

## **Item 24b – Activities of the TRPA Governing Board (*Submitted by Shelly Aldean*)**

Following is my monthly report on the activities of the TRPA Governing Board.

At the Governing Board meeting on May 22, 2013, we welcomed our newest member, Elizabeth Carmel from Truckee, California. Elizabeth, a former land use planner, was appointed by the California Assembly Speaker. With her appointment, the TRPA Board now has a full complement of members.

Under administrative matters, the Board created the Environmental Improvement Program Committee which, in a time of diminishing financial resources, was been tasked with the responsibility of identifying new sources of revenue for the continued funding of the EIP.

Under Planning Matters, the Board approved staff's recommendation to distribute the remaining 44 building allocations for use in the 2013 building season. Although staff originally recommended the release of only 86 of the 130 allocations authorized for distribution on a yearly basis under the Regional Plan, as a result of public input and based on increased market demand, the Board approved the release of an additional 44 allocations, 75% of which will supplement the existing distribution to local jurisdictions with the remaining 25% used to encourage sensitive lot retirement. This will require a code amendment which will incorporate sufficient flexibility to permit a change in these percentages in subsequent years if warranted by demand. The Board also directed staff, as resources permit, to develop revisions to the allocation system by re-examining the existing criteria used to meter out these building entitlements. Currently, the release of allocations is based on permit issuance and compliance, BMP Retrofit implementation, EIP implementation, and transit improvements.

Under Public Hearing matters, the Board approved 14 performance measures which were developed by a stakeholders advisory group to measure the effectiveness of the Regional Plan Update in making progress toward Threshold attainment. This was done, in part, to satisfy the California Legislature's 2012 appropriations bill language.

On a related matter, under the Executive Director's report, Joanne Marchetta discussed the "trailer language" attached to the budget bill associated with California's funding of TRPA which would require the establishment of more performance measures (in addition to the 14 already adopted by the Board) and the development of a comprehensive monitoring program by July 2014 in addition to the development of "metrics and enforceable mechanisms" to improve BMP compliance. Also called for in this trailer bill language was the establishment of a Tahoe Science Trust funded in part by diverting \$170,000 in funding away from TRPA. Although in concept the Agency supports the idea of transforming the current Science Consortium (a loose affiliation of scientists) into a bona fide entity with the ability to raise money for scientific research, the TRPA is currently working under some fairly serious fiscal constraints and has

acted in good faith in an effort to address California's earlier mandates relative to the establishment of performance measures and is, within the scope of its budget, trying to institute a more robust monitoring program. Following a lengthy discussion by the Board it was decided that I and Vice-Chair Casey Beyer, in consultation with Clem Shute, Steve Robinson and Bill Yeates, would draft a letter to the California legislature explaining the nature of the Agency's financial challenges, our inability to absorb the loss of any revenue (especially if we are being required to do more than our current work plan demands), our concern that these types of unilateral requirements undermine the new spirit of cooperation between the states and that, the proposed Science Trust needs to be developed in close consultation with both Nevada and TRPA to ensure that its mission is complementary to TRPA's mission and not duplicative and does interfere with the Agency's duties under the Bi-State Compact.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please feel free to give me a call.

*Shelly Aldean*