

## Summary of Consultant Activities – March 2024

Steve Teshara, Principal

### Sustainable Community Advocates

- Continue to participate in Team Tahoe, Tahoe Interagency Executives Steering Committee (TIE-SC), and related meetings in preparation for the “Team Tahoe” Washington, D.C. advocacy “Fly In” meetings scheduled for March 12-13 on Capitol Hill.
- Travel to and from Washington, D.C. to participate in the following meetings:

### Tuesday, March 12

#### Policy Briefing: Sustainable Tourism & Lake Tahoe

- Christina Gray, National Travel & Tourism Office, U.S. Department of Commerce
- Gary Barrett, Director, National Partnership Office, U.S. Forest Service
- Jim Smalls, Acting Director, Forest & Rangelands Management and Vegetation Ecology, U.S. Forest Service
- Meeting at the Office of Representative Kevin Kiley (R, CA D-3) with Legislative Director James Zandstra. Brief appearance by Congressman Kiley. We pressed on the need for a hearing on the bill (H.R. 1274) by the House Committee on Natural Resources.

**Note:** The Senate version of the LTRA extension (S.612) has already cleared its committee and is ready for final action.

- Also discussed: Tahoe’s request for Representative Kiley to support three water infrastructure improvement projects as Community Project Funding priorities:
  - STPUD: Pioneer Trail Fire Suppression Infrastructure (\$4.5 million)
  - TCPUD: Madden Creek Water System Reconstruction Project Phases II & IV (\$2 million)
  - NTPUD: Kings Beach Grid and Brockway Water System Improvements (\$2 million) (Not an EIP project)
- Meeting with California U.S. Senator Alex Padilla and staff. Focus on LTRA Extension. Also discussed, Tahoe’s request for Senator Padilla to support three water infrastructure improvement projects (STPUD, TCPUD, NTPUD).

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- Meeting with Nevada U.S. Senator Catherine Cortez Masto and staff. Focus on LTRA extension. Discussion of options for legislative options for incorporating S. 612 into a larger bill for final passage (e.g., the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) or a package of federal lands bills).
- Attend Team Tahoe Congressional Reception at the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

### Wednesday, March 13

- Meeting with Senate Appropriations Staff (Ryan Hunt, Majority) Discuss FY 2025 Tahoe EIP project priority requests, along with a review of the history of LTRA funding and accomplishments.
- Meeting with Representative John Garamendi (D, CA D-8) and staff. Topics: LTRA extension; need for a hearing by the House Natural Resources Committee; FY 25 LTRA EIP project priority requests; 2024 Lake Tahoe Summit.
- Meeting with Office of Representative Ruben Gallego (D, AZ-3) staff Emma Reidy, Senior Legislative Assistant. Topic: LTRA extension; LTRA history and purpose.

### Tuesday-Wednesday

#### **Meetings attended by other members of the Team Tahoe fly-in:**

- House Natural Resources Minority Staff
- Representative Adam Schiff (D, CA D-30) and staff
- Representative Mark Amodei (R, NV D-2)
- Representative Rob Wittman (R, VA-1) staff
- Representative John Curtis (R, UT-3) staff
- Representative Dina Titus (D, NV-1) and staff
- Nevada U.S. Senator Jacky Rosen and staff
- Representative Doug Lamborn (R, CO-5) staff
- Representative Steven Horsford (D, NV-4) staff

**Note:** A key focus of these meetings (with House members) was to seek support for a hearing on the LTRA extension (H.R. 1274) in the House Natural Resources Committee.

**Note:** A press conference in support of LTRA extension was held Wednesday Morning at the House Triangle on Capitol Hill featuring Representative Kiley as the keynote.

During Capitol Hill conversations with selected staff, in particular with staff at the office of Senator Cortez Masto, there were continued sidebar discussions about the goal of “modernizing” the Santini Burton legislation of 1980.

- Participate in Tahoe Fly-in debrief with colleague leaders of Team Tahoe after return home.

### Other March Activities

- Attend (in person), March 27 meeting of the TRPA Governing Board. Testify in support of the staff recommendation for an adaptive management approach to achieving TRPA’s Transportation and Sustainable Communities Threshold Standard 1 (TSC 1), as opposed to TRPA imposing a “no new net VMT” requirement on new and environmental redevelopment projects within the Tahoe Basin.
- Attend (in person) March 29 meeting of the Tahoe Transportation Implementation Collaborative. Discussion re: timeline for developing TRPA’s Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update, project inclusion, funding assumptions, and next steps.
- Support planning for the MAC/TFFT Leadership meeting scheduled for the Morning of Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at North Tahoe Fire Station 51.

**•Note:** The USDA Forest Service, TRPA, and the Lahontan Water Board have released the Final Environmental Impact Statement, Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIS/EIR) for the Meeks Bay Restoration Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2018092031). The environmental document identifies Alternative 4 as the preferred alternative proposed for adoption by the lead agencies. It includes full restoration of Meeks Creek (Within the project area) and the lagoon, with no pier. It also includes the replacement of the existing State Route 89 bridge over Meeks Creek, non-motorized Lake access features, and changes to upland facilities including expanded parking and the relocation of two motel-style cabins. Only people and organizations who commented on the Draft EIS/EIS/EIR can file an objection on the final environmental document. Objections must be received by the Forest Service (via the LTBMU project website) by no later than May 20, 2024.