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To the Governing Board and the Lake Tahoe Community:

2014 was a year of accomplishments and challenges for the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, and our second year of working to implement the milestone Regional Plan we adopted in 2012.

It also marked our 45th year of environmental restoration at Lake Tahoe. The visionary Bi-State Compact that California and Nevada entered to create the TRPA was signed into law by President Richard Nixon in December 1969.

Looking back on nearly a half-century of progress, we have much to be proud of. That effort has shaped the Lake we know today. Looking forward, many challenges lay ahead. Fortunately, TRPA is more prepared today than ever to meet them.

We have a widely-supported Regional Plan and a newly adopted Strategic Plan to guide its implementation. The Regional Plan is designed to restore Lake Tahoe’s environment and revitalize our communities. Our new Lake Tahoe Sustainability Action Plan and Sustainable Communities Program aim to improve the health and social well-being of our residents and prepare our Region for environmental challenges such as climate change.

We have taken steps to improve the transparency and accountability of our Agency and continuously improve as a high-performance organization, implementing new programs to strengthen our employees’ talents as regional leaders and collaborators.

Lake Tahoe is seeing a renaissance of shared vision and a willingness to work together for common solutions among stakeholders, as well as new signs of community revitalization. For continued progress, we must bring to bear important initiatives: securing new funding for the Environmental Improvement Program, continuing to lead best planning practices, and investing in Agency talent to assure enduring capacity and quality outcomes. I look forward to continually sharing important information about our progress and working together to achieve measurable results and environmental gains for our Region.

Sincerely,

Joanne S. Marchetta
Executive Director,
Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
The Bi-State Compact that created TRPA directs the Agency to establish a Regional Plan that will meet and maintain environmental thresholds, and authorizes it to accomplish goals using many different strategies including land use regulations, growth management, and capital improvement programs.

Targeted improvements to accelerate implementation of the 2012 Regional Plan are currently the primary focus for the Long Range Planning, Current Planning, and Transportation Planning Divisions.

**LONG RANGE PLANNING**

Prepares and updates TRPA plans, ordinances, rules, and regulations to ensure they are achieving and maintaining environmental thresholds.

**Key 2014 Accomplishments:**

Completed post-adoption Regional Plan follow-up initiatives:

1. Convened a Governing Board-directed working group to review policies with the goal of restoring environmentally sensitive lands. Evaluated allowing land coverage transfers between hydrologically related areas (HRAs) as a way to accelerate threshold gain by removing coverage in Stream Environment Zones (SEZs) or wetlands and allowing transfers to more suitable locations for redevelopment. The group also evaluated potential improvements to the Excess Coverage Mitigation Fee Program to benefit water quality.

2. Completed a “Tahoe Regional Housing Needs Report” to identify barriers to affordable housing in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

3. Collected data and reviewed policies in preparation for the Governing Board’s update to shorezone regulations.

**FUTURE FOCUS**

Collaborate with communities and local jurisdictions to advance the successful completion of local government Area Plans. Improve the Excess Coverage Mitigation Fee Program and coverage transfer and incentive policies to accelerate environmental gain. Develop a strategy to update TRPA shorezone regulations and implement phased improvements to the development commodities system.
AREA PLANS

To better address issues of regional environmental significance, the 2012 Regional Plan established a Basin-wide framework for planning where multiple requirements—TRPA, local, state, and federal—may be comprehensively addressed in Area Plans. Local governments have long had delegated authority to implement parts of the Regional Plan; area planning gives them more options to recognize the unique character and needs of each area and accept broader delegation and more local control once Area Plans are found to conform to TRPA’s regional rules. TRPA is then left to focus on regional environmental and community goals and, in most cases, consolidate multiple layers of overlapping or inconsistent permit requirements. Two Area Plans have been adopted by local jurisdictions and TRPA and those areas are now seeing new signs of environmental and economic redevelopment activity. Five more Area Plans are in progress.

South Shore Area Plan

Douglas County, Nevada’s South Shore Area Plan—the first to be adopted—encompasses 667 acres including the casino core, Kingsbury Town Center, Edgewood Mountain Parcels, and Edgewood Golf Course. The Hard Rock Hotel and Casino project has helped animate the casino core streetscape by creating an open, pedestrian-friendly space along U.S. Highway 50 and is the first major project to incorporate the Area Plan’s vision with improved landscaping, building design, signage, public art, and pedestrian amenities.

Construction has also started on the Edgewood Lodge and Golf Course Improvement Project. In order to build a state-of-the-art hotel, the Edgewood Company purchased and demolished two rundown motels and transferred the hotel units to the site. The hotel project includes significant environmental restoration of the golf course ponds and Edgewood Creek to improve water quality, vegetation, wildlife habitat, and stream environments.
Tourist Core Area Plan

TRPA approved the City of South Lake Tahoe’s Tourist Core Area Plan in 2013. This Area Plan runs from the California side of the state line to just west of Ski Run Boulevard and encompasses 282 acres including the City’s highest concentration of commercial and tourist uses. Key goals are to encourage investment and environmental redevelopment and to advance environmental improvements as well as bicycle and pedestrian connectivity.

Major projects that will realize the Tourist Core Area Plan’s goals are underway. The Pioneer Trail Pedestrian Upgrade installed sidewalks along the busy roadway, as well as streetlights and transit shelters, to create a safer pedestrian experience and encourage residents and visitors to walk or use public transit to reach their destinations. The Tahoe Woods Multi-Family Dwelling Project is redeveloping a former mobile home park and includes 28 residential units in seven buildings in close proximity to shopping and other amenities. The first phase of Chateau at the Village on U.S. Highway 50 was completed, bringing 18,000 square feet of updated retail space, scenic improvements, and water quality improvements to an older property across from Heavenly Village.
REGIONAL PLAN PERFORMANCE MEASURES

To monitor the progress and effectiveness of Regional Plan implementation over the long-term, in June 2013, TRPA Governing Board members approved 14 strategically targeted Regional Plan Performance Measures. Each measure has an associated Level-1 and Level-2 benchmark, or target, to be reported both annually and every four years.

Regional Land Use Patterns
1. Distribution of development for land-use types
2. Annual average number of units transferred to Town Centers from sensitive and remote land
3. Retirement rate for existing non-residential units of use
4. Housing availability for residents and workers

Travel Behavior
5. Percentage of all trips using non-automobile modes of travel
6. Automobile vehicle miles traveled per capita
7. Construction of pedestrian and bicycle improvements

Environmental Restoration
8. Coverage removal from SEZs and other sensitive lands (privately-funded)
9. Issuance of BMP certificates in conjunction with property improvements and area-wide BMP installations
10. TMDL performance benchmarks
11. Scenic improvement on urban roadways

Effective Regional Plan Implementation
12. Preparation and maintenance of Area Plans in conformance with 2012 Regional Plan
13. Completion of mitigation measures identified in the 2012 Regional Plan Environmental Impact Statement

Economic Vitality
14. Rate of redevelopment

CONSTRUCTION OF PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE IMPROVEMENTS

Approximately 6 miles of pedestrian and bicycle improvements were constructed, exceeding the Level-1 benchmark since 2013. Visit trpa.org for updates on all 14 performance measures.
CURRENT PLANNING

It is only through projects and their implementation that TRPA achieves necessary environmental threshold benefits. Current Planning serves the public by providing timely and consistent review of project applications to achieve environmental improvement and economic investment.

Key 2014 Accomplishments:

• Processed 639 project permit applications.
• Screened 98 percent of applications for completeness within 30 days. Reviewed and issued permits for 95 percent within 120 days of being found complete.
• Met customer service targets. Ninety-nine percent of surveyed customers rated their experience with the Customer Service Counter as “good” or “excellent.”
• Updated the residential development rights allocation program to strengthen its environmental benefits.
• Further streamlined routine permits by developing online applications for grading exception and tree removal requests.

FUTURE FOCUS

Convene partners to create additional memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with local jurisdictions to improve efficiency and customer service. Expand online permitting and continue to simplify permit application and review procedures.

ONLINE PERMITTING WELL-RECEIVED

We launched online tree removal applications in May. From July to September, TRPA received 164 applications and about 40 percent were entered online, improving efficiency for staff and customers and reducing vehicle trips.
PLAN COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Permitting and compliance programs ensure projects meet TRPA’s Code of Ordinances and environmental standards.

Key 2014 Accomplishments:

• Performed 1,074 compliance inspections. Of these, 104 resulted in TRPA enforcement cases.
• Completed 100 percent of pre-grade inspections within three days of request and 100 percent of inspections within 15 days.
• Completed 100 audits of local jurisdiction MOUs, randomly selecting and inspecting at least 10 percent of active projects for compliance. All jurisdictions achieved between 90 and 99 percent compliance. Corrective action implemented to reach 100 percent.
• Performed 80 water quality Best Management Practice (BMP) inspections and initiated work on a targeted BMP implementation plan.

FUTURE FOCUS

Implement targeted BMP plan. Improve long-term permit compliance monitoring and strengthen MOU monitoring. Continue to make customer service a top priority while ensuring Regional Plan compliance for improved threshold attainment.
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Seventy percent of the fine sediment that washes into the Lake and reduces its clarity comes from roads and developed areas. Transportation plays a central role in restoring Lake Tahoe’s environment and revitalizing communities. Linking our transportation network for better traffic flow and pedestrian mobility improves air quality, the movement of people and goods, and quality of life in our communities. Coupled with water quality improvements, it also significantly reduces the amount of fine sediment and polluted stormwater reaching Lake Tahoe. Transportation is transformation.

Key 2014 Accomplishments:

• Created the On Our Way grant program and awarded $550,000 in federal funding for local jurisdictions, school districts, and nonprofit groups to identify neighborhood- and community-level transportation projects that meet Regional Plan sustainability goals by creating mixed-use Town Centers; increasing walking, bicycling, and public transit use; reducing environmental impacts or enhancing economic vitality.

FUTURE FOCUS

• Secure new transportation investment funds for threshold attainment in the face of precipitous declines in historical funding sources.
• Partner with Tahoe Transportation District (TTD) on a long-range integrated regional transit plan to improve connections in and outside the Basin for increased ridership. Include new inter-regional funding strategies.
• Partner with TTD on a set of comprehensive corridor management plans that identify transportation needs in Lake Tahoe communities and establish partnerships to accelerate implementation.
• Update the Regional Transportation and Bicycle/Pedestrian Plans in support of regional land use strategies and local Area Plans.
2014 TRANSPORTATION PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- **Caltrans:** Completed $27 million in upgrades to 7 miles of U.S. Highway 50 in South Lake Tahoe and Meyers to improve pedestrian access and reduce stormwater pollution. Completed a $4 million project to improve stormwater drainage on State Route 89 between Tahoe City and Squaw Valley. Started $90 million in construction to reduce stormwater pollution on 16 miles of State Route 89 from Emerald Bay to Meeks Bay and from Tahoma to Tahoe City.

- **Nevada Department of Transportation:** Rebuilt 4 miles of Kingsbury Grade/State Route 207. The $13.5 million project installed more than 6,000 feet of storm drain, 8,700 feet of curb and gutter, and 3,000 feet of sidewalk.

- **Tahoe Transportation District:** Built another 1.3 miles of the Nevada Stateline-to-Stateline Bikeway. The $2.2 million project extended from Elks Point Road to Round Hill Pines Resort with an access spur to U.S. Highway 50.

- **Placer County:** Started an estimated $48 million project to overhaul State Route 28 in the Kings Beach Commercial Core with lane reductions and major traffic, streetscape, pedestrian, and stormwater improvements.

- **El Dorado County:** Built 1.7 miles of Class 1 bike trail along Lake Tahoe Boulevard from South Tahoe High School to Sawmill Pond and started building another 2 miles of Class 2 bike trail from Sawmill Road to Tahoe Mountain Road.

- **South Lake Tahoe:** Completed the nearly $5 million Harrison Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project to improve traffic flow, sidewalks, bike paths, street lighting, and stormwater drainage.

*Top photo: Nevada Stateline-to-Stateline Bikeway. Photo by Mike Vollmer. Center photo: Kings Beach Commercial Core improvement project rendering. Credit: Design Workshop and Dokken Engineering. Bottom photo: The newly completed portion of Class 1 bike trail from Lake Tahoe Boulevard to South Tahoe High School. Photo by Mike Vollmer.*
The Environmental Improvement Division leads the collaborative public and private, multi-jurisdictional Environmental Improvement Program (EIP), the capital investment program in the Regional Plan designed to attain and maintain environmental thresholds. Since its creation in 1997, EIP projects have resulted in hundreds of miles of bike paths and trails, improved the health of our forests, reduced stormwater pollution, restored creeks and other sensitive areas, and halted the decades-long decline in Lake Tahoe’s mid-lake water clarity. But EIP progress is at risk from a fiscal cliff of declining state and federal funding. The Division provides leadership in the EIP partnership to develop new financing strategies and set priorities so ever-more-limited funding is used for projects that will achieve maximum environmental threshold gain.

With TRPA leadership, a state-of-the-art reporting tool came online in 2014 to track and report key information, progress, and accomplishments of EIP projects implemented by more than 50 partner agencies.
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Reducing polluted stormwater runoff from urban areas and roads is a major part of the EIP’s water quality focus area. One strategy includes area-wide solutions that offer opportunities for the public and private sectors to partner to meet BMP requirements, generate funding for system maintenance, implement the TMDL, and achieve other community goals.

Key 2014 Accomplishments:

• Partnered with local jurisdictions to complete three high-priority area-wide projects to capture and treat polluted stormwater runoff from public roadways and private parcels: the Bijou Area Erosion Control Project, Harrison Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project, and the Cave Rock Estates General Improvement District Water Quality Improvement Project. These collaborative projects represent more than $16 million of investment and will reduce fine sediment pollution in Lake Tahoe by more than 25,000 pounds per year.

• Issued 208 BMP certificates for new construction projects and 289 BMP certificates for existing development retrofits. Sixty-four percent of Nevada properties, 29 percent of California properties, and 39 percent of properties overall in the Lake Tahoe Region have achieved BMP compliance.

The $11 million Bijou Area Erosion Control Project in South Lake Tahoe captures and treats stormwater from the 42-acre Bijou Commercial Core, reducing fine sediment pollution in the area by more than 20,360 pounds per year and nitrogen and phosphorus pollution by 96 percent. Photo by Devin Middlebrook.

The Harrison Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project revitalized a commercial area in South Lake Tahoe. The completed project prevents about 5,000 pounds of fine sediment from washing into Lake Tahoe with stormwater each year. Photo by Tom Lotshaw.

The Stormwater Management Program partnered with the Tahoe Resource Conservation District to develop a video series that informs property owners about BMP installation and maintenance. The videos are available at www.tahoebmp.org.
FOREST AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Forest and vegetation health plays a critical role in threshold attainment, the resiliency of the natural environment and ecosystems, and protection of Lake Tahoe’s communities and water resources from wildfire.

Key 2014 Accomplishment:
- TRPA continues to play an important role on the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team. In 2014, the team updated the Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy. U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein recognized the U.S. Forest Service, Basin-wide fire chiefs and other partners at the Lake Tahoe Summit in August.

USFS FUELS REDUCTION PROJECTS

NEVADA
- 523 acres of pile burn
- 71 acres of urban lot hand thin

CALIFORNIA
- 924 acres of hand thin
- 955 acres of mechanical thin
- 279 acres of pile burn
- 32 acres of urban lot hand thin

Source: U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

AQUATIC RESOURCES PROGRAM

Lake Tahoe faces a continuous and perilous threat from the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). Prevention programs keep new AIS out of waters in the Lake Tahoe Basin and control programs eradicate or manage AIS already established in the Region. TRPA leads the multi-sector AIS collaborative partnership.

Key 2014 Accomplishments:

- Updated the Lake Tahoe AIS Management Plan. Members of the federal Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force described the plan as one of the best and a model for the nation.
- Inspected 7,000 boats to ensure they were “Cleaned, Drained, and Dry” and not contaminated with AIS before launching at Lake Tahoe. Forty-eight were found to have evidence of AIS.
- Completed the control project to suffocate 5.5 acres of Asian clams in Emerald Bay. Science partners will report project results later in 2015, but preliminary findings indicate a clam mortality rate of 90 percent.
- Detected no evidence of zebra or quagga mussels in Lake Tahoe and Fallen Leaf Lake after three rounds of water quality sampling.
- Selected to host the 2015 annual meeting of the Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species and continued to provide national leadership on invasive species issues.

“Lake Tahoe has one of the best aquatic invasive species plans in the United States. Tahoe’s plan will serve as a model nationwide moving forward.”

– Donald Maclean, biologist at the headquarters office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
FUNDING UPDATE

The federal Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act has funded $300 million in environmental improvement projects at Tahoe over the last decade. With this sunsetting funding source, the Tahoe Basin partnership is focused on securing new revenue streams to continue critical environmental restoration work at the Lake.

- The Lake Tahoe Restoration Act is poised for reintroduction in the 114th Congress. The Act would authorize another $415 million for environmental restoration projects.
- With the passage of California’s water bond, or Proposition 1, Tahoe organizations are collaborating to submit grant proposals to continue water quality, forest health, and sustainability projects. California cap and trade funding is also being explored.
- The state of Nevada authorized an additional $100 million in general obligation bonds several years ago for the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program. With the state’s fiscal health on the mend, bond sales are moving forward to continue restoration work.
- Local governments and the private sector continue to support the Environmental Improvement Program. Local governments invest millions in operations and maintenance of capital facilities. The non-profit Tahoe Fund has raised more than $1 million in private donations for the Incline Village to Sand Harbor Bike Path in 2014 and to date has raised more than $100,000 for invasive species projects.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUTURE FOCUS

- **Stormwater Management Program**: Secure sustained and reliable funding for long-term operation and maintenance. Streamline and automate parcel owner BMP inspection and maintenance reporting. Automate permitting for small BMP projects.
- **Forest and Vegetation Management**: In partnership with the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team, secure funding needed to implement the Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy and achieve multiple resource benefits from fuel reduction and forest restoration projects. Update Tahoe Yellow Cress Conservation Strategy for input to federal endangered species listing decision.
- **Aquatic Resources Program**: Secure long-term and reliable funding for AIS Prevention and Control programs. Complete a comprehensive strategy to guide AIS control efforts. Host and provide policy leadership and direction at the 2015 annual conference of the Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species at Lake Tahoe.
Establish TRPA as a Leader in Environmental Sustainability Programs

LAKE TAHOE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

The effects of climate change have arrived in the Sierra Nevada, bringing with it a wide range of impacts that will affect the local environment and economy. TRPA is doing its part to address these challenges by building a culture of sustainability in the Tahoe Basin.

Key 2014 Accomplishments:

• Created the Sustainability Dashboard, an online reporting tool that uses a suite of 28 indicators to measure and monitor the health of Lake Tahoe’s environment, economy, and social well-being. The Sustainability Dashboard is available at www.laketahoeinfo.org.

• Secured grant funding for Safe Routes to Schools planning in South Lake Tahoe and development of community gardens at three South Shore elementary schools.

• Worked as a founding member to create the Mountain Pact. The coalition of mountain resort communities advocates for federal funding and legislation to improve environmental and economic resilience in the face of a changing climate.

FUTURE FOCUS

Target TRPA’s implementation of the Sustainability Action Plan to elements supporting high priorities of the Regional Plan, such as alternative low- and no-carbon fuels and utility partnerships for alternative energy to achieve or exceed regional air quality and greenhouse gas reduction goals. Secure funding for sustainability and climate change adaptation projects.
Propel the Development and Use of Best Information, Data, and Science for Decision-Making and Accountability

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS DIVISION

TRPA monitors hundreds of environmental threshold standards, performance measures, and management actions for progress and effectiveness at a regional cost of many millions of dollars. The Agency formed a new Research and Analysis Division to strengthen its relationship with the science community and provide the best possible information for policy decisions, operations, and accountability. The Division incorporated personnel previously spread throughout TRPA into a single organizational unit for better coordination, efficiency, and staff support.

Key 2014 Accomplishments:

• Completed a noise monitoring study along primary transportation corridors in the Lake Tahoe Basin as foundation data for the next update of the Regional Transportation Plan.
• Updated and streamlined outdated records management systems. Converted more than 3,500 paper permit files and other records to electronic files for improved efficiency and public access.
• With multi-agency partners, secured funding and began enhanced nearshore monitoring in response to scientists’ recommendations.

FUTURE FOCUS

• Preparation of the next four-year Threshold Evaluation Report due by December 2016, which will report on the status and progress of 151 threshold indicators and Regional Plan compliance measures.
• Collaboration with the science community to prioritize, update, and streamline Threshold Standards.
Operate as a High Performance Organization

EXECUTIVE & HUMAN RESOURCES

Key 2014 Accomplishments:

• The Governing Board unanimously approved an updated Strategic Plan in June 2014. The Executive Team implemented a strengthened staff performance management system aligned with Strategic Plan goals.

• The TRPA Executive Director hosted roundtable meetings with employees to better understand what the Agency can do to accelerate high performance and evolve as the "Best Place to Work and Employer of Choice in the Basin," resulting in several new initiatives. A Talent Development Program focuses on performance management and core competency training and ensures staff priorities are aligned with the Agency’s most critical initiatives.

• Tahoe’s solutions emerge only through collaborative action. TRPA’s Advisory Planning Commission enhanced its planning role in the Basin in 2014 by holding its first-ever strategic planning retreat resulting in a new charter and renewed focus. The 21-member Commission now functions as a collaborative stakeholder body tackling difficult Regional Plan policy issues and forwarding recommendations to the Governing Board.

FUTURE FOCUS

Secure new funding for the EIP to continue threshold attainment progress; lead best practices needed to encourage and drive Regional Plan implementation; invest in Agency personnel and talent including performance management and talent development programs; expand continuous improvement initiative throughout the Agency.
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

TRPA supports an internal culture committed to public education and outreach and community engagement to implement the Regional Plan. The External Affairs team leads public engagement initiatives in collaboration with a wide variety of Agency and non-profit stakeholders.

Key 2014 Accomplishments:

• **Read all about it:** Tahoe In Depth, the biannual newspaper TRPA created in 2012 to enhance environmental awareness and stewardship at Lake Tahoe, was recognized in November with a Silver Spike award for communications excellence by the Sierra Nevada Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. Tahoe In Depth quickly became financially self-sustaining through reader subscriptions, underwriters, and agency contributions. It features reporting and photography by employees of local, state, and federal agencies and nonprofit groups in the Lake Tahoe Basin and is mailed out to every homeowner at Lake Tahoe, reaching not only full-time residents, but also part-time residents from places such as the Bay Area.

• **Classroom education:** TRPA is placing a renewed emphasis on public education. An environmental education specialist is working with local schools to teach students about Lake Tahoe and the importance of protecting it. TRPA staff reached more than 900 students in eight area schools in 2014.

• **Community events:** Events serve as a platform to inform, engage, and interact with the public, improving the Agency’s transparency, customer service, and public reach. TRPA staffed booths at nearly 10 community events and interacted with more than 2,500 people in 2014.

• **Web site and social media:** Building off a successful redesign of trpa.org in 2013, TRPA continues to grow its online and social media presence as tools for public education and information. The web site receives more than 29,000 page views per month and social media engagement experienced growth in 2014 including a 55 percent increase in Twitter followers.

*Top photo by Tom Lotshaw*
Spreading the message: Three new gateway signs installed along Nevada highways in the Lake Tahoe Basin read, “Entering the Lake Tahoe Watershed – Help Protect It!” TRPA worked with funding partners to install the signs near Daggett Summit on State Route 207, Spooner Summit on U.S. Highway 50, and on State Route 431 the Mount Rose Highway as a way to remind the millions of people who visit Lake Tahoe each year that they are entering a special place and share a duty to help protect it.

FUTURE FOCUS

Continue to grow TRPA’s role as a leader in collaborative outreach regionally, nationally, and globally to inspire and achieve conservation and stewardship for Lake Tahoe.

“I have just spent time reading the winter and summer publications. As a half-year resident I appreciate the update about a number of issues that confront Tahoe. I found the articles informative and helpful. Good work!”

– Tahoe In Depth reader

LEGAL

Regional Plan Update Legal Victory

In 2014, TRPA successfully defended its adoption of the 2012 Regional Plan in United States Federal District Court. Sierra Club and Friends of the West Shore sued TRPA to overturn the Plan based on claims that even though TRPA extensively analyzed the potential impacts of implementation, it did not adequately consider impacts to water quality, air quality, and soils. After extensive briefing and a day-long hearing, the court rejected all of the Sierra Club’s claims. The court found TRPA properly assessed the impact of implementation and considered all relevant factors when approving the Regional Plan. Sierra Club has since appealed that decision to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. TRPA’s successful defense of the Regional Plan was a cooperative effort between the Agency, California and Nevada, local governments and other entities.
FINANCE

TRPA is organized to reflect the three core functions it performs: Planning, Implementation, and Research & Analysis in a 'Plan, Do, Check' framework. Funding for these functions comes from a variety of sources including the State of California, State of Nevada, fees for services, and competitive grants. TRPA is currently staffed with 62 full-time equivalent positions.

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Opposite photo by Drone Promotions
Mission

Cooperatively leading the effort to preserve, restore, and enhance the unique natural and human environment of the Lake Tahoe Region, while improving local communities, and people’s interactions with our irreplaceable environment.

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