

Summary of Consultant Activities - November 2023

Steve Teshara, Principal

Sustainable Community Advocates

- Assist with preparation of the agenda for the fall TFFT/MAC meeting set for Thursday, November 16th from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District, 1066 Oriole Way in Incline Village.
- Attend November 16th TFFT/MAC meeting. Provide updates on pending federal legislative Initiatives (see below).
- Email follow-up to solicit information to assemble a list of specific issues and TFFT/MAC concerns about the increased administrative burden involved with projects funded by the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) (“White Pine” amendment). Receive detailed information from TFFT Incident Commander Isaac Powning. Share this information with the legislative Advisor for the Lake Tahoe Partnership based in Washington D.C. Follow-up conversations to determine how best to use this information to affect positive change in the handling of SNPLMA project applications and processing.

Federal Legislative Advocacy

- As a leading member of the Lake Tahoe Partnership advocacy team, continue to support the following 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.
- During the month, closely track Congressional votes intended to secure a compromise on funding to keep the government operating into early 2024 (Continuing Resolution).
- Continue to serve (on behalf of the Basin Chiefs) as a member of the Tahoe Interagency Executives Steering Committee (TIE-SC) EIP Project Communications and Funding Committee.

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- At the December 6th meeting of the Lake Tahoe Partnership federal advocacy network, bring TFFT/MAC concerns about the increased administrative burden involved with forest health projects funded by the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) (White Pine Amendment) to the attention of Partnership colleagues (concerns identified by TFFT Incident Commander Division Chief Isaac Powning at and subsequent to the November 16th TFFT/MAC Leadership meeting). Discussion with Partnership colleagues and our federal legislative strategy advisor on how best to address these concerns with one or more Nevada members of the Tahoe Congressional Delegation
- At this same meeting, discuss the status of Partnership requests, given the challenge of this year's session of Congress, particularly in the U.S. House of Representatives. Our legislative advocacy priorities remain:
 - 10-Year extension of the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act (LTRA).
 - Support for federal FY 24 Lake Tahoe LTRA/EIP Appropriations requests.
 - 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.
- Also, with members of the Partnership, begin planning for our first 2024 advocacy meetings in Washington, D.C., tentatively set for the week of March 11-14.
- Conduct initial review of meeting notes and water infrastructure for fire suppression project ranking outcomes from the December 13th meeting of the Tahoe Water for Fire Suppression Partnership as this group prepares to submit its list of FY 2025 priority project funding requests for review by TRPA EIP staff and the Tahoe Interagency Executives Steering Committee (TIE-SC).
- Continue to serve (on behalf of the Basin Chiefs) as a member of the Tahoe Interagency Executives Steering Committee (TIE-SC) EIP Project Communications and Funding Committee.