



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION'S COMMITTEE TO CONTINUE THE REVIEW OF PROGRAMS AND
ACTIVITIES IN THE LAKE TAHOE BASIN
(Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 5, File No. 124, *Statutes of Nevada 2001*)
February 8, 2002
Stateline, Nevada**

The second meeting of the Legislative Commission's Committee to Continue the Review of Programs and Activities in the Lake Tahoe Basin (A.C.R. 5, File No. 124, *Statutes of Nevada 2001*) was held on Friday, February 8, 2002, commencing at 8:30 a.m. The meeting was held in the Lake Tahoe Horizon Casino Resort, Convention Center, U.S. Highway 50, Stateline, Nevada. Pages 2 and 3 contain the "Meeting Notice and Agenda."

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Lawrence E. Jacobsen, Chairman
Assemblyman Greg Brower
Assemblyman John J. Lee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Senator Mark E. Amodei
Senator Maggie Carlton
Assemblywoman Vivian L. Freeman

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Fred W. Welden, Chief Deputy Research Director, Research Division
Deborah Rengler, Senior Research Secretary, Research Division

MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

Name of Organization: Legislative Commission's Committee to Continue the Review of Programs and Activities in the Lake Tahoe Basin (Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 5, File No. 124, *Statutes of Nevada 2001*)

Date and Time of Meeting: Friday, February 8, 2002

8:30 a.m.

Place of Meeting: Lake Tahoe Horizon Casino Resort
Convention Center
U.S. Highway 50
Stateline, Nevada

A G E N D A

- I. Introduction and Opening Remarks
Senator Lawrence E. Jacobsen, Chairman
- *II. Approval of Minutes From November 9, 2001, Meeting
- III. “State of the Agency” — Programs, Budget, and Staffing of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA)
Juan Palma, Executive Director, TRPA
- IV. Status of Regional Revenue Feasibility Analysis
Pam Drum, Public Affairs Coordinator, TRPA
John Upton, Consultant and Former TRPA Governing Board Member
- V. Public Testimony
- VI. Presentation — The Tahoe Rim Trail
Lynda McDowell, Executive Director, Tahoe Rim Trail Association
- *VII. Major Issues Concerning the Lake Tahoe Basin
Dean Heller, Chairman, TRPA Governing Board, and Nevada Secretary of State
Juan Palma, Executive Director, TRPA
Pamela B. Wilcox, Administrator, Division of State Lands
Jim Lawrence, Tahoe Program Coordinator, Nevada Tahoe Resource Team
Amir Soltani, Chief Hydraulic Engineer, Nevada’s Department of Transportation
Rochelle Nason, Executive Director, The League to Save Lake Tahoe, and
Co-Chair of the Lake Tahoe Transportation and Water Quality Coalition
Steve Teshara, Executive Director, Lake Tahoe Gaming Alliance, and Co-Chair
of the Lake Tahoe Transportation and Water Quality Coalition
- VIII. Forest Health and Fire Hazards in the Tahoe Basin
Tim Rochelle, Forester III, Nevada Division of Forestry/Nevada Tahoe
Resource Team
Jim Linardos, Fire Chief, North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District
Bruce Van Cleemput, Assistant Fire Chief, Tahoe-Douglas Fire Protection
District
- *IX. Committee Discussion of Future Meetings
- X. Adjournment

*Denotes items on which the committee may take action.

Note: We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who are disabled and wish to attend the meeting. If special arrangements for the meeting are necessary, please notify the Research Division of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, in writing, at the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada 89701-4747, or call Deborah Rengler at (775) 684-6825 as soon as possible.

Notice of this meeting was posted in the following Carson City, Nevada, locations: Blasdel Building, 209 East Musser Street; Capitol Press Corps, Basement, Capitol Building; City Hall, 201 North Carson Street; Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street; and Nevada State Library, 100 Stewart Street. Notice of this meeting was faxed for posting to the following Las Vegas, Nevada, locations: Clark County Office, 500 South Grand Central Parkway; and Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue. Notice of this meeting was posted on the Internet through the Nevada Legislature's Web site at www.leg.state.nv.us.

INTRODUCTION AND OPENING REMARKS

Chairman Jacobsen called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m., and welcomed the Committee members and others in attendance and directed the secretary to call roll.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 9, 2001, MEETING

Chairman Jacobsen inquired if there were additions or corrections to the minutes of November 9, 2001. Being none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

ASSEMBLYMAN LEE MOVED FOR APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE COMMITTEE'S MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 9, 2001, IN INCLINE VILLAGE, NEVADA. ASSEMBLYMAN BROWER SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

STATE OF THE AGENCY PROGRAMS, BUDGET, AND STAFFING OF THE TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY (TRPA)

Pam Drum

Pam Drum, Public Affairs Coordinator, TRPA, outlined the sequence in which the Agency's information would be presented and provided a brief statement on the subjects each speaker would address.

Juan Palma

Juan Palma, Executive Director, TRPA, referred to the informational handout (Exhibit A) provided to the Committee and furnished a brief overview of the Agency's activities during 2001. Utilizing a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Palma illustrated pertinent items contained in the Executive Director's Report. He noted that:

- The Legislatures of both California and Nevada acted to bring the salaries of the TRPA employees in line with comparable agency positions in other areas;
- A highly effective Erosion Control Team has performed over 1,000 best management practices (BMP) inspections to alleviate harmful sediment runoff from reaching area streams;
- The Agency is currently involved in several legal cases, most notably the *Tahoe-Sierra Preservation Council, Inc., v. Tahoe Regional Planning Agency*, No. 00-1167, Supreme Court of the United States, upon which the parties are awaiting a decision; and
- The Agency has implemented more efficient processing of applications submitted for project review by streamlining the permit process. During 2001, TRPA processed 1,275 applications and will be implementing additional efforts to further streamline the process.

Mr. Palma stressed collaboration with a wide range of partner agencies while implementing successful approaches and strategy development.

Gordon Barrett

Gordon Barrett, Chief, Long Range Planning Division, TRPA, summarized the data contained in the “2001 Threshold Evaluation, Executive Summary” (Exhibit B). The TRPA reviews the threshold attainment and economic progress every five years. Mr. Barrett identified the nine subject areas of the threshold indicators; it was noted that economics is addressed in the review, but is not considered a threshold. The subject areas are:

1. Air Quality and Transportation;
2. Fisheries;
3. Noise;
4. Recreation;
5. Scenic Resources;
6. Soil Conservation;
7. Vegetation;
8. Water Quality; and
9. Wildlife.

Under the nine subject areas, there are 36 environmental threshold compliance indicators. Mr. Barrett reviewed the status of the indicators, noting that 20 of the 36 are in need of updating. He said that TRPA is mandated to put into operation programs and regulations to achieve the desired thresholds. Following an in-depth evaluation, the Agency recommends the appropriate corrective actions to be implemented over the next five-year period.

Mr. Barrett reviewed the 2001 Threshold Review Schedule and stated that:

- In January, the Advisory Planning Commission (APC) and Governing Board (GB) hearings were held to review and compile recommendations;
- During the January/February Public Workshops, thresholds were reviewed and recommendations were identified; and
- During February and March, the APC and GB hearings were conducted to approve reports and recommendations; another meeting is scheduled for April 2002.

In response to inquiries from the Committee, Mr. Barrett explained:

- The definition of “Persons At One Time” (PAOT) is used for the category of recreation, such as campgrounds, marinas, or ski areas;
- Unused residential allocations for building permits are placed in a pool, and persons may include their name on the waiting list; and
- The Special Projects Program is defined as commercial developments directly linked to implementing an Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) and is eligible for a commercial allocation.

Concluding, Mr. Barrett stated the next five years would be an adjustment period for the Agency. Summarizing the timetable of the schedule he said:

- The TRPA's Regional Plan is due to expire in 2007; many elements of the current thresholds will require comprehensive study to determine the need for either recalibration or significant amendment;
- Any changes will be outlined in the 2004 Threshold Update; and
- The TRPA will use the updates as the platform to assemble the 2007-2027 Regional Plan.

Carl Hasty

Carl Hasty, Deputy Director, TRPA, spoke on the issue of implementing the EIP. Mr. Hasty employed the remainder of the Microsoft PowerPoint presentation provided by Mr. Palma (Exhibit A).

Mr. Hasty described the active role of the TRPA as an agent/mediator to broker and facilitate projects by providing proper environmental documentation and completing funding packages. He explained the impact of significant reductions in funding attributed to California's 10 percent budget cutbacks. Mr. Hasty noted that:

- The California portion of TRPA funds will experience a total reduction of \$313,000;
- The TRPA has been advised of the 10 percent cut of the Agency's California allocation of funds during the next fiscal year;
- If the traditional one-third/two-third match between Nevada and California is retained, the result could be an additional \$156,000 in actual dollar reductions for TRPA. (However, the Agency is discussing the possibility of completing the California two-third allocation with additional funds provided through other sources;) and
- The TRPA has the broad support of collaborating agencies in the Tahoe Basin, to continue in its role as brokering agent.

Pam Drum

Pam Drum, previously identified herein, addressed the feasibility analysis of EIP programs and the maintenance of completed projects. She said that the centerpiece of the EIP is a list of 800-plus projects. The TRPA has implemented a community-based process to find the most effective revenue stream to accomplish the goal of project maintenance; the focus has been on projects sponsored by local governments.

John Upton

John Upton, Local Revenue Consultant and former TRPA Governing Board Member, described the study he conducted during the spring/summer of 2001. Currently, TRPA is evaluating a revenue shortfall of approximately \$2 million per year on the local government projects throughout the Tahoe Basin. Mr. Upton's comments focused on developing an action plan for obtaining additional revenue to cover maintenance and operating costs. He discussed the pros and cons of the following revenue options:

- Entertainment Tax;
- Fuel tax;
- Parking Charges;
- Sales Tax;
- Transient Occupancy Tax; and
- Vehicle Registration Fees.

Additionally, Mr. Upton explained the study's conclusion that an additional 1-2 cent per gallon fuel tax affecting the five counties in the TRPA Compact would provide the most appropriate approach. His study concluded that:

- The issue of clarity preservation of Lake Tahoe is vitally important to the economy of the affected counties, and the counties share directly in the responsibility for maintenance of the Lake's water quality;
- A one-cent tax would raise approximately \$82 million dollars and the two-cent tax would accumulate twice that amount; these proposed amounts would meet the projected 20-year revenue shortfall;
- Existing collection mechanisms could be utilized, keeping the cost factor to a minimum;
- Since the fuel tax would be uniform across the five Tahoe Basin counties, there would be no competitive advantage or disadvantage to fuel dealers; and
- As an equitable tax, revenue would be captured from a broad range of Tahoe Basin beneficiaries, including day users, overnight visitors, and residents.

The preferred alternative would be to seek federal-level enactment of the fuel tax. Lake Tahoe's unique needs for federal action have been established in past proceedings, and would assure uniform policies in both California and Nevada. Federal action would also ensure adequate and uniform maintenance funding to protect the local capital investments in water quality facilities or other EIP.

Mr. Upton requested a recommendation for proposed action in support of a federal/regional fuel tax to be introduced during the 2003 Legislative Session, perhaps in the form of a supportive resolution. As a secondary option, he also suggested that the Committee consider simultaneously expressing support for legislative action to authorize local governments to impose such a fuel tax at their option. Further, he solicited the help of the Committee's staff to identify provisions for administrative or legislative actions for collection of this type of regional tax, utilizing collection mechanisms of the State of Nevada.

A brief general discussion ensued pertaining to the commitment of long-term maintenance and the positive message TRPA is attempting to relay throughout the Tahoe Basin.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

John A. Bohn

John A. Bohn, Executive Vice President, Incline Village Board of Realtors, offered continued support of the EIP. However, he expressed concern with the current Threshold Review being performed by the TRPA, which may result in restrictions to future development. He stated that TRPA has failed to consider existing scenic thresholds in approving projects. According to Mr. Bohn, the scenic thresholds have not been attainable for the past 15 years. He encouraged TRPA to adopt threshold regulations that are equitable to all stakeholders and understandable to constituents.

Sarah J. Ellis

Sarah J. Ellis spoke on behalf of the Incline Village Board of Realtors and the Sierra Nevada Association of Realtors. Ms. Ellis echoed the observations made by Mr. Bohn and addressed the impact of the Threshold Review Update proposed by the representatives of TRPA. Ms. Ellis outlined specific areas of concern and the impact of the anticipated regulations if adopted in their current form. She offered the following additional remarks:

- Determination of attainment or nonattainment of the scenic threshold is conducted by a panel of three persons, (the same three people for the last 15-year period) hired by the TRPA, to assist staff in developing the Threshold Update;

- A panel of three persons and the designated staff of the TRPA are responsible to evaluate the scenic status from designated sites; and
- Scenic evaluations are conducted from an automobile traveling the highway around Lake Tahoe, and from a boat 300 feet from the shoreline.

Ms. Ellis testified the problem lies with the panel's negative perception of the commercial and residential structures, viewing them as degrading to the natural environment on the Nevada side. This assessment has resulted in a nonattainment conclusion and the outcome of proposing 29 new regulations, to be introduced over the next two-year period. The realtor's response to this assessment was articulated by noting the lack of subjectivity during the evaluation process.

Jan Brisco

Jan Brisco, Executive Director, Lake Tahoe Lakefront Owners' Association, informed the committee the organization is comprised of over 1200 lakefront and private property owners in California and Nevada. The organization has been involved with issues of importance to the Lake Tahoe Basin since the inception of the TRPA. Ms. Brisco testified that every five years recommendations are offered by citizen groups such as hers, and are not included in the Threshold Review Updates. Secondly, the methods used to measure threshold attainment should be applied consistently between residential roadway and shoreline housing units.

Ms. Brisco called for a balance between homeowners and regulatory agencies. According to Ms. Brisco, the property owners should have more input into the process for the Updates of 2004 and 2007, to achieve a balance of the manmade and natural environments.

Concluding, she stated that TRPA's adoptions of regulations that amount to a scenic moratorium are far too restrictive.

Dale Denio

Dale Denio, Incline Village resident and lakefront homeowner, encouraged TRPA to keep home and property owners in mind along with the regulatory agencies in its efforts to establish scenic thresholds. Mr. Denio told the Committee he has participated at length in the TRPA workshops. He detailed the problems he perceives with the methods used to evaluate scenic thresholds. Primarily, if the amount of manmade visibility in a given section of property exceeds the amount shown in 1982, the area is designated as "out of attainment." According to Mr. Denio, this method of establishing the threshold does not fit with the growth that has occurred since 1982. Mr. Denio recommended that:

- The method of establishing thresholds be evaluated before the year 2004, and prior to implementing new regulations;
- Consistency be a requirement in establishing urban shoreline thresholds and undeveloped shoreline thresholds;
- More emphasis be given to the public opinion of Lake Tahoe taxpayers, many who are calling for the TRPA to be more efficient; and
- Public and private areas be held to the same standards.

A general discussion developed between Committee members, which focused on various past and proposed changes in regulations pertaining to boat lifts, boat houses, and piers.

John Tracy

John Tracy, Executive Director, Watershed Center, Desert Research Institute (DRI), University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), University and Community College System of Nevada (UCSSN), commended the TRPA for successfully

bringing the science community into the EIP process. Mr. Tracy requested that TRPA follow through with its use of the science community as a provider of formal evaluation of EIP programs and to offer scientific validity to the Threshold Updates.

Douglas Shaw

Douglas Shaw, Professor of Applied Economics, UNR, echoed the comments of Mr. Tracy and offered assistance to the Committee to demonstrate the support of the USCCN.

Rochelle Nason

Rochelle Nason, Executive Director, League to Save Lake Tahoe, also spoke to the issue of TRPA's proposed regulations. Ms. Nason stated the disagreements surrounding the proposed regulations involve numerous stakeholders, and requested that the Committee hear further testimony before making a determination of whether or not to support the issue.

Chairman Jacobsen suggested that further discussion of the issue of TRPA's proposed regulations be held until the next scheduled meeting of the Committee.

Gary Bowen

Gary Bowen, citizen of the Lake Tahoe Basin, testified in support of the idea of implementing a fuel tax as a revenue source.

MAJOR ISSUES **CONCERNING THE LAKE TAHOE BASIN**

Amir Soltani

Amir Soltani, Chief Hydraulic Engineer, Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), utilized a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation during his testimony. Mr. Soltani described the construction projects planned during the year 2002, primarily on State Route 28 and Highway 50 surrounding Lake Tahoe. He commented that the majority of the work involves erosion control projects, traffic congestion associated with construction, and its affect on water quality. Mr. Soltani further testified that:

- One-half of the total construction funding will be spent on the installation of underground systems, such as storm drains;
- During construction, one travel lane will be closed during working hours, and pilot cars will be used to guide traffic through the construction zone;
- The construction season runs from May 1 to October 15, with no work conducted on holidays or weekends;
- Center turn lanes will be utilized for access to local businesses; and
- Several retaining walls need to be replaced, primarily in the Cave Rock area.

Mr. Soltani noted that complaints from the public often increase during long-term phases of major construction. The NDOT will initiate public service announcements and other measures such as informational flyers, public travel notices, and public hearings during the construction process to ease public discontent.

Concluding, Mr. Soltani described the twice-yearly extensive maintenance program necessary to clean and maintain facilities designed to keep runoff water from entering the lake. The current cost of maintaining the facilities, transporting the runoff water, and the necessary filtration is approximately \$450,000. The estimated cost in the year 2010 will be \$7.5 million.

Pamela B. Wilcox

Pamela B. Wilcox, Administrator and State Lands Registrar, Division of State Lands, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (SDCNR), updated the Committee on the progress of scheduled programs currently under the direction of the Division. Local improvement districts typically do the project work, but the majority of resources come from either federal or state, grants. Ms. Wilcox explained that:

- Initially local governments are required to enter into a 20-year maintenance agreement with the Division;
- Local governments in the Tahoe Basin are subject to the same fiscal caps as other local governments throughout the State, even though the maintenance costs may be higher in the Basin;
- Maintenance costs may cause current projects to fail unless new sources for revenue are implemented; and
- Emphasis should be placed on monitoring a “select group” of projects, identifying effective measures, and implementing a system of adaptive management to keep costs at a minimum.

Ms. Wilcox also briefly mentioned streamlining the permit process with the TRPA.

Jim Lawrence

Jim Lawrence, Tahoe Program Coordinator, Nevada Tahoe Resource Team, SDCNR, directed his comments to the need to streamline the permit process. Mr. Lawrence commended the TRPA for its helpfulness and explained the necessity for advanced or early participation during the design portion of projects.

Mr. Lawrence echoed the concerns expressed by Ms. Wilcox relating to increasing maintenance costs of treatment facilities that may delay or stall a project entirely.

Fred W. Welden

Fred W. Welden, Chief Deputy Research Director, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB), informed the Committee that he has requested the participants from local interest groups, involved agencies, and TRPA to provide staff with recommendations to be discussed during the March meeting.

Rochelle Nason

Rochelle Nason, identified previously herein, relayed that the League to Save Lake Tahoe consists of approximately 4500 members. She outlined issues of concern pertinent to the Lake Tahoe Basin, which she views as needing further analysis. Ms. Nason’s comments focused on:

- The need to recognize the pressure on the environment at Lake Tahoe, with an increasing population, and the opportunity for a greater number of people to visit the area;
- The concept that the area has attracted a more affluent social structure, building larger, more expensive homes;
- The influx of a variety of recreational amenities, which include pastimes that involve motorized vehicles, such as boats and snowmobiles;
- The highly volatile issue of degradation of the treasured scenic quality of the Lake Tahoe Basin; and
- The necessity of implementing transportation alternatives, as outlined in the original TRPA Compact.

Ms. Nason stressed the importance of a strong regulatory program so the work of the TRPA is better understood and there is less public resistance to environmental repairs.

Responding to questions from the Committee, Ms. Nason summarized the mission statement of the League to include protection of the environment. She described the group as an environmental organization with, unlike similar associations, emphasis placed on the importance of scenic beauty combined with recreational activities.

Steve Teshara

Steve Teshara, Executive Director, Lake Tahoe Gaming Alliance, and Co-Chair, Lake Tahoe Transportation and Water Quality Coalition, spoke briefly on the topic of revenue source analysis. He noted that the Gaming Alliance welcomes the opportunity to work with staff on a concise statement of recommendations for discussion during the March meeting.

Further, Mr. Teshara encouraged the numerous agencies in the Lake Tahoe Basin to update their plans in concurrence with TRPA's Update of the Regional Plan. He reported a successful meeting with the local U.S. Forest Service (USFS) representatives and requested the Committee to support the USFS's request for early federal funds to allow for the timely update of the regional forest service plan to coincide with TRPA's plan.

Juan Palma

Transportation

Juan Palma, previously identified herein, described TRPA's role in transportation issues and relayed concerns. Mr. Palma submitted an informational handout (Exhibit C). He explained that:

- Vehicle exhaust is a major contributor of nitrogen; both nitrogen and phosphorus nourish the algae responsible for the deteriorating clarity of Lake Tahoe;
- Atmospheric deposition accounts for 56 percent of nitrogen and 26 percent of "phosphorus loading" in the lake, and direct runoff accounts for 10 percent of all nitrogen and 33 percent of all "phosphorus loading";
- Traffic congestion amplifies vehicle emissions and establishes negative impacts within the community; and
- The transportation programs designed for environmental improvement include bicycle and pedestrian paths, and the use of compressed natural gas.

Environmental Improvement Program (EIP)

Mr. Palma stated that specific details of the EIP projects would be discussed during the Committee's upcoming March meeting.

Shorezone

According to Mr. Palma, the management of shoreline development is a topic that consistently creates lively discussion. The final version of the 1999 Shorezone Environmental Impact Statement will include the 2001 Threshold Review data, and will be outlined in a comprehensive presentation during the March meeting.

"Streamlining" of TRPA Activities

Mr. Palma described his function with the TRPA to include a role of "readying the agency." He has placed emphasis on efficiency and effectiveness, enhanced by reorganizing sections of the Agency's internal operations. He portrayed the Agency's revamped financial operations as rock-solid, with current audits illustrating reliable record keeping. Mr. Palma mentioned the need for clear financial preparation to address the reduction of funds that will result from California's budget shortfalls.

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FOREST HEALTH AND FIRE HAZARDS IN THE TAHOE BASIN

Tim Rochelle

Tim Rochelle, Forester, Nevada Division of Forestry, SDCNR, introduced his counterparts representing fire protection districts in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Utilizing a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation (please refer to Exhibit D), Mr. Rochelle focused his testimony on forest health and fire hazards. He illustrated examples of cultural and environmental factors, as well as vegetation management practices, that can impair forest health.

Mr. Rochelle addressed the following topics and stressed the importance of:

- Clearly defining objectives to enhance forest health;
- Understanding the biology and ecology of the ecosystem while being mindful of environmental and cultural factors;
- A working knowledge of clearly defined objectives to manage the overstory and understory components of the vegetation structure of the forest;
- Increasing public awareness and acceptance of fire as a management tool in the ecosystem process; and
- Understanding vegetation management and fuel reduction to make fires easier to manage and control.

The remainder of Mr. Rochelle's presentation offered a summarization of the following:

- Goals for prescribed fires to reduce fuel profiles and overall fire hazards, with consideration for watershed stability and long-term nutrient reserves;
- Managing forest health in the urban wild land interface; and
- Collaborative planning efforts and interagency involvement.

Bill Metcalf

Bill Metcalf, Division Chief, North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District, expounded on the fire prevention programs implemented in Crystal Bay, California, and Incline Village, Nevada. The North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District is a full-service fire department providing ambulance services, structure fire protection, search and rescue, and wild land fire protection. The community consists of very large homes surrounded by forest, combined with a tourist population; these factors make the community a particularly challenging one for fire personnel.

The District implemented a "defensible space" program in 1985, which has evolved into the Fuels Management Team. Chief Metcalf attributed its success, in part, to collaborating with several different agencies and public awareness curriculums.

Chief Metcalf used a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation to illustrate a controlled burn situation, which would create a healthy forest resistant to wild fires. He described the burn process, whereby much attention is given to the permit process, extensive weather monitoring, resource management, and achieving target objectives. Other extenuating factors the District is mindful of during prescribed burns include:

- Managing smoke effectively;
- Limiting flame length to keep the amount of charred and scorched brush and trees to a minimum;
- Providing general public understanding through awareness and educational projects;

- Limiting burns to weekdays only - - no holiday, night, or weekend burning;
- Starting only a the size burn that can be effectively controlled and extinguished quickly; and
- Ensuring limited impact on scenic views.

Concluding his testimony, Chief Metcalf commented that the objective of the program is to keep the public informed and pleased with the process, while obtaining the goal to keep burns small and under control.

Bruce Van Cleemput

Bruce Van Cleemput, Assistant Fire Chief, Tahoe-Douglas Fire Protection District, representing the Lake Tahoe Regional Fire Chiefs Association, rescheduled his portion of the presentation until the March meeting at the request of the Chairman.

Chairman Jacobsen requested that the Fire District representatives discuss response plans for varied fire scenarios at the next meeting.

Mr. Welden, identified previously herein, stated that representatives of the USFS have requested they be included in the March presentation pertaining to fire preparedness.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Jacobsen adjourned the meeting at 4:17 p.m.

Exhibit E is the “Attendance Record” for this meeting.

Respectfully submitted

Ricka Benum
Senior Research Secretary

Fred W. Welden
Chief Deputy Research Director

APPROVED BY:

Lawrence E. Jacobsen, Chairman

Date: _____

LIST OF EXHIBITS

Exhibit A contains documents submitted by Juan Palma, Executive Director, TRPA, and include the following:

1. A copy of a Microsoft Power Point presentation titled, "Introduction and Executive Director's Report," dated February 8, 2002; and
2. A memorandum dated February 8, 2002, to the Members of the Legislative Commission's Committee to Continue the Review of the Programs and Activities in the Lake Tahoe Basin, from John L. Marshal, Agency Counsel, TRPA, which includes a copy of *Tahoe-Sierra Preservation Council, Inc., v. Tahoe Regional Planning Agency*, No. 00-1167, Supreme Court of the United States.

Exhibit B is an Executive Summary submitted by Gordon Barrett, Chief, Long Range Planning Division, TRPA, titled "2001 Threshold Evaluation," dated December 2001.

Exhibit C is a document submitted by Juan Palma, Executive Director, TRPA, titled "Major Issues Concerning the Lake Tahoe Basin."

Exhibit D is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation submitted by Tim Rochelle, Forester, Nevada Division of Forestry, Nevada Tahoe Resource Team, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, titled "Forest Health and Fire Hazards in the Tahoe Basin."

Exhibit E is the "Attendance Record" for this meeting.

Copies of the materials distributed in the meeting are on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, Carson City, Nevada. You may contact the library at (775) 684-6827.