

Submitted by Shelly Aldean

Hi everyone. Following is my report on the TRPA Governing Board retreat (held on April 23rd) and the Board's regular monthly meeting (held on April 24th).

At staff's request, I was asked to open the retreat with a backwards glance at the Agency's accomplishments in 2013. Most noteworthy was the approval of the Upper Truckee River Reach 5 Restoration and Utility Relocation Project as part of the ongoing Environmental Improvement Program; the bi-state agreement on SB 229 in Nevada and SB 630 in California leading to the issuance of a proclamation by Governor Sandoval in December of last year reaffirming a 44 year commitment to bi-state stewardship of the Lake; the approval of the first two Area Plans authorized by the RPU; the Agency's re-engagement on the shorezone ordinance; the skillful defense by staff and outside counsel of the Regional Plan Update leading to a decisive court victory in 2014; and last, but not least, the absence of any Zebra or Quagga mussels in the Lake thanks to a robust AIS prevention program. In addition, the Agency's overall customer rating remains high.

As part of the retreat agenda, the Board reaffirmed the continued pursuit of a number of 2013 projects including updating the shorezone regulations, enhancing BMP compliance/implementation, processing changes to the code regarding coverage transfers across hydrologic resource areas and completing an analysis of the barriers to affordable housing in the Basin. The biggest constraint to sustaining existing and future programs is, not unexpectedly, a lack of funding. In response to this challenge, considerable time was spent discussing future budget shortfalls and ways of generating more revenue to meet the funding needs of critical programs like AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) prevention and eradication and forest fuels reduction. Offering free public transportation within the Basin was also discussed as a worthy objective. It was finally decided to task a subset of the EIP Committee to work on identifying a lead gift to finance the hiring of a consultant to develop a long term funding strategy for these high priority projects. The goal would be to build an endowment for long term program sustainability.

On the following day, at the regular meeting of the Governing Board, comments were solicited on the scope and contents of the joint EIS/EIR being prepared for the proposed Martis Valley West Parcel Specific Plan (under Placer County's

jurisdiction) and Area Plan (under TRPA's jurisdiction). Although the majority of the plan area is outside of the Tahoe Basin, 112.8 acres are within the Basin and, therefore, subject to TRPA jurisdiction. Areas of public concern include scenic impacts (both day and night since part of the development is on the ridgeline), construction-related air quality impacts, increases in vehicle miles traveled, impacts to wildlife and water quality, utility installation and sewage disposal. The project proponents are proposing to transfer a portion of the development potential appurtenant to the so-called East Parcel (6,376 acres in the Martis Valley) to the West Parcel (775 acres, 112 acres of which are in the Tahoe Basin) and impose a conservation easement on the 6,000 plus acres from which the development potential is being transferred.

In other business, the Board approved an amendment to two Plan Area Statements to allow for a plan revision to the 2012 project approval of the Edgewood Lodge & Golf Course Improvement Project.

As usual, please feel free to contact me with any questions or requests for further information.

Shelly

P.S. Congratulations on your selection of a new City Manager.