

California Tahoe Conservancy
Agenda Item 6
December 14, 2023

CLIMATE RESILIENCE DASHBOARD GRANT UPDATE

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) is developing a Climate Resilience Dashboard (Dashboard) for the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin), supported by a 2022 grant from the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy). The TRPA and Tahoe partners will use the Dashboard to measure how the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) partnership is collectively building resilience to climate change impacts.

Climate change threatens Lake Tahoe with warmer temperatures, less snowpack, earlier runoff, more extreme floods and droughts, shifts in lake level, and more severe smoke and wildfires. The State of California has called for accelerated climate action via the latest California Climate Adaptation Strategy and Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy. In 2022, Basin partners released the Tahoe Climate Resilience Action Strategy, which highlighted the need to fund shovel-ready climate resilience projects and emphasized the importance of increasing accountability and measuring success in attaining climate resilience in the Basin.

In March 2022, the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP), which drives the State's response to climate impacts, released 22 recommended resilience indicators for California. ICARP focused these indicators within long-term outcomes for resilient social, natural, and built systems. These high-level indicators were set at a statewide level and without metrics to measure progress towards these indicators. Therefore, there was a need to develop regional resilience indicators and metrics that would help Basin partners report on how their work is helping achieve climate resilience within the Basin in addition to helping meet statewide goals.

In 2022, the Board approved a grant to the TRPA to create the Dashboard, an online tool that tracks these regional indicators and metrics. The TRPA has been developing the Dashboard and associated metrics along with partners. The Dashboard will help partners to measure how the EIP is collectively building resilience, provide data for partners to prioritize future projects and investments, provide accountability to program funders, partners, public officials, and decision makers, and will help engage the broader public in climate action. Specifically, the Dashboard will display all Basin climate resilience metrics in one place, including some non-EIP metrics. This includes metrics under the category of resilient built systems and resilient social systems such as renewable energy and housing.

Since the Board approval, the TRPA has identified metrics and is close to beta testing the Dashboard. During the development process the TRPA engaged with the EIP

partnership and its various working groups, the Tahoe Science Advisory Council, local jurisdictions, and other partners to gather input on key resilience metrics. The TRPA also conducted a survey to identify sets of climate and resilience metrics that are measured elsewhere in the region, state, and nation. The TRPA developed the final set of resilience goals, indicators, and metrics and shared these with partners for final input in October. The resilience metrics fall under four categories: recognizing the changing climate conditions, promoting resilient natural systems, supporting resilient built systems, and supporting resilient social systems. The final metrics represent data points that are obtainable from existing sources, reliably updated, relevant to climate change, representative of the region, and balanced in the level of staff effort and utility.

A consultant team is working on behalf of TRPA to collect initial data and develop monitoring plans for future data collection throughout fall and winter 2023. The TRPA will also be working with a consultant to build out technical aspects of the Dashboard throughout winter 2023. The TRPA will launch the Dashboard in March 2024 via the LTInfo platform, which is where partners report EIP project information.

The Conservancy Board previously requested an update when the grant was awarded and therefore TRPA will present on the status of the Dashboard at today's meeting.

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