

From: Niobe Burden Austere [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2026 3:42 AM
To: Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and the Marlette Lake Water System [REDACTED]
Cc: Niobe Burden [REDACTED]
Subject: Public Comment - NV Legislature's TRPA Oversight Committee meeting - Jan 23 2026 - Need for Basin Wide Carrying Capacity Study

Please accept as public comment for the NV Legislature's TRPA Oversight Committee meeting - Jan 23 2026

Dear Legislative Oversight Committee,

Quoted from the Tahoe Science Advisory Council's Independent Peer Review Summary regarding 2023 Environmental Thresholds -

"The disconnect between some standards and management activities reinforces the need (identified by previous threshold evaluation reviews) to revisit the threshold standard system for air quality, noise, recreation, vegetation preservation and water quality."

This assessment strongly aligns with the idea that a modern, basin-wide Carrying Capacity Study integrating **environmental, recreational, and socioeconomic load capacities**—could play a valuable role in re-establishing coherence between thresholds, monitoring, and management activities.

This observation underscores a broader opportunity: to systematically reassess the **Tahoe Basin's capacity to absorb use and development without degrading key environmental or community conditions. A modern, integrated Carrying Capacity Study could help align TRPA's Environmental Thresholds with both current conditions and future pressures—particularly as climate change, visitor demand, and socioeconomic dynamics continue to evolve.**

Such a study could:

- Help **recalibrate Environmental Threshold Carrying Capacities;**
- Provide a more scientifically grounded basis for **management prioritization and policy trade-offs;**
- Clarify the **interrelationships between resource limits,** infrastructure, ecological thresholds, and user experiences.

I have a great deal more material including:

1. The difference between a Carrying Capacity Study and Basin EIS
2. How TRPA can Initiate a Basin wide Carry Capacity Study
3. Parameters for a Tahoe Basin Carrying Capacity Study outline

**For a more readable version -
Please read my Moonshine Ink Op Ed article published April 10 2025 -**

<https://www.moonshineink.com/opinion/trpa-must-prioritize-transparency-and-a-carrying-capacity-study-for-lake-tahoe/>

Respectfully submitted,
Niobe

Niobe Burden Austere



Tahoe Vista Resident - Conservation Photographer
Executive Committee - Tahoe Area Group Sierra Club

Travel-Conservation Photography:
www.niobeburden.com