

Quarterly Report to the Carson City Board of Supervisors

LATE MATERIAL

TRPA Governing Board

MEETING DATE 8/17/17
ITEM # 18

April 25, 2017

Prior to the Governing Board meeting on April 26th, the members of the Regional Plan Implementation Committee met to discuss five conceptual approaches to amending the existing shoreline ordinance. For purposes of the environmental analysis, a reasonable range of feasible alternatives to the proposal shoreline plan must be considered. In addition to the mandatory “Proposed Project” and “No Project” alternatives, three other options were suggested for inclusion in the environmental analysis.

- A Maximize Access Alternative – The general goal of this alternative would be to maximize access by removing the new pier development restrictions in prime fish habitat.
- Public Access Alternative - The general goal of this alternative is to minimize impacts by limiting new shoreline structures to public piers only.
- Go Slower Alternative – The general goal of this alternative would be to mete out the development authorized in the Proposed Alternative more slowly in order to further minimize or manage the risk of environmental impacts.

Since the range of alternatives in the 2008 shorezone ordinance was never challenged during the litigation that ensued after adoption of the ordinance, I suggested that we tier off of those previously analyzed alternatives to reduce the cost of the environmental analysis.

April 26, 2017

The Board meeting began with a tribute to this year’s Lake Spirit Award winners. Four members of the community were recognized for their environmental stewardship. Among the recipients was former TRPA employee Karen Fink.

A public hearing was convened to consider and approve the 2017 Linking Tahoe: Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. The Plan identifies a long term vision, regional transportation objectives and supportive projects, and policies and programs needed to meet regional mobility goals. The

primary aim of the plan is to reduce dependency on the private automobile in conformance with Compact and Regional Plan objectives. Although a free-to-rider service is on the constrained project list, enacting this service will require increased funding within the next four years. Also included on the short term transit improvement list are 30 minute headways and increased recreational access. The plan was unanimously approved by the Board.

Staff then requested feedback on the Lake Tahoe Basin Transit Master Plan which is an implementation document that outlines an immediate, short term, medium term and long term phased approach to increasing and improving transit services with specific details about routes, frequency of service, cost and projected ridership.

As is the case in the spring of each year in advance of a new boating season, the Board receives an Aquatic Invasive Species update from staff. It was noted that early detection activities and rapid response preparedness takes place throughout the summer months at Tahoe, Fallen Leaf and Echo Lake. 2017 control projects include treatment of a milfoil infestation on the West Shore in partnership with the Fleur du Lac Estates Homeowners Association and the experimental use of UV light to control invasive weeds at Lakeside Marina. In addition, The Tahoe Keys Property Owners' Association has applied for permits to conduct an integrated control trial that involves the use of herbicides and mechanical removal methods to control the milfoil and Curly-leaf pondweed infesting the Keys.

Dennis Zabaglo, Aquatic Resources Program Manager, reported on the Agency's collaboration with its partners in the western United States to control and prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). These relationships build consistency with respect to the protocols used for inspections, decontaminations and containment. A partnership has also been formed with the boating industry in that boat manufacturers are now considering how to avoid the spread of AIS when designing and building their vessels. At the conclusion of this update, based on a recommendation by staff, the Board voted to maintain the current watercraft inspection fee schedule for the 2017 boating season. Fees collected from boat owners comprise approximately one half of the funding necessary to sustain the inspection program while the balance comes from the states of Nevada and California.

May 24, 2017

Representatives from TRPA and Tahoe Transportation District provided the Board with a briefing on the US 50 South Shore Community Revitalization Project and the joint environmental document that was released for a 75 day comment period. The objectives of the project are to improve the environment and economic vitality and quality of life in the impacted area, enhance the connectivity of the trail system in the region, improve the safety of pedestrian, bicycle and transit users through infrastructure upgrades, and reduce automobile congestion. The project which impacts the City of South Lake Tahoe's Tourist Core Area Plan and the Douglas County South Shore Area Plan, among other things, incorporates the development of affordable and workforce housing in the Tourist Core Area Plan and the realigning of Highway 50 into California behind the Stateline casinos on the east side of the road which will allow for the creation of a complete street along the existing highway corridor.

Under the public hearing portion of the agenda, the Board approved the 2017 and 2018 release of residential building allocations to the local jurisdictions based on a recommendation from the Performance Review Committee. Although there was some concern about these single family residential building allocations being inappropriately used for the construction of short-term vacation rentals, TRPA staff assured the Board that an insignificant number of these allocations have been used to build VHRs and although the proliferation of short-term vacation rentals at the Lake is significant, it is predominately an issue involving existing housing stock. (The number of allocations received by each jurisdiction is based on permit monitoring and compliance with sediment load reduction requirements).

In addition, the Board approved some targeted revisions to the TRPA code to further reduce the risk of new aquatic invasive species being introduced into the lakes of the region, making the launching or attempted launching of an uninspected boat an actionable offense and requiring that boats leaving a body of water have their drain plugs removed on dry land in certain designated areas.

In its final action of the day, upon the recommendation of the Legal Committee, the Board upheld the decision of the Agency's Hearing Officer to allow the

construction of a Monopine cellular tower by Verizon near Highway 50 in Douglas County.

June 28, 2017

All of the items on the June agenda were informational only with a report that work continues on revising the current development commodities system to improve its effectiveness and predictability and to support environmentally beneficial and economically feasible redevelopment.

Shelly