

**Summary of Consultant Activities – November 2019**  
**Sustainable Community Advocates**  
**Steve Teshara, Principal**

- Work with CAL FIRE AEU East Operations Assistant Chief Chris Anthony to draft and finalize a Tahoe Basin Fire Chiefs letter to the California Tahoe Conservancy and the Nevada Division of State Lands regarding the need for Homeowner agreements to implement defensible space and fire hazard reduction on publicly owned urban lots. Begin process to secure Chief signatures on the letter.
- Continue to track work by the TRPA Forest Health and Wildfire Committee on two proposed TRPA Code amendments: 1) Chapter 61, Code Section 61.2 (Prescribed Fire) and Chapter 61, Section 61.1 (Tree Removal). Attend November 20<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting during which the proposed amendments were recommended forward to the TRPA Governing Board. Provide Basin Chiefs with PowerPoint presented at the meeting (via email November 22<sup>nd</sup>).
- Attend TRPA Governing Board meeting November 20 in support of Forest Schafer's informational presentation on the recently-released Forest Action Plan as a presentation/status report on development of the Lake Tahoe West Landscape Restoration Strategy Action Plan.
- Continue to advocate for federal FY 2020 appropriations consistent with authorizations in the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act. In support of these efforts, organize and facilitate conference calls involving leaders of the Lake Tahoe Partnership advocacy network. Continue to provide Basin Chiefs with email updates on the appropriations process, now into the House/Senate conference committee phase.
- Draft Lake Tahoe Partnership letter to leadership of the Senate Committee on Appropriations (Senator Richard Shelby, Chair; and Senator Patrick Leahy, Vice Chair) and House Committee on Appropriations (Congresswoman Nita Lowey, Chair; and Congresswoman Kay Granger, Ranking Member) in support of a total of \$16.088 in FY 20 federal funding for the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, detailed as follows:
  - \$6 million for hazardous Fuels/Forest Health
  - \$6 million for Watershed Management
  - \$4.088 million for Aquatic Invasive Species programs and projects, as well as support for the House appropriations support language under the State and Private Forestry Account that encourages the US Forest Service to support funding for fire suppression water infrastructure.
- During this period, SCA continued to actively advocate for action by the Bureau of Land Management to release the Call for Project Nominations for SNPLMA Round 18.
- Email Basin Chiefs November 17 to report on the introduction by California US Senator Kamala Harris and California Congressman Jared Huffman (D-2<sup>nd</sup> District) of the federal Wildfire Defense Act (Senator Harris introduced bill in the Senate; Congressman Huffman introduced companion bill in the House. If passed, the bill would provide federal grant funding to help protect communities from the growing threat of wildfires. The bill includes language that would include municipal water agencies as eligible for funds for municipal water infrastructure improvements for critical fire suppression projects.