

**Summary of Consultant Activities - September 2023**  
**Sustainable Community Advocates**  
**Steve Teshara, Principal**

- As a leading member of the Lake Tahoe Partnership federal advocacy team, help plan for, travel and attend meetings on Capitol Hill 9-11 to 9-13 to advocate for the following:
  - 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 and infrastructure improvements on federal land at Lake Tahoe.

**Washington, D.C. Legislative Advocacy**  
**September 12-13**  
**Summary of Meetings and Topics**

**Tuesday, September 12**

**10:00 a.m. Meeting with Senator Alex Padilla staff**

Nate Bentham and Angela Ebner, Policy Advisors

**Topics:**

Lake Tahoe Restoration Act extension

Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations

Santini-Burton Act Modernization

Follow up items from September 7<sup>th</sup> Senator Padilla meeting with Basin Fire Chiefs at Tahoe

**11:00 a.m. Meeting with Senator Jacky Rosen staff**

McKenna LeVitt, Legislative Aide

**Topics:**

Lake Tahoe Restoration Act extension

Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations

Santini-Burton Act Modernization

**1:00 p.m. Meeting with Senator Dianne Feinstein staff**

James Sauls, Chief of Staff and Alexis Segal, Water and Environmental Legislative Assistant

**Topics:**

Lake Tahoe Restoration Act extension

**Wednesday, September 13**

**9:00 a.m.** Attend Battle Born Breakfast hosted by Senators Catherine Cortez Masto and Jacky Rosen

**10:00 a.m. Meeting with Congressman John Garamendi and staff**

**Topics:**

Lake Tahoe Restoration Act extension

Santini-Burton Modernization Act

**10:45 a.m. Meeting with Congressman Kevin Kiley**

Staff present: James Zandstra, Legislative Director

**Topics:**

Lake Tahoe Restoration Act extension

Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations

**11:30 a.m. - Meeting with Congressman Mark Amodei**

Staff present: Ken Brooke, Legislative Director

**Topics:**

Lake Tahoe Restoration Act extension

Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations

**12:15 p.m. - Lunch meeting with Olivia Sanford, Office of lobbyist Marcus G. Faust**

Advocacy coordination on Tahoe issues

**1:00 p.m. Meeting with Joshua Jamison, Senior Legislative Assistant**

Office of California Congressman John Duarte

**Topics:**

Lake Tahoe Restoration Act extension

**P.M. Meeting with David French, lobbyist, ENS Resources, Inc.**

Advocacy coordination on Tahoe issues

**4:00 p.m. Meeting with Senator Catherine Cortez Masto and staff**

Staff present: Kyle Chapman, Senior Policy Advisory and Connor Higgins, Legislative Correspondent

**Topics:**

Lake Tahoe Restoration Act extension

Santini-Burton Act Modernization

**Other September Meetings and Activities**

- Monitor (virtually) September 26th meeting of the Tahoe Water for Fire Suppression Partnership
- Monitor (virtually) September 27th “State of the Lake” presentation to the TRPA Governing Board by Dr. Geoff Schladow of the UC Davis Lake Tahoe Environmental Research Center.
- Continue to track California Senate Bill (SB) 470 (Senator Marie Alvarado-Gil, (D-District 4) entitled: *Water: Urban Water Community Drought Relief program: Small Community Drought Relief program: high fire hazard and very high hazard severity zones*. This legislation was passed by the State Assembly September 7, by the State Senate September 11,

and Enrolled September 13. **Note:** The enrolled bill contains the complete text of the dates of passage certified by the Chief Clerk of the Assembly and the Secretary of the Senate. Enrollment occurs when bills are filed with the Governor and resolutions are filed with the Secretary of State after they have been accepted by both Houses.

**About this legislation**

Existing law requires the State Fire Marshall to identify areas in the state as moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones based on consistent statewide criteria and based on the severity of fire hazard that is expected to prevail in those areas. Existing law requires a local agency to designate, by ordinance, moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones in its jurisdiction within 120 days of receiving a recommendation from the State Fire Marshal as provided.

Existing law authorizes specified state agencies, including the Department of Water Resources, subject to an appropriation, to make grants and direct expenditures for interim or immediate relief in response to conditions arising from a drought scenario to address immediate impacts on human health and safety or on fish and wildlife resources or to provide water to persons or communities that lose or are threatened with the loss or contamination of water supplies.

If signed by the Governor, this bill would establish in the Urban Water Community Drought Relief program to provide grants for similar interim or immediate drought relief. These programs, upon a specified appropriation, would authorization funding for benefits in addition to drought relief, including, among other projects, projects that reduce the risk of wildfire for entire neighborhoods and communities through water delivery system improvements for fire suppression purposes in high fire hazard severity zone communities or very high severity zone communities, as designated by the State Fire Marshal or by a local agency.