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NEWS RELEASE

TRPA MAKING IMPROVEMENTS TO ASSIST CUSTOMERS, HOMEOWNERS

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For Release Immediately

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Lake Tahoe, CA/NV – The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) has embarked on important changes this winter to help some property owners weather the current economy and make the Agency’s regulations easier to understand, TRPA announced today.

In December, the TRPA Governing Board significantly extended the time period that mitigation fee refunds may be given for expired or withdrawn permits. In February, the Governing Board changed the TRPA Code to allow residential and commercial permit holders to apply for a reissued permit before their current permits expire while at the same time preserving development allocation for their projects.

Additionally, the Agency intends to rewrite its code of ordinances to make Tahoe Basin regulations easier to understand.

“The Agency is staying focused on customer service and responding to the current credit and economic crisis,” Review Services Branch Chief Lyn Barnett said. “And as we press on with updates to the Regional Plan, we are looking for ways we can modernize TRPA regulations for improved readability, simplicity, conciseness, and clarity.”

Some residential and commercial projects around Tahoe have been significantly delayed for financial reasons. Similar to local jurisdiction procedures, a TRPA approval is required by law to specify a permit expiration date after which building allocations either expire or are forfeited.

Mitigation fees are collected by TRPA as one method to offset impacts to air and water quality that come from some developments. TRPA distributes mitigation funds to local jurisdictions to implement erosion control, transportation, and similar improvements to the environment.

2-2-2 TRPA Customer Service

In conjunction with the update of the 20-year Lake Tahoe Regional Plan scheduled to be complete in 2011, the Agency has received 10 responses to a request for proposals from private firms specializing in legal and technical writing to assist redrafting and clarifying some 600 pages of ordinances.

“We recognize the benefit of simplifying the TRPA rulebook to make it more easily understood and concise,” Barnett said. “Hopefully we can encourage home and business owners to redevelop and re-invest in Tahoe.”

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. For additional information, email jcowen@trpa.org.

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