

California Tahoe Conservancy  
Agenda Item 7  
September 15, 2022

CLIMATE RESILIENCE DASHBOARD GRANT AWARD

Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution 22-09-04 (Attachment 1) authorizing a grant of up to \$150,000 to the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) to create the Climate Resilience Dashboard (Dashboard).

Executive Summary: This recommended action supports the TRPA in creating the Dashboard—an online reporting tool that tracks metrics relating to climate resilience in the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin). The TRPA will develop the Dashboard and associated metrics along with partners of the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP). The Dashboard will enable partners to measure how the EIP is collectively building resilience, will ensure accountability to stakeholders, and will help engage the broader public in climate action. The recommended action advances the Conservancy’s Strategic Plan Goal 4 (Foster Basinwide Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Communities). Upon Board authorization, staff will execute all necessary agreements.

Location: The Dashboard will provide climate resilience metrics for the Basin. As an online tool, there is no physical project location.

Fiscal Summary: The Conservancy will award up to \$150,000 of General Fund appropriated for climate resilience.

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Overview

History

In 2014, the TRPA created a Sustainability Dashboard with EIP partners to track climate change-related impacts and outcomes at Tahoe, including metrics for the environment, economy, and communities. The TRPA maintains the Sustainability Dashboard and updates most of the metrics annually. However, many of the metrics are challenging or infeasible to track, and some are no longer relevant to federal, state, local, and Basinwide priorities. EIP partners have identified a clear need to update the Sustainability Dashboard to track climate resilience metrics, and to demonstrate how the Basin is collectively building resilience. The Dashboard will replace the outdated Sustainability Dashboard and capture current and future monitoring needs to tell the story of climate resilience at Tahoe. Dashboard development will occur in parallel, and be informed by, the ongoing work of the TRPA and EIP partners to update the Basin’s environmental thresholds.

## Detailed Description of Recommended Action

### 1. Major Elements and/or Steps of the Recommended Action

The Conservancy will provide a grant to the TRPA to manage the development of the Dashboard. The TRPA will engage with stakeholders, including the EIP partnership and its various working groups, the Tahoe Science Advisory Council, local jurisdictions, and other key partners. The TRPA will conduct a survey to identify sets of climate and resilience metrics that are measured elsewhere in the region, state, and nation. With EIP partners, the TRPA will develop and approve final resilience metrics and a monitoring plan to ensure consistent data collection. The TRPA will work with a consultant to build out technical aspects of the Dashboard and launch it within the [Lake Tahoe Info platform](https://www.LakeTahoeInfo.org) (<https://www.LakeTahoeInfo.org>). The TRPA and its consultant will also compile and import data for resilience metrics once they have been agreed upon. When launching the Dashboard, the TRPA will develop an outreach strategy for engaging target audiences to raise awareness of climate resilience, identify EIP partners' participation in the Dashboard development, and highlight EIP partners' climate resilience work. The recommended action advances Conservancy Grant Guidelines elements that emphasize innovative approaches and climate adaptation and resilience work. It also aligns with previous Conservancy grants for climate, hydrosimulation, greenhouse gas emissions inventory, and climate action acceleration efforts that inventory, assess, and inform action to improve resilience and work toward EIP goals.

### 2. Overall Context and Benefits

A changing climate threatens water supplies, public health and safety, homes and buildings, natural resources, and the economy in California and Nevada. Both states now have mandates to accelerate climate change mitigation and adaptation solutions.

The Dashboard will measure how the EIP partnership is collectively building resilience, provide data for partners to prioritize future projects and investments, and provide accountability to program funders, stakeholders, elected officials, decision makers, and the public. This grant addresses California's focus on innovating ways to consistently track resilience regionally and statewide.

### 3. Schedule for the Recommended Action

The TRPA will complete all grant activities between fall 2022 and fall 2023.

## Financing

Upon approval, the Conservancy will award up to \$150,000 of General Fund appropriated for climate resilience..

## Authority

### Consistency with the Conservancy's Enabling Legislation

The recommended action is consistent with the Conservancy's enabling legislation. Specifically, Government Code section 66907.7 authorizes the Conservancy to award grants to public agencies for purposes consistent with the Conservancy's mission.

### Consistency with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan

The recommended action is consistent with Strategic Plan Goal 4, Strategy D, by coordinating with partners to create a reporting tool that tracks climate resilience metrics in the Basin.

### Consistency with the Conservancy's Program Guidelines

The recommended action is consistent with the Conservancy's Grant Guidelines. The action meets many of the Conservancy's funding considerations, including accounting for climate change, generating multiple benefits, and having broad community and stakeholder support.

### Consistency with External Authorities

The recommended action is consistent with the environmental goals of the EIP, the Tahoe Climate Resilience Action Strategy, California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan, and the California Climate Adaptation Strategy.

## Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (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 has evaluated the recommended action and has found it to be exempt under CEQA. The recommended action qualifies for a categorical exemption under CEQA Guidelines section 15306, Information Collection, because it involves collection of data, research, and resource evaluation activities that do not result in environmental disturbance. A notice of exemption (NOE) has been prepared (Attachment 2). If the Board approves the recommended action, staff will file the NOE with the State Clearinghouse pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, section 15062.

## List of Attachments

Attachment 1 – Resolution 22-09-04

Attachment 2 – Notice of Exemption

- Exhibit A – Project Map

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