CALIFORNIA TAHOE CONSERVANCY





MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA TAHOE CONSERVANCY BOARD

Thursday, April 18, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

California State Library
Stanley Mosk Library and Courts Building, Room 500
914 Capitol Mall
Sacramento, California 95814

1. Roll Call

BOARD MEMBERS

2. Consent Items

NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY Wade Crowfoot, Secretary Elizabeth Williamson, Designee

a. Approval of Minutes (action) (Resolution 19-04-01)

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCEKeely Bosler, Director

Karen Finn, Designee

b. Approval of Board Agenda (action) (Resolution 19-04-02)

SENATE PUBLIC MEMBER

3. Chair's Report

Lynn Suter, Vice Chair

4. Welcoming Remarks from Wade Crowfoot, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency

ASSEMBLY PUBLIC MEMBER
Adam Acosta

5. Executive Director's Report

CITY OF SOUTH LAKE TAHOE

Brooke Laine, Chair

• Tahoe Basin Update

EL DORADO COUNTY Sue Novasel 6. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

facilitate climate adaptation efforts in the Basin.

PLACER COUNTY Vacant

Vacant
U.S. FOREST SERVICE (ex-officio)

Jeff Marsolais

Executive Director

Board will hear a presentation on: 1) new findings on the growing and potentially dramatic impacts of climate change in the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin); and 2) how the Conservancy and its partners are responding to those impacts through its Climate Adaptation Action Plan and other efforts. The panelists will discuss how new and emerging State programs and pending legislation could help

7. Climate Change in the Lake Tahoe Basin (discussion only): The

PATRICK WRIGHT

Joint Presentation:

Michael Dettinger, Research Hydrologist, U.S. Geological Survey Geoffrey Schladow, Professor, University of California at Davis Dorian Fougères, Chief of Natural Resources, California Tahoe Conservancy

State Leadership Panel:

- Ashley Conrad-Saydah, Deputy Secretary for Climate Policy, California Environmental Protection Agency
- Bill Craven, Chief Consultant, Senate Committee on Natural Resources
- Kate Gordon, Director, California Office of Planning and Research
- **8. Forest Health and Fire Protection (discussion only):** The Board will hear a joint presentation on: 1) the Basin's emerging Forest Health Action Plan and the Lake Tahoe West and Tahoe-Central Sierra large landscape collaborative initiatives; and 2) the key issues, opportunities, and barriers surrounding these efforts. The panelists will discuss how their respective programs could help address these issues and opportunities, and how the Basin could better serve as a model for addressing State forest health and fire prevention priorities.

Joint Presentation:

Patrick Wright, Executive Director, California Tahoe Conservancy Jeff Marsolais, Forest Supervisor, U.S. Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

Patricia Manley, Supervisory Biological Scientist and Program Manager, U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station

State and Federal Leadership Panel:

- Angela Avery, Executive Officer, Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- Susan Britting, Executive Director, Sierra Forest Legacy
- Jennifer Eberlien, Deputy Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region
- Helge Eng, Deputy Director, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
- Jennifer Montgomery, Director, California Forest Management Task Force
- **9. Sustainable Communities (discussion only):** The Board will hear a joint presentation on the Basin's workforce housing and sustainable development challenges, and the Conservancy's efforts to make its lands, development rights, and acquisition funds available to help meet regional and State housing and land use planning priorities.

Joint Presentation:

Patrick Wright, Executive Director, California Tahoe Conservancy Sue Novasel, County Supervisor, El Dorado County

State and Regional Leadership Panel:

- Louise Bedsworth, Executive Director, Strategic Growth Council
- Jonathan Heim, Asset Enhancement, California Department of General Services Real Estate Services Division and Asset Management Branch
- Bill Yeates, Chair, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

10. Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative Proposition 68 Grant Acceptance (action):

Consideration and possible authorization to accept and expend up to \$1,954,590 in grant funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to collaboratively lead and manage the Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative, and to execute contracts and award grants, as necessary, consistent with the purpose of the grant.

CEQA consideration: statutory exemption

(Resolution 19-04-03)

11. Rapid Response Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Grant (action):

Consideration and possible authorization of a grant to the Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD) for up to \$99,110 for a rapid aquatic invasive plant control project in the Basin.

CEQA consideration: review and consider mitigated negative declaration adopted by Tahoe RCD and possible adoption of mitigation monitoring and reporting program

(Resolution 19-04-04)

12. Board Member Comment

a. Potential Agenda Items for the June 20 Board Meeting (discussion only): Discuss potential agenda items for the June 20 Board meeting.

13. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

14. Adjourn

Schedule/General Meeting Information: Agenda items may be taken out of sequence at the discretion of the Conservancy Board Chair. Items are numbered for identification purposes and will not necessarily be considered in this order. Members of the public intending to comment on agenda and non-agenda items may be asked to use the meeting sign-in sheet before the start of the meeting. The Board Chair may limit the amount of time allocated for public comment on particular issues and for each individual speaker. All Board materials, such as

Board books and Board packets, exhibits, PowerPoint presentations, and agenda materials, are hereby made a part of the record for the appropriate item.

Discussion Items: Discussion items or tours involve staff presentations and updates; no Board action will be taken. (Gov. Code, § 11122.)

Consent Items: Consent items are expected to be routine and non-controversial. Recommendations will ordinarily be acted on without discussion. If any Board member, staff member, or other interested party or member of the public requests discussion of a consent item, it may be removed from consent and taken up in the regular agenda order, or in an order determined by the Board Chair.

Staff Reports: Staff reports on individual agenda items requiring Board action may be obtained on the Conservancy's website at http://www.tahoe.ca.gov or at the Conservancy's office. Staff reports will also be available at the Board meeting.

Meeting Information: Please contact Lori Uriz by e-mail at lori.uriz@tahoe.ca.gov, by phone at (530) 542-5580 or (530) 543-6069, or regular mail correspondence to 1061 Third Street, South Lake Tahoe, California 96150.

Accessibility: In accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, reasonable accommodations are available. Requests for reasonable accommodations should be made at least five working days in advance of the meeting date. To request reasonable accommodations, including documents in alternative formats, please call (530) 542-5580 [California Relay Service (866) 735-0373 or 711].

Use of Electronic Devices: Board members accessing their laptops, phones, or other electronic devices may use the equipment during the meeting to view the meeting materials which are provided in electronic format. Any use of these devices for direct communication employed by a majority of the members of a State body to develop a collective concurrence as to action to be taken on an item is prohibited.

Cover photo by California Tahoe Conservancy staff

California Tahoe Conservancy Agenda Item 2.a April 18, 2019

BOARD MEETING MINUTES March 14, 2019

March 14, 2019 (9:30 a.m.) Board Meeting

Staff prepared the minutes from the same-day audio recording and transcription by Foothill Transcription Company, which were certified on March 26, 2019.

Agenda Item 1. Roll Call

Chair Laine called the meeting to order with a 9:36 a.m. roll call at the Lake Tahoe Community College, Lisa Maloff University Center in South Lake Tahoe, California.

Members Present:

Brooke Laine, Chair, City of South Lake Tahoe Lynn Suter, Vice Chair, Public Member Adam Acosta, Public Member Sue Novasel, El Dorado County Elizabeth Williamson, California Natural Resources Agency Erin Casey, Placer County

Members Absent:

Jeff Marsolais, U.S. Forest Service (ex officio) Karen Finn, California Department of Finance

Others Present:

Patrick Wright, Executive Director Jane Freeman, Deputy Director Mike Steeves, Staff Counsel Danae Atchison, Deputy Attorney General

Agenda Item 2. Consent Items

a. Approval of Minutes (action)

The Board considered the minutes from the December meeting.

b. Approval of Board Agenda (action)

The Board considered the agenda for the day's meeting.

Ms. Novasel moved to approve the two consent items and Vice Chair Suter seconded the motion. Resolutions 19-02-01 and 19-02-02 passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 3. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Wright announced the Conservancy issued a request for proposals for the purchase of its half-acre lot at 833 Emerald Bay Road. Mr. Wright said the Conservancy's request for proposals had a series of specifications, such as housing, sustainable communities, and transit-oriented as well as bike-oriented development. Mr. Wright said the Conservancy intends to enter into exclusive negotiations with Dinsmore Sierra, led by Darren Dinsmore, who is one of the partners in the Tahoe City affordable housing project and has a background in various sustainable communities projects.

Mr. Wright discussed Governor Newsom's Executive Order mandating State agencies try to make their lands available for affordable housing, especially surplus land. Mr. Wright said the Conservancy is ahead of the curve with its Tahoe Livable Communities (TLC) Program that makes asset lands available for affordable housing and other sustainable communities work. Mr. Wright said the Conservancy is partnering with the California Department of General Services and other State agencies to move the TLC Program forward.

Mr. Wright said staff is discussing potential revisions to the Conservancy's enabling legislation with the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA). Mr. Wright explained, however, that CNRA has higher priorities currently given the new administration.

Mr. Wright discussed a request from Ms. Finn regarding the Conservancy's long-term license agreements, which staff researched and is included in the written Executive Director's Report.

Mr. Wright announced the passing of Rick Robinson, a previous employee at the Conservancy. Mr. Wright said staff would like to remember him over the course of the day, as Mr. Robinson was an asset to the Conservancy.

Ms. Casey asked the status of the asset lands in Kings Beach. Mr. Wright responded that the Conservancy will have its June Board meeting in Kings Beach and there will be a couple Board items associated with the asset lands in Kings Beach, including a tour. Mr. Wright said the Conservancy would be working closely with Placer County and others to determine the best use of those parcels. Ms. Casey said Placer County is interested in those properties, especially for housing.

Ms. Casey referenced the written Executive Director's Report and asked about the fifteen properties in South Lake Tahoe and Kings Beach that are listed as opportunity acquisitions. Ms. Casey asked which parcels in Kings Beach the Conservancy is potentially looking to acquire. Mr. Wright responded that the Conservancy has been talking with Placer County staff about potential acquisitions in Kings Beach. Mr. Wright mentioned that one parcel in particular is the Trans Am gas station; although all acquisitions are dependent on real estate negotiations and willing sellers.

Mr. Wright stated that the Conservancy has several million dollars in its proposed budget for opportunity acquisitions. Mr. Wright said he would like to continue the Conservancy's practice of identifying and acquiring developed properties that were built on sensitive land and are located outside of town centers. Mr. Wright said the Conservancy has had success tearing down blighted properties, restoring the land, and then transferring development rights to town centers. Mr. Wright said there is a Senate budget hearing today in Sacramento where the Conservancy's opportunity acquisitions will be discussed.

Vice Chair Suter asked if Mr. Wright anticipates any issues with the budget. Mr. Wright said he was surprised that two of the Conservancy's items were being discussed, as the Conservancy's items are usually on consent. Mr. Wright said the two items being discussed are opportunity acquisitions and Alta Mira. Mr. Wright said the Conservancy is reasonably confident that there will not be an issue as those items are not controversial.

Chair Laine said the Conservancy is in an incredible position of having grant funding to help local jurisdictions with affordable housing and the local jurisdictions appreciate that assistance.

Agenda Item 4. Chair's Report

Chair Laine honored and recognized Mr. Tom Davis for his work with the Conservancy and for his service on the Conservancy's Board. Mr. Davis said the Conservancy has done a lot for the community and the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin). Mr. Davis said he was privileged to serve on the Conservancy's Board and to be a part of that vision.

Chair Laine discussed the Board's Legislative Committee and suggested that the CNRA

designee be one of the members of the Legislative Committee along with the Assembly Public Member, Mr. Acosta. The Board agreed and Chair Laine directed staff to institute that change.

Agenda Item 5. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Chair Laine invited the public to comment on items not on the agenda.

Ms. Lynne Paulsen, a member of the public, said the Conservancy's expert panel on the Upper Truckee River Restoration Strategy was an important effort and resulted in a public demonstration of the value of the Conservancy's leadership. Ms. Paulsen said the panel presented its findings and expressed the need for more leadership to resolve scientific conflicts and implement staff recommendations consistently across agencies. Ms. Paulsen said the panel's key findings led to recommendations, including that there be more quantifiable objectives, a monitoring baseline should be established, and measurements of additional variables should be tracked. Ms. Paulsen expressed the need for the Conservancy to continue to provide leadership and to revisit the panel's findings and recommendations as part of the new, broader initiative. Ms. Paulsen recommended that the Conservancy reconvene the expert panel. Ms. Paulsen thanked the Conservancy for consideration of her comments.

There were no additional public comments.

Agenda Item 6. Deputy Attorney General's Report

a. Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act Training (discussion only)

Ms. Atchison, Deputy Attorney General, California Attorney General's Office, presented Item 6a.

Ms. Novasel asked why the State does not combine the Brown Act with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Bagley-Keene Act). Ms. Atchison responded that she was not sure but that it may be an idiosyncrasy of history. Ms. Atchison added that the Brown Act preceded the Bagley-Keene Act. Vice Chair Suter explained that there were things the State did not want to do that local governments are required to do. Vice Chair Suter said there were small differences in the two acts that people felt strongly about.

Mr. Wright discussed the challenges associated with the 10-day noticing requirement pursuant to the Bagley-Keene Act, especially given inclement weather in Lake Tahoe. Mr. Wright explained that the Conservancy attempts to be nimble but it can be challenging with the Bagley-Keene Act's 10-day requirement.

Chair Laine asked if the four Board members must be in the same location to have a quorum. Ms. Atchison said she would need to look into that further.

Ms. Novasel asked about serial meetings and if it was okay for A to talk to B as long as A does not also talk to C. Ms. Atchison said that two individuals can have a conversation without complying with the notice and agenda requirements. Ms. Atchison said the statute says when you get to three individuals, you have a subcommittee and that is no longer appropriate. Ms. Atchison said the goal of the Bagley-Keene Act is to make sure that some of the dialogue is occurring in a public setting.

Ms. Novasel asked about the difference between a quorum and a serial meeting. Ms. Novasel asked why a quorum is four individuals but the serial meeting rule is three individuals. Ms. Atchison said in a situation where there are four Board members, a quorum, there would need to be a majority of three to take an action. Ms. Atchison also explained that the statute states a subcommittee is a group of three or more voting Board members.

Chair Laine asked about the use of social media and serial meetings pursuant to the Bagley-Keene Act. Ms. Atchison cautioned that the City of South Lake Tahoe (City) will likely encounter situations that are very different from the Conservancy. Ms. Atchison said she would strongly recommend that all Board members stay off of social media, especially when the post is about an entity that is interested in receiving funding from the Conservancy or has a business item in front of the Conservancy Board.

Ms. Novasel said constituents want to hear from us on social media but the attorneys advise us to not get on social media. Ms. Novasel said it is difficult to balance the two interests.

Ms. Novasel asked what it means for the equipment to be sufficient. Ms. Atchison said the courts have not interpreted that issue but it essentially means that there must be a working, audible audio connection that has been tested in advance of the meeting.

Chair Laine invited the public to comment. There were no public comments.

Agenda Item 7. Bijou Park Creek Restoration Priority Acquisition (action)

Ms. Jen Greenberg, Associate Environmental Planner, presented Item 7.

Ms. Novasel asked whether the site stabilization could realistically happen by October because it is a tight timeline. Ms. Greenberg invited Mr. Jason Burke, Stormwater

Program Coordinator with the (City), to speak on behalf of the City. Mr. Burke said the City has been working with the owners of the two existing approved acquisitions. Mr. Burke said, upon Board approval, the City can move forward quickly on the proposed acquisition.

Vice Chair Suter asked about the \$6,000 restoration cost and commented that the number seemed low. Mr. Burke said restoration is limited to the removal of coverage and structures as well as reseeding and stabilizing the site once the structure is removed.

Mr. Acosta asked why the Shirley Avenue property owner was no longer a willing seller. Ms. Greenberg said the owner was not experiencing flooding issues and selling the property was not economically feasible.

Ms. Casey asked why the Rockwood Drive parcel was selected out of the ten original parcels in the grant application. Mr. Burke responded that most of the other properties do not have willing sellers and explained that the City is interested in grouping a series of properties adjacent to the recently completed Bijou Marketplace. Mr. Burke said the reason why the Rockwood Drive parcel is a priority is because there is excessive surface flooding and it overwhelms the sewage system, which creates resource and environmental issues.

Chair Laine read into the record a letter from Mr. Victor Delarippa, the Rockwood Drive property owner. Chair Laine said Mr. Delarippa is willing to sell his home at fair market value to help restore the natural stream zone.

Chair Laine invited the public to comment.

Mr. Ed Moser, a member of the public, commented that he is not opposed to the goals of the project but he does not agree with how the City is going about it. Mr. Moser said the Conservancy Board should have toured the area prior to voting on the item. Mr. Moser also stated that there is no infrastructure in the Bijou neighborhood, which is why there is flooding. Mr. Moser suggested that the Conservancy put the money towards paying for the appropriate infrastructure instead of acquisitions. Mr. Moser also said he failed to see how this one parcel provides open, recreation space. Mr. Moser stated that the City would not solve these flooding and environmental issues until it addresses the issues taking place upstream.

There were no additional public comments.

Chair Laine said she agrees with Mr. Moser's comments but the City's goal is to get multiple properties out of the Bijou watershed and then eventually restore the watershed as a whole.

Vice Chair Suter moved to approve the resolution and Mr. Acosta seconded the motion. Resolution 19-02-03 passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 8. Patton Landing Concession Agreement Lease (action)

Mr. Nick Meyer, Associate Environmental Planner, presented Item 8.

Mr. Acosta asked if staff were going to come back to the Board after ten years to seek authorization for the additional ten years. Mr. Meyer said no, as proposed, the concessionaire would come to staff and request the ten-year extension. Mr. Meyer said staff would base the decision on the concessionaire's performance during the first ten years.

Ms. Casey asked about the length of the previous agreement. Mr. Meyer said the previous agreement was a five-year lease with possible a five-year extension.

Ms. Casey asked what is included in the specified lease space. Mr. Meyer said the lease space is a small building and about 500 feet of the beach for kayak and stand-up paddleboard storage.

Ms. Casey asked how this item relates to Item 9 on the agenda and whether staff would incorporate Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) upgrades in the agreement. Ms. Casey asked Mr. Meyer if the tenant would be required to implement ADA upgrades and improvements. Mr. Meyer said the Conservancy would be solely responsible for implementing the ADA upgrades, not the tenant, because of staff expertise.

Ms. Casey asked what criteria staff would use in selecting the concessionaire. Mr. Meyer said the decision would be based on the standing of their business, the amount they are willing to pay in rent, their ability to enter into the agreement, and additional criteria as indicated in the proposed request for proposals.

Chair Laine expressed concern about the proposed length of the agreement because things change over 20 years, and there is the potential that the Conservancy could be stuck with an unprofessional concessionaire. Chair Laine asked about the termination clause and how the Conservancy may be able to terminate the agreement early if necessary. Mr. Meyer said the new agreement would have a termination clause where if the concessionaire were to misrepresent the Conservancy and somehow not adhere to the terms of the agreement, the Conservancy could terminate the agreement.

Chair Laine said she believed the Conservancy wanted to incentivize the concessionaire to invest in their business and recoup that investment over time. Chair Laine asked if staff considered a seven-year agreement with the option of extending it five years. Mr. Meyer said staff is recommending a ten-year agreement with the option of extending it

ten years but the Board may set another term if it would like.

Mr. Acosta asked if staff was proposing a midpoint review by the Board. Mr. Meyer said no but staff is still drafting the request for proposals and it is something that staff could include upon Board direction.

Ms. Novasel asked if the concessionaire would have to be in good standing for the Conservancy to extend the term and if the Conservancy could incorporate that in the agreement. Mr. Meyer responded affirmatively.

Mr. Wright said staff does not generally come to the Board with every license agreement because the Conservancy owns nearly 4,700 properties. Mr. Wright said, however, the Patton Landing agreement is a bigger deal as it is a visible location where the community gathers on the west shore. Mr. Wright commented that the Board is welcome to consider other options and approve the extension. Mr. Wright said the initial ten years is the most important aspect of the agreement.

Ms. Novasel commented that she agreed with Mr. Wright and expressed that it would be a good idea for staff to bring back the possible extension to the Board for review and approval as well as to have public comment and review.

There were no public comments.

Ms. Novasel moved to approve the resolution with an amendment for staff to come back to the Board for its review and approval of the ten-year extension option. Mr. Acosta seconded the motion. Resolution 19-02-04 passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 9. Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan Adoption (action)

Mr. Meyer presented Item 9.

Vice Chair Suter commented that the Conservancy's ADA Transition Plan was a well-done, insightful document.

Ms. Casey asked if the Conservancy was looking at opportunities to leverage funding related to other work that might be happening near the relevant locations. Ms. Casey said, for example, the Rule 20 utility undergrounding funds could be a good opportunity for funding as well as to align ADA barrier removal with already planned work. Mr. Meyer said the Conservancy's ADA Transition Plan allows for flexibility and the Conservancy is open to aligning its ADA barrier removal with planned work at the locations.

Ms. Casey responded that there is planning happening in Tahoe Vista around Rule 20

funds and undergrounding utilities. Ms. Casey said Carnelian Bay has already gone through the process but it is just an example of a possible opportunity. Ms. Casey said another possible opportunity is that Placer County is looking at putting in a roundabout at the State Routes 28-267 intersection and recently received some transient occupancy tax funds for the project. Ms. Casey also mentioned the King Beach Plaza and the potential of expanding the business assessment district in Kings Beach as another opportunity. Ms. Casey encouraged staff to coordinate their efforts with other relevant efforts that are already planned and to leverage the associated funding.

Mr. Acosta asked about the 20-year period in which the implementation of the ADA Transition Plan would take place. Mr. Meyer said the work should not take 20 years to implement. Mr. Meyer said the vast majority of the improvements would be completed well before the 20-year period.

Ms. Novasel asked if there was a plan for maintenance on the work. Mr. Meyer said maintenance is a crucial part of the work and it will be done as part of a regular maintenance schedule.

There were no public comments.

Vice Chair Suter moved to approve the resolution and Ms. Novasel seconded the motion. Resolution 19-02-05 passed unanimously.

Chair Laine offered to provide the Board and public a break at 11:21 a.m. Chair Laine reconvened the meeting from the break at 11:38 a.m.

Chair Laine called on Mr. Wright to introduce a few new Conservancy staff. Mr. Wright introduced Ms. Christine Aralia, who is working on Lake Tahoe West Restoration Project (LTW); Ms. Erin Ernst, who is helping with community forestry work; and Ms. Kyla Wintter, who is providing legal assistance as a legal extern.

Agenda Item 10. CAL FIRE and State Forest and Fire Policy Update (discussion only)

Mr. Forest Schafer, Senior Environmental Scientist, introduced Chris Anthony, Division Chief with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), who presented Item 10.

Chair Laine asked for Mr. Anthony's recommendation on how a community begins to prepare for the likelihood that something like the Camp Fire might happen, especially with respect to evacuation routes and community preparation. Mr. Anthony said CAL FIRE is holding a Wildfire Community Preparedness and Evacuation Planning Community Meeting on April 25 to provide information and tools to community members. Mr. Anthony said CAL FIRE is going to publish the pre-attack plans so people

can see where the chokepoints may be located and where people could take temporary refuge in advance of a fire. Mr. Anthony stated CAL FIRE is seeking funding for preattack planning around City limits as well.

Mr. Anthony said community preparation really comes down to multi-agency coordination and making sure that the plans in place are being communicated to the community members and the tourist population. Mr. Anthony said CAL FIRE has a wireless emergency alert system, Code Red; however, people must sign up for it in advance to be notified. Mr. Anthony said agencies in the Basin should start planning and coordinating in the event that there needs to be a mass evacuation.

Mr. Acosta asked if Mr. Anthony, through Mr. Wright and Ms. Freeman, could provide an ongoing report to the Conservancy on the progress of the coordination efforts between all agencies. Mr. Anthony responded affirmatively.

Ms. Casey mentioned Placer County's Office of Emergency Services is actively looking at its evacuation plans. Ms. Casey said there is additional work to be done but there are some meetings coming up soon on the planning efforts. Ms. Casey recommended that agencies stay engaged and share information in order to coordinate efforts.

Chair Laine invited the public to comment.

Mr. Moser commented that this subject is important to him because wildfires have impacted his life since he moved to California. Mr. Moser stressed the need for homeowners to create defensible space, which was an issue for the Angora fire.

Ms. Norma Santiago, a member of the public, commented that she works closely with the South Fork of the American River Collaborative and she feels it is important that the collaboratives, such as the LTW and Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative, work together especially when rebuilding the biomass infrastructure. Ms. Santiago said the exchange of information between the collaboratives is important to create a synergy because we are dealing with watershed and forest management issues.

Ms. Santiago said the California Office of Planning and Research recently formed the Commission on Catastrophic Wildfire Costs and Recovery. Ms. Santiago said the Commission's scope of work includes recommendations on a fund to assist in the payment of damages associated with catastrophic wildfire. Ms. Santiago recommended that the Conservancy follow the work the Commission is doing especially with respect to forest management policy.

There were no additional public comments.

Ms. Casey asked if there were plans to expand LTW's current boundaries and, if so,

what the timeline is for that process. Mr. Wright said yes, there has been discussion on what is called "Lake Tahoe Rest." Mr. Wright said currently the agencies have their hands full with LTW but the Conservancy is partnering with other agencies on the south shore area surrounding the Upper Truckee River (UTR). Mr. Wright said most of the modeling for LTW was done at the Basin level, so it should be easier to tackle the rest of Lake Tahoe in a shorter timeframe than LTW.

Mr. Wright also mentioned the Conservancy's new potential initiative involving partnering with the U.S. Forest Service, CAL FIRE, and Liberty Utilities to remove hazard trees within the utility line corridor, which Liberty Utilities is obligated to do under the law, and create a larger buffer area around the utility lines. Mr. Wright also discussed the Conservancy's Board meeting in April in Sacramento where staff will talk about how the Conservancy's work is aligned with some of the new executive orders and task force recommendations.

Agenda Item 11. Environmental Improvement Program (discussion only)

Chair Laine proposed postponing Item 11 given scheduling conflicts with the presenters. The Board did not object.

Agenda Item 12. Tahoe Science Advisory Council Update (discussion only)

Mr. Wright introduced Mr. Alan Heyvaert, Director of the Center for Watersheds and Environmental Sustainability with the Desert Research Institute, who presented Item 12.

Ms. Casey asked about long-term outcomes and if lake clarity was the primary long-term outcome the Tahoe Science Advisory Council (TSAC) is focused on. Mr. Heyvaert said everything being done in the Basin comes back to lake clarity, even the work on nearshore aquatic invasive species and forest health.

Ms. Casey also asked how TSAC relates to the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP). Mr. Heyvaert said the EIP was structured around projects and thresholds until recently. Mr. Heyvaert said the last few years, the agencies started to take a different approach and now look at multiple benefits rather than just the benefits to air quality, forest health, or water quality. Mr. Heyvaert commented that the agencies are taking a more integrated approach to selecting projects and that is something TSAC is trying to contribute to with respect to the EIP.

Chair Laine invited the public to comment.

Ms. Santiago asked if the Reach 5 UTR restoration project was a possible contributor to the impact on lake clarity because of its remarkable sediment load numbers. Mr. Heyvaert said there is no scientific evidence to know whether a specific project

contributed to the high-loading values seen in 2017, however there were extreme loading numbers from the UTR in 2017. Mr. Heyvaert said TSAC's recommendation is to establish more monitoring stations upstream and at different points along the UTR.

There were no additional public comments.

Agenda Item 13. Board Member Comment

Chair Laine invited Board members to comment.

Ms. Casey said she appreciated the opportunity to be at the meeting. Ms. Casey said the partnership between Placer County and the Conservancy is important, and Placer County looks forward to continuing to work together.

Ms. Casey mentioned that Ms. Jennifer Montgomery is stepping down as a District 5 Supervisor for Placer County because she has been appointed by Governor Newsom to lead California's Forest Management Task Force. Ms. Casey said Ms. Montgomery's last day with Placer County is March 31 and the Board will be discussing her vacancy at its April 9 Board meeting.

Chair Laine commented that neither Vice Chair Suter nor Ms. Novasel would be able to attend the Conservancy's April Board meeting. Ms. Freeman said staff was not aware of the scheduling conflict. Ms. Freeman said, unfortunately, staff is too far down the road in planning the April meeting to change the date at this point. Ms. Freeman said staff would speak with Vice Chair Suter and Ms. Novasel on their April schedules.

Chair Laine asked if we would have a quorum if Vice Chair Suter and Ms. Novasel could not attend the meeting in April. Ms. Freeman answered affirmatively. Ms. Freeman said there would be a quorum unless another voting Board member could not make it.

There were no additional Board member comments.

a. Potential Agenda Items for the April 18 Board Meeting

Mr. Wright discussed Item 13a and said staff would follow-up with Vice Chair Suter and Ms. Novasel regarding their attendance in April. Mr. Wright mentioned the three panel discussions that will take place: climate change, forest health, and sustainable communities. Mr. Wright said it would be a good opportunity to make the Conservancy's presence known in Sacramento and have a real dialogue on the State's most pressing issues.

Agenda Item 14. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Chair Laine invited public comment on items not on the agenda and there were no public comments.

Agenda Item 15. Adjourn

Chair Laine adjourned the meeting at 1:12 p.m.

California Tahoe Conservancy Resolution 19-04-01 Adopted: April 18, 2019

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the March 14, 2019 meeting of the California Tahoe Conservancy adopted on April 18, 2019.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 18th day of April, 2019.

Patrick Wright
Executive Director

California Tahoe Conservancy Agenda Item 2.b Resolution 19-04-02 Adopted: April 18, 2019

APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA

I hereby approve the April 18, 2019 Board agenda of the California Tahoe Conservancy adopted on April 18, 2019.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 18th day of April, 2019.

Patrick Wright

Executive Director

California Tahoe Conservancy Agenda Item 5 April 18, 2019

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT LAKE TAHOE BASIN KEY ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin) has been a State priority for decades. Through their support of the Basin's Regional Plan and a strong interagency partnership known as the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP), the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) and sister State agencies have invested more than \$850 million in hundreds of projects to restore and protect Lake Tahoe's famed clarity, its forested landscapes and watersheds, and its world-class recreational resources.

Historically, the major focus of the many public agencies in the Basin has been to reduce the impacts of development on lake clarity and other natural and recreational resources. In the past decade, however, the agencies have also increasingly focused on the growing threats of uncontrolled wildfire, aquatic invasive species (AIS), and climate change. This includes launching a series of landscape restoration, resilience, and climate adaptation initiatives. And more recently, as the economy has boomed, transportation, redevelopment, and affordable housing issues have moved to center stage, particularly among local agencies.

The past year was particularly challenging for the Basin's public agencies, residents, and visitors. On the one hand, the agencies made significant progress on several longstanding projects and initiatives, including the Tahoe Transportation District's (TTD) loop road project at Stateline, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's (TRPA) shoreline planning and development rights initiatives, and the ten-year Bi-State Transportation Action Plan. At the same time, however, the University of California, Davis (UC Davis) reported that the previous year's lake clarity was the worst ever recorded and a harbinger of the impacts of climate change; traffic congestion during many weekends and peak periods reached "epic" levels; and vacation rental issues divided local communities, and workforce housing shortages threatened the viability of many local businesses.

The Basin's shared governance structure poses major challenges in addressing these issues: the TRPA, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and other federal agencies, California and Nevada state agencies, local governments, and private interests all play significant roles in shaping public and private investments and decision-making. As a result, collaborative interagency frameworks, partnerships, and investment plans have and will continue to be a key to success.

This document outlines Basin priorities, issues, and opportunities likely to face Governor Newsom's Administration in the next several years.

Forest and Watershed Health

Since the Angora wildfire in 2007, the Basin's fire districts and land management agencies have significantly accelerated and coordinated their efforts to protect local communities and improve forest health through regular updates of the Basin's ten-year Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy. To increase the pace and scale of these efforts, the agencies are rapidly shifting their efforts from smaller single-agency projects aimed at protecting high risk neighborhoods to collaborative large landscape projects.

Major initiatives include:

- Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative (TSCI): Through one of the largest and most ambitious forest management efforts in the nation, the Tahoe and Sierra Nevada Conservancies are partnering with three National Forests, The Nature Conservancy, and a broad range of partners through the <u>Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative</u> to improve forest and watershed health, increase carbon storage and climate resiliency, and create a sustainable wood product and bioenergy industry over 2.4 million acres of the central Sierra. The TCSI partners are also seeking to develop a Resiliency Dashboard and other templates for large landscape planning that can be replicated throughout the west.
- Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership (Lake Tahoe West): The Conservancy
 and the USFS are leading a collaborative effort known as <u>Lake Tahoe West</u> to restore
 the health and resilience of 60,000 acres from Emerald Bay to the Truckee River. The
 draft restoration strategy, based on state of the art remote sensing and a landscape
 resiliency assessment, is also providing a framework for large landscape planning in
 the Basin.
- Greater Upper Truckee River Watershed Partnership: The Conservancy recently launched an initiative with its federal, State, and local partners to restore Lake Tahoe's largest and most impaired watershed, which drains over half of the Basin. The agencies seek to coordinate and integrate a broad range of forest health, watershed restoration, storm water and flood control management, and recreation projects in the south shore region.
- Resiliency Corridors: The USFS, Conservancy, and Liberty Utilities are partnering to improve the fire safety and resiliency of more than 62 miles of utility lines in the Basin. Through potential funding opportunities, Liberty will fund its obligation to remove trees that pose an immediate threat to its power lines, while the public agencies will fund projects to improve the long-term health and resilience of the broader utility corridor and surrounding forest.

• Lake Tahoe Forest Health Action Plan (Action Plan): The Conservancy is partnering with the USFS and the interagency Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team to develop a comprehensive Action Plan that improves coordination and showcases the Administration's recent executive orders on wildfire and forest health. Key elements of the Action Plan include targets for forest thinning and prescribed fire across several agencies, streamlined planning and permitting processes, an investment plan, and new technology to help increase the pace and scale of forest and watershed management projects.

Key Issues:

- Consistent Funding and Capacity: The fire districts and land management agencies
 in the Basin rely largely upon securing competitive grants from State and federal
 sources to sustain their programs. This approach makes it very challenging to
 effectively plan and implement a comprehensive strategy to improve forest health
 and wildfire safety, and to build the capacity (crews, contractors, etc.) necessary to
 sustain a long-term effort. The Conservancy and partners are urging CAL FIRE and
 other State funding agencies to consider providing dedicated funding, matched by
 federal funding commitments, for the Basin and other high priority regions.
- Washoe Meadows State Park/Golf Course: The California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) has been in litigation for years over its plans to relocate its golf course away from the Upper Truckee River as part of a comprehensive restoration strategy. The relocation is controversial, however, because portions of the golf course would be relocated from the State Recreation Area to the adjacent State Park. To resolve the issue, in late January 2019, the State Parks Commission directed State Parks to seek new proposals to scale back the layout of the new golf course to fit within the existing State Recreation Area.

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate change is likely to significantly affect all aspects of the environment and economy of the Basin, from lake clarity, to the health of its forests, to its snow-based economy. The Basin can expect a future of less snow, more rain, increased fire and flood risk, more smoke, and more frequent extreme weather events.

Major Initiatives:

Climate Adaptation Action Plan: The Conservancy recently launched, in
coordination with TTD and a distinguished team of scientists, a comprehensive
vulnerability assessment and climate adaptation planning effort. The <u>assessment</u>
will evaluate how Lake Tahoe, the Basin's forested landscape, and the Basin's
infrastructure and built environment are likely to be affected by rising temperatures,
changing snowpack, extreme events, and other impacts of climate change. These
results, in turn, will provide Basin public and private interests with a common set of

assumptions and key tools to help guide restoration, transportation, and recreation investments.

Key Issues:

Need for Action: The preliminary results of the assessment suggest climate change
will have a dramatic impact on the future of the Basin. For example, peak flows may
occur as much as five months earlier, and flood flows typical of a 100-year storm
may occur every five to ten years. As noted below, these findings are likely to prompt
calls for more data and modeling on potential impacts and major shifts in the
Basin's environmental and infrastructure planning efforts.

Lake Clarity and Science

After more than two decades of major investments in storm water projects and steady progress in reversing the annual decline of Lake Tahoe's famed clarity, UC Davis reported in its annual State of the Lake Report that 2017 was the worst year for clarity ever recorded, and that summer clarity continued a long-term decline. In response to these findings, John Laird, then-Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), and Brad Crowell, Director of the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), requested that the Tahoe Science Advisory Council (TSAC), a consortium of local research institutions and public agencies, prepare a set of findings on the likely causes of this historic decline, and a Science to Action Plan to improve our understanding of the major factors now affecting lake clarity. TSAC's initial findings suggest clarity levels declined because of warming lake temperatures and near-record levels of runoff after several years of drought, and that such extreme events are soon likely to be the norm. They also cautioned that current models and tools are no longer adequate to account for these changes and effectively guide management decisions.

Major Initiatives:

- Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL): The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Lahontan Water Board) and Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) adopted a water quality plan in 2010, known as a TMDL, to achieve an interim goal (the Clarity Challenge) of restoring lake clarity to 80 feet by 2026. Through an innovative crediting program, the TMDL focuses on reductions of fine sediment from the Basin's urbanized areas through storm water projects and improvements in street sweeping and other road operations. In their draft 2018 annual review of the TMDL, the Lahontan Water Board and NDEP expressed support for working with TSAC to reevaluate the assumptions and models behind the TMDL, particularly in light of climate change.
- Science to Action Plan: Led by UC Davis and the Desert Research Institute (DRI),
 TSAC has drafted a short-term and long-term strategy to develop an informed

understanding of the feasibility of meeting the Clarity Challenge by 2026 and maintaining nearshore water quality in the face of rapidly changing environmental conditions. The draft strategy includes a comprehensive update of the Lake Clarity Model, focused studies, and changes in long-term continuous monitoring programs, which would be developed in coordination with the Lahontan Water Board, NDEP, and other agencies. The CNRA has allocated \$500,000 in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019/20 budget to jump-start this effort, and Nevada is seeking matching funds.

TSAC Coordinator/Work Plan: CNRA and DCNR are seeking to hire a new TSAC
Program Officer to support the Bi-State Executive Committee co-chairs in their
oversight of the TSAC, and guide implementation of TSAC's 2018-2020 Work Plan.
Key elements of the Work Plan include support for the TRPA's Threshold Update
Initiative, development of a conceptual model for restoration of the Upper Truckee
River watershed, and the Science to Action Plan.

Key Issues:

- **TSAC Effectiveness**: A key task of the Program Officer will be to help assess the effectiveness of TSAC, and to improve communications and build partnerships between agency leaders and the region's leading scientific institutions (UC Davis, University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), and DRI).
- Funding for Science: Securing adequate funding to support TSAC, ongoing
 monitoring, and to improve the scientific basis for decision-making is an ongoing
 challenge. Revenue from Lake Tahoe pier and buoy fees under California Senate Bill
 630 is the primary source of funding for TSAC. Nevada seeks to increase its own
 pier and buoy fees, but does not have the support of the legislature at this time.

Transportation

Transportation planning and infrastructure improvements are a major focus of the TRPA and local governments. The TRPA and TTD approved an ambitious plan to reroute U.S. Highway 50 through the Stateline area in the south shore, and state and local agencies nearly completed two transformational projects: the Incline-to-Sand-Harbor Bike Path and State Route 89 improvements in Tahoe City. As with forestry and natural resources planning efforts, the Basin's transportation agencies are scaling up to address major traffic bottlenecks and develop much larger, multi-purpose highway and regional corridor management plans. These plans are a major focus of the TTD's 2017 Linking Tahoe: Corridor Connection Plan and the TRPA's Regional Transportation Plan.

Major Initiatives:

 Bi-State Ten-Year Action Plan: A bi-state working group, convened by California and Nevada in 2017, developed and issued a <u>ten-year Action Plan</u> in December 2018 to address the Basin's most pressing transportation challenges. The Action Plan identifies priority transportation projects in four areas: 1) improved transit and ridesharing services to connect communities, workplaces, and recreation sites; 2) multimodal corridor planning; 3) better connected bike and pedestrian paths; and 4) technology and pilot projects to provide travelers with real-time information about traffic, road conditions, parking availability, and alternative transportation options.

- State Route 89 Corridor Planning: The TRPA and TTD will be leading a collaborative
 effort to develop a highway corridor management plan for State Route 89 from
 South Lake Tahoe to Tahoma with a particular focus on Emerald Bay. The goal is to
 develop a comprehensive blueprint for projects and programs that will reduce traffic
 and parking congestion while improving safety and recreation access.
- Main Street Management Plan: The TRPA will coordinate and lead the development
 of a comprehensive plan for the Stateline area to complement the proposed
 rerouting of U.S. Highway 50 with improved transit services, bike and pedestrian
 facilities, affordable housing, and other improvements.

Key Issues:

- **Common Vision**: Given the large and growing number of regional, local, and private transit systems in the Basin, developing an integrated regional system with a common vision continues to be a major challenge.
- **Funding**: The Basin struggles to secure funding for even its highest priority transportation projects because transportation funding is largely allocated by population-driven formulas that do not account for visitor traffic, and there is no regional source of transit revenue. Despite the lack of funds, the Basin receives 24 million visitors a year—more than any national park.

Sustainable Communities

A central focus of the TRPA's <u>Regional Plan</u>, adopted in 2012, is encouraging redevelopment of the Basin's town centers to create more walkable, bikeable, and transit-oriented communities. The Regional Plan also included a Sustainable Communities Strategy, as required by California Senate Bill 375, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation improvements and land use strategies.

Major Initiatives:

• TRPA Development Rights Initiative: In 2018, through its <u>Development Rights</u> <u>Initiative</u>, the TRPA adopted several major changes to its development rights program that facilitate redevelopment projects, simplify the transfer of development rights, and reduce barriers to workforce housing.

- Tahoe Livable Communities (TLC) Program: Consistent with Governor Newsom's
 Executive Order N-06-19 on affordable housing, the Conservancy is continuing its
 partnership with local governments to make its developable, less-sensitive lands in
 town centers ("Asset Lands") available for workforce and affordable housing. Under
 its <u>TLC Program</u>, the Conservancy is also continuing to invest in acquiring aging
 developed properties on wetlands, restoring the land, and transferring the
 development rights to promote potential workforce housing and sustainable
 communities projects in town centers.
- Affordable/Workforce Housing: Several local initiatives are underway to facilitate development of affordable and workforce housing, including projects and programs launched by the Mountain Housing Council on the north shore and the Housing Tahoe Partnership on the south shore.

Key Issues:

• Progress Towards Incentivizing Compact Redevelopment: To help attain the TRPA's environmental thresholds and State planning priorities, a key focus of the 2012 Regional Plan and the Conservancy's TLC Program is to increase the level of development in the Basin's town centers and decrease development in remote areas. These initiatives, however, have made only very modest progress towards these goals, and there is little or no data suggesting the environmental benefits are significant. From 2013-2018, for example, only about 17,000 square feet of commercial floor area and 15 residential units were transferred from remote areas to town centers. As a result, the TRPA, the Conservancy, and local governments may need to consider significantly scaling up, redirecting, and/or re-evaluating their efforts on these programs. For example, we may want to refocus our efforts on facilitating affordable and workforce housing in town centers and other transit-friendly locations rather than seeking to significantly change the Basin's development pattern.

Land Acquisition/Exchanges

Through longstanding land acquisition programs, the USFS, the Conservancy, State Parks, and the Nevada Division of State Lands have acquired thousands of acres in the Basin to restore watersheds, create lakefront parks, and reduce the impacts of development. These acquisitions, however, have also created a "checkerboard" pattern of state and federal ownership, which increases management costs, confuses the public, and poses challenges for permitting and planning efforts for projects involving multiple public landowners.

Major Initiatives:

• State and Local Exchanges: The Conservancy is continuing to pursue exchanges with State Parks, the City of South Lake Tahoe, Placer County, El Dorado County, and

local utility districts where such exchanges help consolidate ownerships and reduce management costs.

Lake Tahoe Restoration Act (LTRA) Land Exchange: After nearly a decade of negotiations, the federal LTRA of 2016 authorizes a large-scale land exchange through which the USFS would transfer virtually all of its urban lots in the Basin (2,019 parcels totaling 1,918 acres) to the Conservancy in exchange for 92 parcels of general forest land (2,007 acres). Congress also authorized the USFS to exchange key parcels with State Parks on the west shore to consolidate ownerships.

Key Issues:

• Funding: The Conservancy and the USFS lack the funding and staff capacity to move forward with the LTRA land exchange. As an interim step, the agencies are pursuing an agreement under the federal Good Neighbor Authority through which the Conservancy will conduct forest and watershed restoration activities on a subset of USFS urban lots on the west shore. This pilot project is intended to eliminate the costs of operating duplicative federal and State urban lot management programs and if successful, could be expanded to cover all of the USFS urban lots in California. We are also exploring whether federal funding under the Santini-Burton Act (P.L. 96-586), which authorizes federal acquisitions, could be made available for these purposes.

Aquatic Invasive Species

AIS continue to pose a major threat to the health of Lake Tahoe, the operations of marinas and drinking water intake systems, and the quality of beaches. Multiple invasive species are already present in Lake Tahoe and have spread to all shores. More threatening species, such as quagga and zebra mussels, have been intercepted by boat inspectors (see below) and have not yet entered Lake Tahoe.

Major Initiatives

- AIS Inspection Program: The TRPA and the Tahoe Resource Conservation District
 operate one of the nation's most comprehensive and effective boat inspection
 programs. Under the <u>program</u>, funded by annual boater fees and state
 appropriations, every motorized watercraft is inspected to ensure it is clean, drained,
 and dry and not carrying AIS before launching at Lake Tahoe. No new AIS have been
 detected in Lake Tahoe since the program began ten years ago.
- AIS Control Program: AIS control work is overseen by an interagency coordination committee and a comprehensive, science-based <u>framework</u> developed by UNR. The TRPA is coordinating the development of a comprehensive plan for the Tahoe Keys (a primary location for AIS reproduction), and the Conservancy is funding a Lakewide action plan to set targets and guide investments.

Key Issues:

- AIS Control Funding: California is providing annual funding for the AIS control
 program through fees assessed on owners of piers and buoys, and Nevada is
 seeking funding through a similar approach, but has not been successful to date.
 Federal funding is secured annually through LTRA appropriations to the U.S. Fish
 and Wildlife Service.
- Herbicides in Tahoe Keys: The Tahoe Keys property owners are seeking approval to test and apply aquatic herbicides as part of their <u>Tahoe Keys AlS Integrated</u> <u>Management Program</u> to help control and eliminate weeds in the highest priority marina for AlS control in the Basin. A pilot project to test the effectiveness and potential impacts of herbicides has broad based support from many interests, including the League to Save Lake Tahoe, but has sparked concern among others. The Lahontan Water Board and the TRPA are preparing the necessary environmental documents and facilitating a collaborative process to oversee the testing process and restoration and clean-up effort at the Tahoe Keys.

Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP)

Launched in 1997 at the Presidential Tahoe Forum, the <u>EIP</u> provides a framework for prioritizing and coordinating federal, state, local, and private environmental protection and restoration investments in the Basin. Since 1997, the EIP partners have collectively invested more than \$2.2 billion to plan, develop, and construct hundreds of projects.

The EIP partners have established an interagency team, developed a guiding document, and annually develop a list of high-priority projects. The TRPA's <u>Project Tracker</u> provides data on all EIP accomplishments and expenditures by agency and program through a comprehensive, interactive map and database.

Major Initiatives:

- **2019 EIP Update**: The EIP partner agencies are developing a new five-year update to the 2008-2018 EIP, which will be issued at the 2019 Lake Tahoe Summit in August. The update will reflect and help accelerate the Basin's emphasis on climate change adaptation, large landscape and corridor planning, and program integration.
- Sustainable Recreation: The recent surge in visitors to the Basin has prompted the TRPA and the USFS to launch a Sustainable Recreation Workgroup to increase coordination among recreation managers in the Basin, and to better integrate recreation management considerations into local and regional planning efforts. The group is initially focusing on strengthening links between transportation corridor planning, recreation, and visitor management in the Basin.

Key Issues:

- **EIP Funding**: Securing sustainable funding to support the EIP is vital to maintain the Basin's progress in addressing its highest priorities.
 - <u>Federal:</u> Since 1997, federal agencies, led by the USFS, have invested more than \$713 million. The reauthorized LTRA of 2016 (P.L. 106-506), authorized an additional \$415 million for the EIP. Congress appropriated \$6 million in federal FY 2018 for forest health and AIS projects. The federal FY 2019 budget is still pending, but may include up to \$12-15 million for forest health, AIS, and watershed restoration projects.
 - <u>California:</u> Since 1997, California agencies, led by the Conservancy and California Department of Transportation, have invested more than \$850 million. California's current share of funding is allocated primarily through funds made available to the Conservancy from recent bonds. Proposition 1 and 68 allocate \$15 million and \$27 million, respectively, to the Conservancy for EIP projects.
 - <u>Nevada</u>: The voters of Nevada approved a \$100 million bond act in 2000 to provide the State's share of funding. Since 1997, Nevada agencies have invested more than \$166 million.
 - <u>Local and Private</u>: Since 1997, local government and private interests have invested more than \$483 million, primarily through ongoing maintenance of EIP projects and homeowner investments in best management practices to control runoff and provide defensible space.

Lake Tahoe Summit

This year marks the 23rd annual Lake Tahoe Summit, held annually in August. This year's event will be hosted by Senator Kamala Harris. Potential deliverables include a comprehensive **EIP Update** to guide public expenditures for the next five years, a **Science to Action Plan** that focuses on lake clarity, and a **Forest Health Action Plan** to coordinate and integrate forest management projects.

California Tahoe Conservancy Agenda Item 7 April 18, 2019

CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE LAKE TAHOE BASIN

Introduction

Climate change threatens virtually every aspect of the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin), from Lake Tahoe's famed clarity to its sparkling creeks, alpine forests, bountiful wildlife, peaceful neighborhoods, world-class boating hiking and biking, and renowned ski resorts. With accelerated warming in the Basin, more precipitation will fall as rain rather than snow, the snowpack will decrease, runoff will peak several months earlier in the year, and the temperature of Lake Tahoe and its tributaries will rise noticeably. A cascade of extreme events will accompany these shifts, including torrential flooding, severe droughts, tree beetle outbreaks, and catastrophic wildfire.

In contrast to typical protected areas, the Basin has an extraordinary number of people living and recreating within its boundaries. Extreme events will endanger 60,000 residents living in two dozen isolated communities, 24 million annual visitors (more than any national park), and six billion dollars in economic activity. Accordingly, the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) and Basin partners are working with sister state agencies to prepare a new Climate Adaptation Action Plan (CAAP) that will secure public and private commitments to safeguarding the Basin.

This update provides a reference point for understanding climate change and the Conservancy's work in the Basin. The first section reviews preliminary CAAP findings; the second defines the goals and milestones of the CAAP; the third reviews the Conservancy's contributions and challenges; and the fourth identifies presenters and organizing questions for the panel discussion at the Conservancy's April 18 Board meeting.

The Urgent Need for Action – Preliminary Findings of the CAAP

The first phase of the CAAP assesses the vulnerability of the Basin's natural resources, communities, infrastructure, and economy to climate change and associated extreme events. Though incomplete, the assessment's preliminary results are startling:

- Peak snowpack and runoff periods are likely to occur several months earlier than today;
- Flood flows typical for a 100-year storm are likely to occur every five to ten years;
- The frequency and extent of high severity wildfires are likely to increase;
- Lake Tahoe's clarity is likely to decline as its shallow and deep waters stop mixing;

- Native fish and bird populations and their habitats are likely to decline; and
- Mountain meadows and wetlands are likely to shrink as conifers encroach upon drying riparian areas.

This summer the complete assessment will identify likely impacts to the Basin's public health, public safety, emergency services, and cultural landscapes; infrastructure (transportation, water, energy, communication); summer and winter recreational opportunities; and economy.

Taking Action - Building Resilience and Adaptive Capacity in Lake Tahoe

Beginning with Assembly Bill (AB) 32 (2006), California has championed stringent reductions to greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions and adaptation to climate change. Among key legislative mandates, Senate Bill (SB) 375 required metropolitan planning organizations to reduce their carbon footprints and create sustainable communities by linking land use and transportation. Executive Orders S-13-08 and B-30-15 directed State agencies to identify climate change vulnerabilities, incorporate these in planning and investment decision-making, and develop adaptation strategies based on the Safeguarding California Plan. Additional guidance from the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), and Department of Transportation (Caltrans) helps public agencies construct more durable infrastructure and better protect vulnerable communities. The California Water Action Plan, State Wildlife Action Plan, Strategic Wildfire Plan, State Transportation Plan, Natural and Working Lands Implementation Plan, and quadrennial California Climate Assessment, among others, provide direction and guidance for these overarching mandates.

The Conservancy and Basin partners have worked steadfastly over the past decade to fulfill these mandates. In particular, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) updated the Basin's Regional Plan in 2012, and updated the Regional Transportation Plan in 2013, which includes a Sustainable Communities Strategy. And in 2012 the Conservancy launched its Tahoe Livable Communities (TLC) program that uses its non-environmentally sensitive lands to hasten GHG reductions by encouraging walkable, bikeable development. Most recently, the Conservancy's new strategic plan integrates climate change science, mitigation, and adaptation in all its programs; redoubles its TLC commitment; and uses landscape-scale restoration to rapidly build forest and watershed resilience.

New Foundations and Clear Commitments – The CAAP

Most significantly, in 2017 the Conservancy launched the interagency CAAP.

The goals of the CAAP are to:

1. Provide an updated scientific synthesis of the impacts of climate change on the Basin and implications for the Basin's communities, natural resources, infrastructure, and economy;

- Provide a common set of tools and assumptions to make it easier for public agencies to take climate change into account in planning, management, and investment, and align associated private actions; and
- 3. Enhance the ability of the Basin's communities, natural resources, infrastructure, and economy to withstand extreme events (resilience), and adjust to long-term changes in temperature and precipitation patterns (adaptation).

Milestones to accomplish these goals include:

- 1. Develop modeled climate projections that are specific to the Basin (complete);
- Synthesize these projections and recent scientific literature to describe the likely impacts of climate change to the Basin (in progress);
- 3. Identify what communities, natural resources, and infrastructure are most vulnerable to these impacts (summer 2019); and
- 4. Commit to actions that will make vulnerable parts of the Basin more resilient and able to adapt to climate change (fall 2019).

Other notable aspects of the CAAP include:

- **Essential partners:** the Tahoe Transportation District; sister State agencies including Caltrans; State of Nevada agencies; the TRPA; the U.S. Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit; public utility districts; and nonprofit organizations like the League to Save Lake Tahoe.
- Research Teams: the University of California at Davis (UC Davis); University of California at Berkeley; University of Nevada, Reno; Desert Research Institute; U.S. Geological Survey; U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station; Catalyst Environmental Solutions; Energetics (transportation consultants); and Industrial Economics Incorporated.
- **Key funding** comes from a Caltrans adaptation planning grant and the Conservancy.

The Conservancy's Contributions and Challenges

The Conservancy has a unique ability to integrate and implement State climate change mandates for two reasons. First, its broad resource conservation and protection mission combines:

- Owns and manages nearly 4,700 parcels totaling more than 6,500 acres of land in the Basin, including reducing forest fuels in urban communities;
- Restoring forests and watersheds and their biodiversity, both through sitespecific projects and landscape initiatives;
- Protecting water quality, including treating storm water;
- Controlling terrestrial and aquatic invasive species; and
- Reducing GHG emissions through the strategic acquisition, banking, and sale of nonenvironmentally sensitive lands.

Second, the skillset of Conservancy staff ranges from biological expertise to real estate negotiations, stakeholder facilitation, and complex project and financial management. This combination of mission and workforce lends itself to convening and collaboratively leading interagency, multijurisdictional endeavors, and synthesizing science across a range of ecological and social topics. In addition to CAAP, the Conservancy is a leader in developing the Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership, Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative, Greater Upper Truckee River Watershed Partnership, Enhanced Stormwater Resources Planning, and the Aquatic Invasive Species Control Plan.

Nonetheless, the Conservancy faces several challenges in collaboratively leading the Basin's climate adaptation efforts:

- 1. The Conservancy lacks dedicated funding for developing the ongoing planning and capacity building necessary to shape, implement, and evaluate climate change adaptation programs and policies in the Basin because it relies heavily on bond funding for capital projects.
- The Conservancy must dedicate significant staff resources to seeking climate adaptation grants, and in managing multiple contracts, deliverables, and timelines unlike traditional State agencies that have a single program with dedicated funding. Direct appropriations from the legislature, CNRA, or other agencies would vastly improve efficiency.
- 3. Adaption strategies are based on modeled climate projections. However, the Basin lacks a climate monitoring program to sound the alarm and trigger adjustments to programs and policies when field conditions exceed projections. Climate change may radically transform the environment, economy, and social fabric of the Basin. For example, winter recreation and tourism may disappear along with the decreasing snowpack; wildfire smoke may envelope the Basin throughout much of the year; and the Lake's famed clarity may suffer an irreversible decline. The Conservancy and its partners need to reevaluate their programs and priorities in light of such systemic transformations and the economic dislocation they will create.

Presenters and Organizing Questions for Discussion

A joint presentation will provide the basis for discussion among panelists, Board members, and the public. First, Michael Dettinger (U.S. Geological Survey) and Geoffrey Schladow (UC Davis) will discuss the preliminary findings and implications of newly downscaled climate model projections for the Basin. Second, Dorian Fougères (Conservancy) will highlight the distinctive features of the CAAP, and the Conservancy's unique contributions and challenges. Attachment 1 provides speaker and panelist biographies.

Afterwards, each panelist will be asked to address one or both of the following questions before general discussion begins.

- 1. How can the Conservancy help the State in testing innovative, landscape-based approaches that advance State climate priorities? For example:
 - a. The Conservancy and its team of scientists are developing downscaled climate and hydrological projections for each major subwatershed in the Basin that could serve as a model for other regions.
 - b. Safeguarding California (the State's comprehensive climate adaptation strategy) and SB 45 (the proposed Wildfire, Drought, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020) call for developing and implementing regional climate adaptation strategies. The CAAP could serve as a model for developing vulnerability assessments that integrate: social and ecological resources, standardized analytical tools, and performance measures for these strategies.
 - c. The Conservancy could facilitate the development of a Basin-wide climate monitoring program that includes benchmarks and triggers for adjusting adaptation strategies.
- 2. How can the State better assist the Basin and other regions in adapting to climate change? For example:
 - a. Safeguarding California calls for the State to identify "significant and sustainable funding sources" for regional climate adaptation programs. While Proposition 68 provides a downpayment for these efforts, the State lacks a dedicated funding source to ensure that they are implemented, evaluated, and modified as new tools are developed and conditions change. The State could dedicate funds from California Climate Investments (cap and trade) appropriations or other sources.
 - b. The State could convene a single interagency team to better align and coordinate existing climate adaptation funding programs, provide directed funding to the State's most vulnerable regions, and establish standardized metrics for assessing the performance of regional adaptation strategies. Alternatively, the State could have ad hoc interagency teams perform the same functions for specific regions.
 - c. OPR and/or Strategic Growth Council could partner with the Tahoe and Sierra Nevada Conservancies to convene a "Mountain Communities Advisory Committee" that links scientists, businesses, and agencies in preparing for the impacts of a decreasing snowpack, perennial smoke, and declining lake clarity on recreation-dependent communities.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1 – Biographies of the Speakers and Panelists

Attachment 2 – Climate Adaptation Action Plan Infographic, version 1 (July 2018)

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ATTACHMENT 1

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS

Speakers

Michael Dettinger, Ph.D.

Dr. Michael Dettinger is a research hydrologist for the U.S. Geological Survey, Branch of Western Regional Research, and a research associate at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, who researches the hydrology, climate, and water resources of the West, focusing on regional surface water and groundwater resources, hydroclimatic variability, and climate-change impacts.

Dr. Michael Dettinger is a research hydrologist for the U.S. Geological Survey, Branch of Western Regional Research, and a research associate at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, California. Dettinger has researched the hydrology, climate, and water resources of the West for over 30 years, focusing on regional surface water and groundwater resources and modeling, hydroclimatic variability, and climate-change impacts. He was physical-sciences team leader for DOI-DOD ecosystem planning in the Mojave Desert, founding member of the CIRMONT Western Mountain Climate Sciences Consortium, climate advisor to the CALFED Bay-Delta Restoration Program, research advisor for USGS Surface-Water Discipline, member of the USGS Global Change Science Strategic Planning Team, and lead author of the Water Resources chapter of the 2013 National Climate Assessment. Dettinger has degrees from the University of California, San Diego (Physics), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Civil Engineering/Water Resources), and a PhD from the University of California, Los Angeles (Atmospheric Sciences). He has authored and co-authored 90+ scientific articles and chapters in scholarly journals and books, 20+ government reports, and 70+ other articles in less formal outlets.

Geoffrey Schladow, Ph.D.

Geoffrey Schladow holds B. Eng. and Ph.D. degrees in civil engineering from the University of Western Australia, and an M. Eng. in hydraulic engineering from the University of California at Berkeley. For over thirty years, his research has focused on the interactions between the complex fluid motions found in nature and their impacts on water quality, ecosystem health and watershed processes. He has published over 170 research papers and technical reports, and has guided over 70 graduate students. Dr. Schladow is an expert on both field data collection and numerical modeling, and frequently brings together teams of researchers to work on large, interdisciplinary projects. He holds the position of Professor of water resources and environmental

engineering at UC Davis, and is the founding director of the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center.

Dorian Fougères, Ph.D.

Dorian Fougères has worked for over 20 years on marine, water resource, and forest policy and management throughout California and overseas. Currently Chief of Natural Resources for the California Tahoe Conservancy, he manages the Conservancy's climate adaptation, forest landscape and watershed restoration, land management, and recreation and access programs. Prior to this Dorian worked for many years as a mediator at the Center for Collaborative Policy, CSU Sacramento, including founding and directing its Southern California office. He completed his PhD in Environmental Science, Policy, and Management at the University of California at Berkeley, specializing in political ecology and conducting extensive field research in Indonesia as a Fulbright-IIE Scholar and Sumitro Fellow. At Cornell University he specialized in participatory action research and completed his BA in Anthropology summa cum laude. Dorian is a member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Commission on Ecosystem Management, serves as vice-chair of its Resilience and Systematic Transformation thematic group, and authors the associated The Promise and Practice of Resilient Landscapes blog https://resilientlandscapes.blog. He also is a certified provider on the National Roster of Environmental Dispute Resolution and Consensus Building Professionals.

Panelists

Kate Gordon

Kate Gordon is a nationally recognized expert on the intersection of climate change, energy, and economic development. Gordon was appointed Director of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research by Governor Gavin Newsom on January 7, 2019. Prior to being appointed Director, Gordon was a Senior Advisor at the Paulson Institute, where she oversaw the "Risky Business Project," focused on quantifying the economic impacts of climate change to the U.S. economy, and also provided strategic support to the Institute's U.S.- China CEO Council for Sustainable Urbanization. She was also a nonresident Fellow at the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University, and an advisor to Duke University's Center for Energy, Development, and the Global Environment.

Earlier in her career Gordon served as Vice President for Climate and Energy at the Center for the Next Generation, Vice President of Energy and Environment at the Washington D.C.-based Center for American Progress, and Co-Executive Director at the national Apollo Alliance (now part of the Blue Green Alliance).

Gordon earned a law degree and a master's degree in city planning from the University of California-Berkeley, and an undergraduate degree from Wesleyan University.

Ashley Conrad-Saydah

Ashley Conrad-Saydah was appointed by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. in April 2012 to serve as Deputy Secretary for Climate Policy at the California Environmental Protection Agency.

Prior to joining CalEPA, Ashley served as California's Renewable Energy Program Manager for the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM). In that position, Ashley helped to establish and advance key state-federal partnerships, engaged stakeholders in determining the best places for utility-scale solar, wind and transmission development and drafted and instituted national monitoring and mitigation policies for renewable energy development on public lands. Ashley began her tenure with the BLM as a Presidential Management Fellow, completing a half-year detail with the U.S. Department of Energy.

From 2006 to 2008, Ashley worked as a research assistant for the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis at the University of California, Santa Barbara. From 2001 to 2006, Ashley managed Careers in Science, a work-based youth development program at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco.

Ashley received her bachelor's degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Princeton University and her master's degree in Environmental Science and Management from the Donald Bren School of Environmental Science and Management at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where she was a Doris Duke Conservation Fellow.

Tracey Frost

Tracey Frost works for Caltrans in the Division of Transportation Planning. She is a Supervising Transportation Planner and is the Chief for Office of Smart Mobility and Climate Change. In her current capacity she oversees the Climate Change Branch where they are identifying sea level rise, storm surge, wildfire, temperature, and precipitation vulnerabilities on the State Highway System in each of the 12 Caltrans Districts. Additionally she oversees the Smart Mobility and Active Transportation branch where they are working to create District Active Transportation Plans that will create a geospatial active transportation asset inventory with facility conditions, identify network gaps in comfort and connectivity and create prioritized route project lists. Also Tracey oversees the Local Development - Intergovernmental Review (LD-IGR) Program that aims to mitigate adverse impacts of local development on the state highway system. The LD-IGR Branch provides recommendations and facilitates improvements to preserve and enhance the state's transportation facilities and operations.

Tracey has also worked in the Division of Mass Transportation and the Division of Budgets at Caltrans. Tracey graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from California State University, Sacramento in Finance and Economics and has worked at Caltrans for 21 years.

William (Bill) Craven

William Craven is the chief consultant of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee. Prior to coming to the legislature he was the state director for Sierra Club California and before that he practiced law in the Midwest and focused on environmental and election law issues.

The Natural Resources and Water Committee is chaired by Senator Fran Pavley, D-Agoura Hills. It has jurisdiction over legislation pertaining to coastal and ocean protection, water, flood policy, mining (including oil and gas drilling), forestry, endangered species and wildlife, state lands and conservancies, and state parks. Senator Pavley is also a member of the Budget Committee serving on the Resources Subcommittee.

State and Regional Planning Context

Tahoe Basin Programs

- Regional Plan and Regional Transportation Plan
- Sustainable Communities Strategy
- Sustainability Action Plan
- Total Maximum Daily Load and Stormwater Plan
- Shorezone Plan
- Aquatic Invasive Species
- Strategic Public Access Investment Plan
- Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership
- Upper Truckee River **Restoration Strategy**

State Mandates

- Adaptation Plan
- Solutions
- SB 375 Sustainable Communities & Climate Protection
- Water Action Plan
- State Wildlife Action Plan
- Forest Carbon Plan
- Executive Order B-30-15 • Human Right to Water
- (AB 685) • Bioenergy Action Plan
- Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Plan

Assess Vulnerabilities

Project future conditions and assess the potential effects of climate change on the Basin's key socio-ecological resources and ecosystem services. Deliverables: Downscaled Climate Change Projections for the Basin, Vulnerability

Step 2

Improve Basin's Collective Ability to Adapt

Identify areas in local plans and programs where adaptive capacity can be integrated into decision-making and planning. Implement actions and recommendations derived from the CAAP. Deliverables: Plan/Policy/Program Gab Analysist, Climate Adaptation Action Plan

Step

Develop Common Performance Measures for Adaptation

Design monitoring protocols to gauge plan progress and the condition of vulnerable systems and ecosystem services, and practice adaptive management to meet unforeseen challenges. Deliverable: Performance Metrics

AB 32 Global Warming

updated

information

Climate Adaptation **Action Plan**

Downscaled, common climate projections

existing

information

- Integrated social-ecological vulnerability assessment including resources, transportation, recreation, public health, and economics
- Interagency action plan that builds from and feeds back into existing plans & projects

Plan Partners

Science & **Engineering Team**

University of California -Davis, University of Nevada -Reno, US Geological Survey, **USFS Pacific Southwest** Research Station, Desert Research Institute

State Agency Partners

CA Tahoe Conservancy, Tahoe Transportation District, Caltrans, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, CAL FIRE, CA State Parks, CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, CA Dept. of Conservation, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

Peer Partners Group

US Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Environmental Protection Agency, USDA California Climate Hub, Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team, Tahoe Resource Conservation District, Nevada Tahoe Resource Conservation District, El Dorado County, Placer County, South Tahoe Public Utility District, Tahoe City Public Utility District, League to Save Lake Tahoe, Squaw Valley Alpine Meadows, Tahoe Rim Trail Association, Tahoe Lakefront Owners Association, Sierra Business Council, and Sierra Nevada Alliance

Conservancy Project Lead

Whitney Brennan, Ph.D. Whitney.brennan@tahoe.ca.gov (530) 543-6054



Enhancing the Tahoe Basin's Ability to Adapt to Climate Change

Along with state, federal, non-profit, and business partners, The California Tahoe Conservancy is collaboratively developing an interagency Climate Adaptation Action Plan (CAAP) for the Lake Tahoe Basin.

The Plan has three concurrent goals:

- Inform and increase the awareness of public agencies, stakeholders, and local communities on the anticipated impacts of climate change, and of the public and private actions that will build resilience to future climate impacts.
- Align public and private efforts to take climate change into account in planning and investment decisions.
- Enhance the Basin's resilience to climate change – the ability of its communities, resources. assets and landscape to withstand and adapt climate-amplified disturbances and extreme events.

Climate change poses a major threat to the Lake Tahoe Basin. From the famed clarity of Lake Tahoe, to worldclass winter snow resorts, to enjoyment of hiking and biking and everything in-between. The CAAP will inform climate-smart action: synthesize the growing scientific literature on the potential impacts of climate change on the Basin; identify the natural resources, communities, and infrastructure most at risk; and, provide a framework for integrating climate resilience into the Basin's planning and investment programs.



Guiding Principles -----

Seek Alignment Across Jurisdictions

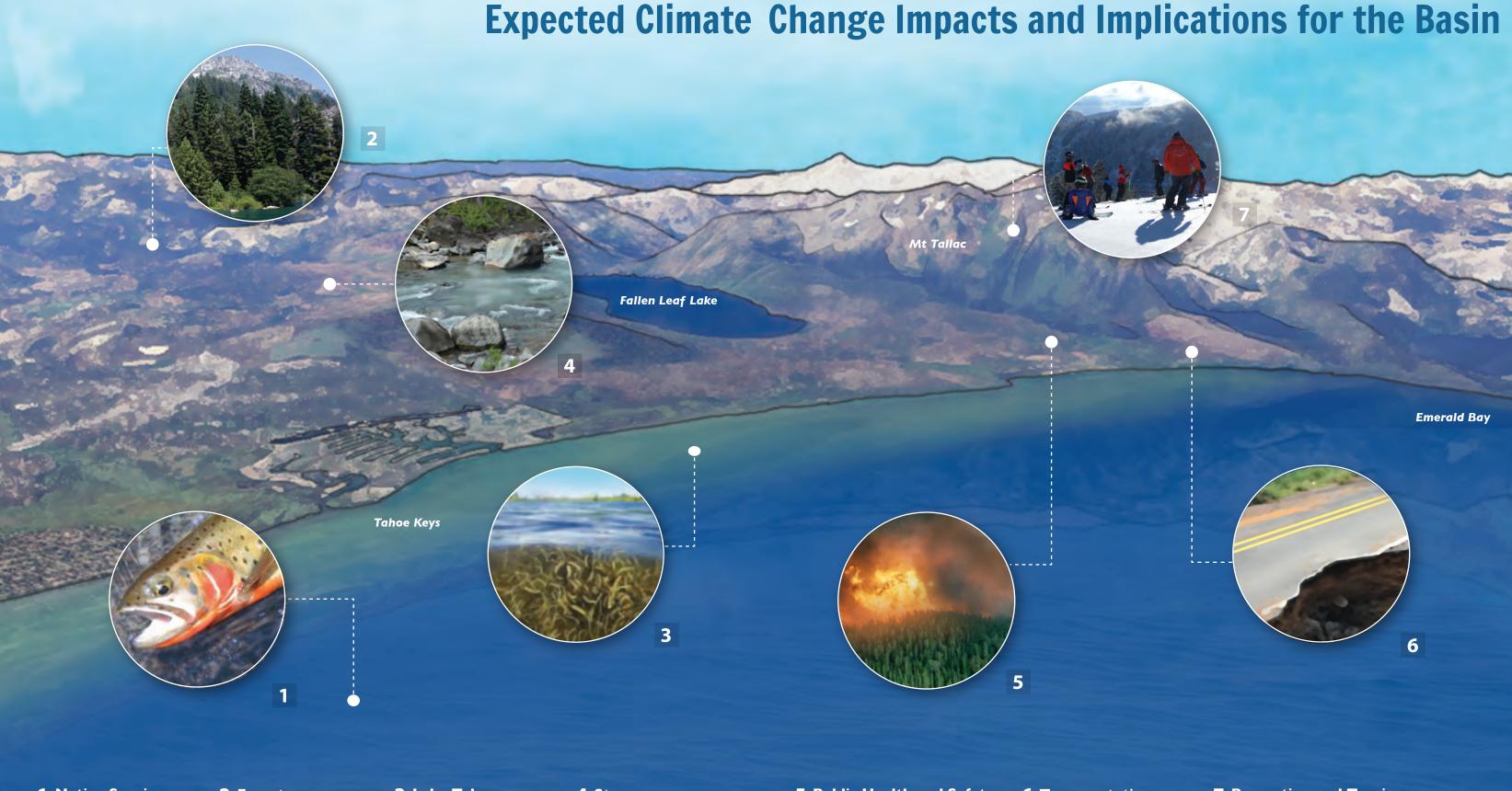
The CAAP will develop a common set of more precise, reliable climate projections to inform future updates of regional planning documents and decision-making processes, and to help guide future public and private investments.

Protect Vulnerable Resources, Assets, and Communities

Drawing from a dedicated team of scientists and engineers, the CAAP will identify the natural resources, economic assets, and local communities most at risk from a changing climate, and make recommendations to improve their resiliency and safeguard our future.

Provide Multiple Benefits

The CAAP will identify actions that will both build climate preparedness and reduce GHG emissions, and that will provide environmental, economic, and social benefits to the Lake Tahoe basin.



1 Native Species

Impact: Some native species will decline or be extirpated

Implication: Suitable habitat for many species may shrink, persistence for some is uncertain; increase of invasive species

2 Forests

Impact: Larger seasonal water deficits will stress trees

Implication: Increased wildfire, pest outbreaks, and spread of invasive species; shifts and changes in biological diversity

3 Lake Tahoe

Impact: Warmer lake temperatures and lower lake levels

Implication: Less mixing of cool and warm water leading to nutrient release, altered habitat and decreasing water clarity; increased spread of invasive species

4 Streams

Impact: Increased flooding in high precipitation years and change in timing of seasonal runoff

Implication: Increased threat to infrastructure and increased erosion

5 Public Health and Safety

Impact: Increased amounts of high severity fires, sustained heat waves, higher smoke frequency

Implication: Serious health effects for sensitive populations; increased risk to human life and infrastructure

6 Transportation

Impact: Increased flooding of roads, erosion, and risk of mudslides and avalanches

Implication: Increased safety hazards, infrastructure damage, and communications and electrical outages

7 Recreation and Tourism

Impact: Less ski days and boating days during drought years; decreased summer tourism due to high smoke events from wildfire

Implication: Stress on local economy due to decreased summer and winter tourism

California Tahoe Conservancy Agenda Item 8 April 18, 2019

FOREST HEALTH AND FIRE PROTECTION

Introduction

The Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin) is extremely vulnerable to uncontrolled wildfires. The number of acres burned in the Basin has increased in each decade since the 1970's, including a ten-fold increase in the past decade. As in many other areas throughout the Sierra Nevada, a long history of fire suppression combined with historic drought conditions have also significantly increased the size and intensity of wildfires, which threaten the famed clarity of Lake Tahoe, sensitive wildlife, two dozen communities, and the Basin's recreation-based economy.

Recent Accomplishments

The 2007 Angora Fire in South Lake Tahoe galvanized a Basin-wide response to wildfire prevention. Building upon the recommendations of the bi-state Fire Commission established by the governors of California and Nevada, the Conservancy joined 17 fire districts, public agencies, and universities to form the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT). Over the past 12 years, this collaborative effort has made significant progress in jointly planning, funding, and implementing fuels reduction projects throughout the Basin. Guided by its Multi-Jurisdictional Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy, the TFFT has:

- Completed two-thirds of initial treatments in the Basin's highest risk areas (the residential and defense zones);
- Completed 90 percent of initial treatments on thousands of state and federal urban lots immediately adjacent to homes and businesses;
- Verified compliance with defensible space on 50 percent of developed properties; and
- Completed 10,000 acres of strategically placed treatments to reduce fire, improve wildlife habitat, and restore watersheds.

Signature Initiatives

In recent years, the U.S. Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU), the Conservancy, and other TFFT partner agencies have started shifting from smaller, single agency projects to collaborative, landscape-scale projects aimed at protecting high risk neighborhoods. This shift allows partner agencies to more rapidly, thoroughly, and efficiently restore vast areas of land. The Basin's new landscape initiatives include:

- Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership (LTW): The Conservancy and LTBMU are leading a collaborative effort to restore the resilience of 60,000 acres of forests and watersheds stretching from Emerald Bay to Tahoe City. The initiative, based on state of the art remote sensing and landscape assessment, will also provide a strategic framework and streamlined planning for the 100,000 acres of remaining general forest on the north, east, and south sides of the Basin.
- Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative (TCSI): Through one of the largest and most ambitious forest management efforts in the nation, the Tahoe and Sierra Nevada Conservancies are partnering with the LTBMU, The Nature Conservancy, and a broad range of partners to improve forest and watershed health, increase carbon storage and climate resilience, and create a sustainable wood product and bioenergy industry covering 2.4 million acres of the central Sierra Nevada. The TCSI partners are also developing a Resilience Dashboard and other guidance for restoring landscape resilience that can be replicated throughout the State.
- Greater Upper Truckee River Watershed Partnership: The Conservancy recently launched an initiative with federal, state, and local partners to restore the Basin's largest and most impaired watershed. The agencies are synthesizing the range of existing forest health, watershed protection, storm water treatment, flood control, and recreation projects throughout Lake Tahoe's south shore, for the purpose of identifying gaps and needs for future collaborative landscape planning and restoration.
- Resilient Powerline Corridors: The LTBMU, Conservancy, and Liberty Utilities are
 partnering to improve the fire safety and resilience of more than 62 miles of utility
 lines in the Basin. Forest management crews will remove trees that pose an
 immediate threat to powerlines while simultaneously improving the long-term
 resilience of vegetation in the utility corridor and immediately surrounding lands.

Lake Tahoe Forest Action Plan (Forest Action Plan)

To help guide the Basin's comprehensive approach to wildfire protection and landscape restoration, the Conservancy is partnering with the U.S. Forest Service and the TFFT to develop a Forest Action Plan. In addition to the large-landscape initiatives described above, highlights of the Forest Action Plan include:

Protect Communities in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

- Treat the remaining 22,000 acres in the WUI and all state and federal urban lands, and complete re-entry treatments on 2,500 acres annually.
- Develop a community forestry and fire protection program to coordinate defensible space across ownerships.
- Develop an online tool notifying the public of thinning and prescribed fire projects.

Increase the Use of Prescribed Fire

 Establish a dedicated prescribed fire crew to significantly increase use of prescribed fire throughout the Basin.

• Streamline Planning and Permitting through a Program Timberland Environmental Impact Report (PTEIR) and Other Tools

- Complete a PTEIR for all non-federal lands.
- Modify, with appropriate safeguards, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency regulations related to work in steep slopes and other sensitive areas.
- Partner with the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board to ensure that water quality regulations facilitate wildfire prevention and landscape resilience.

Build Personnel, Equipment, and Institutional Capacity

- Double wildlife, aquatic, botanical, archaeological, and cultural resource survey crews, as well as tree marking and contract administration crews.
- Host contractor summits and pioneer long-term (ideally 10 to 20-year) forest treatment contracts.
- Acquire new tree felling, yarding, and on-site processing equipment.
- Establish a Basin forest resilience work center and training academy.

Pilot New Technologies for Rapid, Large-Scale Implementation

 Use ground-based LIDAR, satellite imagery, digital layout and marking, helicopter operations, and other methods to increase the pace and scale of projects.

Increase Restoration Byproduct Utilization, including Biomass

- Complete a timber supply and market analysis for the TCSI region.
- Evaluate the feasibility of restarting the Carson City bioenergy facility.
- Establish collection sites for thousands of tons of forest materials to facilitate cost-effective delivery.

Align State and Federal Management through Novel Authorities

 Implement Good Neighbor Agreement projects that consolidate the management of thousands of small state and federal urban parcels in the Basin.

The Conservancy's Contributions and Challenges

Increasing the pace and scale of restoration to meet State wildfire protection, forest resilience, and climate adaptation goals requires a shift from small-scale individual projects to landscape and regional-scale programs that combine forest and watershed resilience. As a major landowner with a broad conservation and resource protection mission, the Conservancy is uniquely positioned to help accelerate this shift in the Basin and in the central Sierra region. Among other notable attributes, the Conservancy:

- Owns and manages nearly 4,700 parcels totaling more than 6,000 acres. Staff works directly with adjacent private landowners to coordinate fuel reduction and forest restoration at both the neighborhood and landscape levels.
- Provides staff support and funding to serve as the designated coordinators for the
 interagency TFFT, and provides expertise in stakeholder facilitation, timber operator
 contracting, treatment design, layout, and marking, field crew supervision, and
 complex project and financial management. In these ways, Conservancy staff
 significantly augments the capacity of partner organizations.
- Coordinates the development of state and federal grant applications on behalf of the TFFT for multijurisdictional, multi-benefit projects.

The Basin's history of collaboration, including the nationally-renowned Environmental Improvement Program, makes it a great testing ground on which to explore innovative solutions. Nonetheless, the Conservancy, the LTBMU, and their Basin partners face four major challenges to scaling up restoration and community fire protection:

- Funding restrictions: Forest health projects typically take a couple of years to plan
 and several years to implement because of the need for extensive surveys over
 multiple years, and the availability of crews and limited burn days for prescribed fire
 projects. State grant programs, however, typically require all funds to be spent within
 three years after they are encumbered. Funds from some federal grant programs, by
 contrast, are now available for up to seven years.
- Lack of dedicated funding: Most state and federal funds for forest health and fuels reduction projects are allocated through competitive grants, which makes it difficult to transition from small-scale, high priority projects to sustainable landscape-scale programs. To effectively plan and implement a comprehensive Forest Action Plan for the Basin, the Conservancy and its partners need dedicated funding for several years to build the capacity and support systems necessary to increase the pace and scale of the work, and to develop long-term contracts for forest byproducts. State and local agencies, for example, lack the resources necessary to hire dedicated California Conservation Corps or prescribed fire crews, and forestry contractors have little incentive to make large, long-term investments in crews and equipment.
- Labor intensive resource surveys: Agencies have limited capacity to conduct resource surveys, impacting the scale and pace at which projects can move through environmental review and implementation. The LTBMU, the Conservancy, and their partners are seeking to address this issue with new technology.
- Lack of markets for forest byproducts: The private sector's ability to use forest
 restoration byproducts, such as biomass for energy generation or cross-laminated
 timber, is limited by lack of certainty in the supply of raw materials, and by the
 expense of moving materials off the landscape to a processing facility. This
 undermines the ability of utilities and industry to meet fuel reduction targets and the
 State's carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.

Presenters and Organizing Questions for Discussion

A joint presentation will provide the basis for discussion among panelists, Board members, and the public. Patrick Wright (Conservancy), Jeff Marsolais (LTBMU), and Patricia Manley (U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station) will discuss (1) the Basin's emerging Forest Action Plan, including the LTW and TCSI large landscape collaborative initiatives, and (2) the key issues, opportunities, and barriers surrounding these efforts. Attachment 1 provides speaker and panelist biographies.

Afterwards, each panelist will be asked to address one or both of the following questions before general discussion begins.

- How can the Conservancy, the LTBMU, and their partners' efforts serve as a model for addressing State forest health and fire prevention priorities? For example:
 - a. The LTW and TCSI initiatives are demonstrating how to rapidly scale up large landscape assessments, restoration strategies, planning, resource surveys, permitting, and monitoring over tens of thousands of acres.
 - b. Throughout this work, the partners are developing and applying new and emerging technologies, including combined aerial and terrestrial LIDAR, dynamic data and modeling platforms, and digital surveying, layout and marking tools.
 - c. As part of TCSI, Sierra Nevada Conservancy is developing a Resiliency Dashboard that will provide a common platform for assessing needs, planning projects, and tracking progress across several of its subregions.
 - d. The agencies are also developing long-term supply contracts to provide greater certainty for the rural workforce and industrial investors, and attract potential markets for forest byproducts.
- 2. How can the State better assist the Basin and other regions? For example:
 - a. The statewide Forest Carbon Plan recommends that the State "regionalize implementation" of the Plan and "standardize tracking of implementation activities." Towards that end, the State could provide dedicated funding for the development, implementation, and evaluation of regional forest management plans in addition to grants to high risk areas. SNC is exploring the development of such strategies.
 - State agencies could also extend the period by which funds must be expended to allow for more prescribed burning, re-entry treatments, and maintenance.
 - c. Through the Forest Management Task Force, the State could also better align and coordinate existing funding sources and reporting requirements for forest health and watershed restoration programs.
 - d. Similarly, State agencies could partner with private landowners, private investors, and foundations to design and deploy innovative funding mechanisms, such as distributed infrastructure and forest resilience bonds.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1 – Biographies of the Speakers and Panelists

Conservancy Staff Contact

Jason Vasques, Ecosystem Planning Supervisor

jason.vasques@tahoe.ca.gov

ATTACHMENT 1

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS

Speakers

Patrick Wright

Patrick Wright is the Executive Director of the California Tahoe Conservancy, a State agency charged with protecting and enhancing the extraordinary natural and recreational resources of the Lake Tahoe Basin. He is also a founder and member of the Board of Advisors of the Tahoe Fund. Wright was previously the Director of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, where he led a consortium of agencies and stakeholders in developing and managing one of the nation's largest collaborative water management programs. He has also served as Deputy Secretary of the California Resources Agency, Senior Policy Advisor to the Regional Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior, and held positions in EPA's Air and Water Management Programs in San Francisco.

Jeff Marsolais

Jeff Marsolais arrived in Lake Tahoe in 2010 and is currently the Forest Supervisor of the USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. Prior to taking his current role, he served as Deputy Forest Supervisor (in the Basin) and has completed many temporary assignments including that of Acting Deputy Regional Forester. Jeff has worked for the Forest Service since the mid-1990s and has served on 7 different National Forests across California and Nevada, and has spent time with the Bureau of Land Management. He has a Bachelor's of Science degree in Natural Resources and Recreation Planning and a Master's of Science in Natural Resources from Humboldt State University.

Patricia Manley

Patricia Manley is currently a Research Program Director for the Conservation of Biodiversity Program, Pacific Southwest Research Station, U.S. Forest Service in Placerville, CA.

She has a Bachelors and Masters from Humboldt State University in Natural Resources Science with an emphasis on wildlife and forestry, and a Ph.D. from UC Berkeley in Wildland Resource Science, with an emphasis on biological diversity and vertebrate community ecology. She has worked for the US Forest Service for 30 years, with the first 15 years spent working for the National Forest System, Region 5. She started on the Six Rivers National Forest, but spent most of her tenure with Region 5 as the Regional

Wildlife Ecologist. She also serve on the leadership team for the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Revision for the 11 National Forests in the Sierra Nevada, as the leader of the Adaptive Management Strategy. For the past 15 years she has been a scientist and research leader for the Pacific Southwest Research Station. Her research has focused on understanding the effects of human activity on biodiversity in the Sierra Nevada, with the intention of informing forest management to achieve multiple objectives. She was a lead author on multiple chapters in the Lake Tahoe Watershed Assessment in response to the Presidential Summit and subsequent the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act. She has also collaborated on numerous projects and publications on environmental monitoring design. She currently serves on the Tahoe Bi-state Science Advisory Council, and prior to that she served on the Tahoe Science Consortium's Committee of Scientists since its inception. She is also co-leading the Science Team contributions to the Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership, and co-leading the development of a science foundation for the Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative.

Panelists

Jennifer Montgomery

Grew up on the San Francisco Peninsula, attended public schools, graduated from Palo Alto High School in 1979.

Most notable childhood experiences: Worked to help elect Congressman Pete McCloskey at age 6--the start of my interest in representing underrepresented communities. At age 12 I hiked the John Muir Trail from Tuolumne Meadows to Mount Whitney with my parents.

Attended Mills College. 1979-1983. Graduated with honors and Phi Beta Kappa membership, with a BA in Communications. After college, moved to San Francisco and worked for Bank of America.

Spent 3 years in Europe, learning more than I ever did in college. Moved to Donner Summit in 1988 planning to spend a winter as a ski bum, where I volunteered as a Firefighter, met my husband, fell in love and got married. We are still happily married 27 years later.

In 2006 became involved in local politics, ran for Placer County Supervisor in the 2008 race and was elected to three terms. Stepped down from BOS in 2019 to serve as the Governor's Appointee to Director of the Forest Management Task Force.

Hobbies and interests include: hiking, reading (especially science fiction), gardening, and mentoring other women and girls.

Helge Eng, Ph.D

Helge has over 25 years of forestry experience, including working in other countries as a forestry consultant. In 1992 Helge started his CAL FIRE career as a timber supply analyst at the Fire and Resources Assessment Program. He promoted in 1995 to Forester I then Forester II in 2002. From 2002-2005 he was responsible for forest inventories and harvest scheduling on the State Forests. In 2005, he promoted to Deputy Chief to become State Forest Program Manager. His most recent position was Assistant Deputy Director, Resource Protection and Improvement.

Helge has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry from the University of British Columbia, a Master's Degree in Forest Measurements, a Master's Degree in Statistics, and a Ph.D. in Forest Operations Research from Oregon State University.

Jennifer Eberlien

USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region (California, Hawaii and the Pacific Islands) Deputy Regional Forester. For over 20 years, Jennifer has worked for the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management in a variety of positions across the country. With her formal education in Anthropology and Archeology, she began her federal career as an archeological technician with the Forest Service in Wisconsin. From there, she has served most notably as Heritage Program Manager, National Recreation Fee Coordinator, Forest Supervisor and currently as Deputy Regional Forester.

Angela Avery

Prior to joining the Sierra Nevada Conservancy in October 2007, Angela developed a deep understanding of forest issues and experience as a natural resource and conservation professional in her work as a park, recreation, and conservation planning consultant as well as in her nonprofit work managing a portfolio of forested land along the north coast of California. In her role as the SNC Policy and Outreach Division Chief, she and her team focused on the development of sound, science-based policy, and the necessary outreach programs and strategic partnerships that support the Sierra Nevada Region with the goal of ensuring that these forests and benefits they provide continue to serve California.

In addition to being dedicated to SNC employees and to ensuring that the SNC is meeting its mission and serving the Region and State, Angela is dedicated to supporting the important work of our partners and to ensuring that Sierra Nevada communities are safe, healthy, economically vibrant places. By implementing the Watershed Improvement Program, Angie believes that the SNC can be instrumental in safeguarding the forests and waters of the Sierra Nevada so that they remain a place of beauty and inspiration for future generations and continue to provide clean air, clean water,

recreational opportunities, and spiritual respite for Californians and all who visit this magnificent Region.

Susan Britting, Ph.D.

Susan Britting has been with Sierra Forest Legacy since 1998 serving first as the primary science and policy consultant, and in July 2012 she assumed the role of Executive Director.

She received her doctorate in biology from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1992. After working with the Forest Service for four years in forest planning, Susan left to become a science and policy consultant to non-profit organizations. Her primary area of interest is habitat planning in the Sierra Nevada, although her interests in policy development extend statewide. Her consulting services have included advising on implementation of federal and state environmental policies, analysis of management plans, habitat analysis using a geographic information system (GIS), and database development for natural resource management. She has been an active volunteer with the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) serving as a board member at the chapter and state level since 1993. Susan also has been an active volunteer and board member for a local land trust in the Sierra Nevada foothills previously serving since 1995. She served as a Governor-appointed member of the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection for seven years.

California Tahoe Conservancy Agenda Item 9 April 18, 2019

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Introduction

The Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin) is known for its clear and deep alpine waters, mountain views, and world-class outdoor recreation, but in many areas, the built environment does not match the grandeur of its setting. Lake Tahoe, the economy, and the local communities all suffer from the impacts of the Basin's aging strip commercial development and auto-centric road network. Runoff from the Basin's road network degrades the clarity of Lake Tahoe, traffic congestion has been steadily increasing, and the Basin's infrastructure is aging, inefficient, and energy-intensive.

The Basin's tourism-oriented economy is also heavily dependent upon the availability of affordable housing, but the gap between what the Basin's workforce can pay and housing costs has been steadily increasing. The 2018 Tahoe Regional Housing Report found that 76 percent of Basin residents overpay for housing (defined as more than 30 percent of income), compared to a State average of 50 percent. The report estimated the north shore and Truckee area needs over 12,000 additional workforce housing units in the coming years.

To address these concerns, the 2012 Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) Regional Plan promotes clustering development in the Basin's town centers to create more walkable, bikeable, and transit-oriented communities. The Regional Plan also includes a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), as required by California Senate Bill (SB) 375, which links the Basin's land use and transportation strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help revitalize the Basin's urban centers.

The Conservancy's Tahoe Livable Communities Program

To accelerate implementation of the goals of SB 375 and the Regional Plan, the Conservancy launched the Tahoe Livable Communities (TLC) program in 2014. The goals of the TLC program are to:

- acquire and restore aging developed properties on environmentally sensitive lands and retire or transfer the development rights to town centers;
- 2. sell, lease, or exchange vacant Conservancy land in town centers; and
- 3. acquire the remaining private properties in several of Lake Tahoe's roadless subdivisions to remove the threat of development.

To accomplish the goals of the TLC program, in the last five years the Conservancy has:

- Designated 17 of its parcels in town centers as "Asset Lands" to support housing and sustainable compact development consistent with local area or town center plans. The Conservancy is working with its local agency partners to determine the most appropriate uses of these parcels, and seeking proposals from developers. In the City of South Lake Tahoe (City), for example, the Conservancy is engaging with Dinsmore Sierra to potentially advance "affordable by design" tiny homes on a half-acre Conservancy-owned lot.
- Acquired ten developed or roadless subdivision properties, restored the
 environmentally sensitive portions of the properties, and banked the
 development rights for housing and other infill projects in town centers. For
 example, the Conservancy acquired and removed an old office building on the
 lakefront of the City, and three aging commercial properties on sensitive land.
 These acquisitions provide multiple benefits: they remove blight, help restore
 wetlands and lakefront areas, and facilitate new housing and transit-oriented
 development.
- Sold development rights from its Land Bank for several sustainable communities
 projects, including the first new hotel in Tahoe City in over twenty years, and a
 remodel of an aging, shuttered lodge to a new housing development in Kings
 Beach. The Conservancy continues to reserve land bank development rights to
 promote workforce housing and sustainable communities projects.

In the year ahead, the Conservancy's proposed budget includes over \$6 million for additional acquisitions, and it plans to pursue the sale of additional Asset Lands for affordable housing or other appropriate development in the City, Meyers, and Kings Beach. This will give the Conservancy a significant opportunity to partner with TRPA and the Basin's local jurisdictions to help revitalize the Basin's urban centers and provide affordable and workforce housing.

Even with these significant opportunities, the Conservancy and its partners face several challenges in making more effective use of State land and assets to facilitate development of housing and other redevelopment projects.

- 1. The south shore of Lake Tahoe lacks a local housing authority that can lead in the development of affordable housing projects.
- 2. The Basin has limited local public subsidies to help finance affordable and sustainable communities projects.
- 3. The Basin lacks public-private partnerships with private and foundation sources to provide low interest financing for projects.
- 4. Current permitting fees do not incentivize multifamily affordable housing.
- 5. Per-unit delivery costs in the Basin remain high due to the following reasons:

- a. Multiple-agency review and approvals
- b. Limited building season
- c. High cost of construction materials
- d. Limited construction workforce

Presenters and Organizing Questions for Panel Discussion

During the Board presentation, El Dorado County Supervisor Sue Novasel will provide a brief overview of the key housing issues in the Basin, and Patrick Wright, the Conservancy's Executive Director, will summarize the key challenges facing the Conservancy and its partners in addressing these issues. The panel discussion will focus on how State agency programs can be better aligned and improved to support these efforts. (See Attachment 1 for speaker and panelist biographies.)

Each panelist will be asked to address the following two questions before general discussion begins:

- 1. How can the Conservancy make better use of its Asset Lands, development rights, and land acquisitions to advance workforce housing and sustainable communities projects for the State of California? For example:
 - a. Provide development rights and land values as grant matching funds.
 - b. Make land available at subsidized rates.
 - c. Acquire non-sensitive land for development rights and to support sustainable development goals.
 - d. Transfer land to local governments to utilize for sustainable development and housing.
- 2. How can State agencies help the Basin implement the SCS, including help solve Basin housing problems? For example:
 - a. State agencies can provide funding to rural communities that are not disadvantaged as defined by environmental health hazards.
 - b. State programs earmarked for urban areas can be expanded to include rural areas.
 - c. State funding can be used to pay for development to go above and beyond to provide public benefits, such as solar or other LEED elements.
 - d. State agencies can provide State grant funding to design innovative projects that are not CEQA or shovel ready.

Attachments

Attachment 1 - Biographies of the Speakers and Panelists

Conservancy Staff Contacts

Aimee Rutledge, Acquisitions Kevin Prior, Chief Administrative Officer <u>aimee.rutledge@tahoe.ca.gov</u> <u>kevin.prior@tahoe.ca.gov</u>

ATTACHMENT 1

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS

Speakers

Patrick Wright

Patrick Wright is the Executive Director of the California Tahoe Conservancy, a State agency charged with protecting and enhancing the extraordinary natural and recreational resources of the Lake Tahoe Basin. He is also a founder and member of the Board of Advisors of the Tahoe Fund. Wright was previously the Director of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, where he led a consortium of agencies and stakeholders in developing and managing one of the nation's largest collaborative water management programs. He has also served as Deputy Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency, Senior Policy Advisor to the Regional Administrator of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), and the Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, and held positions in U.S. EPA's Air and Water Management Programs in San Francisco.

Sue Novasel

Sue Novasel is a fourth generation Californian, born and raised in Salinas, California. She has been married to her husband Bob for over 30 years and together they raised two daughters while living in the Meyers area of Lake Tahoe. Ms. Novasel received an Associates of Arts degree from Lake Tahoe Community College and a bachelor's degree from University of Nevada, Reno with an emphasis in finance and marketing.

Ms. Novasel served as a trustee to the Lake Tahoe Unified School District for over 11 years. In nearly 40 years of living in the Lake Tahoe Basin, she has served as President of Soroptimist International of South Lake Tahoe, President of Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care, President of Lake Tahoe Community College's Foundation, and as a board member of the Tahoe Chamber of Commerce. She also served as a member of the Meyers Community Plan Team, which established zoning ordinances, environmental thresholds, and community design elements for the first area plan in the Tahoe Basin that was approved by the TRPA and included in the El Dorado County General Plan. She continued her work in the Meyers community by being the Chair of the Meyers Community Roundtable Committee for over 12 years.

In 2008, Ms. Novasel was appointed to the City of South Lake Tahoe's 56-acre Citizen Advisory Board, which planned the Lakeview Commons project. Novasel was elected to El Dorado County's District V in 2014 and re-elected in 2018. She is currently serving a four-year term as County Supervisor.

Panelists

Louise Bedsworth, Ph.D.

Louise Bedsworth is the Executive Director of the Strategic Growth Council, a State agency that brings together multiple agencies and departments to support sustainable communities emphasizing strong economies, social equity and environmental stewardship. Prior to joining SGC, Louise was the Deputy Director of the Office of Planning and Research in Governor Jerry Brown's office. At OPR she led work on a number of collaborative research initiatives and climate change adaptation and resilience, including development of the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program and implementation of the State's \$70 million grant awarded under the National Disaster Resilience Competition. Before joining OPR in 2011, Louise was a research fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California, where her work focused on climate change adaptation, local government action on climate change, and transportation. She has also held positions at the Union of Concerned Scientists, Redefining Progress, and the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis.

Louise received a B.S. in Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an M.S. in Environmental Engineering and Ph.D. in Energy and Resources, both from the University of California at Berkeley.

Jonathan Heim

Jonathan Heim is a native of the Bay Area and Sacramento. A graduate of UC Santa Barbara in economics with a minor in real estate he has been active in land development as well as conservation with thirty years of experience in the real estate industry. Currently with the Department of General Services Asset Enhancement Group, recent projects include the completion of 3 million square feet of industrial space on a long-term ground lease with the State as landlord as well as the entitlement of 74 acres of former correction property being developed as 750 dwellings along with retail and the adaptive reuse of historic resources. Jon is now stewarding the statewide site selection of state-owned properties for the development of affordable housing.

Bill Yeates

I arrived in California from Michigan in 1975 to attend law school at the University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento, CA. As soon as I got settled one of the first places I wanted to see was Lake Tahoe. I had spent my childhood summers visiting with my grandparents in Jackson, Wyoming. My late mother's summer home was on the JY Ranch; and, Phelps Lake on the JY at the base of Death Canyon in the Grand Tetons was one of her favorite memories. During this period of time in my mother's childhood my grandfather was working to expand the boundaries of Grand

Teton National Park. Because of this personal heritage, I have an affinity for crystal clear alpine lakes. The Sierra's Lake Tahoe was a natural draw.

After law school, my career path directed me more toward California's coast. I became a staff counsel for the California Coastal Commission and was the Commission's lobbyist from 1978 to 1984. After I left the Commission I started a lobbying practice representing sport and commercial fishing groups, several environmental organizations, and a few businesses. I drafted Proposition 117 –California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990 — an initiative measure that provided \$800 million for the acquisition of wildlife habitat and protected mountain lions in California from trophy hunting. After the voters approved Prop 117, I joined the Sacramento law firm of Remy and Thomas and focused my career on environmental law and land use litigation. In 1994, I started my sole litigation practice, which later became Kenyon Yeates LLP. My partner and I closed down our practice in October 2011. Almost immediately thereafter, my parents' health care needs became my focus.

In March 2013, I applied to the California Senate Rules Committee to be a Governing Board Member of TRPA, because I felt my personal environmental perspective; experience working for the California Coastal Commission; and, more recently, working with diverse interests groups during the passage of Senate Bill 375 (CA Sustainable Communities Program) was a nice fit. I worked for the Coastal Commission during a particularly challenging time as the Commission was mandated to work with local coastal communities to prepare local coastal programs that when approved by the Commission returned land use authority within the coastal zone to the local agencies with Commission oversight. This shared approach to protecting the public's interest in California's coast is similar to the area plan approval process within the recently adopted 2012 Regional Plan for Lake Tahoe.

I hope that I can contribute to the environmental sustainability of Lake Tahoe by approving area plans that when implemented achieve the environmental thresholds for protecting Lake Tahoe. I also believe that TRPA can implement the 2012 Regional Plan in a way that provides for sustainable communities that meet the economic and social needs of the people that live and work in the Tahoe Basin. It will be a challenge, but a challenge worth taking on.

California Tahoe Conservancy Agenda Item 10 April 18, 2019

TAHOE-CENTRAL SIERRA INITIATIVE PROPOSITION 68 GRANT ACCEPTANCE

Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution 19-04-03 (Attachment 1) authorizing California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) staff to accept and expend up to \$1,954,590 in grant funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC), to collaboratively lead and manage the Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative (TCSI), and to execute contracts and award grants, as necessary, consistent with the purpose of the grant.

Executive Summary: TCSI is a pioneering landscape-level effort to restore forest and watershed resilience to more than 2.4 million acres, and overcome barriers to conducting forestry treatments at a large scale and fast pace. It responds to State and federal mandates to rapidly restore forest health and better protect communities from wildfire. The Conservancy's Strategic Plan identifies TCSI as a strategic initiative and key component of Goals 1 and 2, which aim to protect communities from wildfire, and to restore the resilience of Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin) forests and watersheds. This Proposition 68 grant from the SNC provides the Conservancy with the resources necessary to plan and seek funding for future restoration projects; coordinate interagency planning tasks and deployment of crews; conduct critical research and analyses to streamline largescale restoration; and collaboratively lead and provide strategic direction to the initiative as a whole. The grant also allows a dedicated staff person to represent the Conservancy to ensure integration with the Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership and other Basin initiatives, the Basin's needs are met, and TCSI as a whole moves forward in a timely and effective way.

Location: This grant will fund activities throughout the 2.4 million-acre TCSI landscape. The TCSI landscape extends from the North Yuba River to the American River watershed, and encompasses the Basin (Attachment 2).

Fiscal Summary: The Conservancy will accept up to \$1,954,590 in reimbursements, and expend the same amount between Fiscal Years 2018/19 and 2021/22. Specifically, the grant provides up to \$504,590 in personnel support, and \$1,450,000 in contractual services.

Strategic Plan: The grant is consistent with Goals 1 and 2 of the Conservancy's Strategic Plan, which aim to protect communities from wildfire, and to restore the resilience of Basin forests and watersheds.

Overview

History

The Conservancy and the SNC collaboratively lead the TCSI, along with 12 other partners including three National Forests. The initiative aims to restore the social and ecological resilience of forests, watersheds, and communities across a 2.4 million-acre landscape that includes the Basin. TCSI has garnered attention as a model for scaling up watershed restoration and forest health efforts. TCSI implements the SNC's Watershed Improvement Program, and is purposely designed to leverage interagency, multijurisdictional partnerships to increase the pace and scale of restoration.

In August 2017, the 14 TCSI partners entered into a memorandum of understanding and committed to:

- restore resilience to the landscape using a science-based approach;
- integrate research to guide development of climate and fire-resilient forests and fire-adapted communities;
- accelerate planning, permitting, and implementation of high priority projects;
- · increase the use of resulting biomass and wood products; and
- increase and leverage funding.

At its September 21, 2017 meeting the Conservancy Board (Board) authorized staff to enter into a joint powers agreement with the SNC to improve coordination, facilitate sharing resources, and facilitate management across jurisdictions.

To date, TCSI partners have secured more than \$27 million in California Climate Investments (CCI) grants through the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's (CAL FIRE) Forest Health Program. These grants will result in 21,138 acres of fuels reduction treatments and 8,111 acres of prescribed burns. The Board has taken these corresponding actions:

- 1. June 21, 2018 the Board authorized staff to enter into an agreement with SNC to receive up to \$494,554 to conduct forest health treatments on 151 acres of the Conservancy's Dollar property, as part of a \$5 million CCI grant to SNC.
- October 11, 2018 the Board authorized staff to accept a \$2,335,120 CCI grant to the Conservancy, and to expend up to \$775,906 for project planning, monitoring and assessment, and research.

In addition to the CCI funds, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) secured \$400,000 through private philanthropy to collaboratively develop a science-based landscape resilience framework, assessment, and strategy. Finally, SNC recently awarded more than \$4 million in Proposition 1 and Proposition 68 grants for planning and implementation projects within the TCSI landscape.

While the TCSI partners have secured significant funding, they lack dedicated staff to collaboratively lead the initiative. The SNC Proposition 68 grant to the Conservancy will fill this critical gap.

Detailed Description of Recommended Action

1. Major Elements and/or Steps of the Recommended Action
Upon accepting this grant and executing a grant agreement with the SNC, the
Conservancy will provide three years of staffing to collaboratively lead, coordinate, and
advance TCSI priorities. The project leader will work with the SNC, the TCSI Steering
Committee, and TCSI work groups to identify opportunities and strategies for increasing
efficiencies and maximizing impact through the interaction between projects funded by
Proposition 68 and CCI. The project leader will work with the SNC and the TCSI Steering
Committee to develop corresponding analyses, funding strategies, and actions. The
project leader will facilitate Steering Committee and work group meetings, coordinate
the tasks listed below and their associated deliverables, and track and report on
progress.

Staff will enter into contract or grant agreements, as appropriate, to complete the following tasks:

- Develop and test new technologies that streamline resource surveys for National Environmental Policy Act and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analyses;
- 2. Improve carbon modeling to more precisely quantify TCSI's contribution to State greenhouse gas emission reduction targets;
- 3. Model the smoke impacts of prescribed fire on public health;
- 4. Model the hydrologic impacts of forest treatments on water availability, stream hydrology, and water quality;
- 5. Analyze and make recommendations on how to overcome constraints to transporting, processing, and distributing forest restoration byproducts;
- 6. Coordinate the deployment of crews between different projects to avoid competition among partners;
- 7. Develop and track performance measures, including through SNC's Sierra Nevada Resilience Dashboard; and
- 8. Prepare landscape restoration guidance, including principles and potential approaches, to inform other landscape efforts in the Sierra and California.

2. Benefits of the Recommended Action

California's recent wildfires have created the political will to explore innovative and aggressive approaches to streamline and increase forest landscape restoration. The proposed action will leverage Proposition 68 and CCI public investments in the region to gain the greatest benefit. The TCSI helps pool resources and funding to hasten treatments; coordinates large, long-term, multijurisdictional contracts that maximize operational efficiency and contractor capacity; and increases the economic viability of restoration byproducts. The TCSI also provides a model and guidance for streamlining environmental review; increases long-term contracting capacity in the region; and

minimizes the negative impacts of forest management on human health, water supplies, and carbon dynamics.

3. Schedule

The life of the grant runs through May 2022. Collaborative leadership, coordination, and support tasks identified above will be ongoing through the life of the grant. Conservancy staff will determine the specific timing of contractual tasks and deliverables as they negotiate the corresponding agreements.

Financing

The SNC grant amount is \$1,954,590. The Conservancy has secured \$50,000 in matching funds to augment the dashboard performance measures from a U.S. Forest Service non-federal lands grant. The total project cost over the grant period is \$2,004,590. The final budget amounts may vary among individual items, but total personnel and contract expenditures under the grant will not exceed the grant amount.

Authority

Consistency with the Conservancy's Enabling Legislation

The recommended action is consistent with the Conservancy's enabling legislation. Specifically, Government Code section 66908 authorizes the Conservancy to receive funds from public agencies.

Additionally, the recommended action is consistent with Government Code section 66906.8, which authorizes the Conservancy to select and hire consultants or contractors to provide services necessary to achieve the Conservancy's mission, including protecting the natural environment. Government Code section 66907.7 authorizes the Conservancy to award grants to local public agencies, State agencies, federal agencies, federally-recognized Indian tribes, the Tahoe Transportation District, and nonprofit organizations for purposes consistent with its mission.

Under Government Code section 66907.9, the Conservancy is authorized to initiate, negotiate, and participate in agreements for managing land under its ownership or control with public agencies or other entities.

Consistency with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan

The recommended action is consistent with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan because it provides coordination for fuels reduction and forest health efforts, protecting communities from wildfire (Goal 1). The recommended action also provides for developing strategies that improve the resilience of the Basin's forests and watersheds, including testing new technologies and methods to streamline restoration (Goal 2).

Consistency with the Conservancy's Program Guidelines

The recommended action is consistent with the Conservancy's Forest Improvement Program Guidelines. The project will result in better coordination of fuels reduction and forest health efforts and streamlined environmental review processes, which will lead to reduced risk of catastrophic wildfire. Healthy forests are better equipped to deal with the effects of climate change, sequester carbon, and increase wildlife value.

Consistency with External Authorities

The recommended action is consistent with the Environmental Improvement Program because it coordinates projects in the Forest Ecosystem Health and Hazardous Fuels Reduction Program. Additionally, the recommended action advances the California Forest Carbon Plan and Executive Order B-52-18, which calls for significantly increasing the scale of forest restoration.

Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act

Pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15000 et seq.), certain classes of activities are statutorily exempt from CEQA or are exempt because they have been determined by the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency to have no significant effect on the environment. Staff evaluated the planning activities and found them to be exempt under CEQA. These activities qualify for a statutory exemption under State CEQA Guidelines section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies. Staff prepared a notice of exemption (NOE) for the activities (Attachment 3). If the Board approves the acceptance of the grant and expenditure of funds, staff will file the NOE with the State Clearinghouse pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines, section 15062.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1 – Resolution 19-04-03 Attachment 2 – TCSI Location Map

Attachment 3 – Notice of Exemption

Conservancy Staff Contact

Jason Vasques, Ecosystem Planning Supervisor

jason.vasques@tahoe.ca.gov

ATTACHMENT 1

California Tahoe Conservancy Resolution 19-04-03 Adopted: April 18, 2019

TAHOE-CENTRAL SIERRA INITIATIVE PROPOSITION 68 GRANT ACCEPTANCE

Staff recommends that the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) adopt the following resolution pursuant to Government Code sections 66906.8, 66907.7, 66907.9, and 66908:

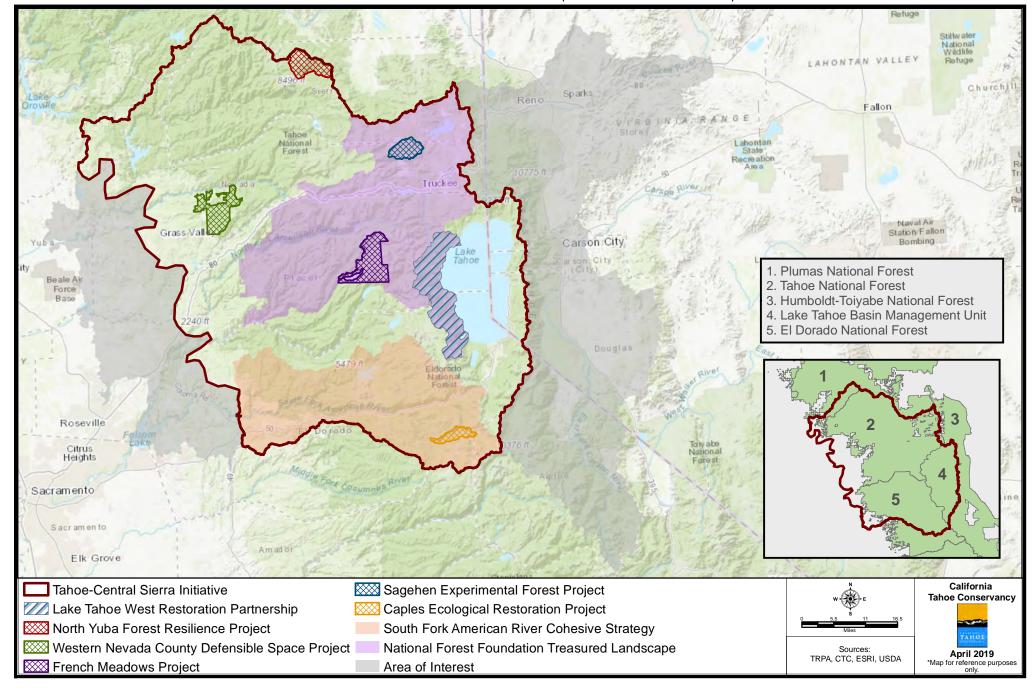
"The Conservancy hereby authorizes staff to: 1) accept and expend up to \$1,954,590 in grant funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to collaboratively lead and manage the Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative, 2) execute contracts and award grants, as necessary, consistent with the purposes of the grant, and 3) take all other necessary steps consistent with the accompanying staff recommendation."

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution duly and regularly adopted by the Conservancy at a meeting thereof held on the 18th day of April, 2019.

In WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 18th day of April, 2019.

Patrick Wright
Executive Director

ATTACHMENT 2
Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative Proposition 68 Grant Acceptance



ATTACHMENT 3

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research 1400 10th Street, Room 121 Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: California Tahoe Conservancy

1061 Third Street

South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Project Title:

Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative (TCSI) Proposition 68 Grant Acceptance

Project Location – Specific:

This grant will fund activities throughout the 2.4 million acre TCSI landscape. The TCSI landscape extends from the North Yuba River to the American River watershed, encompassing the Lake Tahoe Basin (Exhibit A).

Project Location - City:

Project Location – County:

N/A

Alpine, Amador, El Dorado, Placer, Nevada, Yuba, Sierra, Butte

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

Accepting Proposition 68 funds from Sierra Nevada Conservancy will provide the California Tahoe Conservancy with the resources necessary to plan and seek funding for future restoration projects, coordinate interagency planning tasks, conduct critical research and analyses to streamline large-scale restoration, and collaboratively lead and provide strategic direction to the TCSI. The project also includes partner coordination, hydrologic modeling, logistics and resource analyses, and development of performance measures and landscape restoration guidelines.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project:

California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy meeting of 4/18/2019) (Agenda Item 10)

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

California Tahoe Conservancy

Exempt Status:

	Ministerial ((§ 15268)	
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- ☐ Declared Emergency (§ 15269(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (§ 15269(b)(c))
- □ Categorical Exemption

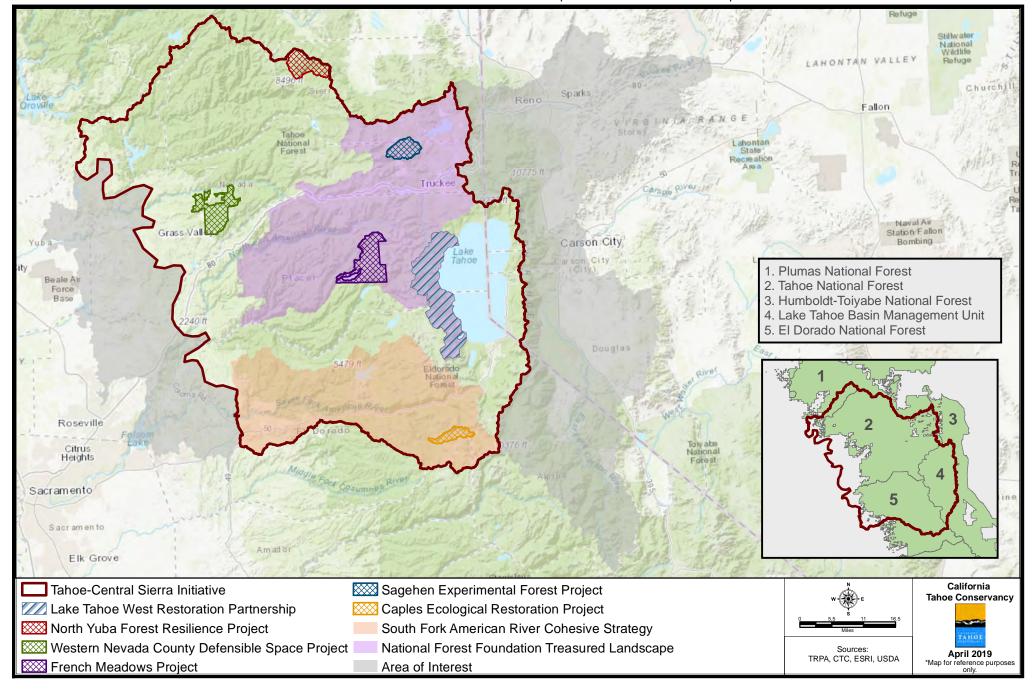
Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

This authorization enables the collection of information to support strategy development, planning, feasibility analyses, and research activities.

Contact Person: Jason Vasques		Telephone Number: (530) 543-6055	
Date Received for Filing:			
	Patrick Wright Executive Director		

EXHIBIT A

Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative Proposition 68 Grant Acceptance



California Tahoe Conservancy Agenda Item 11 April 18, 2019

RAPID RESPONSE AQUATIC INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL GRANT

Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution 19-04-04 (Attachment 1) containing the appropriate California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) determination and authorizing staff to award a grant to the Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD) for up to \$99,110 for a rapid response aquatic invasive plant control project in the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin).

Executive Summary: Aquatic invasive plants (AIP) impact water quality, native aquatic species, and recreation in the Basin. A recent lakewide survey discovered five new AIP infestations. The grant provides funding for the Tahoe RCD to determine the best methods for removal; rapidly remove each infestation; and in 2020 conduct monitoring and removal, if necessary, to maintain control. The grant advances the mission of the interagency Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Coordination Committee (LTAISCC), which is to prevent, detect, and control aquatic invasive species in the region. The grant also implements the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP), which aims to control AIP and protect native species. Finally, this grant promotes Goal 2, Strategy B in the California Tahoe Conservancy's (Conservancy) Strategic Plan, by advancing a multiple-benefit project that creatively combines restoring and building the resilience of watersheds with water quality protection and climate change adaptation.

Location: Baldwin Beach, Emerald Bay, General Creek, Camp Richardson, and Timber Cove Marina.

Fiscal Summary: The grant will use up to \$99,110 from the Lake Tahoe Science and Lake Improvement Account, Senate Bill 630 (SB 630).

Strategic Plan: The recommended action is consistent with the Strategic Plan's Goal 2, Strategy B.

Overview

History

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) degrade aesthetics, drainage systems, fishing, water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, human and animal health, navigation, recreation, and

land values. This grant funds a project that contributes to a comprehensive, lakewide initiative led by the LTAISCC to control AIS in Lake Tahoe, particularly Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed, both AIP. The LTAISCC is comprised of representatives from federal, state, regional, and local agencies, as well as nonprofits. In 2009 (with a 2014 update), the LTAISCC developed the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan (Management Plan) to achieve its mission. In 2015, the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) collaborated with the LTAISCC to prepare a corresponding Implementation Plan. The Implementation Plan tiers from the Management Plan and identifies strategies for AIS removal and control. These include regular surveillance and rapid response to new infestations. The Tahoe RCD plays an essential role in implementing the two plans because it possesses the unique ability and capacity to implement AIS monitoring, detection, and rapid-response control measures.

The grant contributes to an ongoing Basinwide effort to develop and refine methods to detect, assess, and monitor AIS, which provide the foundation for effective control. Over the last ten years, Basin agencies have significantly invested in a control program, as well as a highly successful prevention program. The program involves regular lakewide surveying to document the extent of infestations, and regularly evaluating program effectiveness. However, Basin agencies currently lack standardized quantitative monitoring and assessment methods. Therefore, in 2018 the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) initiated the Aquatic Plant Monitoring Plan Project to consistently track the annual status and trends of AIP. Among other things, the project uses diver transect surveys to locate populations of AIP throughout Lake Tahoe.

Recent discovery of new AIP infestations demonstrates the importance of completing and implementing a Basinwide monitoring plan, and the need for immediate action. In the late summer and early fall of 2018, divers identified five locations on the California side of Lake Tahoe with new AIP infestations. The grant will provide the Tahoe RCD with funding to rapidly control these infestations.

Significance

The Conservancy is an active member of the LTAISCC, which is developing a Lake Tahoe AIS Control Plan (Control Plan) to remove AIP from the Basin. The Control Plan will identify short-term and long-term goals for control of AIS, create a set of metrics to track and evaluate progress, develop a systematic approach to implementing AIS control strategies, and develop an investment plan. A coordinated lakewide effort to discover and respond rapidly to new infestations before they spread is critical to successful control. In addition to benefitting the Lake, the grant advances the LTAISCC Implementation Plan and EIP, as well as the Conservancy's Strategic Plan Goal 2, Strategy B.

Detailed Description of Recommended Action

1. Major elements and/or steps of the Recommended Action

After receiving this grant, the Tahoe RCD will obtain the necessary permits for treating each new infestation location. Then the Tahoe RCD will contract with a consultant to conduct a pre-implementation survey of each infestation, determine the species and size of infestation, determine the best method for AIP removal, and then proceed with control measures. Such measures are likely to include bottom barriers, diver-assisted hand or suction removal, or a combination of these methods. This contractor will return to the location the following year to monitor the area, ensure that no AIP have returned, and remove any new AIP observed.

2. Benefits of the Recommended Action

This grant funds the rapid control of new AIP infestations in Lake Tahoe. Removing AIP benefits water quality, native aquatic species and their habitat, and recreation. Rapidly and aggressively treating new infestations increases the likelihood of controlling these populations, and reduces the number of plant fragments that could infest other locations. Removing plant infestations when they are still small is also less costly than attempting to remove well-established populations.

3. Schedule

Activity	Date
Obtain permits	Spring 2019
Conduct pre-project survey to delineate infestations, and	Summer 2019
select best control method for removal	
Implement plant control	Summer 2019
Obtain permits	Spring 2020
Conduct surveillance monitoring	Summer 2020
Implement plant control if needed	Summer 2020

Financing

The Conservancy will combine \$65,980 in SB630 funding from Fiscal Year (FY) 2016/17 with \$33,130 from FY 2017/18 to pay for the grant.

Activity	Amount
Administration	\$10,714.29
Planning	\$22,231.43
Implementation	\$66,964.28
TOTAL	\$99,110.00

Authority

Consistency with the Conservancy's Enabling Legislation

Implementation of this project is consistent with the Conservancy's enabling

legislation. Specifically, Government Code section 66907.7 authorizes the Conservancy to award grants to local public agencies for purposes consistent with its mission.

Consistency with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan

The recommended action is consistent with the Strategic Plan Goal 2, Strategy B by advancing a multiple-benefit project that creatively combines restoring and building the resilience of watersheds with water quality protection and climate change adaptation.

Consistency with the Conservancy's Program Guidelines

There are no Conservancy Program Guidelines for AIS.

Consistency with External Authorities

The recommended action is consistent with the authority given to the Conservancy through SB 630 pursuant to Public Resources Code section 6217.6.1. The Conservancy informed in advance the SB 630 stakeholder group of the decision to award this grant and the reasons for the selection of this project.

Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act

The Tahoe RCD, acting as the lead agency, prepared an Initial Study (IS) and Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Lake-wide Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Project (Project) to comply with CEQA. The Tahoe RCD adopted the MND and mitigation monitoring and reporting program (MMRP) on July 23, 2014, and filed a notice of determination (NOD) on July 24, 2014.

A copy of the Tahoe RCD's IS/MND and MMRP are provided to the Conservancy Board (Attachment 3) and are available for public review at the Conservancy's office, 1061 Third Street, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150.

Staff has reviewed the MND and believes that the Project has been adequately analyzed in this document. Staff has determined that the Project, as mitigated, would not cause a significant effect on the environment. The MMRP for the Project can be found on pages 14-20 of the IS/MND.

Staff recommends the Board review and consider the Tahoe RCD's MND together with the comments received during the public review process; certify that it has independently considered and reached its own conclusions regarding the potential environmental effects of the Project; make the findings as set forth in the attached resolution; adopt the MMRP; and authorize the Project. If the Board considers and concurs with the MND and authorizes the funding, staff will file an NOD with the State Clearinghouse pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, section 15096 (Attachment 4).

List of Attachments

Attachment 1 - Resolution 19-04-04

Exhibit A – MMRP

Attachment 2 - Location Map

Attachment 3 - Tahoe RCD's IS/MND and MMRP

Attachment 4 - Conservancy's NOD

- Exhibit A General Creek
- Exhibit B Emerald Bay
- Exhibit C Baldwin Beach and Camp Richardson
- Exhibit D Timber Cove Marina

Conservancy Staff Contact

Whitney Brennan, Senior Environmental Scientist

whitney.brennan@tahoe.ca.gov

ATTACHMENT 1

California Tahoe Conservancy Resolution 19-04-04 Adopted: April 18, 2019

RAPID RESPONSE AQUATIC INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL GRANT

Staff recommends that the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) make the following findings based on the accompanying staff report pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.:

"The Conservancy, in its role as a responsible agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has reviewed and considered the Lake-wide Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Project Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) adopted by the Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD) on July 23, 2014. The Conservancy certifies that it has independently considered and reached its own conclusions regarding the environmental effects of the proposed project and finds, on the basis of the whole record before it, that there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment.

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15097(d), the Conservancy adopts a mitigation monitoring and reporting program (MMRP) (Exhibit A), which ensures that required mitigation is implemented for the project. The Conservancy incorporates the mitigation measures described in the MMRP as a condition for approval of the project.

The Conservancy hereby directs staff to file a notice of determination for this project with the State Clearinghouse."

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following resolution pursuant to Government Code section 66907.7:

"The Conservancy hereby authorizes staff to award a grant to the Tahoe RCD for up to \$99,110 for a rapid response aquatic invasive plant control project in the Lake Tahoe Basin, and to take all other necessary steps consistent with the accompanying staff recommendation."

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution duly and regularly adopted by the Conservancy at a meeting thereof held on the 18th day of April, 2019.

In WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 18th day of April, 2019.

Patrick Wright	
Executive Director	

Exhibits:

• Exhibit A – MMRP

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

CEQA Guidelines Section 15097 requires the adoption of a program by a public agency for monitoring or reporting on the project revisions or measures it has imposed to mitigate or avoid significant impacts of a project. The plan implementation and impact mitigation measures that are incorporated into the Proposed Project are contained in the Lake-Wide Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Project Initial Study. Detailed descriptions of each measure are included below.

The following mitigation measures are those measures that are required for construction and operation of the Lake-Wide Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Project, operated by the Tahoe Resource Conservation District. Each of the mitigation measures includes a description of the measure that will be completed, lists the impacts that are mitigated, and lists the lead, implementing, and monitoring agencies. Also included is the timing associated with the implementation of the mitigation measure.

Mitigation Measure BIO-1: Nesting Osprey and Bald Eagle

Description

- 1. To the extent possible, Project activities would occur outside of the osprey (April 1 August 15) and bald eagle (February 15 August 15) breeding seasons.
- If work is required during the breeding season, a qualified biologist would conduct surveys to document reproductive activity of the established osprey and eagle nests within 0.25 and 0.5 miles, respectively, of the Project Area.
 - 1. If the nests are not occupied or the young have fledged then Project activities would be allowed to commence.
 - 2. If osprey or eagles are actively incubating eggs or have young in the fledgling state within 0.25 or 0.5 miles, respectively, of the Project Area, no work would be conducted.
 - 3. If there are chicks on the nest, work could be authorized if:
 - i. A qualified biologist is onsite during operations to monitor the nests to ensure the young or adults are not visibly disturbed by Project activities;
 - ii. Any visible disturbance attributable to the Project activities would result in the Project being postponed until after the young fledge; and
 - iii. No more than 4 hours of activities creating noise above ambient levels would occur in any 24-hour period.

Impacts Mitigated Protection of nesting Osprey and Bald Eagles

Mitigation Level Avoids impacts to nesting Osprey and Bald Eagles

Lead Agency Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Implementing Agency Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Monitoring Agency Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Timing Start: Project activities that would occur outside of the osprey (April

1 – August 15) and bald eagle (February 15 – August 15)

breeding seasons

Complete: On-going

Mitigation Measure CULT-1: Cultural Resources Consultation

Description

- 1. Prior to beginning Project work, Tahoe RCD shall consult with USACE Cultural Resources Specialist to determine if the Treatment Site is within a culturally sensitive area and if there are recorded submerged resources in the Project Area of Potential Effects (APE). A formal records search of the California Historical Resources Information System at the North Central Information Center shall be conducted prior to Project implementation. If resources are present in the Project APE, the Cultural Resources Specialist and Project Manager shall discuss project implementation and conditions to protect cultural resources.
- 2. If there are prehistoric or ethnographic resources located in the Project APE and Project activities involve disturbance of the lake bottom, USACE Cultural Resources Specialist shall consult the Washoe Tribe of California and Nevada Tribal Historic Preservation Officer.

Impacts Mitigated Protection to known and unknown cultural or historic resources

Mitigation Level Avoidance of identified resources considered eligible for the National

Register or Historic Places

Lead Agency Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Implementing Agency Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Monitoring Agency Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Timing Start: Prior to initial lake or river bottom disturbing activities at each

Treatment Site

Complete: Completion of lake or river bottom disturbing activities

Mitigation Measure CULT-2: Eligibility for National Register

Description

- 1. Historic properties are assumed eligible for the National Register and shall be protected throughout the duration of the Project.
- 2. The Project Manager shall notify the USACE Cultural Resources Specialist a minimum of three weeks prior to the start of Project activities.

Impacts Mitigated Protection to known and unknown cultural or historic resources

Mitigation Level Avoidance of identified resources considered eligible for the National

Register or Historic Places

Lead Agency Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Implementing Agency Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Monitoring Agency Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Timing Start: Prior to lake or river bottom disturbing activities

Complete: Completion of lake or river bottom disturbing activities

Mitigation Measure CULT-3: Unanticipated Discovery

Description

- In the event of an unanticipated discovery of previously undocumented cultural resources during Project activities, work shall be suspended in the area until a qualified cultural resources specialist has assessed the find and has developed and implemented appropriate avoidance, preservation, or recovery measures. If avoidance is required and feasible, the Project Manager shall modify, at the discretion of the USACE Cultural Resources Specialist, Project activities to avoid cultural resources.
- If archaeological or paleontological features are discovered during Project implementation, submerged artifacts and/or features shall be marked, left in place, and reported to appropriate cultural resources specialist.

Impacts Mitigated Protection to known and unknown cultural or historic resources

Mitigation Level Avoidance of identified resources considered eligible for the National

Register or Historic Places

Lead Agency Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Implementing Agency Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Monitoring Agency Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Timing Start: Prior to lake or river bottom disturbing activities

Complete: Completion of lake or river bottom disturbing activities

Mitigation Measure CULT-4: Human Remains Discovery

Description

1. In the event that human remains are discovered during Project activities, work shall cease immediately in the area of the find and the Project Manager/Site Supervisor shall notify the appropriate personnel. Any human remains and/or funerary objects shall be left in place. Existing law requires that project managers contact the County Coroner. If the County Coroner determines the remains are of Native American origin, both the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and any

identified descendants shall be notified (Health and Safety Code Section §7050.5, Public Resources Code Section §5097.97 and §5097.98). Tahoe RCD staff shall work closely with the USACE to ensure that its response to such a discovery is also compliant with federal requirements, including the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

2. Work shall not resume in the area of the find until proper disposition is complete (PRC §5097.98). No human remains or funerary objects shall be cleaned, photographed, analyzed, or removed from the site prior to determination. If it is determined the find indicates a sacred or religious site, the site shall be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Formal consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office and review by the NAHC/Tribal Cultural representatives shall occur as necessary to define additional avoidance, preservation, or recovery measures, or further future restrictions.

Impacts Mitigated Protection and Identification of human remains

Mitigation Level Compliance with Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

Lead Agency Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Implementing Agency Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Monitoring Agency Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Timing Start: Prior to lake or river bottom disturbing activities

Complete: Completion of lake or river bottom disturbing activities

Mitigation Measure CULT-5: Underwater Archaeological Survey

Description

- 1. If treatment involves disturbance of lake bottom in culturally sensitive areas, an underwater archaeological survey shall be conducted by a qualified professional in the Project APE to determine if previously recorded or newly identified cultural resources exist in the area.
- 2. Results of the survey shall be discussed in an archaeological survey report and submitted to the North Central Information Center in Sacramento.

Impacts Mitigated Protection of known and unknown cultural or historic resources

Mitigation Level Avoidance of identified resources considered eligible for the National

Register of Historic Places

Lead Agency Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Implementing Agency Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Monitoring Agency Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Timing Start: Prior to lake or river bottom disturbing activities

Complete: Completion of lake or river bottom disturbing activities

Mitigation Measure HAZMAT-1: Spill Prevention and Response

Description

- 1. Prior to the start of Project activities, equipment and vehicles shall be cleaned and serviced. Routine vehicle and equipment checks will be conducted during the Project to ensure proper operating conditions and to avoid any leaks.
- Contaminated residue or other hazardous compounds shall be contained and disposed of outside of the boundaries of the site at a lawfully permitted or authorized site.
- 3. Benthic barriers shall be cleaned at an established decontamination facility authorized by the TRPA designee.
- 4. Boats used in Project activities shall have an Emergency Spill Response Plan and clean up kit.

Impacts Mitigated Protection of water quality and public health

Mitigation Level Compliance with construction and project permit conditions

Lead Agency Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Implementing Agency Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Monitoring Agency Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Timing Start: Commencement of Project activities

Complete: Completion of Project activities

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1: Water Quality Monitoring

Description

- 1. A Water Quality Monitoring Plan shall be prepared and presented to the TRPA and Lahontan for approval prior to conducting Project activities (See Appendix B for an example Plan).
- 2. Turbidity shall be measured at one location within the Treatment Site before, during, and after installation and removal of benthic barriers.
- 3. Routine boat maintenance shall occur before use on the Project.
- 4. Watercraft shall carry an Emergency Spill Response Kit, as required by Mitigation Measure HAZMAT-1.
- 5. Equipment shall be washed at an existing boating inspection station. Water from decontamination wash stations shall be collected, recycled and disposed appropriately in a sanitary sewer collection system.
- 6. If sand bags are used to secure benthic barriers, sediment quality testing shall be performed prior to installation. If lake bottom substrate characterization indicates the lake substrate is of poor quality, a fill material of higher quality (with a minimum standard of fill consisting of sand grain material that would not pass through the #200 sieve size) shall be utilized, including but not limited to washed gravels and

obtaining clean sand from a compatible near-site location. Biodegradable bags shall be used when recovery upon project completion is not possible.

- 7. The HACPP shall include a decontamination site as a control point at which control measures shall be implemented to further prevent the spread of AIS. Control measures shall include effective decontamination of equipment and clothing associated with hand pulling removal activities.
- 8. If turbidity levels exceed permit compliance (> 3 NTU), Project activity stops until compliant turbidity levels return.
- Underwater invasive plant control activities in Lake Tahoe require permits from the USACE, Lahontan, TRPA, CSLC, NDSL, NDEP and the CDFW. These permits require monitoring and protective measures to ensure that project activities do not result in significant impacts to water quality. Project activities shall not commence until required permits are attained.
- 10. Water intake(s) within 25 feet of Treatment Sites shall be turned off during removal of the benthic barriers and shall not be turned back on until water quality returns to background levels.
- 11. If utilities are identified during pre-project sub-surface utility location evaluations, then a Utility Avoidance Plan shall be developed and implemented.

Impacts Mitigated Protection of water quality

Mitigation Level Compliance with permitted discharge standards

Lead Agency Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Implementing Agency Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Monitoring Agency Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Timing Start: Prior to lake or river bottom disturbing activities

Complete: Completion of lake or river bottom disturbing activities

Mitigation Measure TRANS-1: Securing Barriers

Description 1. Bottom barriers shall be checked routinely to inspect and re-secure any

barriers that move or start to billow or become unsecured.

Impacts Mitigated Safe movement of boat and raft traffic

Mitigation Level Avoidance of obstacles for boat and raft traffic

Lead Agency Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Implementing Agency Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Monitoring Agency Tahoe Resource Conservation District

LAKE-WIDE AQUATIC INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL PROJECT MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Timing Start: Prior to lake or river bottom disturbing activities

Complete: Completion of lake or river bottom disturbing activities

ATTACHMENT 2
Rapid Response Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Grant

