

**From:** [Aaron](#)  
**To:** [Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and the Marlette Lake Water System](#)  
**Subject:** attention: Legislative Committee for the Review and Oversight of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and the Marlette Lake Water System  
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Tuesday, January 23, 2024 1 p.m.

Legislative Building  
Room 3137  
401 South Carson Street  
Carson City, Nevada

Dear Honorable Legislative Committee Members,

One major point I hope to convey in this public comment is that what is happening here at Lake Tahoe with TRPA is not good for anyone in the United States of America. TRPA being a bistate compact enacted by congress is funded by all American taxpayers. TRPA's cumulative actions in recent years, while portrayed as good intent, are making Lake Tahoe unaffordable, less safe and less healthy for all Americans to visit (1).

I don't consider it a far stretch of the imagination to see that Lake Tahoe is transitioning into a playground for the wealthy to live and the wealthy to play while the workforce is turned into nothing more than slaves to the luxury resorts and tourism attractions. The workforce gets downgraded into ever worsening quality of life situations (2). We are living another inequality dystopia story playing out in real life just like all the nicest locations that the rich are infesting around the world (3). The wealthy are living in evermore walled off communities (4).

I believe in a system where taxpayers fund and elect a government that protects them. To provide protection, government must fund transparent research and development projects. TRPA is a R&D concept of carrying capacity (5) that should be doing BOLD things in attempting to fix serious problems faced by our civilization of pollution, loss of quality of life, changing environment and inequalities; to implement science based policy that balances the built and natural environments for maximum economic AND biological health (6). TRPA is a framework that should be inspirational and modeled after, a reason for Americans to be proud and a reason for the world to look up to us.

TRPA is already setup to be this with its framework and thresholds but they have lost sight of that. We can't ignore the great things TRPA has done and continues to do right on environmental monitoring. Because of that and regulation based on that science, we have a better basin than otherwise but TRPA is completely failing on the other fronts. They say their actions are to meet demand but they are creating and enabling this demand! I personally find it insulting to be experiencing worsening quality of life while TRPA continually approves projects designed to increase congestion (7), increase inequality, decrease affordability, decrease safety, and lie to the public with greenwashing over it. I have submitted ample evidence to this fact in public comment to dozens of meetings that has repeatedly been ignored.

I want TRPA to be something we are proud to fund as Americans. Something that makes our country better. I want Lake Tahoe to be an affordable place for all Americans to visit and be inspired by implementing policies to their own communities because all America is or can be beautiful. I don't want TRPA to be this rubbish coopted by unethical politicians, uneducated dogooders and greedy business interests that continually think it's a good idea to give more money to the rich building castles/mansions and luxury resorts, while cramming the poor into downtown noisy polluted town centers where they can't have a car and can't see the stars, let alone get a decent night's sleep (cars continually break TRPA's own noise ordinance in my neighborhood and I risk my life every time I pull out from my driveway or cross the street, oh wait, but TRPA wants to put a

tourist bus station here on top of that).

It is not good just to complain and I wish I had solutions to propose here. It is frustrating that the people in the dozens of nonprofits and quasi agencies around us are getting paid to come up with greenwashing solutions based on hundreds of pages of reports that are just accumulating into a worse situation. They are all making money at our expense including the nonprofits making a paycheck for themselves. TRPA as it exists needs an overhaul to get back to its core mission and it starts with government oversight of the original objectives of TRPA. I interpret that objective to be a healthy carrying capacity. Health includes TRPA's thresholds, at least some of which are not currently being enforced. Health also includes equality and that is absent from TRPA's mindset. Taxpayers fund TRPA and TRPA is not addressing growing wealth inequality but rather helping it along! I also propose checks and balances on elected officials to actually represent their constituents and have ethics. Officials should not have any business interests. I also propose breaking up all these agencies and nonprofits lobbying TRPA. It's gotten out of control how everyone has coopted the Lake Tahoe name for their own greed. Lastly, I propose a moratorium on TRPA's tourism recreation and transportation development until an overhaul can address their actions that grow inequality and make things worse with that demand creation. It would be a full time job pointing out all the flawed logic and bad science in their reports on this front. TRPA needs to STOP building and promoting an Affluent outdoor recreational Disney Land that adds to problems rather than solves them.

Further clarifications and references.

1. TRPA in lockstep with other agencies continually push "bikeable Tahoe" and other public transit ideas that do nothing more than open up access that attracts millions more tourists. These tourists are having a devastatingly negative impact to the environment and local workforce. Personally my neighborhood is already dangerous and unhealthy, then TRPA enables a tourist bus station to be put here for the additional tourists they brought here via their development projects (e.g. East Shore Trail). They also push these projects with the greenwashing lies of improvement projects and long term transportation goals that oppress the working class into these unhealthy conditions and add environmental damage. My use of the word health in this sentence has to do with environmental health but also inequality because growing economic inequality is tied directly to health outcomes and burdens on the healthcare system. All Americans should be concerned about increasing wealth inequality issues such as Lake Tahoe they fund. And to the outsider, Lake Tahoe is beautiful, but to the person that has lived here 40+ years, Lake Tahoe's environment + quality of life is much worse than it used to be and continues to decline.
2. Julie Reagan keeps talking about population decline but fails to mention 10 fold increases in tourism mostly caused by TRPA's demand creation. This increased tourism pushes demand for vacation rentals that take away housing and increases costs. Not to mention more access to the natural environment increases erosion and pollution. Also, as the work force is now commuting from further away, this adds to vehicle emissions, road degradation, less safety of added miles driven, and particles entering the lake. Incredibly, TRPA is not doing anything to address short-term rental problems before ramrodding their Tahoe Area Amendment Plan through that is unproven and crams the lower income housing (if built instead of luxury developments this favors) into the worst conditions. Short-term rentals further increase wealth inequality by allowing wealthy land owners to make money to buy even more housing units taken off the market thereby reducing housing supply more, driving unaffordability more).
3. It is well known that the beautiful places on the planet are bought out by wealthy and turned into tourism resort areas while they drive out locals and throughout history drive out or kill the indigenous peoples. Pave paradise and put up a parking lot.
4. Washoe County Commissioner Alexis Hill proposes road tax which is another blow to equality as the wealthy become the only ones that can afford the freedom to drive and work. <https://thenevadaglobe.com/fl/commissioner-alexis-hill-proposes-user-tax-on-tahoe-basin-drivers/>
5. [https://www.trpa.gov/wp-content/uploads/documents/archive/TRPA\\_40\\_Timeline\\_8-09.pdf](https://www.trpa.gov/wp-content/uploads/documents/archive/TRPA_40_Timeline_8-09.pdf) "1969", "1982"
6. Economic health thrives when biological health thrives and strength in diversity. These

are sound ecological concepts.

7. <https://www.trpa.gov/vision-zero-strategy-aims-to-make-tahoe-roads-safer/> “Vision Zero” is yet another ABSOLUTE INSULTING GREENWASHING PILE OF GARBAGE example that I am talking about here. Extreme hypocrisy and it is all just words that sound good while my neighborhood is dumped on. This draft document has 25,685 catchy trendy feel good words. Not reality! This plan is designed for rich or retired people. How many people working a normal 40 hour a week job and has to do chores on the weekend can really utilize this new infrastructure that requires maintenance costs, degrades the natural landscape, opens the door to more problems and dangers, and is demand creation. They keep building recreational opportunities that bring millions more tourists and wealthier Americans here BEFORE they think long term systems thinking and reality. They are just marketing Lake Tahoe for wealth generation. Where do they then have these tourists park for these attractions? My lowest income neighborhood bus station of course. They have a good façade but reality is another story. Taxpayers need to stop funding this marketing and publicity lies/garbage. We need a smarter TRPA that Americans can be proud of.

Sincerely,

Aaron Vanderpool

Incline Village, NV