

From: [Diane Heirshberg](#)
To: [Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and the Marlette Lake Water System](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT, Public Hearing, August 16, 2024; AGENDA Item II; Please Change Priorities to Prioritize Fire and Other Disaster Evacuation from the Lake Tahoe Basin
Date: Thursday, August 15, 2024 3:48:43 PM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

August 15, 2024

Re: Dear Members of the Legislative Committee for the Review and Oversight of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency,

I was the Chairperson of the Incline Village Crystal Bay Citizen Advisory Board for several years (until last month) and am currently the Vice-Chairperson. I am therefore very knowledgeable about issues of importance to the citizens of Incline Village. The IVCB CAB determined that the priority and most important issue for us as residents of Incline Village is the issue of evacuation safety, and the fact that the local jurisdictions and TRPA continue to allow new development at a time of already high traffic congestion and outdated evacuation numbers, without getting a current study of evacuation capacity and risk. For example, the current Washoe County evacuation plan only estimates an evacuation population of residents (around 9000) and does not count visitors or IVCB workers who reside elsewhere. Yet last year and this year, no funds were budgeted by the County for a study of evacuation risk, even though the IVCB CAB spent the better part of a year in its meetings writing a presentation to the Commissioners on evacuation risk, especially from fire. I would be pleased to provide a copy of this presentation if you would contact me, but I do not want to over-lengthen my public comment.

THE EVACUATION RISK MUST BE STUDIED FOR THE SAFETY OF RESIDENTS AND VISITORS AND WORKERS. Only if the oversight Committee conditions the huge funds that you are giving to TRPA, upon TRPA stopping development and the building of new recreational venues to draw more and more people here, until it has hired an expert consultant to conduct a real evacuation population analysis, based on current numbers, not 2012 numbers, and evacuation safety has been fully evaluated and addressed, will the citizens who reside here, the workers who work here and the visitors, be safe.

The ever-increasing evacuation population is well documented. For example, the Tahoe Transportation District commissioned a Study which has found that:

- more than 50 million vehicle trips are made into, out of and within the Tahoe Basin annually.

- about 75% of these trips are made by visitors and 25% are made by residents.

-there will be an estimated 25% increase in visitors to Tahoe between 2014 through 2035.

Please put conditions upon your funding or it will be too late. Do not be mislead by TRPA saying it will be looking at this and that the process will take years, because we, the citizens have been raising this for years. We know that a valid study will take months, but it will not take years.

I respectfully submit that the priorities set in paragraph 12 **submitted by Chair Skip Daily should be changed slightly to be:** (1) preservation, protection and restoration of the Lake; (2) protection of the public safety by conducting an evacuation analysis determining what size of evacuation population can safely be evacuated and how to address the evacuation risk, before approving further development and recreational facilities; (3) mitigating other adverse impacts on residents; (4) safely enhancing the visitor experience.

And while TRPA does this study, it can be spending the federal public monies to improve lake quality and clarity and other metrics.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Diane Becker

Full time resident, Incline Village

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]