

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW AND OVERSIGHT OF THE TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY AND THE MARLETTE LAKE WATER SYSTEM

Nevada Revised Statutes 218E.555

The following is a summary of the recommendations approved during the 2009–2010 Interim by the Legislative Committee for the Review and Oversight of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) and the Marlette Lake Water System. One bill draft request (BDR) will be submitted to the 76th Session of the Nevada Legislature for its consideration in 2011.

RECOMMENDATION FOR LEGISLATION

1. Assembly Bill 18 (Chapter 431, *Statutes of Nevada 2009*) authorized the sale of general obligation bonds up to \$100 million over the next decade for Nevada's portion of the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP). The costs of carrying out the EIP are apportioned among the federal government, the States of California and Nevada, local governments, and private property owners within both states. The Administrator and State Lands Registrar of the Division of State Lands, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, is authorized to submit a request to the Legislature each biennium, as necessary, for an appropriation to the Program. The Committee approved a BDR for the sale of \$12 million of the authorized general obligation bonds for the 2011–2013 Biennium. The preliminary list of projects that will be submitted for consideration with this legislation includes:

- \$1 million for continued forest health, restoration, and fuels management project implementation;
- \$300,000 to control invasive terrestrial and aquatic species;
- \$1,037,500 for recreation enhancements;
- \$335,000 for protecting sensitive species and improving wildlife habitat;
- \$8,827,500 for water quality, erosion control, and stream restoration/enhancement projects; and
- \$500,000 for project contingencies.

The bill would provide that the total bond value issued for the Program may be reduced by the amount of money appropriated by the Legislature. **(BDR S-97)**

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMITTEE LETTERS

2. Send a Committee letter to California's and Nevada's Congressional Delegations to request support of Lake Tahoe Transportation Authorities in the Reauthorization of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).

Include a statement that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) designation under the current federal SAFETEA-LU for transportation and the transportation project implementation funds the Tahoe MPO (TMPO) receives have been of tremendous benefit to the people and the environment in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Specify support of the Committee for the retention of all authorities currently designated for the Lake Tahoe Region in the reauthorization of the bill.

Express the concern of the Committee that the TMPO does not receive transit operating formula funds as do all other MPOs, and request that the new transportation bill add this authority for the TMPO.

Therefore, the Committee supports the amendment of Section 5307 of the *United States Code* (U.S.C.), as follows:

Amend Section 5307(h) of Title 49, U.S.C., Chapter 53 to add a new subsection 5307(h)(2):

(2) For purposes of this section, the Lake Tahoe Region, as defined in Title 49 U.S.C. 5309(f)(3)(A), shall be treated as an urbanized area with a population of 150,000 and a land area of 77 square miles, as defined in Section 5302.

Point out that significant operating funds are necessary to provide an effective regionwide transit system given the dominance of federal land ownership at Lake Tahoe (approximately 80 percent), the policy direction of the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact (Public Law 96-551) to provide alternatives to the automobile, and the large annual visitation that comes to enjoy Lake Tahoe.

3. Send a Committee letter to Nevada's Department of Transportation to encourage the Department's continued cooperation with the Tahoe Transportation District to ensure that drop inlet grates on roads in the Lake Tahoe Basin are safe for bicyclists.
4. Send a Committee letter to the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency to urge consideration of the recommendations in the Lake Tahoe Regional Plan Initiative as the TRPA continues work on the Regional Plan update. The Committee noted that an economic foundation is necessary to support environmental gain, and that nothing in the letter should be construed as supporting or opposing any particular development proposal.

5. Send a Committee letter to Steve Teshara in acknowledgment of his nearly 30 years of work promoting collaboration between diverse entities for the common goal of improving environmental and economic conditions in the Lake Tahoe Basin.