

Legislative Committee for the Review and Oversight of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and the Marlette Lake Water System

(Nevada Revised Statutes 218E.555)

WORK SESSION DOCUMENT

(Includes Attachments)



August 25, 2014

Prepared by the Research Division
Legislative Counsel Bureau



WORK SESSION DOCUMENT

Legislative Committee for the Review and Oversight of the Tahoe Regional
Planning Agency and the Marlette Lake Water System
(*Nevada Revised Statutes* 218E.555)

August 25, 2014

The following “Work Session Document” has been prepared by the Chair and staff of the Legislative Committee for the Review and Oversight of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) and the Marlette Lake Water System. The recommendations listed in this document are in no particular order and do not necessarily have the support or opposition of the Committee Chair or members. The Committee may accept, reject, modify, or take no action on any of the proposals. Actions available to the Committee members include approving bill draft requests (BDRs), statements in the Committee’s final report, and letters of recommendation or support.

The members of the Committee may vote to send as many letters as they choose; however, pursuant to *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 218D.160, the Committee is limited to ten BDRs, including requests for the drafting of legislative resolutions. The Committee must submit its BDRs by September 1, 2014, unless the Legislative Commission authorizes submission of a request after that date. (The deadline is extended to September 2, 2014, since September 1 falls on a holiday.)

The “Work Session Document” contains a summary of proposals for BDRs or other actions that have been presented during public hearings, through communication with individual Committee members, or through correspondence or communications submitted to the Legislative Committee for the Review and Oversight of the TRPA and the Marlette Lake Water System. The source of each recommendation is noted in parentheses unless the proposal was raised and discussed by numerous individuals and entities during the course of the Committee’s meetings.

Committee members should be advised that Legislative Counsel Bureau staff may, at the direction of the Chair, coordinate with interested parties to obtain additional information for drafting purposes or for information to be included in the final report.

If action is taken to adopt a recommendation, it will become part of the Committee's final report. The approved recommendations for legislation resulting from these deliberations will be prepared as BDRs and submitted to the 2015 Session of the Nevada Legislature.

Subsection 5 of NRS 218E.560 requires that any recommended legislation proposed by the Committee be approved by a majority of the members of the Senate and by a majority of the members of the Assembly appointed to the Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

1. **Send a Committee letter** to Governor Brian Sandoval in support of an increase in the Governor's *Executive Budget* for the 2015–2017 Biennium in an amount up to \$500,000 in each fiscal year for the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency funding request for the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Program. (See **Tab A.**)

(Requested by Joanne S. Marchetta, Executive Director, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. Discussed at the August 4, 2014, meeting, where other presenters voiced support.)

THE LAKE TAHOE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

2. **Send a Committee letter** to Governor Brian Sandoval to urge the issuance of the general obligation bonds authorized, but not yet sold, by Senate Bill 438 (Chapter 437, *Statutes of Nevada 2011*) to fund Nevada's apportioned share of the costs for the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP).

The EIP is a partnership between Nevada and California, the federal government, local governments, and the private sector. Nevada's EIP projects are carried out by a State interagency team referred to as the Nevada Tahoe Resource Team, which is coordinated by the Division of State Lands (DSL) of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (SDCNR).

In 2009, the Nevada Legislature enacted Assembly Bill 18 (Chapter 431, *Statutes of Nevada*), which was structured so that each legislative session, the DSL, SDCNR, as the coordinating entity for the EIP, would return to request legislative authorization for each installment of those bond sales. Assembly Bill 18 authorized the issuance of not more than \$100 million in general obligation bonds for the State's apportioned share of the costs for the second phase of the EIP between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2020. The Committee sponsored S.B. 438, which required an amount of not more than \$12 million through the sale of general obligation bonds be provided to carry out Nevada's share of the EIP. Senate Bill 438 became effective on July 1, 2011.

Budgetary constraints resulted in a temporary suspension of bond sales. On February 20, 2014, and March 20, 2014, the Committee received updates on the status of the bonds. On March 11, 2014, the State Board of Finance approved the sale of \$1.5 million of these authorized bonds. The bond revenue is used to leverage continued investment of federal dollars in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

(Discussed at the February 20, 2014, and March 20, 2014, meetings. Requested by Chair Sprinkle.)

FOREST HEALTH

3. **Send a Committee letter** to the Nevada State Office, Bureau of Land Management, United States Department of the Interior, and Nevada's Congressional Delegation, to commend the fire districts in the Lake Tahoe Basin for their work and to encourage continued funding of hazardous fuels projects in the Lake Tahoe Basin from the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (SNPLMA).

(Requested by James R. Lawrence, Special Advisor to the Director, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, at the June 20, 2014, meeting.)

4. **Include a statement** in the final report of the Committee affirming the Committee's support for the immediate release of the federal grant funds previously awarded to the Nevada Fire Safe Council for hazardous fuels treatment in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

The Committee voted unanimously on May 2, 2014, to send a Committee letter to Eric H. Holder, Jr., Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice, to request assistance in securing the release of the federal grant funds to pay the long-standing

debt for hazardous fuels treatment work completed in good faith. The letter was sent on June 16, 2014 (letter with attachments available on the Committee's webpage at <http://leg.state.nv.us/Interim/77th2013/Committee/StatCom/Tahoe/?ID=53>).

(Requested by Chair Sprinkle.)

TRANSPORTATION

5. **Send a Committee letter** to Governor Brian Sandoval in support of issuing the general obligation bonds authorized, but not yet issued, for the Conservation and Resource Protection Grant Program, commonly referred to as the "Question 1 Program." Specifically, the letter would support the \$2.1 million that is designated for the Stateline-to-Stateline Bikeway.

Voter approval of Ballot Question No. 1 on November 5, 2002, authorized the State of Nevada to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$200 million in order to preserve water quality; protect open space, lakes, rivers, wetlands, and wildlife habitat; and restore and improve parks, recreational areas, and historic and cultural resources. The question was considered in the 2001 Legislature as A.B. 615, and it was ultimately authorized in A.B. 9 (Chapter 6, *Statutes of Nevada 2001, 17th Special Session*). The money from the bonds was to be allocated to seven areas, including \$65.5 million to the DSL, SDCNR, to provide grants for State agencies, local governments, or qualifying private nonprofit organizations for various programs, including conservation easements.

Budgetary constraints resulted in a temporary suspension of bond sales. On Tuesday, March 11, 2014, the State Board of Finance approved the sale of \$1.25 million of these authorized bonds. There is a remaining authority to issue more than \$19 million in these bonds.

(Discussed at the June 20, 2014, meeting.)

6. **Send a Committee letter** to Governor Brian Sandoval in support of an increase in the Governor's *Executive Budget* for the 2015–2017 Biennium in the amount of \$85,000 in each fiscal year for the Division of State Parks, SDCNR. These funds will provide a match for federal transportation funding that was previously matched by SNPLMA funds. This will allow continued operation of the shuttle service operated by the Tahoe Transportation District between Incline Village and Sand Harbor State Park.

Some additional information received from James R. Lawrence, Special Advisor to the Director, SDCNR, regarding the shuttle service:

- It provides an option for visitors otherwise unable to enter Sand Harbor State Park.

- It has been instrumental in accomplishing the public safety goals of the Division of State Parks, SDCNR; Nevada Highway Patrol, Department of Public Safety; and Nevada's Department of Transportation by reducing traffic congestion on State Route 28 and reducing the number of pedestrians walking in or adjacent to the highway travel lanes.
- This service further allows park staff to focus efforts on issues within the perimeter of the park rather than conducting traffic control and/or issuing citations.

(Discussed at the June 20, 2014, meeting.)

7. **Send a Committee letter** to Nevada's Congressional Delegation in support of a revision to technical language in the reauthorization of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-141 – Map 21) to allow the Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization to receive federal formula funds for capital projects and transit services under Map 21.

(Requested by Carl Hasty, District Manager, Tahoe Transportation District, at the June 20, 2014 meeting.)

TAB A



Mail

PO Box 5310
Stateline, NV 89449-5310

Location

128 Market Street
Stateline, NV 89449

Contact

Phone: 775-588-4547
Fax: 775-588-4527
www.trpa.org

August 14, 2014

The Honorable Michael C. Sprinkle, Chair
Members, Nevada Legislative Committee for the Review and Oversight
Of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and the Marlette Lake Water System
Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701-4747

Re: Request for support of TRPA's Budget Request for the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program

On behalf of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, I'd like to express my thanks for your engagement on Tahoe issues during the 2014 interim session. The purpose of this letter is to make two requests:

- First, that the state of Nevada fund TRPA at its one-third, two-thirds funding contribution ratio with the state of California. Currently Nevada is \$500,000 short of this funding formula.
- Secondly, TRPA requests your support for up to \$500,000 from the state of Nevada to help offset imminent funding cuts to the Lake Tahoe aquatic invasive species (AIS) boat inspection program.

Given both Nevada's and California's ownership of the underlying lakebed, we believe both states share a responsibility to ensure sustainable funding for the high-priority AIS program. TRPA will also be requesting additional appropriations from the state of California for this purpose. The rationale for this funding request is that millions of dollars in federal funding is sun-setting for the Lake Tahoe AIS program this year. Within the entire program, prevention efforts are a top priority. The current annual cost of the inspection program is \$1.5 million, of which boaters pay half in inspection and decontamination fees. To close the gap because of the loss of federal funds, we respectfully request your support for additional funding from the state of Nevada.

The Lake Tahoe region's pristine water quality, aesthetic value, economy, and recreational pursuits are threatened by the harmful impacts of current aquatic invaders such as non-native plants, fish, and clams. Other invaders such as the quagga mussel are at risk of introduction. The potential economic harm to the region caused by the introduction of new aquatic invasive species is estimated at an average annual equivalent of at least \$22.4 million per year. Funding to continue the invasive species program is critical to protecting both Lake Tahoe's environment and economy.

The AIS program is one of the highest priority programs within the entire Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program. Because of the elimination of federal funding for the prevention program, we respectfully ask for this Committee's support for up to \$500,000 per year, or \$1 million, in the next biennium budget. This additional funding would also allow the state of Nevada to achieve the one-third/two-thirds funding formula with California.

Thank you for considering our requests and for your service to Lake Tahoe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Joanne S. Marchetta". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joanne S. Marchetta,
Executive Director

Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Source							
FEDERAL							
US Fish & Wildlife- SNPLMA		\$215,890.00	\$273,250.00	\$1,465,336.00	\$1,134,028.00	\$960,223.00	\$535,000.00
US Army Corps of Engineers		\$38,448.00	\$32,070.00	\$19,978.00			
US Bureau of Reclamation		\$92,257.00			\$19,432.00		
US Fish & Wildlife			\$474,410.00	\$100,280.00		\$8,711.00	\$25,000.00
STATE							
Nevada General Fund						\$53,950.00	\$50,000.00
PRIVATE							
Boat Inspection Fees		\$39,595.00	\$242,509.00	\$544,461.00	\$527,739.00	\$635,417.00	\$750,000.00
Truckee River Fund	\$50,000.00	\$118,000.00					
TOTAL	\$50,000.00	\$504,190.00	\$1,022,239.00	\$2,130,055.00	\$1,681,199.00	\$1,658,301.00	\$1,360,000.00



SAVING LAKE TAHOE FROM AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

The Lake Tahoe Region's economy, pristine water quality, aesthetic value, and recreational pursuits are threatened by the harmful impacts of current aquatic invaders such as non-native plants, fish, and clams. Other invaders such as the Quagga mussel are at risk of introduction. The potential economic impact to the Lake Tahoe Region caused by new aquatic invasive species introduction is estimated at an average annual equivalent of \$22.4 million per year.

To address these threats, the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Program is implemented by 40 public and private partner organizations including federal, state and local jurisdictions, research partners, public utility districts, and private marinas. The Lake Tahoe Region Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program operates under the Lake Tahoe Region AIS Management Plan, which is endorsed by both California and Nevada and adopted by the federal Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force.

Decline In Funding A Concern

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) requires that all boats and other watercraft be inspected before entering Lake Tahoe. While boaters pay a fee for this service, the federal government has invested more than \$3 million each year for the last three years to support the entire AIS program. These funds are sunsetting in 2014. Additional funds for control of invasive weeds and other non-native species have been provided by a network of partner agencies, the scientific community, and the private sector. These funds are also declining. As documented in TRPA's 2011 Threshold Evaluation Report, Lake Tahoe's environment is responding to significant investments in ecosystem restoration and sound regulatory policy. This progress, along with the Region's economy, is directly threatened by the imminent decline of public funding for the invasive species program.



An estimated \$750,000 is needed to keep the Tahoe boat inspection program operational in 2015.



TRPA and partner agencies are working with the private sector, community non-profits, and other entities to address this serious funding shortfall. While grants are pending, **TRPA has identified an immediate funding need of approximately \$750,000 to continue watercraft inspections beyond the 2014 summer season.**

TRPA Leadership on Invasive Species

TRPA's Governing Board has a track record of strong leadership in the Tahoe invasive species program. Since there are some invasive species in the Lake already, TRPA is leading a collaborative effort to prevent new AIS as well as control existing invasive species such as Asian clams and certain aquatic weeds. The nearshore of Lake Tahoe, the ribbon of water along the shoreline essential to recreation, is especially vulnerable to harmful invasive species. The following is the history of the AIS Program:

- Mid-1990s - Invasive plant surveys conducted.
- Jan. 2007 - Quagga mussels found in Lake Mead.
- 2007 - TRPA and partners form Lake Tahoe AIS Coordination Committee.
- 2008 - First TRPA Governing Board AIS Code of Ordinances adopted.
- 2008 - TRPA requires mandatory boat inspections.
- 2009 - Lake Tahoe Regional AIS Management Plan approved by CA and NV governors, federal government.
- 2009 - First AIS fee, seal, and decontamination issued.
- 2010 - Roadside inspection stations open.
- 2011 - High-capacity decontamination units put in place; comprehensive public education implemented.
- 2012 - Asian clam and milfoil infestations treated.
- 2013 - Approximately 55 boats intercepted carrying invasive species; TRPA, in partnership with the Tahoe Resource Conservation District, receives national award for invasive species outreach program.
- From 2009-2013, approximately 36,000 watercraft inspections and 14,000 decontaminations conducted; more than 30 acres of lake bottom treated for weeds and Asian clams.



*Investing and Leading the Advocacy for Lake Tahoe's
Environmental Improvement Program*

June 20, 2014

The Honorable Assemblyman Michael C. Sprinkle, Chair
Nevada Legislative Committee for the Review and Oversight
of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and Marlette Lake Water System
The Honorable Senator Ben Kieckhefer, Vice Chair
The Honorable Senator James Settelmeyer
The Honorable Senator David Parks
The Honorable Assemblywoman Heidi Swank
The Honorable Assemblyman Randy Kirner
cc: Ms. Jennifer Ruedy, Principal Research Analyst
Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau

Re: Support for TRPA Funding Request - Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program

Dear Chairman Sprinkle and Members:

The Lake Tahoe Partnership is a network of private sector entities and community and non-profit organizations that advocate in support of the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP). The Partnership works closely with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), state, federal, local government, and other partners to ensure a unified message as we collectively seek EIP project and program funding.

The purpose of this letter is to advise you that the Partnership supports TRPA's upcoming budget request for a State of Nevada contribution of funds to help maintain Lake Tahoe's vital Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program. TRPA will be submitting a similar request to the State of California.

The Partnership respectfully requests that your Committee include this matter as a work session item for consideration and possible recommendation as part of the agenda for your final meeting of this Interim.

On behalf of the Partnership, thank you in advance for this consideration.

Sincerely,

Steve Teshara, Principal
Sustainable Community Advocates
Coordinator, Lake Tahoe Partnership



TahoeChamber.org

August 1, 2014

Assemblyman Michael C. Sprinkle, Chair
Members, Nevada Legislative Committee for the Review and Oversight
Of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and the Marlette Lake Water
System
Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701-4747

Re: Support for TRPA Funding Request - Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive
Species (AIS) Program

Dear Chairman Sprinkle and Members:

Lake Tahoe South Shore Chamber of Commerce (Tahoe Chamber) is writing to express our support for a state budget request being submitted by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency to help ensure the vital Lake Tahoe aquatic invasive species (AIS) boat inspection program remains in place beyond this year. Given both Nevada's and California's ownership of the underlying lakebed, we believe both states share a responsibility to ensure sustainable funding for this high-priority program.

More than \$3 million in federal funds that have been the backbone of support for the Lake Tahoe AIS program are sun-setting this year. Within the entire program, prevention efforts are a top priority. The current annual cost of the inspection program is \$1.5 million of which boaters pay half in inspection and decontamination fees. To close the gap due to the loss of federal funds, we respectfully request your support for additional funding from the state of Nevada.

The Lake Tahoe region's pristine water quality, aesthetic value, economy, and recreational pursuits are all threatened by the harmful impacts of current aquatic invaders such as non-native plants, fish, and clams. Other invaders such as the quagga mussel are at risk of introduction. The potential economic impact to the region caused by the introduction of new aquatic invasive species is estimated at an average annual equivalent of at least \$22.4 million per year.

To address these threats, the Lake Tahoe AIS program is led by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and implemented by a partnership of 40 public and private sector organizations. These include federal, state, and local jurisdictions, research partners, public utility districts, and private marinas. The program operates under the Lake Tahoe Region AIS



TahoeChamber.org

Management Plan, which is endorsed by both California and Nevada and adopted by the federal Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force.

The Lake Tahoe AIS Program is one of the highest priority programs of the overall Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program. The watercraft inspection program has been recognized as one of the most protective prevention programs in the nation. Already this summer, inspectors have intercepted nearly 30 boats containing invasive species bound for the waters of Lake Tahoe. More than a dozen of these boats contained invasive mussels and snail species.

Thank you for your engagement in Tahoe issues and your commitment to the protection of the lake. We hope during the next legislative session in 2015, you and your colleagues will work together with Governor Sandoval's office to support additional funds for invasive species issues at Lake Tahoe.

Sincerely,

Tamara Hollingsworth
Chairman of the Board

B Gorman
President



TAHOE

RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

870 EMERALD BAY ROAD SUITE 108 • SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, CA 96150 • 530.543.1501 PH • 530.543.1660 FAX

August 1, 2014

Assemblyman Michael C. Sprinkle, Chair
Members, Nevada Legislative Committee for the Review and Oversight
Of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and the Marlette Lake Water System
Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701-4747

**Re: Support for TRPA Funding Request - Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)
Program**

Dear Chairman Sprinkle and Members:

On behalf of the Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD), I am writing to express support for a state budget request being submitted by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency to help ensure the vital Lake Tahoe aquatic invasive species (AIS) watercraft inspection program receives adequate funding beyond this year. Given both Nevada's and California's ownership of the underlying lakebed, we believe both states share a responsibility to ensure sustainable funding for this high-priority program.

More than \$3 million in federal funds that have been the backbone of support for the Lake Tahoe AIS program are sun-setting this year. Within the entire program, the watercraft inspection program is a top priority. The current annual cost of the inspection program is \$1.5 million of which boaters pay half in inspection and decontamination fees. To close the gap due to the loss of federal funds, we respectfully request your support for additional funding from the state of Nevada.

The Lake Tahoe region's pristine water quality, aesthetic value, economy, and recreational pursuits are all threatened by the harmful impacts of current aquatic invaders such as non-native plants, fish, and clams. Other invaders such as the quagga mussel, with potentially greater harmful impacts, pose a risk of introduction into Lake Tahoe. The potential economic impact to the region caused by the introduction of new aquatic invasive species is estimated at an average annual equivalent of at least \$22.4 million per year.

To address these threats, the Lake Tahoe AIS program is led by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and implemented by a partnership of 40 public and private sector organizations. These include federal, state, and local agencies, research partners, public utility districts, and private marinas. The program operates under the Lake Tahoe Region AIS Management Plan, which is endorsed by both California and Nevada and adopted by the federal Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. Additionally, the Lake Tahoe AIS Program is one of the highest priority programs within Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program.

YOUR PARTNER IN LAKE TAHOE CONSERVATION

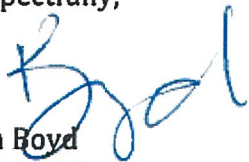
THE MISSION OF THE TAHOE RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT IS TO PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE LAKE TAHOE BASIN'S SOIL, WATER AND RELATED NATURAL RESOURCES BY PROVIDING LEADERSHIP INFORMATION, PROGRAMS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ALL LAND MANAGERS, OWNERS, ORGANIZATIONS AND RESIDENTS.



The Tahoe RCD has coordinated closely with TRPA since 2008 to implement the watercraft inspection program, which has been recognized as one of the most protective prevention programs in the nation. Already this summer, Tahoe RCD watercraft inspectors have intercepted nearly 30 boats containing AIS bound for the waters of Lake Tahoe. More than a dozen of these boats contained invasive mussels and snail species.

Thank you for your engagement in Tahoe issues and your commitment to the protection of the lake. We hope during the next legislative session in 2015, you and your colleagues will work together with Governor Sandoval's office to support additional funds for aquatic invasive species issues at Lake Tahoe.

Respectfully,



Kim Boyd
District Manager



August 7, 2014

Assemblyman Michael C. Sprinkle, Chair
Members, Nevada Legislative Committee for the Review and Oversight
Of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and the Marlette Lake Water System
Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701-4747

Dear Chairman Sprinkle and Committee Members:

**SUPPORT FOR TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY FUNDING REQUEST -
LAKE TAHOE AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS) PROGRAM**

Heavenly Mountain Resort is writing to express our support for a state budget request submitted by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), to help ensure the vital Lake Tahoe aquatic invasive species (AIS), boat inspection program remains in place beyond this year. Given both Nevada's and California's ownership of the underlying lakebed, we believe both states share a responsibility to ensure sustainable funding for this high-priority program.

More than \$3 million in federal funds that have been the backbone of support for the Lake Tahoe AIS program are sun-setting this year. Based on the clear effectiveness of previous detection and interception efforts, prevention remains a top program priority. The current annual cost of the inspection program is approximately \$1.5 million of which boaters pay half in inspection and decontamination fees. To close the gap due to the loss of federal funds, we respectfully request your support for additional funding from the state of Nevada.

The Lake Tahoe region's pristine water quality, aesthetic value, and its tourism and recreation economic base are all threatened by the harmful impacts of current aquatic invaders such as non-native plants, fish, and clams. Other invasive species such as the quagga mussel are at risk of introduction. The potential economic impact to the region caused by the introduction of new aquatic invasive species is estimated at an average annual equivalent of at least \$22.4 million per year.

To address these threats, the TRPA-led Lake Tahoe AIS program is implemented through a coordinated public-private partnership. Partners include federal, state, and local jurisdictions, research partners, public utility districts, private marinas, chambers of commerce and our visitors' authorities.

The watercraft inspection program is a real asset to the State of Nevada in the arsenal of measures to fight AIS. It has been recognized as one of the most successful prevention programs in the nation. Already this summer, Tahoe AIS inspectors have intercepted nearly 30 boats containing invasive species. More than a dozen of the boats contained invasive mussels and snail species. The economic and environmental effects of these species entering Lake Tahoe would be disastrous.

Thank you for your engagement in Tahoe issues and your commitment to the protection of the lake. We hope during the next legislative session in 2015, you and your colleagues will work together with Governor Sandoval's office to support additional funds for invasive species issues at Lake Tahoe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Strain". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Andrew Strain
Vice-President of Planning & Governmental Affairs

Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California



August 14, 2014

Assemblyman Michael C. Sprinkle, Chair
Members, Nevada Legislative Committee for the Review and Oversight
Of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and the Marlette Lake Water System
Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701-4747

Re: Support for TRPA Funding Request - Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program

Dear Chairman Sprinkle and Members:

The Washoe Tribe is writing to express its support of the state budget request being submitted by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. The budget request solicits funds that will help ensure that the Lake Tahoe aquatic invasive species (AIS) boat inspection program, which is vital to protecting the Lake, remains in place beyond this year.

The center of the Washoe world is Da ow a ga (Lake Tahoe) both geographically and spiritually. The Washoe are the original second homeowners at Da ow a ga. They remember how it used to be: large cutthroat trout lived in all the lakes and streams along with freshwater clams and other fish; large and small games were once abundant; and plants were effectively tended and harvested for food, utilitarian, and medicinal use. Though many of those resources have been depleted, the Washoe rely on what is left and work devotedly to encourage their protection and restoration. As such, the importance the Tribe places on protecting Da ow a ga from aquatic invasive species cannot be overstated.

The Tribe is also a business owner at the Lake and is well aware of the threat aquatic invasive species pose to the basin economy. It is estimated that the potential economic impact to the region caused by the introduction of new aquatic invasive species could average \$22.4 million annually.

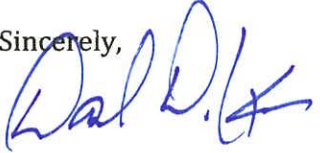
To address these threats, the Lake Tahoe AIS program is led by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and implemented by a partnership of 40 public and private sector organizations. These include the Tribe; federal, state, and local jurisdictions; research partners; public utility districts; and private marinas. The program operates under the Lake Tahoe Region AIS Management Plan, which is endorsed by

both California and Nevada and adopted by the federal Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force.

Preventing the introduction of AIS into the Lake is a priority. The watercraft inspection program has been recognized as one of the most protective prevention programs in the nation. Already this summer, inspectors have intercepted nearly 30 boats containing invasive species. More than a dozen of these boats contained invasive mussel and snail species.

Unfortunately, the over \$3 million in federal funds that have been the backbone of the budget for the program are sun-setting this year. The current annual cost of the inspection program is \$1.5 million. Inspection and decontamination fees paid by boaters add up to about half that amount. Additional funds, therefore, are needed to close the gap. Towards that end, the Washoe Tribe respectfully requests your support for additional funding from the state of Nevada.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,


Darrel D. Kizer
Chairman, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California