

Summary of Consultant Activities - January 2024

Steve Teshara, Principal

Sustainable Community Advocates

- Assist MAC Chair Chief Lindgren, Vice Chair Chief Leighton and Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT) leadership with scheduling for a MAC-TFFT Leadership meeting in March, subsequent to the TFFT planning retreat February 7-8. Date settled upon: Wednesday, March 20th (9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon, North Tahoe Fire Protection District Station 51).
- Communications and coordination with TFFT Deputy Incident Commander Milan Yeates on development of a Basin Chiefs letter to the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (“Water Board”) with comments on the draft 2024 “Timber Waiver.” January 31st virtual meeting to review the draft letter with Chief Lindgren, Milan Yeates, Chief Stephen. Support for letter confirmed, with supplemental oral comments to be drafted by Teshara and Yeates to be delivered when the Water Board meets to consider public comments and possible action to adopt the final 2024 Timber Waiver.
- Attend (in person) the January 23rd meeting 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) at the Legislative Building in Carson City. Senator Skip Daly elected Chair; Assemblywoman Shannon Bilbray-Axelrod elected Vice Chair; Initial TRPA and other informational presentations provided to the Committee.
- In communications with Committee staff and Devin Middlebrook at TRPA, offer to assist with the scheduling of a field tour and Committee presentation by TFFT during a Committee meeting this spring or early summer.
- Following its formal introduction by Nevada U.S. Senator Jacky Rosen, begin to track the legislative status of the “Truckee Meadows Public Lands Management Act” a bill authorizing the sale of some federal lands in Washoe County, Nevada. Funds generated would be used to create some permanent land conservation, the transfer of lands to trusts for local Native American tribes, and other acquisition and conversation projects in Nevada. **Of interest to Tahoe, some of the funds are planned to flow to Environmental Improvement Projects at Lake Tahoe.**
- Attend (in-person) January 26th all-day strategic planning retreat of the Tahoe Interagency Executives Steering Committee (TIE-SC) in Stateline. As a follow-up, SCA prepared a “Concern/Alert” email that Erick Walker, US Forest Supervisor for

the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU), cautioned that a reduction in FY 25 federal funding for water infrastructure improvements to support fire suppression at Lake Tahoe is likely, given the pressing needs of Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii following the devastating wildfire in the community last year. (Like Tahoe, Hawaii is also in US Forest Service Region 5).

- 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 lands at Lake Tahoe.
- As a leading member of the Lake Tahoe Partnership advocacy team, continue to support the following legislative priorities:
 - 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, infrastructure and access improvements on federal land at Lake Tahoe.
- Continue to serve as a member of the TIE-SC Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) Funding and Communications Committee representing the Basin Fire Chiefs.
- Continue to attend Lake Tahoe Partnership meetings as planning advances for a larger group’s higher profile advocacy meetings in Washington, D.C. scheduled for the week of March 11, 2024.