

Summary of Consultant Activities - October 2023

Steve Teshara, Principal

Sustainable Community Advocates

- Confirm with Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT) MAC Chair and Vice Chair a fall MAC meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 16th from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District, 1066 Oriole Way in Incline Village.
- Coordinate with Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT) IC Isaac Powning and Deputy IC Milan Yeates development of the agenda for this meeting.
- As a leading member of the Lake Tahoe Partnership advocacy team, continue to support the following federal legislative priorities:
 - 10-Year extension of the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act (LTRA).
 - Support for federal FY 24 Lake Tahoe LTRA/EIP Appropriations requests (In the U.S. Senate, working to incorporate LTRA extension into the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).
- With selected members of Congress and staff: advocacy in support of the reasons to “modernize” the 1980 Santini-Burton legislation originally focused on federal land acquisition at Tahoe to authorize existing Santini-Burton funding for operations and maintenance, infrastructure and access improvements on federal land at Lake Tahoe.
- Participate in four locally-based conversations regarding development of principles and goals for the Santini-Burton “modernization” legislation (October 2nd meeting organized by the U.S. Forest Service; October 4th Lake Tahoe Partnership meeting, and October 4th meeting of the TIE-SC EIP Communications and Funding Committee and October 26th Tahoe “Stakeholder” meeting).
- Attend (virtually) October 25th meeting of the TRPA Governing Board. Agenda items included: Amendments to the TRPA Fee Schedule necessary to implement the Permitting Improvement Project; Presentation on the 2020 U.S. Census demographics for the Tahoe Region and Other Available Data, including a Tahoe Roadway Congestion Report.
- **Update: California Senate Bill 470** (Sponsor: State Senator Marie Alvarado-Gil). Governor Newsom declined to sign this bill on October 8th. In his message to the State Senate, the Governor said, in part:

“I am returning this Senate Bill 470 without my signature. This bill would codify two grant programs within the Department of Water Resources established by the Budget

Act of 2021; the Urban Water Community Drought Relief Program and the Small Community Drought Relief Program. It also authorizes these programs to fund benefits in addition to drought relief, including projects that reduce the risk of wildfire.”

“I thank the author for the commitment to support under-resourced communities most at risk of wildfire, and the intent of this bill is in line with work currently underway within my Administration. The California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) recently launched the Prepare California initiative, a grant program focused on building community resilience amongst vulnerable individuals living in high high hazard risk communities.”

“However, the two programs this bill seeks to expand have exhausted all funding appropriated in the 2021 Budget, and, as such, it is unnecessary to formally establish the programs in statute.”