
MEMORANDUM

Date: February 21, 2012

To: TRPA Governing Board

From: Joanne S. Marchetta, Executive Director

Subject: Monthly Executive Director's Report, February 2012

Updates to the agency's highest programmatic priorities will be produced and distributed quarterly (generally March, June, September and December). In the interim months, I will report on current activities and items of interest.

I. REGIONAL PLAN UPDATE

In response to a clear call for TRPA to complete an updated Regional Plan by the end of calendar year 2012, we are making good progress and are on track to deliver by the target date. Following is a summary of activities and expected actions that are advancing the effort toward completion.

RPU Committee is completing its review of a draft plan: Since November, the Regional Plan Update Committee (RPU Committee) has held 12 meetings, about half of which extended to full-day sessions. Three more full-day Committee work sessions are scheduled before release of the Draft Plan in March. The Committee's six members have been reviewing line-by-line the full text of the Regional Plan Goals and Policies, including proposed changes to policy approaches in targeted areas. One of the purposes of the in-depth review over the last few months has been to identify the key areas of policy difference among the two states and the local government delegations of the Board. These areas of policy difference (so-called "non-unanimous" issues) will be the focus of later deliberation and possible compromise among the Board and stakeholders after release and review of the Draft Plan and Draft RPU Environmental Impact Statement.

GB Agenda for March packed with release and public presentation of Draft Regional Plan, accompanying Draft EIS and draft Code, together with the draft Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS): To simplify public review and minimize confusion that could result from staggered release dates, the schedule for public release of the Regional Plan Update, the Regional Transportation Plan, and 2011 Threshold Evaluation Report has been coordinated and aligned. The agenda for the March meeting will include public release of all of the draft documents comprising the Regional Plan

Update (RPU) as well as the Threshold Report. The complete Draft RPU, including Goals and Policies as acted upon by the RPU Committee, will be presented along with the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RPU DEIS) assessing the proposed Plan's environmental impacts (Alternative 3) along with a comparison to four other alternatives that offer policy options for consideration (including a "no action" alternative).

We will deliver concurrently with the Draft RPU and its DEIS, the proposed update to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), including the Sustainable Communities Strategy required by California's legislation, SB 375. Because TRPA is designated as the Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization (TMPO) for state and federal transportation planning, in addition to fulfilling the Compact's directives, as the TMPO, every four years TRPA must develop a long-range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) consistent with federal transportation laws. The RTP must also meet statutory requirements in California through the adoption of a "Sustainable Communities Strategy" (SCS). The SCS lays out a plan for meeting greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets for cars and light trucks in the Tahoe Region. The Goals and Policies of the RTP are identical to those in the RPU's Transportation Element. In addition to goals and policies, the RTP also includes a detailed transportation improvement strategy that is paired with reasonably foreseeable funding, and the RTP DEIS, which will be released concurrently, offers programmatic analysis of the five key transportation projects needed to implement the regional transportation improvement strategy and SCS.

Schedule of public hearings and outreach on Draft Plan and accompanying documents:

After release of the Draft RPU/RTP and accompanying Draft EISs at the March TRPA Board meeting, the public will have 60 days to comment. We welcome comment in any form or forum, and will accept comments in writing via email, on the web (Crowdbrite software), or via hard-copy letter at any time. In addition, for those wishing to comment orally or to participate publicly, public hearings and workshops on all regional planning and transportation documents are being coordinated throughout April and May as follows:

- **RPU/RTP Public Workshop: Monday, April 23**
North Shore evening workshop – Chateau Incline or Kings Beach location TBD
TRPA Governing Board members encouraged to attend

- **RPU/RTP Public Workshop: Tuesday, April 24**
South Shore evening workshop – TRPA Office Board Rooms
TRPA Governing Board members encouraged to attend

- **Monthly TRPA Governing Board meeting: Wednesday, April 25 (Embassy Suites, Stateline/South Lake Tahoe)**
Day time: Public Hearing on Edgewood Project and Draft EIS (See Section II "Project Updates" below for details)
Day-time: Begin public hearings on Draft RPU/DEIS
Break for dinner if public comments run into the evening.

- **Monthly TRPA Governing Board meeting (continued): Thursday, April 26 (North Tahoe Events Center, Kings Beach)**

Day-time: RPU/RTP/DEIS public hearing

Break for dinner if public comments run into the evening.

Evening (*not part of TRPA Board meeting*):

South Shore Vision Plan public workshop at Edgewood Clubhouse

Sponsored by the South Shore collaborative that developed the proposed Vision Plan – GB members may want to attend.

Release of Peer-Reviewed 2011 Threshold Evaluation Report summarizing progress toward attainment of regional environmental standards and effectiveness of the 1987 Regional Plan also planned for March Governing Board meeting: In addition to public release of planning documents, we will also be presenting the peer-reviewed 2011 Threshold Evaluation Report at the March Governing Board meeting. The more transparent and easier to understand report format was previewed to the Board at the November 2011 meeting, and it is currently under review by a panel of seven scientific reviewers, who by requirements of California’s budget rider, were required to be predominantly scientists who had not previously worked in Tahoe. The Threshold Report notes not only the current status and trend of indicators used to measure and assess the status of environmental threshold attainment in the Tahoe Region, but also reports on progress in implementing the 1987 Regional Plan, as amended. TRPA, together with the Tahoe Science Consortium (TSC) is sponsoring a public forum in May to discuss the findings and outcomes of the Threshold Report as part of the 2012 Tahoe Science Conference (See summary below under Section V “Public Affairs and Communications”).

II. PROJECT UPDATES

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Edgewood Lodge and Golf Course Realignment Project to be presented at TRPA’s April Governing Board meeting: At the Nevada Oversight Hearing in January, Chuck Scharer, the General Manager of Edgewood Companies, reported on project plans for a new lodge and environmental improvements at the site of the Edgewood Golf Course and Clubhouse in south Stateline. The proposal includes a Lodge at the Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course, and environmental improvements within the golf course and at the pond and dam at Friday’s Station, located across Highway 50. The project application, submitted to TRPA in July 2008, is designed to comply with the current Regional Plan and Code, including height, but includes an optional height amendment for aesthetic purposes only. If approved, the optional amendment would be site-specific to enhance the architecture of the proposed building by providing variability in the roof line without allowing any increase in number and size of the units or accessory uses.

Environmental improvements included with the proposed project include complete best management practices for the new lodge development and modification of the existing fertilizer management plan, to result in a substantial reduction in fertilizer use on the golf course. Also proposed are water quality improvements to the Stateline Stormwater Association (SSWA) pond system before discharge into Edgewood Creek and Lake Tahoe, Edgewood Creek improvements to enhance riparian and wetland function and create fish habitat, and Friday's Station dam rehabilitation, which would include modifications to control discharge of fine sediments to the Lake. The Draft EIS is currently scheduled to be presented at the April Advisory Planning Commission and Governing Board meetings.

III. LEGAL MATTERS

TRPA's Shorezone appeal on the proper legal baseline for environmental review is argued before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on February 15, 2012: When Judge Karlton of the U.S. District Court of the Eastern District of California overturned the validity of the environmental analysis for the 2008 Shorezone Program amendments in 2010, the Board approved TRPA's appeal on the narrow issue of the proper legal baseline for environmental review. Before we incur further costs to update the EIS for the Shorezone amendments, it is important to have a clear legal answer to the baseline question. Briefs were submitted in 2011 by Earthjustice on behalf of the Sierra Club and League to Save Lake Tahoe as Plaintiffs and by Cox Castle & Nicholson LLP on behalf of TRPA as Defendant (TRPA retained Cox Castle & Nicholson to represent the Agency in its appeal of Judge Karlton's Order). Last Wednesday morning, a three judge panel of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals (Judges Susan Graber and Richard Tallman, as well as District Court Judge Robert Timlin from the Central District of California sitting by designation) heard oral arguments on the issue. Andrew Sabey of Cox Castle Nicholson argued the matter for TRPA. Because of the narrow nature of the remedy sought by TRPA, we are expecting that the Court may decide this matter promptly.

IV. LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

California budget hearings on TRPA's budget share from California scheduled for March and April: On the California side, TRPA's FY 2013 budget hearings have been set. Our pre-hearing meeting is scheduled for March 9 in Sacramento. At that session, we will brief California legislative, budget committee, and administration staff and respond to questions about TRPA's operations. The California Senate Sub 2 2012 Sub-Committee (Resources and Environmental Protection) hearing is scheduled for the following month on April 11.

The second in a series of four scheduled Nevada Oversight Committee hearings held in the Basin on January 30, 2012 at Edgewood Golf Course clubhouse: Nevada State Senator John Lee, as Committee Chair, convened the second meeting of the Legislative Committee for the Review and Oversight of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and the Marlette Lake Water System on January 30, 2012 at the Edgewood Golf Course clubhouse at Stateline.

The agenda included a wide range of informational presentations, from a summary of the proposed Edgewood Golf Course project described above to general sessions on the Environmental Improvement Program, aquatic invasive species management, forest fuels management, and transportation programs for the Tahoe Region. The cross-cutting theme of all sessions was that the delivery of environmental programs and on-the-ground benefits only happen successfully in Tahoe through partnerships built across all sectors where financial and personnel resources can be pooled and shared. In addition to these general sessions, a bi-state contingent of TRPA Board members offered positive and pragmatic comments to the Committee on the relationship of the two states, noting that in the microcosm that is the Governing Board, the two states are working well together toward the common goal of delivering a Regional Plan Update by the end of this calendar year. The next step will be the more difficult work to find compromise on the major issues of disagreement that have been revealed through the Governing Board's RPU Committee work. I, too, addressed the Committee giving an update on the status of the RPU, indicating that we are on track and committed to deliver a completed RPU by the end of 2012, and summarizing the three key enhancements to the existing Plan: 1) Improve the system for delivery of water quality benefits, which will also result in other synergistic threshold category gains, 2) restore a truly regional role for TRPA; and 3) improve the efficiency of the permit review system. The third meeting of the Nevada Oversight Committee is scheduled for March 19th and the final meeting on May 21, 2012

Outreach and education ongoing in legislative and administration offices in Sacramento on RPU concepts: In addition to keeping Nevada legislators informed about programs, activities, and important initiatives of TRPA and the RPU, we are also making sure to spend time in Sacramento updating interested legislative and administration staff and officials on the details of the Agency's work and the proposals and alternatives for the Regional Plan Update. On February 23, John Hester, Julie Regan, and I will be in Sacramento briefing Bill Craven, staff to Senator Fran Pavley, Chair of the California Senate's Natural Resources and Water Committee; Todd Ferrara, Deputy Secretary for External Affairs to California Secretary of Resources John Laird; and Dan Siegel of the California Attorney General's Office on the key concepts in the RPU. These sessions are an opportunity to have more in depth discussions on the Regional Plan and its policies and implementation.

Legislative affairs visit to Washington DC next week: Julie Regan, Chief of External Affairs, and Ted Thayer, Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator, will be representing TRPA and Lake Tahoe at the National Invasive Species Conference in Washington February 27-March 1. Julie and Ted will be joining a coalition of Western States representatives in briefing members and staff of both California and Nevada's congressional delegation on invasive species issues during this visit. Julie will also be briefing key offices on the status of our Regional Plan Update, transportation, and other pressing Tahoe policy issues.

V. PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS

TRPA Executive Director extends invitation for welcome reception at February GB for Darcie Goodman-Collins, new Executive Director of the League to Save Lake Tahoe (See attached letter invitation): On February 8, 2012, just two days after Darcie Goodman-Collins began her new job as Executive Director of the League to Save Lake Tahoe, I met with her to talk about building a better relationship of collaboration between TRPA and the League. I said that with environmental improvement program funding growing more and more scarce we would need to find pragmatic ways to deliver environmental benefit and restoration programs to Tahoe in order to make further gains toward environmental threshold attainment, and I hoped her selection reflected a positive change in the League's approach toward opportunities for beneficial environmental collaboration. We spoke about our common background in fostering community-based restoration programs in the San Francisco Bay area, the importance of science and the precipitous drop-off in research funding for Tahoe with the sunset of SNPLMA monies, and the need to find pragmatic environmental solutions in the RPU in order to deliver timely and much needed Tahoe restoration. We also talked about possibilities for resolving legal disputes. During the meeting, I extended an invitation on behalf of the TRPA Governing Board and staff to a welcome reception to follow immediately after the close of the February Board meeting this month. I encourage all Board members to take this opportunity to meet the new League Director and League Board members who may also attend. Light food and refreshments will be served.

Executive Director Fireside Chats inform general public of key proposals for change in the Regional Plan: In February, we began a series of "Fireside Chats" to encourage public involvement and to better inform the community about the proposed concepts for change in the Regional Plan Update. The first Fireside Chat, well attended by about 70 people, took place on the South Shore on Tuesday February 8, 2012 at Lake Tahoe Community College. **See attached front page article** from the February 10th edition of the *Tahoe Daily Tribune*.

I repeated the event on the North Shore the following week in Tahoe City on Wednesday, February 15th at the Lake Tahoe Yacht Club from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. This event too drew about 50 attendees. A third fireside chat is scheduled on Monday, February 27th at the Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences at Sierra Nevada College in Incline Village, also from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Public forum of scientists to discuss 2011 Threshold Evaluation Report and recent water quality research and best practices: TRPA is partnering with the Tahoe Science Consortium to organize a presentation of TRPA's Threshold Evaluation Report followed by a panel discussion on how to improve lake clarity. While the schedule has not been firmed up, the presentation and panel will tentatively take place from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 22, 2012 at the Tahoe Environmental Research Center in conjunction with this year's [Tahoe Science Conference](#). Representatives of the following agencies or groups are being invited to participate, followed by an audience question and answer session and

discussion: the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, TRPA, United States Geological Survey, Tahoe Science Consortium, and the Lake Tahoe Pipe Club. Local, regional, and national scientists are expected to attend.

Twenty-third annual Best in the Basin Awards to be presented at February Governing Board meeting:

At this month's February Governing Board meeting, the Agency will announce and honor the winners of the 2012 Best-in-the-Basin awards, resulting in in-Basin publicity for projects of the highest environmental quality. The awards will be presented at this month's February 22 board meeting. This is the 23rd year of the awards program. There will be a brief opportunity for the awards recipients to visit with Governing Board members and staff following the presentation of the awards and the close of the main Board agenda but before lunch and the start of the Governance Committee meeting.

VI. STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

TRPA is developing a series of standardized Memoranda of Understanding for use with our local partners:

Not all activities in the Tahoe Basin are projects requiring review by TRPA. One mechanism used for administrative efficiency to designate responsibility to other organizations is the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Used with a variety of local partners, TRPA can transfer responsibility for environmental compliance and Best Management Practices (BMPs) to partners for activities that do not require processing through TRPA. The current content and form of exempt activities MOUs vary widely, creating a complex and non-standardized approach to transfers of responsibility. Months ago, a coalition of local Public Utility Districts (PUDs) approached TRPA with the concept of a standardized MOU to provide better service to local customers and allow for greater autonomy in performing Exempt and Qualified Exempt activities. TRPA staff recently completed a new standard MOU template for PUDs, which will apply common standards across the districts. Also established in these Memoranda is a process for regular training and auditing of the districts' activities. To better serve local residents while keeping with our joint mission to protect the environmental quality of Lake Tahoe, improving, standardizing, and more widely using exemption and delegation MOUs to streamline review and permitting processes across several classes of local service providers is an important method to implement TRPA's Strategic Plan.

TRPA continues to make progress in improving customer service and community relations:

We have been working diligently to improve the Agency's customer service through our quality of interaction, responsiveness, and timeliness since the Board adopted the Strategic Plan endorsing customer service and community engagement as one of the four strategic pillars of TRPA's operations. We regularly receive confirmation that we are making steady improvement in this area. **See sample letters of appreciation attached to this report.**

For the second year in row, TRPA employee recognized by local Chamber of Commerce:

At this year's North Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner, Jeff Cowen, Community Liaison, was recognized alongside other outstanding individuals as Employee of the Year. The awards ceremony, attended by more than 200 people at the Ritz Carlton at Northstar, is a major event for the north shore community. This recognition and the feedback shared at the event is further evidence of our success in setting a new standard for public engagement and quality customer service at TRPA. Advisory Planning Commission member Chuck Greene was also recognized as Volunteer of the Year along with other community volunteers.

Dale Carnegie "High Impact Presentations" training for nearly half TRPA's staff as well as High Performance Training programs for all internal staff raises the bar on the effectiveness of staff's internal and external performance:

Staff training is an essential component of implementing the change in organizational culture called for by the Strategic Plan, and we are making steady and incremental progress. In January and February, nearly 30 TRPA employees participated in Dale Carnegie's nationally recognized two-day course in "High Impact Presentations" to improve staff skills in making oral presentations. Success often hinges on the ability to organize and present highly complex, technical information clearly, succinctly, and with a focus on the main points of interest. The staff training was not only well received and appreciated by participants, it also increased staff's confidence to stand in front of a group and speak.

In addition, performance standards for managers and employees have been raised as we inculcate clear principles of accountability and responsibility into TRPA operations. Last July, all managers participated in High Performance training sessions, designed and run by TRPA's Chief Operating Officer, Ed Gurowitz. The training offers an interactive management system that identifies and cements clear lines of responsibility, 100% accountability, and team support practices into the daily work ethic of TRPA's organizational culture. By the end of this fiscal year, all staff will have participated in the first round of training for improved performance.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS

Nevada Fire Safe Council (NVFSC) difficulties related to USDA Office of Inspector General audit on grant management may affect 2012 fuels reduction field season:

The NVFSC had many grant funding sources, but commingled funds and paid invoices for projects from the single pot of funds. Two projects approved for SNPLMA funding (through BLM) but never finalized, were contracted, completed and paid in full (around \$1.5 million). When NVFSC sought reimbursement from the BLM for those funds, BLM would not pay because the grants were never finalized with signatures. The Basin Fire Chiefs, who advanced funds for these projects in good faith expecting reimbursement from grants specified to these two projects, are now unable to balance budgets or pay contractors in full for work completed.

Elwood Miller (TFFT/NVFSC) and Butch Hayes (NVFSC Board) have been working to resolve the payment and grant management issues, however, progress on important fuels reduction projects may be in serious jeopardy this field season.



Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Executive Director Joanne Marchetta speaks to a crowd at Lake Tahoe Community College Wednesday night. Adam Jensen / Tahoe Daily Tribune

Regional plan update on track, Marchetta says

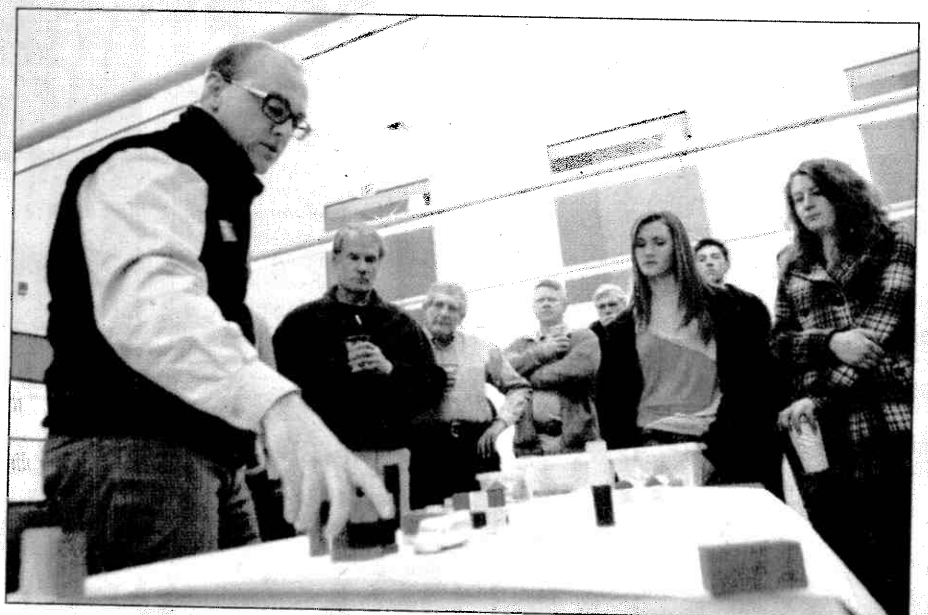
BY ADAM JENSEN
AJENSEN@TAHOEDAILYTRIBUNE.COM

Beneath its inevitable acronyms, development jargon and legalese, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's Regional Plan Update will include more than an effort to protect the environment.

The much-delayed update could provide a way out of an economic and social decline that has gripped the Lake Tahoe Basin, TRPA Executive Director Joanne Marchetta told a crowd of about 60 people at Lake Tahoe Community College Wednesday night.

The environment and the economy are "inextricably linked" at the lake and the update, which will guide development in the basin for years to come, is expected to reflect that reality, Marchetta said.

"Environmentalism in the 21st Century isn't uni-dimensional, it's not only about protecting our natural environment," Marchetta said.



Tahoe Regional Planning Agency spokesman Jeff Cowen, left, uses blocks to demonstrate aspects of the regional plan update at Lake Tahoe Community College Wednesday night. The plan is expected to enter a public review process next month. Adam Jensen / Tahoe Daily Tribune

FIRESIDE CHAT
CONTINUED on 3

FIRESIDE CHAT
CONTINUED from 1

The TRPA was developed to "put the brakes" on rampant growth at Lake Tahoe and has been effective in that regard, Marchetta said. But, by capping growth, the agency also helped maintain a status quo of antiquated development that has seen a

continued decline in the lake's water quality.

While limits on growth will still be the foundation of the updated plan, it's emphasis will be on improving the basin's built environment, including giving property owners incentives to redevelop in environmentally beneficial ways.

"The challenges today in

Tahoe are really very different from 20 or 30 or 40 years ago," Marchetta said.

With unemployment in the region well above the national average, empty storefronts littering main thoroughfares, people leaving the area and the vast majority of Hispanic population living at or below the poverty line, the social fabric of the basin has been in "precipitous decline," Marchetta said.

"Today's challenge is not about stopping growth, today's challenge is about survival," Marchetta said.

Marchetta boiled down the update to the regional plan into three major categories: Removing barriers to restoring the lake's water quality, returning a "true regional" role to TRPA and making the agency's permit review process more efficient.

A 60-day public com-

ment period will follow the release of the draft regional plan update in March. Public workshops will follow the draft plan's release. A decision by the TRPA's Governing Board on the plan is anticipated in December, Marchetta said.

She acknowledged skepticism about the plan and had no doubts that their would be disagreement on its tenets, but said she has been encouraged by a burgeoning

sense of collaboration in the basin since arriving seven years ago.

"We can do nothing or we can do something," Marchetta said. "If we do nothing, we lose the lake. I say we do something."

The TRPA's executive director is scheduled to hold a similar talk from 6-7:30 p.m. Feb. 15 on the second floor of the Tahoe Yacht Club at 700 North Lake Tahoe Blvd. in Tahoe City.

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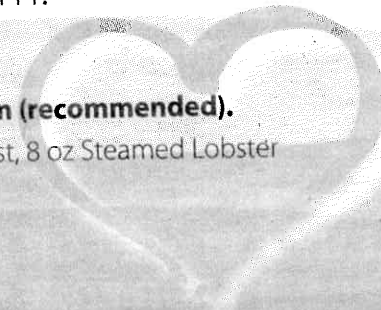
Valentine's Special Upstairs

Incredible 3 course dinner. Reservations starting at 5:30pm (recommended).

Enjoy items such as Burrana Alla Panna, Muscovy Duck Breast, 8 oz Steamed Lobster Tail, Gnocci Carbonara, and Warm Chocolate Souffle.

And, of course, a rose for the lady.

Join us for live music downstairs with
Jesse Kalin & Mark Wilson.



From: Larry Bienati [<mailto:lbienati@coopervision.com>]
Sent: Friday, October 21, 2011 8:35 AM
To: Ethan Casaday; Gary Weigel; Patrick Dobbs
Cc: Larry Bienati
Subject: FYI

Our Sierra Parks Foundation here in Tahoe was sponsoring a dinner at Ehrman Mansion last night for Park Commissioners, TRPA, Conservancy, many other local leaders. At the table was your executive Director, Joanne Marchetta. I spoke very highly of all of you and your organization. It is rare for me as a consultant to the State of CA to see the modeling of core values, quality, responsive service, stewardship and the support you gave me in action. I know you have political headwinds in the future and rest assured if I can ever be an advocate for your value proposition and the need for your noble mission, I will always be there to write letters or speak on your behalf!

All the best,

Larry Bienati

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Go forth do good and leave an enduring legacy in all you do!

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TAHOE REGIONAL
TRAINING AGENCY


Dear Jeff Cowen,

I am very pleased with the effort that the TRPA puts into keeping the Lake clean and clear. I have been coming here since I was 3 and have been living in Incline village for 6 years. The lake is what makes Tahoe a great place to live and one of the worlds top vacation destinations.

Most of the people that live around the lake are very outdoor oriented. Having clean water to swim in, drink, and relax by is very important. We need strickt regulations for those living up here to keep the lake crystal clear.

In my opinion, I feel that your organization is doing a great job implementing and enforcing these regulations. Keep up the great work.

Sincerely,

Rich Thomas


Snowboard Instructor
North Lake Tahoe

Thank you for your good work.
Please find enclosed a \$20.00
donation.

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For 'Conservation clearly'