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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **ALLEN BIAGGI ELECTED TRPA GOVERNING BOARD CHAIR, NEW BOARD MEMBERS TO BE SEATED IN JANUARY**

**Lake Tahoe, Stateline, NV** – Allen Biaggi, Director of the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, has been elected chair of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Governing Board.

Norma Santiago, El Dorado County Supervisor, has been elected vice chair. The two will preside over TRPA Governing Board meetings for two years beginning January 1, 2009, before the chairmanship and vice chairmanship again shift.

Biaggi takes the helm at a defining time for the Agency, as 2009 is TRPA's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

This milestone arrives as the Agency prepares to update the existing Lake Tahoe Regional Plan, renew the Environmental Improvement Program, take a larger role in permitting forest fuels reduction projects, and implement newly adopted shorezone ordinances.

Further, the Agency is seeking to nurture important partnerships with the private sector to leverage much-needed environmental improvements at the Lake with targeted redevelopment in key areas of the Basin.

"I appreciate the confidence the other members of the Governing Board have placed in me and I know that, together with the hard-working staff of the TRPA, we will be able to make significant progress toward our environmental and economic goals for the Tahoe Basin," Biaggi said. "Given the economic concerns facing Lake Tahoe, and the economic downturn impacting both Nevada and California, this will be a challenging time for the Agency and I know all of us on the Governing Board are committed to providing the time and leadership necessary to continue this important work."

This is Biaggi's second turn to serve as TRPA board chair since he became Nevada's Conservation and Natural Resources chief in 2004. His first TRPA board chairmanship was in 2006 when completing the unfinished term of former board member Tim Smith.

In his state role, Biaggi oversees eight divisions of the Nevada state government including Conservation Districts, Forestry, Parks, Environmental Protection, Water Resources, State Lands, the Wild Horse Commission and the Natural Heritage Program. For the six years prior to his appointment as department director, Biaggi was the Administrator for the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection.

The TRPA chairmanship traditionally rotates bi-annually between California and Nevada board members. Mara Bresnick, who served as chair for the 2008 calendar year as the California Assembly Speaker's appointee, has been informally designated to continue as the board's lead point person on regional plan update matters.

The chairmanship and vice chairmanship election occurred in November.

Biaggi also takes the helm as the TRPA board is poised to seat four new members:

- Las Vegas businessman Tim Cashman was elected as the board's Nevada At-Large Member December 11, replacing Roy "RJ" Clason. Clason was appointed in July to complete the term of Reno attorney Coe Swobe, who left the board last summer. The Nevada At-Large member is elected by the TRPA board's other six Nevada members, who comprise the Nevada Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.
- Newly elected Placer County District 5 Supervisor Jennifer Montgomery of Donner Summit is expected to become the county's representative on the Board, replacing Bruce Kranz.
- Newly elected Washoe County District 1 Commissioner John Breternitz is expected to become the county's representative on the board, replacing retiring Jim Galloway.
- The City of South Lake Tahoe also will appoint a new member to replace Mayor Mike Weber. Weber did not seek reelection to the South Lake Tahoe City Council and will step down from his seat as the city's representative on the governing board this month.

The TRPA Governing board is comprised of 15 members. Six are locally elected appointees from the City of South Lake Tahoe, Placer County, El Dorado County, Washoe

County, Douglas County and Carson City. From Nevada, the Secretary of State, the conservation and natural resources chief, a governor's appointee, and an at-large member selected by other Nevada members also sit on the board. From California, two governor's appointees, an Assembly Speaker's appointee, and an appointee of the Senate Rules Committee are seated.

The board's 15<sup>th</sup> member is a non-voting appointee of the President of the United States. Stuart Yount of Incline Village, Nevada, President George Bush's appointee, currently holds that seat.

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, call Dennis Oliver at 775-589-5235, or email [doliver@trpa.org](mailto:doliver@trpa.org).

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