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NEWS RELEASE

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TRPA NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND GENERAL COUNSEL

Lake Tahoe, Stateline, NV – Joanne Marchetta has been named Executive Director of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, replacing John Singlaub who left the job last month after five years.

Marchetta, who has been TRPA's General Counsel since June 2005, brings more than two decades of land use planning and environmental legal experience to the position. Previously, she was Assistant General Counsel of the Presidio Trust in San Francisco.

Nicole Rinke, the TRPA Assistant General Counsel since February 2007, has been named General Counsel, filling Marchetta's previous position.

Marchetta and Rinke were appointed to their new posts today by unanimous votes of the TRPA Governing Board. Marchetta had served one month as the Agency's Interim Executive Director.

Marchetta and Rinke assume their leadership positions at a critical time for TRPA and the Lake Tahoe Basin. TRPA is in the process of implementing newly adopted shorezone regulations, beginning environmental review for an updated regional plan, and overseeing development of a renewed Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program.

"In making their decision, the Governing Board recognized the professionalism and depth of knowledge of Joanne and Nicole have regarding the Tahoe Basin," said Governing Board Chair Allen Biaggi. "The Board also recognized the challenges TRPA is facing over the next few years including the completion of a regional plan update, the ongoing potential for catastrophic wildfire, the introduction of aquatic invasive species into the Lake and reductions to agency operating revenue. For these reasons, the Board unanimously chose Joanne and Nicole as the Executive Team to lead the agency."

Marchetta and Rinke said they were honored at the Board's confidence in them and ready to take on the challenges ahead.

“This is a landmark time for TRPA and everyone who has a stake in Lake Tahoe,” Marchetta said. “I look forward to working with the Government Board, Agency staff and those in the public and private sectors who will be our collaborators on behalf of the Lake moving forward.”

“I am truly honored by the Board’s decision to appoint me as General Counsel for TRPA,” Rinke said. “These are exciting and challenging times for Lake Tahoe and I look forward to helping navigate the waters ahead as we continue to work toward solutions for the Tahoe Basin.”

Marchetta began her legal career as a trial attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice where she strategically directed federal court litigation matters. She continued on to work for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, where during her tenure she managed lengthy negotiations dealing with complex waste cleanup cases. At the Presidio Trust, she managed the comprehensive planning update to transition the San Francisco Presidio from a military base to public parkland by leveraging revenue generated by rehabilitation and redevelopment of its buildings.

Marchetta received a J.D. from the Columbus School of Law at Catholic University in Washington D.C., and a B.S. in Forestry from the University of Michigan. She is also a member of the American Planning Association and Urban Land Institute.

Rinke previously worked for the Western Environmental Law Center representing conservationists, ranchers and rural communities concerned with Nevada water policy. She also was a staff attorney for the Nevada Mining Project and Western Mining Action Project representing communities affected by mining activities in the state. From August 2001 to August 2002 she was a judicial clerk for Nevada Supreme Court Justice Miriam Shearing.

Rinke received a J.D. from Boalt Hall School of Law, University of California at Berkeley in 2001 and a B.S. in history in 1997 from Frostburg State University, Maryland.

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency cooperatively leads the effort to preserve, restore, and enhance the unique natural and human environment of the Lake Tahoe Region now and in the future.

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