

Executive Report

Program Updates

1. Land Management

Tahoe Urgent Care Demolition: On April 19, the Conservancy demolished the old Tahoe Urgent Care building on its property at 2130 Lake Tahoe Boulevard in the City of South Lake Tahoe (City). In May, contractors removed paved areas, graded the land, and stabilized the site with mulch. The Conservancy acquired the property in April 2021 to reclaim environmentally sensitive land and protect water quality.

Land Management Projects and Contracting: The Conservancy has once again contracted seasonal crews through the Tahoe Resource Conservation District. Crew members implement projects on Conservancy lands to restore water quality, maintain properties and facilities, improve forest health and reduce wildfire risk, and resolve encroachments.

Seasonal Recreational Facilities: The Conservancy opened Tahoe Pines (Meyers) and Van Sickle Bi-State Park to vehicles for the season on May 1 and 7, respectively. The seasonal dog closure at the Upper Truckee Marsh began on May 1 to protect birds and wildlife during breeding season. The Marsh reopens to leashed dogs on August 1.

Cost Recovery for Special Use Requests: Staff continues processing multiple requests for licenses and special use permits. The Conservancy charges for use of its property to recover staff costs, but may waive charges when requests serve government, health, or other public benefits, or further the Conservancy's mission.

2. Tahoe Livable Communities

Property Acquisitions: Over the next five years, the Conservancy has budgeted \$14 million, pending legislative approval, to acquire high-priority lands when they become available. Staff is taking steps for final acquisition approval by the California Public Works Board for the Motel 6 and Knox Johnson parcels in the City.

Land Bank: The Conservancy continues to bank and transfer development rights and land coverage for affordable housing, town center, and other infill projects in the City and El Dorado and Placer counties. The transfer of rights includes sales to meet

permitting requirements and exchanges with governmental agencies to promote various recreational, housing, and area plan program goals.

Conservancy Asset Lands at 1860 Lake Tahoe Boulevard (AN 032-291-028) and 1029 Tata Lane (AN 032-291-031): The developers for the Sugar Pine Village Project, Related California (Related) and St. Joseph Community Land Trust, expect to break ground on Phase 1A of the project in summer 2022. With 248 units, Sugar Pine Village is the largest affordable housing project in the history of the Lake Tahoe Basin. Related continues to apply for the financing needed to complete the remaining phases of the project.

3. Community Forestry

Forest Treatments: CAL FIRE and the Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District burned piles on 144 acres of Conservancy land at Van Sickle Bi-State Park, the Dollar Property, and various small properties. Staff is planning forest management projects for the 2022 field season, including in the North Upper Truckee neighborhood in the south shore, and the Lake View, Sunnyside, and Homewood areas on the west shore.

4. Landscape Forestry

Capacity Building: Staff has awarded two subgrants that will increase regional capacity to prioritize, develop, and implement projects that improve forest health and fire resiliency. The Conservancy used funds for the subgrants from a grant from the Department of Conservation through its Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Grant Program.

5. Watershed Restoration and Water Quality

Upper Truckee Marsh Restoration: The Conservancy will complete the Upper Truckee Marsh Restoration Project this year. This summer, the Conservancy will finish revegetation and remove fill to connect new wetlands at Cove East to the Upper Truckee River. The Conservancy will also complete the new pedestrian trail to Lake Tahoe at Cove East. This trail may briefly close in September for construction.

6. Recreation and Public Access

Public Access and Outdoor Recreation for All Grants: Staff continues to develop pilot grant awards to expand equitable access. Grants will support efforts to provide positive experiences for people and communities who face challenges in accessing or enjoying Lake Tahoe.

7. Climate Adaptation and Biodiversity

Climate Adaptation: In April, the State launched two strategies to guide California's work on adapting to climate change and protecting biodiversity. Pathways to 30x30: Accelerating Conservation of California's Nature identifies strategies to achieve California's goal of preserving 30 percent of its lands by 2030. The Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy highlights nature-based solutions to the climate crisis. The Conservancy's work directly aligns with and implements both of these strategies. The Conservancy is hopeful that with additional nature-based solutions funding, it can achieve many of the 30X30 and climate goals.

Budget and Accounting

In May, Governor Gavin Newsom revised his proposed budget for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. The budget includes baseline funding that covers a portion of the Conservancy's staffing and operations as well as use of general fund and existing bond funding for:

- Minor capital improvements (\$980,000), which includes small restoration projects on Conservancy land;
- Conceptual feasibility and planning (\$600,000) for initial watershed project planning;
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) upgrades (\$1,025,000) for planning and implementing updates to existing recreational sites to meet the Conservancy's ADA Transition Plan; and
- Opportunity Acquisitions (\$14,000,000) for acquisition of lands in environmentally sensitive or significant resource areas.

The Governor's budget also includes \$5 million to the Conservancy for Wildfire and Forest Health projects, and a proposed \$5.25 million for Nature-Based Solutions to support implementation of the Pathways to 30x30 and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategies and execute the Governor's nature-based solution agenda.