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STAFF REPORT

Date: November 11, 2020

To: TRPA Governing Board

From: TRPA Staff

Subject: Spirit of TRPA Awards Presentation: Honoring 50 Years of the Bi-State Partnership Protecting Lake Tahoe

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Summary and Staff Recommendation:

Staff will provide an overview of TRPA's 50th anniversary celebrations by showing a short commemorative video and recognizing Spirit of TRPA awardees by the decades. This item is for informational purposes and no action is required.

Background:

For nearly 10 years, TRPA has recognized individuals in our communities who show exceptional commitment to protecting beautiful Lake Tahoe. The Lake Spirit Awards honors these impressive individuals and agency representatives or environmental scientists who go above and beyond to protect the beauty of our region's spectacular environment and create more resilient communities.

This year, to celebrate TRPA's 50th anniversary, the agency reflected on its own legacy and highlighted the individuals who embody the "Spirit of TRPA." These people work(ed) tirelessly to foster an atmosphere of epic collaboration to achieve the agency's vision for a lake environment that is sustainable, healthy, and safe for the community and future generations.

For the 1960s, we honor Coe Swobe and Dwight Steele. These visionaries helped to craft Tahoe's unique and historic bi-state compact to protect the Lake Tahoe Basin from misguided development and degradation. With this award, we honor their legacies.

For the 1970s, we honor Dr. Charles Goldman and the Tahoe Water Suppliers Association. Dr. Goldman's research on Lake Tahoe made it possible for governmental regulatory agencies to utilize science-based decision-making for the conservation of Lake Tahoe. Dr. Goldman's research drove the landmark legislation to export treated wastewater out of the Tahoe watershed to protect the lake's water quality. The agencies of the Tahoe Water Suppliers Association maintain these award-winning water systems and deliver some of the finest drinking water in the world.

For the 1980s, we honor Clem Shute and Dennis Machida. These gentlemen both harnessed their legal expertise to defend the irreplaceable environment of Lake Tahoe while earning respect among colleagues for their stellar vision and zeal for tackling challenging environmental issues. Clem Shute

recently retired from TRPA's Governing Board after nine years of service. Dennis Machida served as the Executive Officer of the California Tahoe Conservancy from 1985 to 2005 when he unexpectedly passed away while delivering a speech on conservation near Yellowstone National Park.

For the 1990s, we honor Steve Teshara and Jim Baetge. These steady, consistent, and knowledgeable leaders guided the agency and launched the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program which improves the lake's environment, economy, and the community's quality of life. Steve Teshara currently serves on the board of the Tahoe Transportation District and is past chair of TRPA's Advisory Planning Commission. Jim Baetge served as the Executive Director of TRPA from 1997-2000 and recently retired as the Agency's Hearing's Officer.

For the 2000s, we honor U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein from California and former U.S. Senator Harry Reid from Nevada. These legendary Senators put Lake Tahoe on the map as a national treasure garnering hundreds of millions of dollars in restoration funding from the federal government. From bringing President Bill Clinton to the shores of the lake for the first Lake Tahoe Summit in 1997 to delivering the Lake Tahoe Restoration Acts of 2000 and 2016, these leaders have unparalleled legacies protecting the beauty of Lake Tahoe.

For the 2010s, we honor Joanne Marchetta and the Tahoe Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Team, particularly the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Joanne Marchetta has delivered transformative change during her historic record of service as TRPA's Executive Director since 2009. The Tahoe TMDL Team delivered a water quality restoration plan in 2011 that serves as the gold standard for science-based policy-making in the Tahoe Basin.

Contact Information:
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