

**From:** [Alexander Tsigidinos](#)  
**To:** [LCB Legal](#); [Daly, Skip Senator](#); [Scheible, Melanie Senator](#); [Titus, Robin Senator](#); [Bilbray-Axelrod, Shannon Assemblywoman](#); [Taylor, Angie Assemblywoman](#); [Harper, Christina](#); [Keller, Alysa](#); [Gray, Ken Assemblyman](#)  
**Subject:** Nevada Legislative Committee for the Review and Oversight of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and the Marlette Lake Water System  
**Date:** Saturday, June 1, 2024 3:39:49 PM

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Please read and include the following public comment into the public record for the June 7, 2024 Nevada Legislative Committee for the Review and Oversight of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and the Marlette Lake Water System

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June 1, 2024

Dear Honorable Committee Chair, Vice Chair and Members,

I'm a full-time Washoe County North Lake Tahoe resident. I commend you for putting Lake Tahoe Basin Evacuation Planning and Wildfire Prevention on [the agenda](#) for your June 7, 2024 meeting.

**The Lake Tahoe Basin environment and public safety should be TRPA's top priorities – period.** Unfortunately, TRPA is largely pursuing policies that bring ever more people into the basin that endanger both.

This is not hyperbole. Over the past 20 years visitation to the basin has increased from some 2.5 million people per year to well more than 20 million per year today. For perspective, that is more than double the number of people who visit ALL of the Hawaiian Islands each year. Nevada State Parks' numbers show visitation to Sand Harbor alone has increased from about 330,000 to some 1.3 million per year over just the past ten years. Extending those trends even just a few years into the future is a frightening prospect.

At the same time, TRPA is moving forward with rezoning basin town centers for new high-density housing in five-story buildings; approving large scale commercial hotel and resort developments; adding more trails and "attractions"; and has done nothing to limit the basin's 5,000-6,000 short-term rentals – the rough equivalent of some 12,500 to 15,000 extra hotel rooms (average of 2.5 rooms per STR).

Yet the basin still has just a few two-lane roads available for evacuation. And those are constantly reduced to one-lane roads during the summer construction and wildfire season.

**In sum, TRPA's focus has been on packing more people into the basin with little thought given to how to get them back out – particularly in an inevitable**

wildfire emergency or conflagration such as the recent Caldor fire.

I urge you to use your Committee's influence – and authority over state funding – to mandate that TRPA spearhead a thorough, professional and realistic evacuation plan to help ensure the safety of Tahoe residents and visitors. Any plan should be based on the peak of the summer season, when wildfires are most likely. (Planning for the worst-case scenario is something I taught in when training U.S. Navy firefighters.)

If TRPA fails to take on wildfire evacuation planning in earnest, I fear the manifold public comments, op-eds and contributed articles and emails to government representatives that residents have generated over the past several years will one day be reduced to exhibits in post-fire evaluations and litigations. And that would be tragic.

Sincerely,

Alex Tsigdinos

Full-time Washoe County North Tahoe resident (Incline Village)