the recording online. The Summit garners publicity from lawmakers and highlights policy achievements for Tahoe. The USDA Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit will be receiving funding for maintenance backlogs through the Great American Outdoors Act, and lawmakers are pushing to distribute funding through the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act. Lake Tahoe received emergency funding for transportation through COVID-19 relief funds. The basin is also a priority for the congressional delegation for the reauthorization of the federal transportation bill. Tahoe is well positioned to

receive funding through the Water Resources Development Act and the Sustaining Tourism Enterprises during the COVID-19 Pandemic (STEP) fund, if both are passed. During the event, Senator Cortez Masto also unveiled a nearly \$100,000 federal grant through the Desert Research Institute for research into microplastic pollution in Lake Tahoe.

Following the Summit, TRPA coordinated a **virtual policy forum centered around the focus areas of the EIP**. This roundtable discussion allowed ample time for questions posed by Nevada Governor Sisolak, Senators Cortez-Masto and Rosen, as well as multiple members of the House of Representatives. TRPA produced a five-minute video highlighting the 2019 EIP accomplishments by program area. In addition to the 160 people who participated in the forum, the video has since been viewed 162 times.

The **Nevada Legislative Committee for the Review and Oversight of TRPA** met for its final session in mid-August concluding the interim session of the Committee's work. Joanne Marchetta and Dan Segan addressed the Committee on the role of science in policy making at Lake Tahoe and offered an overview of the threshold update initiative. At the work session immediately following the meeting, the Committee voted to prepare resolutions of support for the Tahoe Science Advisory Council and the bi-state transportation consultation process. The Committee also voted to move forward with bill drafts to support the issuance of bonds to carry out Nevada's share of the EIP and to write a letter to the congressional delegation requesting funds for Lake Tahoe under the Great American Outdoors Act.

Public Outreach

The External Affairs team supported outreach for the Meeks Bay Restoration Project, Tahoe Keys Control Methods Test, the State Route 89 Corridor Plan, and other projects. In September, TRPA presented at the Sierra Nevada Alliance's 2020 virtual conference about how storytelling plays a role in the conservation of Lake Tahoe, and about the Take Care Tahoe stewardship program.

The monthly e-newsletter continues to educate and influence audiences on TRPA initiatives including No-Wake zones, transit and transportation, Lake Tahoe West, COVID-19 recreation response, wildfire and forest health, aquatic invasive species prevention and control, and housing. More than 7,300 people currently subscribe to the e-news. The team also continues to respond to media requests, schedule and coordinate media interviews, monitor media coverage of pertinent issues, and to serve other teams by drafting and disseminating press releases and updating websites with news and announcements.

TRPA continues to play a leadership role in the national Network for Landscape Conservation. In July, the Network hosted a virtual policy with thought leaders discussing the future of landscape conservation. Former Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell was one of six panelists in the 90-minute forum. A recording of the forum is available at <https://youtu.be/4RkHuHRuVvc>.

Aquatic Invasive Species and Boating Outreach

From July through September 2020, TRPA's External Affairs team provided critical communications counsel and helped implement the first-come, first-served boat inspection

system during the busy Fourth of July holiday, followed by inspections by appointment-only. Despite travel restrictions and a global pandemic, the AIS inspection program served record numbers of boaters this year and communication support was critical to reach diverse stakeholder groups on a regular basis.

TRPA continues to educate boaters and paddlers on the Clean, Drain, and Dry messaging by using billboards, rack cards, advertising, social media, and TV spots. The campaign is working – boaters are arriving aware of the program and are supportive of boat inspections.

Shoreline outreach and public education on no-wake zones continued with TV spots and the team's input on an update to the Tahoe Boating smartphone app which TRPA redeployed this year. In July, External Affairs participated in an on-the-water paddler meetup in Emerald Bay initiated by a local group of paddlers calling for greater safety and boater education of no-wake zones.

Social Media Outreach

TRPA staff continue to be 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.

TRPA's Facebook followers grew 10.5 percent this quarter. This growth was driven in part by increased engagement related to boating. One video about boat inspections reached almost 14,500 people and has been viewed 9,600 times. Posts on TRPA's Facebook page between July 1 and September 30 reached over 68,264 users and generated more than 5,287 shares, comments, or clicks.



Lake Tahoe/Truckee Sustainable Recreation Working Group

The team continues to lead the public information officer (PIO) group formed as a parallel to the TIE Sustainable Recreation Working Group COVID-19 response meetings. The public information group now consists of 27 member organizations including PIOs, public and private recreation managers, ski resorts, and destination marketing organizations. Regional challenges have been continually addressed by the Sustainable Recreation Working Group including litter, crowding, safe recreation, closures, and environmental stewardship. The weekly public information meetings have coordinated outreach, messages, and marketing among disparate organizations that may never have convened otherwise. Take Care campaign messages and materials are central to the group's communications and are constantly adapted to the needs of the group.

Commemorative Tahoe Coin Unveiled

As part of its 50th anniversary celebration, TRPA unveiled at the 2020 Summit a first of its kind Lake Tahoe commemorative coin. The limited edition, silver coin is being minted at the historic U.S. Mint in the Nevada State Museum in Carson City, Nevada as a thank-you gift for donations of \$125 or more to benefit environmental education in Tahoe. Donations to the Lake Tahoe Commemorative Coin Education Fund, held at the Parasol Tahoe Community Foundation, support projects including the Tahoe In Depth environmental newspaper, Take Care Tahoe, the League to Save Lake Tahoe's Eyes on the Lake program, Washoe Tribe initiatives, and the Nevada State Museum.



An illustration of the new TRPA commemorative coin.

The coin has been engraved in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the bi-state partnership between Nevada and California that formed the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency in 1969 and that spurred the cooperative effort to preserve and restore Lake Tahoe's environment. People can donate beginning October 1, 2020.

Take Care Tahoe

Take Care partners continue to be the go-to source for disseminating the rapidly changing stewardship guidelines related to recreating in Lake Tahoe. Over 3,000 yard signs have been distributed throughout Lake Tahoe to encourage people to stay safe while visiting.

In July, Raley's in Incline Village became the first major Tahoe area business to encourage their customers not to buy single-use water bottles. Instead, the grocer asks its patrons to consider purchasing DRINK TAHOE TAP branded reusable Klean Kanteen water bottles. In addition to making the bottles available to customers for purchase, Raley's has incorporated signage from the Take Care Tahoe campaign in their in-store displays where single-use plastic water bottles are shelved to help educate customers about the impacts of single-use and microplastics on the environment and the Lake Tahoe watershed.



The Take Care Bear helps stock shelves with reusable water bottles.

TRPA partnered with the Tahoe Fund to introduce the Take Care Tahoe campaign to attendees of the 2020 Sierra Nevada Alliance virtual conference. The presentation explained how this regional stewardship campaign effectively educates and protects beloved places like Tahoe using humor that resonates with all age levels to convey key messages about a broad array of subjects from invasive species to boat safety. The conversation sparked interest from the Sierra Nevada Alliance to expand Take Care to their member group throughout the Sierra Nevada. Negotiations with the artist are ongoing to be able to expand the reach of this campaign to other communities.

Visitation to the Take Care website continues to grow steadily. Sessions increased 184 percent and page views increased 117 percent. Partners attribute some of this growth to being the go-to source for COVID messaging this summer. In fact, the COVID page was visited by 10,000 people.

Record Donations for the Lake Lapper Scholarship Fund

The TRPA Environmental Scholarship Fund, created in 2004, awards scholarships to Lake Tahoe high school seniors pursuing environmental careers. Since its inception, 27 students have been awarded a total of \$11,950. This year, generous TRPA staff, Governing Board, and Advisory Planning Commission member contributions totaled a record \$2,270, more than double the donations from the last three years combined (\$966). These funds will be used to support future award winners.

FINANCE, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, & FACILITIES

Finance Update

The first quarter of fiscal year 2020/21 is now complete following a delay in receiving state funds due to budget crises. Those numbers are now final and the approved budget includes significant reductions in funding by Nevada and California as part of the COVID-19 fallout. Planning revenues remain strong as project applications are running at similar levels to last year.

Facilities/IT Update

The agency's long-term debt was refinanced this quarter. The refinancing included \$500,000 to complete long-deferred maintenance and necessary building repairs. Planning and contracting for those repairs are underway.

TRPA has now completed two entire quarters with staff working remotely. It is important to state the agency is not closed. TRPA is still "open for business" to serve our public, it is just happening remotely now. Staff is working hard to ensure we continue to serve our stakeholders. There have been significant increases in online permitting and pivoting to electronic communications and workflows. Like many other entities, we are now considering if this will be the new normal and a permanent state of affairs.

HUMAN RESOURCES

TRPA's staff continued to work mostly from home this quarter, continuing the changes instituted in the previous quarter, and using video platforms to conduct agency-wide get-togethers and team meetings. Protocols to monitor building entry by staff were put into place, as were expectations to self-quarantine following any air travel or appearance of symptoms. Executive Director Marchetta continued her weekly practice of updating staff with Tahoe Basin happenings, uplifting messages, pandemic information, and updates.

Managers participated in a virtual workshop in August to **continue follow up on the Best Places to Work survey**, using continuous improvement methodology to uncover root cause of lower-scoring survey items. This has been integrated into the Foundations training for all people managers, which provides powerful education in the elements of employee engagement.

Human Resources staff continued to expand the goal setting and performance review capabilities within Kronos, the agency's human resources and payroll platform.

This quarter, TRPA **launched the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee**. The committee meets bi-monthly to analyze, advise, and evaluate TRPA's existing programs and protocols, and offers suggestions for improvement to reinforce our commitment to a collaborative, inclusive, and just culture. The committee consists of 14 TRPA staff across diverse ages, genders, and managerial levels who expressed interest in participating. The meetings have been in depth discussions of concepts including implicit bias, equity versus equality, hiring and recruitment, and inclusive communications and marketing. The committee has already seen some of their suggestions for improvement incorporated into the hiring process for new positions. A sub-committee is also evaluating various all-staff diversity trainings for spring of 2021.