

Summary of Consultant Activities – September 2021 Sustainable Community Advocates Steve Teshara, Principal

- Continued SCA (and Lake Tahoe Partnership) advocacy in support of Tahoe’s specific requests for the fifth year of implementation of the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act (Public Law 114-322).
 - 25th Tahoe Summit Anniversary - engage in various follow-up calls and emails with D.C. and State staff from the office of Senator Alex Padilla regarding current Tahoe FEMA requests, Senate deliberations on Tahoe’s federal FY 22 funding request.
 - Track Senator Cortez Masto’s Energy and Natural Resources Committee Wildfire Management and Mitigation Funding amendment (\$10 million in funding for wildfire detection equipment). Conversations and emails with NTFPD Division Chief Steve McNamara, NLTFPD Chief Ryan Sommers, Heidi Hill Drum at the Tahoe Prosperity Center, and others about this federal funding as a possible source for the purchase of Alchera fire detection cameras to integrate into the Alert Tahoe Camera Network. These cameras feature a new software platform that uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to detect wildfires.
 - Prepare and provide Basin Chiefs with an email memo (dated September 21) entitled “Update - Federal Continuing Resolution (CR)” (proposed) for the purpose of funding the government beyond the FY-21 year-end date of September 30th. Specific to the USDA Forest Service, this CR includes “No less than \$535 million for disaster purposes; and of that, no less than \$175 million for high priority post-wildfire restoration and watershed protection, critical habitat, and burned area recovery; and no less than \$175 million for hazardous fuels mitigation.”
 - Prepare and provide Basin Chiefs with an email memo (dated October 1) entitled “*Senate Homeland Security Hearing*” reporting on the September 30 Committee hearing “*Addressing the Threat of Worsening Natural Disasters.*” Senator Alex Padilla, a Committee member, spoke to the need and expressed strong support for additional funding in the budget reconciliation bill for fire and EMS stations as a priority.
 - As the Senate continues its work on the FY 2022 federal budget, this recap of the House-passed LTRA appropriations:
 - \$7 million for water infrastructure to support fire suppression
 - \$6.088. million for aquatic invasive species (AIS) management
 - \$6.5 million for watershed management
 - \$6 million for forest health (including hazardous fuels reduction)
- Total: \$25.588 million, a \$9.5 million increase over the level of LTRA funding approved in FY 2021.

- Continued conversations with NT Fire Division Chief Steve McNamara re: strategies related to securing a fire boat location as part of the Meeks Bay Restoration Project or another suitable location along the West Shore (Meeks Bay Restoration Project Alternative 1 which includes a fire boat location (lift) as part of a public pier is not emerging as the preferred alternative for that project).
- At the request of Division Chief McNamara, check into the current status of the Lake Tahoe West project. Provide verbal report.