

Summary of Consultant Activities – April 2024

Steve Teshara, Principal

Sustainable Community Advocates

- Attend and participate in the MAC/TFFT Leadership meeting Thursday morning, April 4th at North Tahoe Fire Protection District Station 51 in Tahoe City.
- Attend three meetings to debrief March Legislative Advocacy meetings in Washington D.C. March 12-13, as shown below:
 - April 3rd Team Tahoe meeting.
 - April 3rd meeting of the Tahoe Interagency Executive Steering Committee (TIE-SC) Communications and Funding Committee.
 - April 4th meeting of the Tahoe Interagency Executives Committee (TIE-SC).
- Continue to monitor work by Congress, and Tahoe appropriations approved as part of the Federal Fiscal Year 2024 Budget, along with Congressional work on the budget for Federal Fiscal Year 2025.
- Continue advocacy efforts in support of legislation to modernize the Santini-Burton Act originally approved by Congress in 1980 primarily for the purpose of purchasing environmentally sensitive land in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Proposed language to “modernize” the Act would authorize funding from the sale of designated federal lands in the Las Vegas area to fund operations of maintenance, infrastructure, and access improvements on federal land at Lake Tahoe. Specific push to ensure that water infrastructure to improve fire suppression is included under “infrastructure”.
- Track discussions on the possible date for this year’s Lake Tahoe Summit Leading date candidates: August 14 or 15; likely location: Round Hill Pines Resort on Zephyr Cove, Nevada. Scheduled host: Nevada U.S. Senator Catharine Cortez Masto.
- Follow-up on meeting of the California Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (“Water Board”) consideration and adoption of the 2024 Revised Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Waste Discharges Resulting from Timber Harvest and Vegetation Management Activities in the Lahontan Region. At the request of MAC Chair Scott Lindgren, prepare and secure his approval for a letter from him to the Lahontan Water Board expressing the belief that “a mutual understanding of the respective goals and objectives of regulators and those being regulated is essential to the success and public responsiveness of each.”

Other April Activities

- Attend (virtually) April 10th TRPA Advisory Planning Commission (APC) meeting. Agenda items included: Discussion and possible recommendation for Technical Clarifications to the Phase 2 Housing Ordinance Amendments

specifically, Code of Ordinances sections 30.4.2.B.5.a and 30.4.2.B.6.a regarding mandatory participation in a stormwater collection and treatment system to receive coverage incentives, and section 52.3.1 regarding reservation of bonus units for affordable and moderate housing.

- Attend (in person) April 22nd meeting of the TRPA Transportation Performance Technical Advisory Committee (TPTAC) at TRPA. Two agenda items, as follows:
 - Review of high-level transportation metrics to track implementation of VMT reduction and the achievement of other Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy Goals (Discussion and Direction); Provide guidance on program, policy, and project modifications necessary to attain and maintain Transportation and Sustainable Communities Threshold Standard (Discussion and Direction)
- Attend (virtually) April 24th meeting of the TRPA Governing Board. Agenda items included: Adoption of the 2024 Active Transportation Plan; Resolution recognizing the environmental and community benefits of supporting affordable housing.
- Attend (virtually) April 24th meeting of the TRPA Governing Board Transportation Committee meeting. Monitor Committee discussion and direction to staff regarding Draft Transportation Committee 2024-2025 Work Plan to include the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update, RTP Funding Framework, and VMT Threshold/Funding milestones. Note: In pursuing this funding framework and VMT milestones direction, TRPA is (at least to date) not acting to impose a “No New Net VMT standard” for projects as advocated by the office of California Attorney General Rob Bonta.
- Attend (virtually) April 24th meeting of the TRPA Regional Planning Committee. Agenda items included: Discussion and possible recommendation for approval of the proposed Amendments to the TRPA Code of Ordinances Supporting Climate Resilience, Affordable Housing Requirements for Condominiums, and Design Standards for Mixed-Use Development.

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- Track discussions on the possible date for this year’s Lake Tahoe Summit Leading date candidate: Wednesday, August 14th; likely location: Round Hill Pines Resort in Zephyr Cove, Nevada. Scheduled host: Nevada U.S. Senator Catharine Cortez Masto.
- Discussions with Devin Middlebrook at TRPA regarding planned June 7th Wildfire, Forest Health, and Evacuation Tour for members of the Nevada Legislature’s Committee for the Review and Oversight of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and the Marlette Lake Water System (NRS 218E.555) Ensure coordination with MAC Chair Chief Scott Lindgren.
- Conversations and correspondence with Chief Ryan Sommers, North Tahoe Fire Protection District, related to potential federal grants that could provide additional funding for the “Fire Alert” camera network.
- Review materials prepared for presentation to the TRPA Governing Board May 22nd meeting at TRPA: Demonstration of new Online Climate Resilience Dashboard for the Tahoe Region. Note: This “Dashboard” includes metrics for “Acres of Forest Fuels Treatments for Wildfire Risk Reduction” and covers the topics of Forest and Watershed Resilience.