

**LAKE TAHOE BASIN
FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION REPORT
D R A F T**

**APPENDIX C
HISTORICAL CONDITIONS**

Prepared for:
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Sacramento, CA

April 2004

Table of Contents

1.0	INTRODUCTION TO HISTORICAL CONDITIONS OF THE LAKE TAHOE BASIN	5
2.0	RELEVANT LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND ACTIVITIES.....	7
2.1	Tahoe Regional Planning Compact – 1969 (P.L. 91-148).....	7
2.2	Federal Water Pollution Control Act - 1972 (P.L. 92-500)	8
2.3	Executive Order 12247 – Tahoe Federal Coordinating Council -1980.....	8
2.4	Tahoe Regional Planning Compact -1980 (P.L. 96-551)	8
2.4.1	Regional Plan.....	10
2.4.2	Environmental Threshold Carrying Capacities.....	10
2.5	Executive Order 12298 – Elimination of Tahoe Federal Coordinating Council - 1981.....	10
2.6	Santini-Burton Act – 1980 (P.L. 96-596).....	12
2.7	Washoe Tribe Trust Land Act – 1982 (P.L. 97-288).....	12
2.8	Lake Tahoe Presidential Forum – 1997	12
2.8.1	Executive Order 13057 - Tahoe Federal Interagency Partnership (Partnership) - 1997	12
2.8.2	Memorandum of Understanding.....	13
2.9	Environmental Improvement Program - 1998.....	14
2.10	Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act – 1998 (P.L. 105-263)	15
2.10.1	Background.....	15
2.10.2	SNPLMA Implementation Agreement - 1998.....	16
2.11	Lake Tahoe Restoration Act – 1999 (P.L. 106-506).....	16
2.12	Washoe Indian Tribe Trust Land Conveyance Act – 2003 (P.L. 108-67).....	17
2.13	SNPLMA Amendment – 2003 (P.L.108-108)	17
3.0	REPORTS PREPARED FOR THE TAHOE BASIN	19
3.1	USEPA Report – The Lake Tahoe Study - 1974.....	19
3.1.1	Tools Available to Resolve Issues	19
4.0	KEY PLANNING ENTITIES ACTING IN THE TAHOE BASIN.....	23
4.1	U.S. Forest Service - Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit.....	23
4.1.1	Mission and Mandates	23
4.1.2	Tahoe Basin Programs and Funding Sources	24
4.2	The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency	25
4.2.1	Mission and Mandate.....	25
4.2.2	Tahoe Basin Programs and Funding Sources	25
4.3	Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board.....	26
4.3.1	Mission and Mandate.....	26
4.3.2	Tahoe Basin Programs and Funding Sources	27
4.4	Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization	27

4.4.1	Mission and Mandate	27
4.4.2	Tahoe Basin Program and Funding Sources	29
5.0	OTHER FEDERAL ENTITIES ACTING IN THE TAHOE BASIN	31
5.1	Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration	32
5.1.1	National Mission and Mandates.....	32
5.1.2	Tahoe Basin Programs and Funding Sources	32
5.2	Natural Resources Conservation Service.....	34
5.2.1	National Mission and Mandates.....	34
5.2.2	Tahoe Basin Programs and Funding Sources	34
5.3	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.....	34
5.3.1	National Mission and Mandates.....	34
5.3.2	Tahoe Basin Programs and Funding Sources	35
5.4	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.....	36
5.4.1	National Mission and Mandates.....	36
5.4.2	Tahoe Basin Programs and Funding Sources	36
5.5	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	36
5.5.1	National Mission and Mandates.....	36
5.5.2	Tahoe Basin Programs and Funding Sources	37
5.6	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	38
5.6.1	National Mission and Mandates.....	38
5.6.2	Tahoe Basin Programs and Funding Sources	38
5.7	U.S. Geological Survey	38
5.7.1	National Mission and Mandates.....	38
5.7.2	Tahoe Basin Programs and Funding Sources	39
6.0	TRIBAL NATIONS.....	41
7.0	STATE ENTITIES ACTING IN THE TAHOE BASIN.....	43
7.1	California Department of Transportation.....	43
7.1.1	Mission and Mandates	43
7.1.2	Tahoe Basin Programs and Funding Sources	43
7.2	California State Parks	43
7.2.1	Mission and Mandates	43
7.2.2	Tahoe Basin Programs and Funding Sources	44
7.3	California Tahoe Conservancy	44
7.3.1	Mission and Mandates	44
7.3.2	Tahoe Basin Programs and Funding Sources	44
7.4	Nevada Department of Transportation	46
7.4.1	Mission and Mandates	46
7.4.2	Tahoe Basin Programs and Funding Sources	46
7.5	Nevada Division of State Lands.....	46
7.5.1	Mission and Mandates	46

7.5.2	Tahoe Basin Programs and Funding Sources	47
7.6	Nevada Division of State Parks.....	47
7.6.1	Mission and Mandates	47
7.6.2	Tahoe Basin Programs and Funding Sources	47
7.7	State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection.....	48
7.7.1	Mission and Mandates	48
7.7.2	Tahoe Basin Programs and Funding Sources	48
8.0	PUBLIC UTILITIES/DISTRICTS	49
8.1.1	South Tahoe Public Utilities District	49
8.1.2	Incline Village General Improvement District	49
8.1.3	Tahoe City Public Utility District	49
8.1.4	Kingsbury General Improvement District	49
8.1.5	North Tahoe Public Utility District.....	49
8.1.6	Douglas County Sewer Improvement District No. 1	50
8.1.7	Tahoe Douglas District	50
8.1.8	Round Hill General Improvement District	50
9.0	NON-GOVERNMENT/NON-PROFIT PARTNERSHIPS AND COALITIONS	51
9.1.1	Lake Tahoe Transportation and Water Quality Coalition.....	51
9.1.2	League to Save Lake Tahoe.....	51
9.1.3	North Lake Tahoe Resort Association.....	51
9.1.4	University of California, Davis - Tahoe Research Group.....	52
9.1.5	Desert Research Institute	52
10.0	LOCAL	53
11.0	BASIN WORKING GROUPS.....	55
12.0	REFERENCES.....	63

List of Figures

Figure 1.	LTFAC's Interrelationship Among TREX, LTBEAC and the Secretary of Agriculture	11
Figure 2.	Institutional Framework for Transportation Planning/Programming in the Lake Tahoe Basin	23

List of Tables

Table 1.	Summary of Environmental Threshold Indicator Status	9
Table 2.	Primary Federal Agencies Congressional Committees.....	26
Table 3.	Tahoe Basin Working Groups' – Mission and Purpose.....	46

1.0 INTRODUCTION TO HISTORICAL CONDITIONS OF THE LAKE TAHOE BASIN

This report describes: (1) legislative actions, (2) reports and studies, (3) agency activities, and (4) partnerships and working groups that have set the standards for how Federal, state, regional, and local agencies coordinate with one another and with stakeholders in the Lake Tahoe Basin (Tahoe Basin). The combination of environmental, recreational, gaming, and tourism interests in the Tahoe Basin have led to interesting and unique opportunities for consensus and ultimately collaboration. Historical activities created the process we know today.

Based on historic information and information learned from workshops held in 2003, it could be said that history repeats itself. That is, some of the problems articulated in The Lake Tahoe Study completed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) in 1974, remain today. Additionally, the solutions proposed in that study are similar to those being considered by some in the Tahoe Basin today.

Much has been done to remove the hurdles identified historically. Successful implementation of Federal legislation such as the 1980 Tahoe Regional Planning Compact (1980 Compact) has led to the success of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) and the implementation of the environmental thresholds concept. The Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) has gone a long way toward developing a capital improvement plan to reverse the environmental effects realized in the Tahoe Basin. National attention has brought Federal dollars and congressional interest to the Tahoe Basin and Federal agencies to the table to implement their portion of the EIP.

2.0 RELEVANT LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND ACTIVITIES

Numerous legislative actions have been implemented and pivotal activities taken place during the last three decades with the goal of protecting and improving the environmental quality of the Tahoe Basin. A summary of relevant legislative actions is provided below in chronological order.

2.1 Tahoe Regional Planning Compact – 1969 (P.L. 91-148) (1969 Compact)

On December 18, 1969, consent of Congress was given to the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact (1969 Compact) that “Authorizes the Secretary of Interior and others to cooperate with TRPA to encourage the wise use and conservation of the waters of Lake Tahoe and of the resources of the area around the lake” (Public Law (P.L.) 91-148). The 1969 Compact was the first National attempt to direct environmental planning on an interstate basis by creating a regional entity, TRPA (USEPA 1974). A discussion of TRPA follows in Section 4.0, Key Planning Entities Acting in the Tahoe Basin.

The 1969 Compact legislated the following TRPA goals

- To enhance the efficiency and governmental effectiveness of the region;
- To harmonize the needs of the region as a whole, the plans of the counties and cities within the region, the plans and planning activities of the Federal, state, and other public agencies and non-governmental agencies and organizations which affect or are concerned with planning and development within the region.

The 1969 Compact directed the

- Establishment of a governing board and determined its construct and membership;
- Completion of a regional plan or long term general plan for development in the region;
- Completion of an interim plan to be adopted pending adoption of the regional plan;
- Establishment of an Advisory Planning Commission, its construct, and membership;
- Establishment of TRPA agency powers; and
- Financial contributions by the States of California and Nevada, counties, and cities.

The 1969 Compact also legislated the following Federal agency cooperation:

- The Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture were authorized, upon request of TRPA, to cooperate with TRPA in all respects compatible with carrying out the normal duties of their Departments.
- Consent was subject to the Presidential-appointment of a non-voting representative to the TRPA governing board.

The first Presidential appointment to TRPA was made in April of 1970. Immediately, a committee of Federal agencies, known as the Federal Coordinators Committee, was convened. The Federal Coordinators Committee was intended to provide inter-agency coordination for development and implementation of TRPA's Regional Plan. (USEPA 1974) A follow-on effort was initiated in 1973 when the Tahoe Executive Council was formed to provide policy guidance to Federal agencies. Members included the Departments of Agriculture, Interior, Defense, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and the USEPA. (USEPA 1974)

2.2 Federal Water Pollution Control Act - 1972 (P.L. 92-500)

Section 114 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972, directed the “USEPA Administrator, in consultation with TRPA, the Secretary of Agriculture, other Federal agencies, representatives of state and local governments, and members of the public to conduct a thorough and complete study on the adequacy of, and need for, extending Federal oversight and control in order to preserve the fragile ecology of Lake Tahoe.” (P.L. 92-500)

The study was expected to (1) consider the inter-relationships and responsibilities of Federal, state, and local governments, (2) determine the necessity to redefine the legal arrangements among these governments, and (3) make specific legislative recommendations to Congress. These three ideas were to be evaluated in light of the potential environmental effect on the Tahoe Basin. This legislative language resulted in the completion of The Lake Tahoe Study by the USEPA in 1974. This study is considered to have laid the groundwork for successful inter-governmental and public coordination in the Basin.

2.3 Executive Order 12247 – Tahoe Federal Coordinating Council -1980

In October 1980, Federal Executive Order (E.O.) 12247 directed the creation of the Tahoe Federal Coordinating Council. The E.O. directed that the council be composed of representatives from the Departments of Defense, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, and Transportation as well as the USEPA. The intent of this interagency council was to develop and issue environmental thresholds and carrying capacities for air, water, and terrestrial components of the Tahoe Basin. These thresholds and carrying capacities were to be developed in consultation with local and state governments and stakeholders, and were to be refined periodically. The Tahoe Federal Coordinating Council was also tasked with assisting state and local governments in adopting and utilizing these thresholds and further utilizing them to determine the effect of Federal actions on the Tahoe Basin environment. (E.O. 12247)

2.4 Tahoe Regional Planning Compact -1980 (P.L. 96-551) (1980 Compact)

On December 19, 1980, consent of Congress was given to the 1980 Compact along with authorization for the Secretary of Agriculture and other agencies to cooperate with TRPA, which was created by the 1969 Compact. As did the 1969 Compact, the 1980 Compact also encouraged the wise use and conservation of the Lake Tahoe region.

The 1969 Compact was amended after several years of struggle by TRPA to create a regulatory foothold in the Tahoe region. Limitations of the 1969 Compact made it very difficult

for TRPA to ensure that development activities did not diminish the resources in the Tahoe Basin. The Western Federal Regional Council released the Lake Tahoe Environmental Assessment in 1979 and reported that

- Algal concentrations had increased 150 percent;
- Urban development had increased 78 percent; and
- 75 percent of marshes, 15 percent of forests, and 50 percent of meadowlands had been converted to urban use or had otherwise been destroyed. (Western Federal Regional Council 1979)

The final report concluded some success by TRPA, pointed out the weaknesses, and suggested solutions to the problems. Ironically, no local governments would support the changes proposed by the Western Federal Regional Council.

The next five years proved tumultuous for TRPA. Both the California and Nevada Legislature passed dissimilar legislation to address the Tahoe issues. As a result, the State of California cut off funding to TRPA. Both the California and Nevada TRPA offices were individually funded and given more authority than the federally mandated bi-state TRPA office.

After much political intervention and negotiation, a new compact was developed in 1980. The amended compact differs from the 1969 Compact as follows:

- Increases governing board membership from 10 to 14 and sets a 4:3 state majority as compared to a 3:2 local majority,
- Governing board voting requires a dual majority for project approval rather than denial,
- TRPA has full authority over public works projects rather than none,
- All new casinos are prohibited in the Tahoe Basin as compared to a grandfather clause,
- Requires establishment of environmental threshold carrying capacities (ETCC's/environmental thresholds),
- Limits development for two years from 1980 to 1982,
- Creates the Tahoe Transportation District and sets regional transportation goals to reduce reliance on autos and reduce air pollution,
- Requires detailed environmental documentation for project implementation,
- Adds new members to the Advisory Planning Commission, and
- Changes the “60-day rule” to 180 days for TRPA action on permit applications.

Renegotiation of the compact and the requirement of a new regional plan spurred fears of stricter regulations. As a result, a desire for local entities to organize was established. At this time, the Tahoe-Sierra Preservation Council and the Tahoe Gaming Alliance were formed. Many of TRPA’s staunch supporters were lost.

2.4.1 Regional Plan

TRPA's first regional plan was not adopted until 1984 and was subsequently challenged in court by environmental and development interests. TRPA's governing board adopted the most recent regional plan in 1987. The regional plan is intended to guide decision-making in the Tahoe Basin with regard to growth and development. It contains comprehensive land use, transportation, recreation and public services, and facilities plans for the Tahoe Basin. Goals and policies contained in the regional plan supercede those contained in other plans such as transportation, water quality and community plans. The goals and policies included in the regional plan are updated periodically, as necessary to maintain the environmental thresholds and to incorporate relevant scientific data.

2.4.2 Environmental Threshold Carrying Capacities (ETCC's)

Since the establishment of the ETCC's/environmental thresholds in 1982, TRPA has performed three threshold attainment studies to assess the relative progress of various programs in the Tahoe Basin EIP in addressing environmental degradation issues in the Tahoe Basin. The first threshold attainment study was conducted in 1991, the second in 1996, and most recently, in 2001.

Table 1, summarizes the environmental resource areas, associated thresholds, and attainment status of each threshold as provided in TRPA's 2001 Threshold Evaluation Report. The report summarizes the 2001 results as:

“Of the 36 threshold indicators that TRPA tracks for overall attainment, approximately seven are in attainment; this means that monitoring indicates the threshold meets the adopted standard. Monitoring results find that 25 of the indicators are in non-attainment, which means they do not meet the standard. The status is unknown for the remaining four indicators, meaning TRPA did not have the data to make the determination. Some of the non-attainment indicators are close to attainment. If a ‘near attainment’ category is considered for indicators that are very close to the standard, then eight of these are in near attainment and 17 are in significant non-attainment. Significant non-attainment includes indicators that will not be attained in the near future, have negative trends or are not making interim targets. Approximately 20 out of 26 of the indicators did not meet their interim targets.” (TRPA 2001)

2.5 Executive Order 12298 – Elimination of Tahoe Federal Coordinating Council - 1981

In March of 1981, E.O. 12298 revoked E.O. 12247, eliminating the Tahoe Federal Coordinating Council for reasons of redundancy in Federal responsibilities of TRPA.

TABLE 1. Summary of Environmental Threshold Indicator Status

Environmental Threshold Compliance Indicator Trends						
Threshold		Evaluations			Trend	
		1991	1996	2001		
I.	AIR QUALITY					
	AQ-1	CO	Nonattainment	Attainment	Attainment	↑
	AQ-2	O ₃	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	–
	AQ-3	Particulate	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	Attainment	↑
	AQ-4	Visibility	Attainment	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	↓
	AQ-5	U.S. Highway 50 Traffic Volume	Nonattainment	Attainment	Unknown	–
	AQ-6	Wood Smoke	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	Unknown	↑
	AQ-7	VMT	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	↓
	AQ-8	Atmospheric Nutrient Loading	Attainment	Attainment	Unknown	↑
II.	WATER QUALITY					
	WQ-1	Turbidity (Shallow)	Attainment	Attainment	Attainment	–
	WQ-2	Clarity, Winter	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	↑
	WQ-3	Phytoplankton PPr	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	↓
	WQ-4	Tributary Water Quality	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	↑
	WQ-5	Runoff Water Quality	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	–
	WQ-6	Groundwater	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	–
	WQ-7	Other Lakes	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	–
III.	SOIL CONSERVATION					
	SC-1	Impervious Coverage	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	↓
	SC-2	Naturally-Functioning SEZ	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	↑
IV.	VEGETATION					
	V-1	Relative Abundance and Pattern	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	↑
	V-2	Uncommon Plant Communities	Attainment	Attainment	Attainment	↑
	V-3	Sensitive Vegetation	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	–
	V-4	Late Seral/Old Growth (New)			Nonattainment	↑
V.	FISHERIES					
	F-1	Lake Habitat	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	↑
	F-2	Stream Habitat	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	↑
	F-3	In-Stream Flows	Unknown	Unknown	Attainment	–
	F-4	Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (New)			Attainment	↑
VI.	WILDLIFE					
	W-1	Special Interest Species	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	↑
	W-2	Habitats of Special Significance	Attainment	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	↑
VII.	SCENIC RESOURCES					
	SR-1	Travel Route Ratings	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	↑↓
	SR-2	Scenic Quality Ratings	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	↑↓
	SR-3	Public Recreation Area Scenic Quality Ratings	Unknown	Unknown	Nonattainment	↓
	SR-4	Community Design	Unknown	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	↑
VIII.	NOISE					
	N-1	Single Event (Aircraft)	Unknown	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	↑
	N-2	Single Event (Other)	Attainment	Attainment	Nonattainment	–
	N-3	Community Noise	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	–
IX.	RECREATION					
	R-1	High Quality Recreational Experience	Unknown	Unknown	Nonattainment	↑
	R-2	Capacity Available to the General Public	Attainment	Attainment	Attainment	↑

Source: TRPA 2002a

↑ = Positive Trend ↓ = Negative Trend – = No Trend

2.6 Santini-Burton Act – 1980 (P.L. 96-596)

The Santini-Burton Act directed the Secretary of the Interior to dispose of specified public land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Clark County, Nevada. A portion of funds generated through implementation of the act was allocated for annual payments to local governments for water pollution control, soil erosion mitigation, and acquisition of environmentally sensitive land within the Tahoe Basin.

The Santini-Burton Act supports the purchase of environmentally sensitive parcels and parcels subject to unsuitable development by the Secretary of Agriculture. As appropriate, the purchased land either becomes part of the national forest system, or is transferred to an appropriate state or local government.

2.7 Washoe Tribe Trust Land Act – 1982 (P.L. 97-288)

This legislative act directs (1) the United States to hold certain land in Nevada in trust for the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California as part of the Washoe Indian Reservation and to be used primarily for agricultural purposes, and (2) the Bureau of Indian Affairs to transfer the administration of certain other land in Nevada to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS).

2.8 Lake Tahoe Presidential Forum (Forum) – 1997

In July of 1997, the Forum was held in Lake Tahoe. The event focused Federal attention and funds on the environmental conditions of the Tahoe Basin and was well-attended by high-ranking officials including President William Jefferson Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, the California and Nevada U.S. Senate Delegation, several members of Congress, Cabinet-level Secretaries and Administrators, and many other regional dignitaries. The Forum involved a series of Tahoe Basin-focused events and activities and included environmentally related workshops on topic areas such as water quality, forest restoration, ecology, tourism, and transportation. In addition to providing an opportunity for education and information dissemination on issues facing the Tahoe Basin, the Forum also culminated in the signing of an E.O. that created the Tahoe Federal Interagency Partnership (Partnership) and generated interest in the eventual release of the EIP in 1998. Two memorandums of understanding also resulted from the Forum. These are summarized below. Additional Federal funding was also obligated over the next two years.

2.8.1 Executive Order 13057 - Tahoe Federal Interagency Partnership (Partnership) - 1997

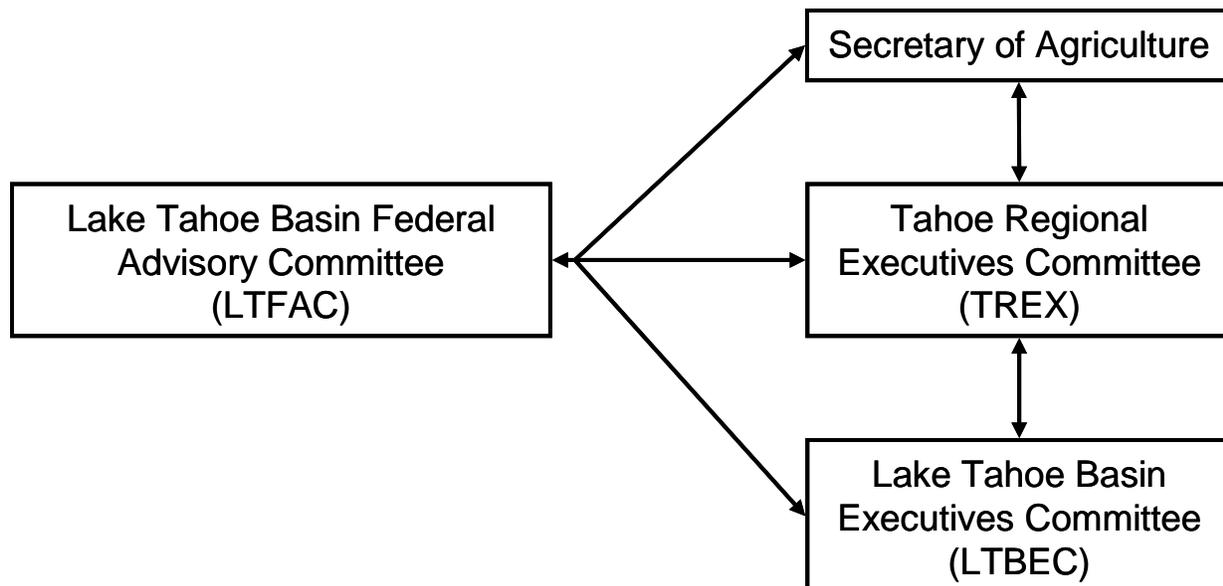
Federal E.O. 13057 directed the creation of the Partnership. The intent of the Partnership is to ensure that Federal agency actions protect the extraordinary natural, recreational, and ecological resources of the Tahoe Basin.

The Partnership includes the Secretaries of Agriculture, Interior, Transportation, and Army; the Administrator of the USEPA; and any other Federal agencies active in the Tahoe Basin that choose to participate. Partnership responsibilities generally include facilitating coordination of Federal programs/projects, promoting consistent policies and strategies, and promoting information sharing. In an effort to establish a regional and local presence, the Partnership

representatives formed two committees: the Tahoe Regional Executives Committee (TRES) and the Lake Tahoe Basin Executives Committee (LTBEC). The TRES provides regional representation of the participating Federal agencies generally meeting on a bi-annual basis. The LTBEC provides staff-level Federal representation and meets on a monthly basis. The LTBEC provides briefings on an as needed basis to the TRES.

In 1998, the Secretary of Agriculture, in compliance with the Federal Advisory Act (P.L. 92-463), established the Lake Tahoe Federal Advisory Committee (LTFAC). The LTFAC includes citizens concerned with the future viability of the Tahoe Basin environment and economy. The LTFAC provides advice to the Secretary of Agriculture and to the Partnership on how to best fulfill the duties outlined in E.O. 13507 and to fully integrate and coordinate Federal programs and funds to best achieve the EIP. Figure 1 depicts the interrelationship among LTBEC, TRES, LTFAC, and the Secretary of Agriculture with regard to the Partnership.

FIGURE 1. LTFAC's Interrelationship Among TRES, LTBEC and the Secretary of Agriculture



Source: LTBEC 1999

2.8.2 Memorandum of Understanding

A summary of the memorandums of understanding signed as part of the Forum in July 1997.

A Memorandum of Understanding between the State of California and the State of Nevada:

- California and Nevada are committed to the sound management and protection of the Tahoe Basin's natural resources and the support of a healthy sustainable economy through their respective state programs and policies.
- California and Nevada are committed to working with the public-private partnerships that exist in the Tahoe Basin.

- California and Nevada are committed to the attainment of the environmental thresholds for Lake Tahoe and to the development and implementation of an appropriate EIP, and urge other public-private partnerships to do the same.
- California and Nevada are actively involved with Federal partners, who will share with the states and local partnerships the implementation and funding of this effort.
- California and Nevada request TRPA to be the lead agency in bringing together those parties needed to pursue the implementation of the EIP programs.
- California and Nevada agree that this memorandum is to expeditiously transmit to all appropriate parties including the President of the United States, Congress, the California and Nevada Legislatures, the local governments of the Tahoe Basin, TRPA, and the Coalition.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Partnership, the States of California and Nevada, the Washoe Tribe of California and Nevada, the TRPA, the City of South Lake Tahoe, California, the City and County of Carson, Nevada, and the Counties of Placer and El Dorado, California and the Counties of Washoe and Douglas, Nevada states the following:

- The signatories are committed to the 1980 Compact and to the sound management and protection of the Tahoe Basin's natural resources and the support of a healthy, sustainable economy through their respective programs and policies.
- The signatories are committed to the achievement and maintenance of environmental thresholds, cultural and historic values, and economic health for Lake Tahoe and to the adoption and implementation of an EIP.
- The signatories agree to cooperate with each other to pursue implementation, including funding, of an appropriate EIP.
- The signatories are committed to continuing and expanding the participation of public-private partnerships and consensus-building groups in planning and implementing environmental protection measures for Lake Tahoe.

2.9 Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) - 1998

As environmental efforts proceeded, and two threshold attainment studies were conducted for the Tahoe Basin, the need for a coordinated program approach became more evident. The EIP, adopted by the TRPA in 1998, is intended to provide a coordinated program approach for the Tahoe Basin and represents an implementation strategy for TRPA's regional plan and a capital improvement plan for the Tahoe Basin. The EIP has been embraced by Federal, state, and local agencies as well as community stakeholders. It is designed to build upon existing regulatory and capital improvement approaches in existence for more than 10 years in an effort to achieve the ETCC's. The updated 2001 EIP identifies almost \$1.478 billion (in 2000 dollars) worth of needs within the 20-year timeframe of 1997-2016. (TRPA 2001)

The EIP has several components that make up a comprehensive strategy for restoration and improvements. The components include (1) capital projects, (2) research/science activities, (3)

program support and technical assistance, and (4) operations and maintenance activities. The overall objectives of the EIP program include

- Providing a tool to focus implementation efforts region-wide,
- Integrating and organizing threshold needs in one place and format,
- Coordinating multiple agency work programs related to threshold objectives,
- Facilitating public/private partnerships and agreement on priorities,
- Leveraging human, organizational and capital improvement resources, and
- Fostering and creating long-term program investment commitments from all community sectors—Federal, state, local, and private sectors.

The basis of the EIP was to accomplish or exceed multiple environmental goals and to develop a more integrated, proactive environmental management approach.

2.10 Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act – 1998 **(P.L. 105-263) (SNPLMA)**

2.10.1 Background

The SNPLMA directed the Secretary of Interior to dispose of public land, via sale or transfer, in a specific area near Las Vegas, Nevada. The Act directed that revenues from these sales/transfers be divided among the State of Nevada General Education Fund (5 percent), the Southern Nevada Water Authority (10 percent), and a Special Account available to the Secretary of the Interior (85 percent).

The Secretary was authorized to expend funds from the Special Account to

- Acquire environmentally sensitive land in the State of Nevada;
- Conduct capital improvements at the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area and other areas administered by the BLM in Clark County, Nevada and the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area;
- Develop a multi-species habitat conservation plan in Clark County;
- Fund the development of parks, trails, and natural areas in Clark County, Nevada, pursuant to a cooperative agreement with a unit of local government; and
- Implement conservation initiatives on Federal land in Clark County, Nevada, administered by the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture.

Other provisions in the SNPLMA direct certain land sale and acquisition procedures, direct the BLM to convey title to land in the McCarran Airport noise zone to Clark County, and provide for the sale of land for affordable housing.

The SNPLMA was amended by P.L. 107-282 in November 2003. The amendment clarified that the Secretary of Agriculture had jurisdiction for land sales/transfers/purchases of national forest system land and the Secretary of the Interior for other land.

2.10.2 SNPLMA Implementation Agreement - 1998

The 1998 Implementation Agreement requires that projects be reviewed by three committees (two in the case of land acquisitions) prior to a recommendation to the Secretary of the Interior for funding. The committees and their members are not included in the statute, but rather, are based solely on the Implementation Agreement. The three layers of committee review and recommendations include subgroups, partners working group, and the Executive Committee. Subgroups are established for various eligible activities and geographic areas, including: capital improvements, parks, trails, and natural areas; multi-species habitat conservation plans; and conservation initiatives for designated geographic areas.

The existing funding process is a 10-month program that advances through the following steps

- Nomination period. Anyone can nominate a land acquisition, but only the four signatories can nominate capital improvement projects.
- Public comment for acquisitions.
- Subgroups rank nominated funding requests except for land acquisitions, which are handled directly by the Partners Working Group. The rankings are based on established criteria for each of the subgroups (and Partners Working Group, in the case of acquisitions).
- Partners Working Group assembles the preliminary recommendation package for Executive Committee and public review.
- The Executive Committee develops the final recommendations that are sent to the Secretary of the Interior for review and approval.
- The Implementation Agreement also includes detailed reimbursement processes for acquisitions and capital improvements. All funding is disbursed and controlled by the BLM under the terms of the existing Implementation Agreement.

2.11 Lake Tahoe Restoration Act – 1999 (P.L. 106-506)

This legislative act (P.L. 106-506) directs the Secretary of Agriculture to develop, in consultation with TRPA and local stakeholders, an environmental restoration priority list for projects associated with (1) erosion and sediment control, (2) acquisition of environmentally sensitive land, (3) fire risk reduction, (4) cleaning up methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) contamination, and (5) parking and traffic management. The act authorizes appropriations for these projects, and provides additional capabilities (including appropriations) to provide grants to local governments for implementation of projects included in the EIP.

Additionally, the act (1) directs the Secretary to coordinate fire risk reduction activities with state and local agencies, including local fire departments and volunteer groups; and minimize

related ground disturbances; (2) states that funding under the act is in addition to USFS base funding allocations; (3) sets forth matching requirements for the States of Nevada and California; and (4) allows land acquisitions only from willing (private) sellers.

2.12 Washoe Indian Tribe Trust Land Conveyance Act – 2003 (P.L. 108-67)

This legislative act directs the Secretary of Agriculture to convey 24 acres of land within the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) and in proximity to Lake Tahoe, to the Secretary of the Interior, in trust for the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California.

The Washoe Tribe is to (1) limit the use of the conveyed land to traditional and customary uses and stewardship conservation; (2) not permit any permanent or recreational development on, or commercial use of, such land (including commercial development, tourist accommodations, gaming, sale of timber, or mineral extraction); and (3) comply with environmental requirements that are no less protective than those that apply under TRPA's regional plan.

2.13 SNPLMA Amendment – 2003 (P.L.108-108)

The recent SNPLMA Amendment, included in the Department of Interior Appropriations Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-108), allows up to \$37.5 million per year to be used for restoration projects at Lake Tahoe. The Amendment provides that a portion of these funds be used for capital costs authorized under the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, Federal projects in the EIP, and erosion control grants to local governments. The nomination and selection of projects, the disbursement of funds, and other matters related to the funds under the Act are controlled by an implementation agreement.

The amendment requires that these funds be spent in accordance with an amendment to the SNPLMA 1998 Implementation Agreement. The one requirement specified in the amendment is that the modified Implementation Agreement ensures that appropriate stakeholders from Nevada and California are able to participate in the process to recommend projects for funding.

The Corps assisted the Lake Tahoe Transportation and Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) and its partners with definition of a nomination and selection processes for the new SNPLMA Amendment. This process will be critical to the successful implementation of EIP projects.

The locally developed process is supported by the Coalition and its partners and amends the existing SNPLMA Implementation Agreement, which outlines the current nomination and selection process. The locally developed process reflects the special needs of the Tahoe Basin and the EIP, but continues to be compatible with SNPLMA and its current Implementation Agreement. The locally developed process can be grouped into three primary elements: (1) Project Selection Process, (2) Macro Funding Guidelines, and (3) Program Administration and Support. A complete description of the SNPLMA Nomination and Selection Process, as prepared by the Coalition and its partners, is provided in appendix D of the Framework Study – Framework Report.

3.0 REPORTS PREPARED FOR THE TAHOE BASIN

Numerous reports have been compiled and studies performed since the early 1900s that detail the physical and political conditions of the Tahoe Basin. Physical conditions and concerns were recognized as early as the late 1950s when the University of California (UC) Davis Tahoe Research Group (TRG) recognized the importance of lake clarity as a telltale sign of water quality of the lake.

In 1974, the USEPA completed the Lake Tahoe Study which considered the need for additional Federal oversight in the Tahoe Basin. This report was the first of many to follow that considered agency interactions and the political landscape of the Basin. Many feel that this report laid the groundwork for the future inter-governmental and public coordination in the Basin.

Because the Framework Implementation Study was directed to consider Federal agency implementation of environmental improvement projects/programs to improve the environmental quality of the Basin, the recommendations of the 1974 report are summarized below.

3.1 USEPA Report – The Lake Tahoe Study - 1974

The Lake Tahoe Study was completed as directed in Section 114 of the 1972 Federal Water Pollution Control Act. The study considered the Federal, state, and local institutional relationships required to manage the complex and dynamic Lake Tahoe ecosystem. The report focused on issues identified during the course of the study; that is, 1973 to 1974. Ultimately, policy changes were recommended to address the problems identified for that time period. Some of the same institutional problems identified in 1974 exist today.

The study reports that, “Under the general direction of the Presidential Appointee to the TRPA Governing Body, the Federal agencies have acted to coordinate their actions. However, Federal coordination has been hampered by the lack of a definitive Federal policy towards Lake Tahoe.” (USEPA 1974).

Regarding Federal oversight, the study concludes:

- “Federal oversight and control in the management of public lands is adequate to preserve the fragile ecology of Lake Tahoe.
- Federal oversight and control of activities on the private lands is inadequate to preserve the fragile ecology of Lake Tahoe.” (USEPA 1974)

3.1.1 Tools Available to Resolve Issues

The study included “Tools Available to Resolve Issues.” These tools were assumed to build upon each other and should not be considered as mutually exclusive. The tools are summarized below.

Federal Policy/Congressional Oversight

- Federal agencies in the Tahoe Basin are each implementing individual sets of policies. Dissimilar policies need to be reconsidered to provide a cohesive statement of Federal policy for Lake Tahoe.
- The study provides proposed Federal policy language that includes
 - Designation as an area of national significance.
 - TRPA is the appropriate agency to regulate and plan the use of private lands.
 - The Federal government will provide technical and financial assistance to TRPA to achieve the 1969 Compact mandate.
 - Federal agencies will plan program activities to support state efforts and achieve positive resource values.
 - Public funds used to assist local utility/service agencies will require that public land be adequately served.
 - Maximum public participation in the Federal decision process.

Environmental Thresholds

- In an effort to understand long-term consequences to development, the study recommends that projections for future conditions be completed as a tool for assessing the potential effects of further urbanization.
- Development of environmental thresholds will guide development decisions, help meet Federal and state environmental requirements, and meet the 1969 Compact mandate of “resource conservation and orderly development.”
- The thresholds provide the linkage between development decisions on a large scale and the Federal and state environmental regulations that cannot be exceeded.

TRPA Compact Modifications

- The risk of opening the 1969 Compact must be weighed against the desires of competing groups. These groups could attempt drastic changes.
- Compact modifications to consider
 - Remove dual-decision rule and replace with a majority vote of a quorum for Governing Board action.
 - Grant Federal representative on governing board full voting rights.
 - Provide flexible funding for TRPA via either the states’ or county governments.
 - Remove provision Article VI(a) of the 1969 Compact that allows any property licensed, zoned, or designated in a master plan prior to February 5, 1968 to be exempt from permit requirements.
 - Require annual reporting of TRPA environmental effects to the State legislatures and Congress.
 - Add one additional non-local member from each state (that is, Nevada and California) to the governing board.

Mechanisms for Federal/Regional/State Coordination

- Coordination of both Federal programs and non-Federal programs is a problem.

- Federal activity in the Tahoe Basin does not transfer responsibility away from the non-Federal entities.
- Since TRPA is clearly mandated in the 1969 Compact to ensure coordination, TRPA should remain in that role as a strong advocate.
- The coordination between TRPA and Federal agencies appears to be the problem area.
- Possible structural fixes include
 - Federal Coordinators Committee: Staff-level representation.
 - Tahoe Executive Committee: Created as a subcommittee of the Western Federal Regional Council with membership of regional administrators and Secretary's field representatives of agencies acting in the Tahoe Basin.
 - Federal Administrator: Presidential-appointment with no direct line to any agency with the central authority to speak and act on behalf of the entire Federal government to implement Federal policy in the Tahoe Basin.

Air Quality Program

- Implement Tahoe Basin-specific program in two phases using TRPA as the regulating agency. The two phases are:
 - Continue with state agency representation and control while creating an interstate air pollution planning function in the Tahoe Basin.
 - Once planning is complete, implement an interstate control function.

Water Quality Program

- Create a program, including memorandum of understanding among Federal, regional, and local entities, that considers both land use and waste discharge controls using the following strategy:
 - Focus on source controls to limit erosion or potential of erosion.
 - Apply effluent limitation on point and area discharges.
 - Maintain water quality standards in receiving waters as inviolate.

Source Controls

- TRPA and the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) jointly specify source control measures.
- Ensure inspection and enforcement are fully funded.
- Provide research and demonstration grants to develop and demonstrate source control mechanisms.
- Provide training programs.
- Provide state licensing or bonding for work in the Tahoe Basin.
- Fully fund Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and resource conservation districts to provide technical assistance to private landowners.

Effluent Limitations

- Conform water quality standards across the California-Nevada Stateline.
- Use capabilities under 1972 Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments to enforce discharge limitations.

Water Quality Standards

- Hold water quality standards inviolate and implement a non-degradation policy within the Tahoe Basin.
- Inventory and report water quality conditions in the lake using Section 305(b) of the 1972 Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

Land Acquisition Program

- Land Acquisition considerations
 - Implement land acquisition tools to achieve the mandate to preserve the scenic integrity and recreational opportunities of the Basin.
 - Prioritize land acquisition.
 - Implement fee simple purchase; land exchange; and/or purchase of development rights, access rights, and scenic easements.
 - Determine appropriate entity or combination of entities to acquire, manage, and hold public lands in the Tahoe Basin.
- Funding Sources
 - Determine appropriate funding sources to be considered. These vary from authorized and funded, authorized but not funded, to not authorized and not funded.
- Special considerations
 - Condemnation
 - Legislative taking
 - Public's first right of purchase
 - Purchase with options for additional lands (USEPA 1974)

4.0 KEY PLANNING ENTITIES ACTING IN THE TAHOE BASIN

Numerous Federal, state regional, and local agencies have been involved in efforts to improve and sustain the Tahoe Basin since the 1969 Compact. Presently, several planning agencies and entities are key to ongoing activities in the Tahoe Basin. These key entities include the USFS, TRPA, Lahontan RWQCB, and the Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization (TMPO). The following discussion focuses on the broad missions and mandates of the four key active planning entities. In addition, information is provided as to how each entity derives or allocates funding for Tahoe Basin projects/programs. While the efforts of other stakeholders may not be as prominent or visible as those discussed below, they are still important to the overall watershed approach. Other Federal, Tribal, state, public utilities/districts, non-government/non-profit and local stakeholders are discussed below in section 5.0.

Three of the four key planning entities, that is TRPA, USFS, and Lahontan RWQCB, are currently in the process of updating their Regional Plan, Forest Plan, and Water Quality Plan, respectively. The three entities are collaborating on this effort termed “Pathway 2007.” In addition to these three entities, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) also participates in Pathway 2007. The Pathway 2007 process is intended to (1) increase public input into all three plan updates, (2) create a systematic approach to public and stakeholder input into the process and ultimately the updates, (3) reduce redundancies by coordinating the environmental processing of all three reports, and (4) ensure consistent and complimentary consideration of Tahoe Basin-specific concerns within the updates.

4.1 U.S. Forest Service - Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (USFS, LTBMU)

4.1.1 Mission and Mandates

The national mission of the USFS is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. Nationally, the USFS provides leadership in the protection, management, and use of the Nation’s forest, rangeland, and aquatic ecosystems. An ecosystem management approach is used to integrate ecological, economic, and social factors into maintaining and enhancing the quality of the environment to meet current and future needs. Through implementation of land and resource management plans, the agency ensures sustainable ecosystems by restoring and maintaining species diversity and ecological productivity that helps provide recreation, water, timber, minerals, fish, wildlife, wilderness, and aesthetic values for current and future generations.

The USFS established the LTBMU in 1973 because of the unique resource requirements in the Tahoe Basin. The LTBMU is a special unit in Region 5 of the USFS national forest system and encompasses over 150,000 acres of national forest lands. The LTBMU is responsible for management of 77 percent of the land in the Tahoe Basin. The primary purpose of the LTBMU is to protect the Tahoe Basin resources including water quality protection. This is contrary to other national forests that emphasize resource extraction. In an effort to meet the water quality protection purpose, the LTBMU implements the Statewide 208 Plan on its lands and has a forest plan that emphasizes resource protection.

The LTBMU has a number of programs/activities in place intended to address the loss of water clarity in Lake Tahoe; sediment and algae-nourishing phosphorous and nitrogen inflow to the lake; destruction of wetlands, wet meadows and stream zone habitat; and dead or dying trees and increased combustible forest fuels in the Tahoe Basin. These programs/activities are described below.

4.1.2 Tahoe Basin Programs and Funding Sources

Watershed Management/Restoration

The watershed restoration program rehabilitates and restores disturbed areas in the forests. Revegetating or applying other treatments to stream channels, roads, and upland areas curtails soil erosion. This program is funded by a variety of sources, including USFS appropriated funds, Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, the California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC), Nevada bond funds, and some smaller grant opportunities occasionally available through special USFS initiatives. The program funds watershed restoration, assessment, and monitoring projects; recreation best management practices, and erosion control improvements to urban lots.

Hazardous Fuels

Under this program, the LTBMU implements a fuel reduction program by removing selected trees thereby helping reduce the risk of fire. This program also accomplishes prescribed burning on USFS land and the clearing of brush and dead wood on urban lots.

Road Upgrades/Decommissioning

This program is used to close roads, convert roads to trails, and install improvements in roads.

Recreation

The USFS budget for the recreation program includes funding for the Recreation, and Heritage & Wilderness Programs. This program is also involved in solving transportation and traffic problems commensurate with recreation use on public lands.

Land Acquisition

Several land acquisition opportunities exist in the Tahoe Basin. The first is a national program that provides a sum of money for all land acquisition in the country. The second and third opportunities are BLM land exchange programs. The first land exchange program is the Santini-Burton Act of 1980 and the second is the SNPLMA of 1998. These programs provide funds for land acquisition of environmentally sensitive land in the Tahoe Basin.

Erosion Control Grants

The objective of the Erosion Control Grants program is to assist in the regional effort to restore the clarity of Lake Tahoe by providing funds for erosion control work on non-Federal land within the Tahoe Basin.

4.2 The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA)

4.2.1 Mission and Mandate

TRPA is a bi-state regional planning and regulatory agency in the Tahoe Basin. Created by the 1969 Compact, it became the first bi-state regional environmental planning agency in the United States. TRPA oversees land use planning and attempts to manage or regulate the associated environmental effects. TRPA covers a broad range of land use issues including density, rate of growth, land coverage, excavation, and scenic impacts. In an effort to meet the mandates of the compact, TRPA maintains environmental standards, issues permits, enforces regulations, and is in charge of attaining Federal water and air quality standards.

TRPA's staff was historically limited to five people but presently ranges from 50 to 60. The agency is generally organized by its main functions of project review, long-range planning, environmental compliance, EIP facilitation, and environmental education. An executive director that is chosen by the governing board directs staff. The governing board consists of 15 appointed officials representing Federal, state, or local governments. The board sets policy, oversees administration, approves Regional Plan amendments, and approves major permits and projects. The board is advised by a 19-member Advisory Planning Commission. The commission consists of professionals with scientific or technical backgrounds and range from planning to natural resource to lay person experience. Additionally, many working groups provide input to the board.

An important component of TRPA's responsibilities is to ensure attainment of the ETCC's. The ETCC's consist of a combination of environmental indicators and policy goals. Each threshold identifies an event or condition that creates an unacceptable change or degradation of a resource. As previously identified, resource areas include water quality, air quality, soil conservation, wildlife habitat, vegetation, noise, recreation, fisheries, and scenic resources.

4.2.2 Tahoe Basin Programs and Funding Sources

Tasked with the sole purpose of protecting the Tahoe Basin's natural resources, TRPA has many funding sources including Federal funds in the form of grants. Discussed below are some of TRPA's programs and independent funding avenues for the agency.

Coverage Mitigation Fee

Two types of coverage mitigation fees are collected by TPRA—excess and offsite coverage. The excess coverage fee is collected when property owners utilize additional coverage on their property than what is typically allowed. The offsite coverage mitigation fee is collected from property owners that “cover” land not on their property (e.g., connecting a private driveway to a public road may require paving a portion of land that is not the property of the individual property owner).

Air Quality Mitigation Program

This TRPA program requires the payment of a fee to offset impacts from indirect sources of air pollution. The fee is levied based on the number of vehicle trips associated with residential, commercial, recreational, and other land use development. Fees are paid to TRPA who, in turn,

disburse the funds to local jurisdictions for expenditures consistent with the agency's Regional Transportation Plan or its Air Quality Plan.

Water Quality Mitigation Program

TRPA requires that land use development that results in the creation of impervious coverage shall offset the potential water quality impacts of the project. One offset method is through payment of a water quality mitigation fee. Fees are paid to TRPA who, in turn, disburse the funds to local jurisdictions for expenditures consistent with TRPA's Water Quality Management Plan.

Stream Environment Zone (SEZ) Restoration Funds

This program allows up to 25 percent of funds collected under the Water Quality Mitigation Program (see above) to be used to implement TRPA's SEZ restoration projects that are included in TRPA's Water Quality Management Plan.

Shore Zone Mitigation Funds

This program includes the collection of mitigation fees for projects that directly effect the lake. Projects such as construction of boat piers, docks and buoys are included.

Coordinated Transit System Mitigation Fund (Public/Private Transit Fleet Operations)

TRPA has collected mitigation fees from a variety of sources (Heavenly Ski Resort, Ski Run, South Tahoe Public Utilities District (STPUD), Travel Systems, and Park Avenue) for the development of a Coordinated Transit System to serve the South Shore of Lake Tahoe.

Rental Car Mitigation

This program, implemented in 1993, required the payment of a daily use fee for rental cars rented in the Basin. The fee is collected by local rental car businesses and used to fund air quality and transportation projects.

4.3 Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)

Lahontan RWQCB is a regional board of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). The State of California is divided into nine hydrologic regions. The Tahoe Basin, in Region 6, is the Lahontan RWQCB jurisdiction.

4.3.1 Mission and Mandate

The SWRCB mission is to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources, and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations. Using the authority of Federal and state laws, the SWRCB implements its mission. The mission and regulatory enforcement capability is transferred to the RWQCB. The RWQCB develops specific regulations and policies for its specific area of concern, also called a Basin Plan.

The Lahontan RWQCB works closely with TRPA and has similar responsibilities although; the Lahontan RWQCB has broader enforcement authority than TRPA as it has the ability to impose administrative civil liability fines to polluters while TRPA can only use the judicial system.

4.3.2 Tahoe Basin Programs and Funding Sources

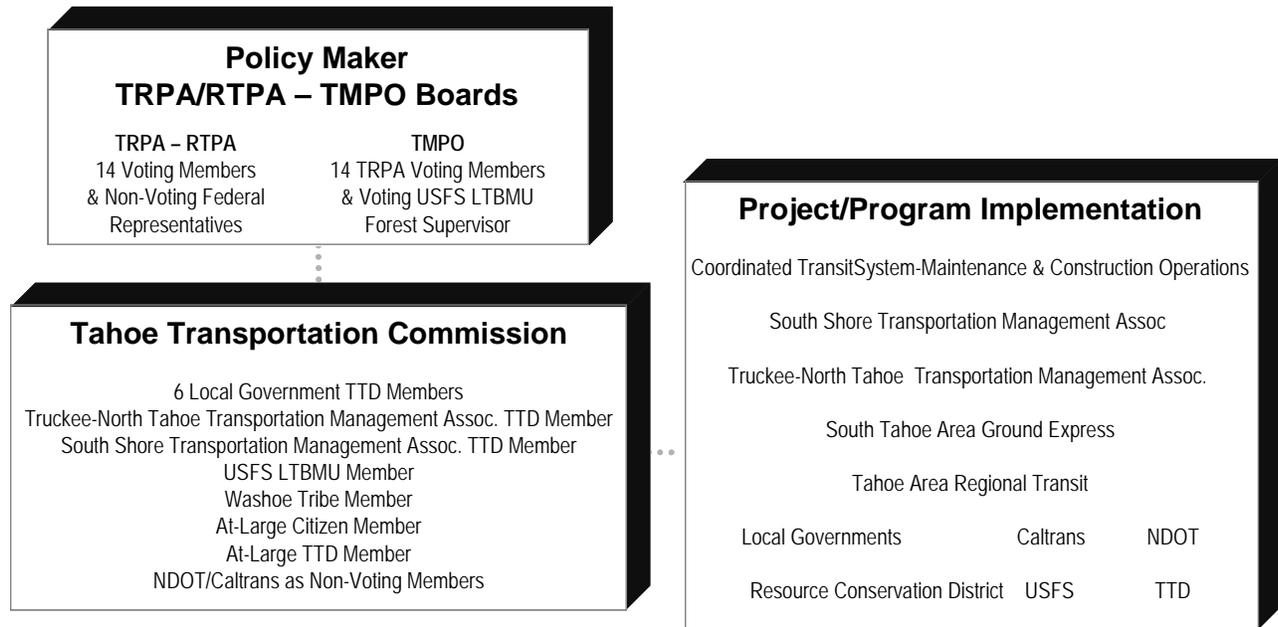
Under the provisions of the Federal Clean Water Act, the California Water Code, and many other laws related to control of solid, toxic, and hazardous waste in the Tahoe Basin, the Lahontan RWQCB regulates water quality in the Tahoe Basin. The RWQCB can also set and revise water quality standards and discharge prohibitions; issue Federal National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permits, 401 water quality certifications, and state waste discharge requirements and waivers. It also complies with California Environmental Quality Act requirements; and implements a Clean Water Act Section 208 Plan for the Tahoe Basin.

Funding for Lahontan RWQCB comes from the State General Fund and propositions such as Proposition 13. Additionally, funds are generated from fees and regulatory fines.

4.4 Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization (TMPO)

Regional transportation issues are directly linked to the air quality issues and indirectly linked to water quality issues in the Tahoe Basin. Transportation planning in the Basin includes multiple entities. The organizational framework is shown in Figure 2.

FIGURE 2. Institutional Framework for Transportation Planning/Programming in the Tahoe Basin



Source: unknown

4.4.1 Mission and Mandate

TRPA is designated as the TMPO and is responsible for short- and long-term transportation in the Tahoe Basin. The TMPO designation makes TRPA eligible for broader transportation planning funding sources. As shown in Figure 2, TMPO is a primary participant in policy setting for transportation issues in the Tahoe Basin. TRPA has also been designated as the Regional

Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for the State of California for those portions of El Dorado and Placer County that are within the Tahoe Basin boundary. The RTPA is an equal partner with the TMPO in setting policy for the Tahoe Basin. TRPA also receives some Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) funds and provides grants to local entities.

When addressing TMPO-related transportation issues, TRPA is charged with (1) implementing a “continuing, comprehensive and cooperative transportation planning process among states and local communities”, and (2) developing a regional transportation plan with an aim to attain and maintain pertinent 1982 thresholds. (TRPA 2002b)

Other pertinent transportation interests in the Tahoe Basin include the following:

- **Tahoe Transportation District (TTD)** – TTD was established under the 1980 Compact and has the authority to operate public transit services in the Tahoe Basin. Funds for transportation activities can be generated through bond issuance.
- **Truckee – North Tahoe Transportation Management Association** – The Truckee-North Tahoe Transportation Management Association is a public-private partnership initiated in 1990. The Truckee-North Tahoe Transportation Management Association is a non-profit, community-based group dedicated to solving traffic congestion and air quality issues in the Truckee-North Tahoe-Incline Village area.
- **South Shore Transportation Management Association** – The South Shore Transportation Management Association is a non-profit, community-based partnership that promotes an action-oriented forum where public and private resources are combined to address air quality and mobility issues of the South Shore community as they relate to both visitors and residents.
- **Coordinated Transit System** – Coordinated Transit System is a public-private partnership in the South Lake Tahoe area providing funding for coordinated transportation in core areas. Coordinated Transit System efforts and funding allow major developments to proceed; for example, the Heavenly Ski Resort Master Plan.
- **Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT)** – NDOT works closely with the regional agencies and local agencies in the Tahoe Basin. NDOT initiated partnering sessions with 20 different agencies to foster a collaborative process. Collaboration has led to improvement in project implementation success. To ensure overall project success, NDOT considers three areas of concern including water quality, transportation, and maintenance. The primary goals are to reduce the amount of sediment and pollutants reaching the lake, improve the current transportation system within the Tahoe Basin, and provide access to the Tahoe Basin during winter storms while reducing sediment flow to the lake. NDOT has been recognized for its partnership approach in developing best management practices for the Tahoe Basin. (See NDOT discussion in Section 7.4.)
- **California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)** – In an effort to fulfill its responsibility for implementing EIP projects, Caltrans has planned improvement projects on State highways surrounding the lake and completed water quality and erosion control master plans. Projects include storm water management and water quality improvements to reduce sediment and pollutants that reach the Lake. (See Caltrans Discussion in Section 7.4.)

4.4.2 Tahoe Basin Program and Funding Sources

Federal Land Highway Program

This program is an important component of funding for the Tahoe Basin. The program provides funding for a coordinated program of public roads and transit facilities serving Federal and Indian Land under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century. The program provides transportation-engineering services. This program includes a number of funding categories including: Park Roads and Parkways, Indian Reservation roads, Public Land Highways, Forest Highways, and Refuge Roads. To receive funds under the Forest Highways program, a highway must be designated as a Forest Highway. Currently in the Tahoe Basin, Highway 28, Mount Rose Highway (Highway 431), Highway 89 from Highway 50 at the South “Y” to Truckee, and the Fallen Leaf Lake Road have this designation.

State of Nevada – 1996 Tahoe Bond

The 1996 Tahoe Bond was a voter-approved statewide bond to provide funds for erosion control projects and the restoration of natural waterways in the Tahoe Basin. Funds from this program are distributed on a discretionary basis.

State of California and Nevada Statewide Transportation Improvement Program

This program lists all capital and non-capital transportation projects proposed for funding under Title 23 of the Federal-Aid Highway Act or the Federal Transit Act. Projects include improving highway capacity such as increasing the number of lanes, new roads, road extensions, and intersection improvements and covers improvements to public and Federal land, highways, transit, trails, pedestrian walkways, and bicycle facilities.

State of California State Highway Operation and Protection Program

This program provides funds for the operation and rehabilitation of the State highway system. This program will fund a majority of water quality improvements around the lake.

5.0 OTHER FEDERAL ENTITIES ACTING IN THE TAHOE BASIN

Numerous other Federal agencies are actively engaged, with varying levels of participation, in the Tahoe Basin. Federal Partnership members not discussed above include the Corps, U.S. Department of Interior, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), USEPA, the NRCS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); Federal Highway Administration (FHWA); Federal Transit Administration (FTA); and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). The U.S. Postal Service and Department of Housing and Urban Development are also signatories to the Partnership, but do not actively participate. The mission, mandate, and Tahoe Basin related programs and funding sources of these Federal agencies are discussed in below.

Information on funding sources was taken from the 2001 EIP Report, Volume III, EIP Financing Plan. In addition to information on funding sources, information is also provided in Table 2 as to how Federal entities derive or allocate funding for Tahoe Basin area projects/programs.

TABLE 2. Primary Federal Agencies Congressional Committees

Agency	Federal Appropriations Committee/Subcommittee Jurisdiction	Federal Authorization Committee/Subcommittee Jurisdiction
Corps	<u>Senate:</u> Energy and Water Development <u>House:</u> Energy and Water Development	<u>Senate:</u> Environment and Public Works Committee – Transportation, Infrastructure, and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee <u>House:</u> Transportation and Infrastructure Committee - Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee
NRCS	<u>Senate:</u> Agriculture <u>House:</u> Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and related agencies	<u>Senate:</u> Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee – Forestry, Conservation, and Rural Revitalization Subcommittee <u>House:</u> Transportation and Infrastructure Committee - Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee
Reclamation	<u>Senate:</u> Energy and Water Development <u>House:</u> Energy and Water Development	<u>Senate:</u> Energy and Natural Resources – Water and Power Subcommittee <u>House:</u> Resources Committee – Water and Power Subcommittee
USDOT	<u>Senate:</u> Transportation <u>House:</u> Transportation	<u>Senate:</u> Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation – Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine <u>House:</u> Transportation and Infrastructure Committee – Highways and Transit Subcommittee
USEPA	<u>Senate:</u> Veteran’s Affairs-Housing and Urban Development <u>House:</u> Veteran’s Affairs-Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies	<u>Senate:</u> Committee on Environment and Public Works <u>House:</u> Transportation and Infrastructure Committee - Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee

Agency	Federal Appropriations Committee/Subcommittee Jurisdiction	Federal Authorization Committee/Subcommittee Jurisdiction
USFS	<u>Senate:</u> Interior <u>House:</u> Interior	<u>Senate:</u> Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee – Forestry, Conservation, and Rural Revitalization Subcommittee <u>House:</u> Resources Committee – National Parks, Forests, and Lands
USFWS	<u>Senate:</u> Interior <u>House:</u> Interior	<u>Senate:</u> Committee on Environment and Public Works – Drinking Water, Fisheries, and Wildlife Subcommittee <u>House:</u> Resources Committee – Fisheries, Conservation, Wildlife, and Oceans Subcommittee
USGS	<u>Senate:</u> Interior <u>House:</u> Interior	<u>Senate:</u> Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee <u>House:</u> Resources Committee

5.1 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

The FHWA and the FTA are two of nine organizations under the leadership of the USDOT. Each is headquartered in Washington, D.C. with field offices throughout the country.

5.1.1 National Mission and Mandates

The mission or vision of the FHWA is to “create the best transportation system in the world for the American people through proactive leadership, innovation, and excellence in service.” FHWA also provides “expertise, resources, and information to continually improve the quality of our nation’s highway system and its intermodal connections.”

The mission of the FTA is, “to ensure personal mobility and America’s economic and community vitality by supporting high quality public transportation through leadership, technical assistance, and financial resources.”

5.1.2 Tahoe Basin Programs and Funding Sources

Clean Fuels Formula Grant Program (FTA program)

This program assists transit operators in the purchase of low-emissions buses and related equipment, construction of alternative-fuel fueling facilities, modification of garage facilities to accommodate clean-fuel vehicles, and in the utilization of bio-diesel fuel. The program requires a 20 percent local match.

Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Program (jointly administered by FHWA and FTA)

Established under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act and expanded under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, the Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Program provides funds for transportation projects that reduce criteria air pollutants regulated

from transportation-related sources. The program is one source of funds available for the purposes of reducing congestion and improving air quality. An 11.8 percent local/state match is required to receive Federal funds.

Federal Transit Administration Section 5309 Funds (FTA program)

This discretionary program provides capital assistance for bus and bus related facilities. The federal share of projects under this program generally cannot exceed 80 percent. Projects that are eligible for funding under this program are purchases of buses and other required equipment, ancillary equipment, and construction of associated buildings. The program also includes funding for bus rehabilitation and leasing, park and ride facilities, parking lots for transit facilities, and bus passenger shelters.

National Recreational Trails Act (FHWA program)

Under this FHWA program, funds are transferred to the states and used to provide and maintain recreational trails for motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses. Historically, Congress appropriates funds on an annual basis. The local cost-share portion is 30 percent.

National Scenic Byways (USDOT program)

Under this program, the Secretary of Transportation is able to designate National Scenic Byways that have scenic, historical, cultural, natural, recreational, and archeological qualities. On average, about \$24.4 million is authorized annually for projects nationwide. Projects are generally funded on an 80 percent Federal/20 percent local match. In order for a project to compete for these funds, a road must have both state and national designation as a scenic byway. Currently, there are no roads in the California Tahoe Basin that have this National designation. However, the Lake Tahoe Eastshore Drive (Highway 50/28) in Nevada is designated as a National Scenic Byway. If California were to gain National designation for Highway 89, it could connect with the Lake Tahoe Eastshore Drive in Nevada.

Surface Transportation Program (USDOT program)

Established under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act and expanded under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, Surface Transportation Program funds are “flexible,” meaning they can be spent on mass transit, pedestrian and bicycle facilities as well as on roads and highways. An 11.8 percent local/state match is required to receive these federal funds.

Transportation Enhancements Program (FHWA program)

This program is a Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century funding category that provides funds for projects that enhance the compatibility of transportation facilities with their surroundings. Examples of transportation enhancement projects include bicycle and pedestrian paths, restoration of rail depots or other historic transportation facilities, and acquisition of scenic or open space lands next to travel corridors. Within the Basin, Transportation Enhancement Program funds have been used for El Dorado Beach Landscaping, Emerald Bay Historic Wall Reconstruction, Cave Rock Cultural Resources Protection Management Plan, the South Stateline Erosion Control Project, Tahoe Boulevard, Tahoe City, and for sidewalks along Kingsbury Grade. An 11.8 percent local/state match is required to receive these Federal funds.

5.2 Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

5.2.1 National Mission and Mandates

The NRCS provides leadership and administers programs to help people conserve, improve, and sustain natural resources and the environment. Working with landowners and operators in local conservation districts, the NRCS addresses natural resource issues as they affect private land in agriculture and other uses. The NRCS is the lead agency in the United States Department of Agriculture for conservation and administers several programs including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Wetlands Reserve Program, Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, and Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program; leads the National Cooperative Soil Survey and National Resource Inventory; and provides leadership in assisting landowners and local groups in resource conservation and development projects.

5.2.2 Tahoe Basin Programs and Funding Sources

Because the NRCS does not have specific regulatory authority in the Tahoe Basin and its goals are natural resource conservation based, this agency's participation and funding efforts focus on technical studies and conservation program implementation.

Backyard Conservation Initiative

As part of the deliverables from the 1997 Forum, the NRCS is providing assistance to Tahoe homeowners for conservation practices. No local or state fund match is required for this initiative.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Administered by the NRCS, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program provides funds for the protection of soil, water, and related natural resources. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program requires a 25 percent local/state match.

Soil Survey

This NRCS program provides staff time to update the Tahoe Basin Soil Survey on private land in partnership with the USGS. In fiscal year (FY) 1997 and FY 1998, EIP funding was contributed to this program. At this time, no additional funding for EIP projects is anticipated from this program.

5.3 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps)

5.3.1 National Mission and Mandates

The Corps mission includes providing quality, responsive engineering services to the nation including planning, designing, building and operating water resources and other civil works projects. These projects also include navigation, flood control, environmental protection, and disaster response. Military construction responsibilities include designing and managing the construction of military facilities for the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force. Providing design and construction management support for other defense and Federal agencies is also a significant mission. The Corps also supports military contingencies and states and territories in civil disasters (for example, hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, etc.). The Corps can provide cost-shared

assistance to non-Federal agencies, and in some cases, non-profit organizations, for water resource issues.

In the Tahoe Basin, these water resource issues primarily involve aquatic ecosystem restoration, watershed planning, infrastructure rehabilitation in support of watershed health, and programmatic support of the EIP. The majority of Corps work is specifically authorized by an action of Congress and requires annual appropriation. The Corps does not provide grant funding as of the date of this update. Project assistance requires entering into a cost-sharing agreement with the Corps. Project funding opportunities are listed below by authorization.

5.3.2 Tahoe Basin Programs and Funding Sources

As a Partnership member assisting with EIP implementation, the Corps participates directly with improvement projects, has regulatory authority over resources in the Tahoe Basin and provides funding support for other Tahoe related program efforts.

Continuing Authorities Program; Section 206 Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (WRDA 96)

Provide assistance for study, design and construction to restore degraded aquatic ecosystems to a less degraded more natural condition. *Cost Match*: 65 percent Federal, 35 percent Non-Federal. Maximum Federal cost of \$5,000,000 per project. This authorization has received appropriations in Lake Tahoe.

Truckee River and Tributaries; California and Nevada, Resolution by the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the United States Senate

Provide assistance for study, design, and upon further authorization, construction for aquatic ecosystem restoration and watershed management planning. *Cost Match*: 50 percent Federal, 50 percent Non-Federal for studies and 65 percent Federal, 35 percent Non-Federal for design and construction. This authorization has received appropriations in Lake Tahoe.

Watershed Management, Restoration, and Development; Section 211, WRDA 99, (amends Section 503, WRDA 96)

Provide technical assistance (no construction) in Tahoe Basin for management and restoration of water quality, streams, wetlands, and watersheds. Work is performed by the Corps or a Corps contractor. *Cost Match*: 50 percent Federal, 50 percent Non-Federal. This authorization has not received appropriations in Lake Tahoe.

Environmental Infrastructure; Section 502, WRDA 99 (amends Section 219, WRDA 92)

Provide design and construction assistance for resource protection and wastewater and water infrastructure. Work is performed by a Corps contractor. *Cost Match*: 75 percent Federal, 25 percent Non-Federal. This authorization has not received appropriations in Lake Tahoe.

Rural Nevada; Section 595, WRDA 99

Provide design and construction assistance to rural Nevada communities for wastewater infrastructure, water supply infrastructure, environmental restoration, and surface water resource protection. Assistance can be in the form of reimbursement for work performed by non-Federal

partner. *Cost Match*: 75 percent Federal, 25 percent Non-Federal. This authorization has received appropriations in Lake Tahoe.

Tribal Partnership Program; Section 203, WRDA 00

Provide assistance to Indian tribes to study feasibility of carrying out water resources development projects to benefit Indian tribes and located within Indian country. As a new program, relatively little guidance has been developed by the Corps. However, the Partnership, States of Nevada and California, the Washoe Tribe, and TRPA have committed to the achievement and maintenance of 'cultural values'. It is possible that this program could be used to identify and implement cultural restoration projects as part of the Environmental Improvement Program greater watershed strategy. *Cost Match*: Study cost share varies based on ability to pay. Work-in-kind of cash is authorized. This authorization has not received appropriations in Lake Tahoe.

5.4 U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)

5.4.1 National Mission and Mandates

The mission of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the public. Most recently, Reclamation has been engaged in the Basin via the Wetlands Development Program, a congressionally directed program.

5.4.2 Tahoe Basin Programs and Funding Sources

The Newlands Project - Lake Tahoe Dam

In the Tahoe Basin, Reclamation is responsible for operation of the Lake Tahoe Dam, which regulates flows into the Truckee River. The Lake Tahoe Dam, completed in 1913, is one portion of the Newlands Project. The top six feet of Lake Tahoe is a reservoir and is managed by Reclamation through a Federal water master.

Wetlands Development Program (Grant program)

In recent years, Reclamation has provided grant funds to TRPA for use in implementing EIP projects. TRPA requests proposals are submitted by local and regional entities for grant funding consideration. The Trout Creek Restoration Project, in cooperation with the City of South Lake Tahoe, was one of the early projects to be funded. This funding is tied to the annual appropriations cycle and is a congressional earmark.

5.5 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)

5.5.1 National Mission and Mandates

The mission of the USEPA is to protect human health and to safeguard the natural environment--air, water, and land--upon which life depends.

The USEPA's purpose is to ensure that

- All Americans are protected from significant risks to human health and the environment where they live, learn and work.
- National efforts to reduce environmental risk are based on the best available scientific information.
- Federal laws protecting human health and the environment are enforced fairly and effectively.
- Environmental protection is an integral consideration in United States policies concerning natural resources, human health, economic growth, energy, transportation, agriculture, industry, and international trade, and these factors are similarly considered in establishing environmental policy.
- All parts of society--communities, individuals, business, state and local governments, tribal governments--have access to accurate information sufficient to effectively participate in managing human health and environmental risks.
- Environmental protection contributes to making communities and ecosystems diverse, sustainable and economically productive.
- The United States plays a leadership role in working with other nations to protect the global environment.

5.5.2 Tahoe Basin Programs and Funding Sources

The USEPA is part of the Partnership, has regulatory oversight in the region, participates with a wide variety of program and project implementation and funding, and has a “place-based position” at Lake Tahoe. Various USEPA programs include the following:

Clean Water State Revolving Fund

Under this program, loans are available for water quality improvement projects. The USEPA provides funding to each state to establish an ongoing loan program. Loans under this program require a 20 percent local/state match. In Nevada, projects receive loans based on a prioritized list.

Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Control

Under section 319 of the Clean Water Act, this program provides funds for implementation of nonpoint source pollution control programs, with each state passing through a portion of these funds to other entities. Each project must provide a 40 percent local/state match. Program priorities include solving and protecting high quality water, local watershed management, enhancing aquatic and riparian ecosystems, public education and outreach, and collaboration among multiple interests.

Water Quality Assessment and Planning

Under section 205/604 of the Clean Water Act, funds are available for water quality assessment and planning. Priority is given to projects that support local watershed management efforts. In Nevada, the pass-through portion of these funds is available to government agencies through a competitive process. A 25 percent local/state match is required.

USEPA Environmental Research Grants

This potential funding source is available to principal investigators in universities and not-for-profit research institutions. The grants are intended to facilitate cooperation between the USEPA and the scientific community to help forge solutions to environmental problems.

5.6 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

5.6.1 National Mission and Mandates

The mission of the USFWS is to work with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats.

5.6.2 Tahoe Basin Programs and Funding Sources

The USFWS's mandate is purposely focused on species and habitat preservation and the same applies for its Tahoe related participation.

North America Wetlands Conservation Act

Under this USFWS program, 10 joint ventures were organized to support partnerships and funding opportunities to promote long-term conservation of wetland ecosystems and waterfowl and other migratory birds, fish, and wildlife that depend on such habitat. A competitive process is held biannually with a project cost cap of \$1 million. This program could provide \$1 million annually for the EIP.

Sport Fish Restoration Act

This USFWS program is aimed at increasing sport fishing and boating opportunities including fishery research, management, and development as well as fishing and boating access improvements and aquatic education. A project sponsor must provide a 25 percent match and the remaining 75 percent can be reimbursed with Federal funds. Project sponsors can apply for these funds on an annual basis, but the limited amount of funds guarantees strong competition. A 25 percent local/state match is required under this Federal program.

Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Acts

This federal program provides funding for capital improvements for fish and wildlife projects as well as research projects. As with the Sport Fish Restoration Act above, projects can include fishing and boating access improvements as well as aquatic education. It is the discretion of each state receiving the funds as to how the funding will be distributed. Limited funds guarantee strong competition.

5.7 U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

5.7.1 National Mission and Mandates

The USGS serves the Nation by providing reliable scientific information to

- Describe and understand the Earth.
- Minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters.
- Manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources.

- Enhance and protect quality of life.

The mission is accomplished through data collection, research, comprehensive studies, and information services in the broad disciplines of hydrology, geology, biology, geography, and cartography. The National Mapping Program of the USGS provides geographic and cartographic data, information, and related research to meet the broad requirements of resource managers and earth scientists in solving national challenges such as disaster response and mitigation, land and resource development, pollution abatement, transportation planning, urban development, and recreational use.

5.7.2 Tahoe Basin Programs and Funding Sources

As a Partnership member, the USGS's contribution to EIP advancement centers on funding programs and studies related to environmental quality in the Tahoe Basin. Executive Order 13057, among other things, called for the development of a linked natural-resources database and geographic information system capability. To assist with these efforts, the Lake Tahoe Data Clearinghouse was formed and is a success because of the support and contributions of data and information from many different organizations.

Federal/State Cooperative Water Resources Program

Under this program, the USGS provides services and funding through the Federal/State Cooperative Water Resources Program. The agency can fund up to one-half of the cost of a project and requires a local partner to provide the remaining funding. The Lake Tahoe Interagency Monitoring Program is a project under this program, and TRPA and USGS are sharing the costs for this project. Funding levels are determined by annual congressional appropriations that are distributed for competitive allocation (based on the level of science and transfer value of research and data) to the USGS Water Resources Division Districts in each state. This program will serve as a source of USGS funding for data collection and research in the Tahoe Basin. The program requires a 50 percent local/state match.

Scientific Programs

This program funds scientific studies based on the research priorities and scientific programs of various participating divisions and offices. The Tahoe Basin has benefited from funding provided from this program during recent years. The levels of matching funding vary for each project.

USGS Research Grants

The USGS conducts its own research, often in partnership with other entities. The research covers a variety of areas related to earth science and hydrology, ranging from environmental monitoring and descriptive surveys (water, biology, geology, mapping, and remote sensing) to process-oriented research. The USGS's research activities are primarily funded by congressional appropriations, through partnerships with state and local agencies, and from funding provided by other Federal agencies (for example, USEPA, Corps etc.).

6.0 TRIBAL NATIONS

The Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California is a unique tribe whose heritage is strongly tied to the natural resources of the Tahoe Basin. The Tribe has inhabited the Tahoe Basin for 9,000 years. At its peak, the Tribe had 5,000 members. Today it has approximately 1,500 members. The Tribe is intently focused on the preservation of the Tahoe region and works to secure access to native property and sites around the Tahoe lakeshore. (Washoe Tribe 1995)

7.0 STATE ENTITIES ACTING IN THE TAHOE BASIN

Both the State of California and the State of Nevada have several agencies working in the Tahoe Basin. In California, these agencies include the California State Parks, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the CTC, and Caltrans. State of Nevada agencies working in the Tahoe Basin include the Nevada Division of State Lands, NDOT, and the Nevada Division of State Parks. All of these agencies share aspects of a common mission to preserve and protect the States' extraordinary environmental and cultural resources through conservation and education. These agencies also contribute to the EIP funds and facilitate project implementation in the Tahoe Basin. These state agencies and their participation in the Tahoe Basin are more fully discussed below.

7.1 California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

7.1.1 Mission and Mandates

Caltrans owns operates and maintains a number of state roadways within the Tahoe Basin. To fulfill its commitment to the EIP, Caltrans has planned improvement projects that will affect every mile of State highway in the Tahoe Basin. These projects will help Caltrans manage storm water and improve water quality along the State highway system, for example, the Brockway Summit Erosion Control Project.

7.1.2 Tahoe Basin Programs and Funding Sources

State Highway Operations and Protection Program

This program is one source of funding used to maintain state roads in the Tahoe Basin. It is a four-year program of projects designed to maintain the safety and integrity of the State highway system. The program is prepared biennially by Caltrans and approved by the California Transportation Commission.

Regional Transportation Improvement Program

Funds from the Regional Transportation Improvement Program can be used for a variety of transportation projects. They include state highways, grade separations, transportation system management projects, transportation demand projects, rail transit projects, local street and road projects, intermodal facilities, and for pedestrian and bicycle projects.

7.2 California State Parks

7.2.1 Mission and Mandates

California State Parks operates and maintains nine park units within the Tahoe Basin. All of these parks offer recreational opportunities with the exception of Ward Creek which is designated to preserve and protect an area of undeveloped upland forest and meadowland. State Parks was created to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high quality outdoor recreation.

7.2.2 Tahoe Basin Programs and Funding Sources

Land and Water Conservation Fund

This program provides funds to federal agencies, and to the 50 states and 6 territories and requires a dollar for dollar match. The money allocated to the states may be used for statewide planning, and for acquiring and developing outdoor recreation areas and facilities. The program is administered by the National Park Service.

Habitat Conservation Fund

Under the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990, this program provides funds to local governments from the Habitat Conservation Fund Grant Program. Two million dollars is available under the program and it requires a dollar for dollar match from a non-state source. Cities, counties and districts are eligible to apply.

Recreational Trails Program

This program provides funds for recreational trails and trails-related projects. Cities, counties, districts, state agencies, and nonprofit organizations with management responsibilities over public lands are eligible to apply. Allocation of grant cycles varies and is expected to be approximately \$3.2 million for the current cycle. Of the \$3.2 million, \$2.2 million is available for non-motorized trails projects and \$1.0 million for motorized trails projects. This is a matching program that provides up to 80 percent of the project costs.

7.3 California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC)

7.3.1 Mission and Mandates

The CTC is an independent State agency within the Resources Agency of the State of California. It was established in its present form by State law in 1984 (Chapter 1239, Statutes of 1984). Its jurisdiction extends only to the Tahoe Basin within the California borders. The CTC was established to develop and implement programs through acquisitions and site improvements to improve Lake Tahoe water quality; preserve the scenic beauty and recreational opportunities of the region; provide public access, preserve wildlife habitat areas, and manage and restore lands to protect the natural environment.

The CTC has no regulatory responsibility or police powers; however, it has a substantial budget for land acquisition, project implementation and management. Moreover, the CTC has played an important role historically as an effective facilitation and implementation agency working in the region.

7.3.2 Tahoe Basin Programs and Funding Sources

General Fund

The General Fund is the predominant fund for financing state government programs. The General Fund accounts for revenues that are not specifically designated to any other fund. The primary sources of revenue for the General Fund are personal income, sales, and bank and corporation taxes. The General Fund is also the primary funding source for the CTC.

Environmental License Plate Fund

The Environmental License Plate Fund derives its funding from the sale of personalized motor vehicle license plates for the California Department of Motor Vehicles. Funds can be used, for example, for acquisition, preservation and restoration of natural areas and ecological reserves; protection of non-game species and threatened and endangered plants and animals; restoration of fish and wildlife habitat; and reduction of the effect of soil erosion and discharge of sediments into the water of the Lake Tahoe region. While most of the funding is used to support the California State Department of Fish and Game, the CTC uses about 20 percent of the annual funding for local assistance and capital outlay projects. These funds are included as part of General Fund contributions made by the State.

Habitat Conservation Fund

Proposition 117, the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990, created the Habitat Conservation Fund. Funding can be used for specific habitat conservation-related capital improvement projects in the Tahoe Basin. The CTC is mandated to receive funds annually through 2020.

Lake Tahoe Acquisition Fund

This fund was established in 1982 and provided close to \$82 million in the Tahoe Basin for the acquisition of environmentally sensitive land and other significant resources. At this time, no additional funding is anticipated in future years.

Lake Tahoe License Plate Program

Established under Vehicle Code Section 5075, the CTC makes available for purchase a special environmental design license plate depicting a significant feature of Lake Tahoe. Funds are used by the CTC to establish and improve trails, pathways, and public access for non-motorized traffic within the California portion of the Tahoe Basin that is within the California boarder.

Proposition 12

In March of 2000, California voters approved Proposition 12, the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000 (referred to as the Villaraigosa-Keeley Act). Under this measure, the state is authorized to sell \$2.1 billion in state general obligation bonds for the acquisition, development, and protection of recreational, cultural, and natural areas. The bond measure authorizes \$50 million for projects in the Tahoe Basin. It is assumed that additional Proposition 12 discretionary funding will become available through the bond measure. This money is reflected in the CTC budget.

Proposition 13

In March of 2000, California voters also approved Proposition 13, which is being administered by the SWRCB. It provides competitive grant funding for non-point source pollution control and watershed restoration funding.

Proposition 204

In 1996, California voters approved Proposition 204 to provide funds for safer drinking water, cleaning up pollution in California's water bodies, and protecting fish and wildlife. The CTC utilized these funds in FY 1997. At this time no additional funding is anticipated

7.4 Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT)

7.4.1 Mission and Mandates

The NDOT's mission is to efficiently plan, design, construct and maintain a safe and effective transportation system for Nevada's economic, environmental, social and intermodal needs.

7.4.2 Tahoe Basin Programs and Funding Sources

State Route 28 and Highway 50 Erosion Control & Water Quality Master Plans

The State Route 28 and Highway 50 Erosion Control & Water Quality Master Plans are multi-agency partnering efforts to plan treatment needs and approaches for source control, water quality treatment, and other environmental threshold values for State Route 28 between Memorial Point and Spooner Junction (approximately 5.7 miles of two-lane highway), and Highway 50 between Kahle Drive and Spooner Summit (approximately 13 miles of four-lane highway). The first of several projects is complete, and included source control (rock slope protection and revegetation) and runoff treatment (sediment catch and infiltration) for the first two miles of State Route 28 from Spooner Junction. The first phase of the Highway 50 projects started during the 2000 construction season with large cut slope treatments below Spooner Junction. Funding for this project was provided by FHWA through NDOT.

NDOT Master Plan Partnering Process

The objectives of the NDOT Master Plan Partnering Process are to work as a team in a spirit of partnering to produce a quality master plan that meets all user, schedule and phasing requirements, is cost effective, properly administered and produces the data upon which to effectively design, build and maintain the necessary erosion control and storm water management facilities. The team includes three subcommittees: design, environmental, and public involvement.

1996 Tahoe Bond Act

The Tahoe Bond Act provided \$20 million for erosion control projects and restoration of watercourses. The available funds are split between NDOT (33 percent), and local grant recipients (66 percent).

7.5 Nevada Division of State Lands

7.5.1 Mission and Mandates

The Nevada Division of State Lands leads the State's programs to protect Lake Tahoe. The Nevada Tahoe Resource Team is an interagency team coordinated by the Division of State Lands and dedicated to preserving and enhancing the natural environment in the Tahoe Basin. The team currently consists of eight members; five from the Division of State Lands, one from the Division of Forestry, one from the Division of Wildlife, and one from the Division of State Parks.

The Nevada Tahoe Resource Team is responsible for implementing Nevada's share of the EIP, and is coordinating and implementing a wide range of projects designed to improve water

quality, control erosion, restore natural watercourses, improve forest health and wildlife habitat, and provide recreational opportunities. EIP grant funds are available to local governments and some nonprofit groups. The cost of implementing the EIP has been apportioned between the Federal Government, the States of Nevada and California, local governments, and private property owners.

7.5.2 Tahoe Basin Programs and Funding Sources

The Division of State Lands administers a variety of other Tahoe programs, including two Tahoe bond acts, and the Lake Tahoe license plate program.

1986 Tahoe Bond Act

The Tahoe Bond Act of 1986 approved by voters authorized the sale of more than \$50 million in bonds for the acquisition of sensitive land in the Basin.

1996 Tahoe Bond Act

In 1996, Nevada voters approved the Tahoe Bond Act, which provides \$20 million for erosion control projects and the restoration of natural watercourses in the Tahoe Basin. As mentioned above, NDOT receives one-third of the funds while the remaining amount is available for local governments through a competitive grant application process. Only EIP projects are eligible for funding and a local match of 25 percent is required.

Lake Tahoe License Plate Program

Residents of Nevada are able to purchase and renew a license plate with a depiction of Lake Tahoe for a premium fee. Funds are available to support programs for the preservation and restoration of the natural environment of the Tahoe Basin. Currently, the funds generated through this program are awarded as grants for environmental projects.

7.6 Nevada Division of State Parks

7.6.1 Mission and Mandates

The Nevada Division of State Parks was established in 1963. The 1963 Legislature passed the bill to form a new state park agency within the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources on April 19th. The reorganization of the agency as a Division within the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources became effective July 1, 1963. Today the Division of State Parks manages and maintains 24 parks in the Nevada State Parks system.

7.6.2 Tahoe Basin Programs and Funding Sources

Assembly Bill 285

Assembly Bill 285 established a program for the protection of the Tahoe Basin. The Division of State Lands was directed to establish and administer the program. The bill authorized the issuance of general obligation bonds and provided for legislative appropriations to carry out the program, created a State general fund to protect the Tahoe Basin; and authorized the Administrator of the Division of State Lands to issue grants to carry out the program. These funds can be used for many EIP projects including transportation, forest health and water quality improvements, and best management practice retrofits.

7.7 State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP)

7.7.1 Mission and Mandates

The NDEP was developed to preserve and enhance the environment of the state in order to protect public health, sustain healthy ecosystems and contribute to a vibrant economy.

7.7.2 Tahoe Basin Programs and Funding Sources

AB 198

This program provides grants to purveyors of water to pay for costs of capital improvements to publicly owned community water systems and publicly owned nontransient water system as required or made necessary by the state health board or by the Safe Drinking Water Act. The program seeks to enable communities to comply with health regulations and to assure the costs of the improvements do not overwhelm or cripple the system.

State Revolving Loan Fund

Administered by the staff of the Bureau of Water Pollution Control, this program is financed through the USEPA under the Clean Water Act. The goals and objectives of the program are to protect the public health by providing financial assistance for the construction of publicly owned wastewater treatment plants and non-point source control projects.

8.0 PUBLIC UTILITIES/DISTRICTS

8.1.1 South Tahoe Public Utilities District (STPUD)

The STPUD was formed in 1950 as a public agency with the purpose of serving the South Lake Tahoe community's water needs. One of the STPUD's missions is to "provide reliable collection, treatment, and reuse of wastewater, resulting in the protection of the unique environment of Lake Tahoe . . ." A second mission is to "ensure the community has an adequate supply of high quality water for all its needs." As part of its participation in the Tahoe Basin, the STPUD acts as the lead agency for the STPUD Groundwater Management Plan Stakeholder Advisory Group. This group is involved in the development of a groundwater management plan for South Lake Tahoe (pursuant to the Groundwater Management Act, Water Code subsection 10750) that, among other things, aims to avoid further contamination of drinking water wells by substances such as MTBE. (STPUD 2003)

8.1.2 Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID)

IVGID is a local government created under Nevada state law and chartered to provide utility and recreation services for the communities of Incline Village and Crystal Bay, Nevada. It is a municipal public service entity governed by a five-member popularly elected board of trustees. The board sets policy and strategies to meet its charter.

IVGID, within the limits of its charter and state law, determines the facilities and services required to enhance or preserve the general health, safety, and welfare of the communities it serves. IVGID has the power to set rates, tolls, and fees and to levy and collect taxes in order to acquire, construct, and provide facilities and sustain its operations.

8.1.3 Tahoe City Public Utility District

Founded in 1938, the Tahoe City Public Utility District initially provided public water service to the community. Sanitary sewer services were eventually added. The district serves approximately 22 square miles from the Dollar Point area along the north shore of Lake Tahoe to D.L. Bliss State Park along the west shore. All wastewater from the utility district is conveyed to a regional treatment facility in the Truckee, California.

8.1.4 Kingsbury General Improvement District

The Kingsbury General Improvement District was founded in 1964 to provide water and sanitary sewer for the community. The Kingsbury General Improvement District is located between South Tahoe Public Utility District and Douglas County Sewer Improvement District and was founded in 1964. The irrigation district provides water and sanitary sewer for the area encompassed by State Route 50 up Kingsbury Grade (State Highway 207) to Stateline.

8.1.5 North Tahoe Public Utility District

The North Tahoe Public Utility District (NTPUD) was founded in 1948 to collect, treat, and dispose of wastewater from Kings Beach, Brockway, Tahoe Vista and the surrounding areas. By 1978, all wastewater from NTPUD was transported to a new regional treatment facility in the

Truckee, California. Today the NTPUD operates the wastewater collection and transportation system. Along with the wastewater operations, NTPUD also operates a water treatment facility, the recreation programs, and the beaches and parks within its district boundaries. (Corps 2003)

8.1.6 Douglas County Sewer Improvement District No. 1

The Douglas County Sewer Improvement District No. 1 (DCSID) was founded in the early 1950's. DCSID is located on the southeastern side of Lake Tahoe north of South Lake Tahoe. The service area for DCSID is approximately 1.7 square miles. DCSID provides sewer treatment for the following five districts: Tahoe-Douglas District, Round Hill General Improvement District, Elk Point Sanitation District, Kingsbury General Improvement District, and DCSID. (Corps 2003)

8.1.7 Tahoe Douglas District

The Tahoe Douglas District was formed in 1969 to provide water and sanitary sewer for the community. In the early 1990's, the water system was given to Douglas County to maintain. The district boundary ranges from Glenbrook, Nevada, to Zephyr Cove, Nevada, where the Round Hill General Improvement District begins. (Corps 2003)

8.1.8 Round Hill General Improvement District

The Round Hill General Improvement District provides water and sanitary sewer services. The district boundary ranges from just south of Zephyr Cove, Nevada, to approximately Elks Point, where the Douglas County Sewer Improvement District begins. (Corps 2003)

9.0 NON-GOVERNMENT/NON-PROFIT PARTNERSHIPS AND COALITIONS

The number of non-governmental organizations and private associations tied to the Tahoe Basin is astounding. Some of the better-known groups include the League to Save Lake Tahoe (League), North Lake Tahoe Resort Association (NLTRA) and the TRG, and the Desert Research Institute. These groups engage in various programs and projects related to the Tahoe Basin including educational outreach and capital improvement programs.

9.1.1 Lake Tahoe Transportation and Water Quality Coalition (Coalition)

The Coalition, initiated in 1989 under the name of the Tahoe Transportation Coalition, has grown to include a coalition of 18 business and environmental groups, including Placer and El Dorado Counties, City of South Lake Tahoe, and Douglas and Washoe Counties in Nevada. The initial focus of the Coalition was to develop a stronger Tahoe Basin transit program. Many have seen the Coalition as the first collaborative movement in the Tahoe Basin.

Today, the Coalition focuses on issues surrounding transportation and water quality. Although sometimes at odds with each other, the primary members have effectively lobbied the Federal government to increase Federal support in the Tahoe Basin. The Coalition was instrumental in leading the effort for the Forum and for increasing Federal funds provided for transportation and water quality issues, including significant Federal funds committed for implementing the programs and projects outlined in the EIP. The Coalition was also instrumental in passage of the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act (P.L. 106-506) and most recently, in the SNPLMA amendment effort.

9.1.2 League to Save Lake Tahoe (League)

The League was formed in 1957 and is a privately funded, non-profit, public benefit membership organization. The League is dedicated to the restoration and preservation of the Tahoe Basin. The League works to protect the public interest in conserving the Tahoe Basin and its resources. The over 5,000 members in the League include a diverse group of individuals from across the nation and the world with varying political perspectives.

Historically, the League was instrumental in creating TRPA and developing the regional plan. More recently, the League has focused on building public support, bringing science and politics together, building consensus between the varied interest groups around protecting and restoring Lake Tahoe, and acting as the advocate for sensible development in the Tahoe Basin.

9.1.3 North Lake Tahoe Resort Association (NLTRA)

The NLTRA was created in 1996 as a result of the merger of the Tahoe North Visitors and Convention Bureau and the North Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce. The intent of the merger was to create an organization that would promote, enhance, reinvigorate, coordinate, and direct tourism for the economic betterment of the North Lake Tahoe Region. The association is an independent nonprofit organization funded largely through local transient-occupancy taxes—taxes paid by occupants of hotels, motels, and other short-term lodging.

A nine-member board of directors governs the NLTRA. Members are from the North Lake Tahoe and Truckee areas. The association retains an executive director who is responsible to the board for the implementation of the policies and goals set by the board.

The Placer County Board of Supervisors contracts with NLTRA to promote tourism and make recommendations on needed infrastructure projects in the north Tahoe area.

9.1.4 University of California, Davis - Tahoe Research Group (TRG)

Researchers from UC Davis became aware of the decline in the lake's water quality in 1959 and established the TRG to conduct research in limnology: the study of fresh water lakes and waterways. The TRG continues to conduct pioneering research on the physics, chemistry, and biology of Lake Tahoe and evaluates the success of efforts to preserve the lake's clarity.

In concert with public and private partners within the Tahoe Basin and at UC Davis, the TRG has presented a comprehensive outline for future research in the Tahoe Basin that has broad applicability to the entire Sierra Nevada. Major topics included are air quality, forestry, soil microbiology/biogeochemistry, surface hydrology, groundwater, sediment and nutrient transport, stream ecology, wetlands, limnology, fisheries, paleolimnology, ecosystem restoration, watershed management, geographic information systems, monitoring and data management, social and economic factors, regulatory organization, public participation and education, and policy and development planning.

9.1.5 Desert Research Institute

Created in 1959 by an act of the Nevada Legislature, the Desert Research Institute was initially established as part of the University of Nevada. When the University of Nevada system was formed in 1968, the Desert Research Institute became an autonomous, nonprofit division of the University and Community College system. In coordination with the UC Davis TRG, Desert Research Institute has provided and continues to provide scientific data and support for improving the environmental quality in the Tahoe Basin.

10.0 LOCAL

Local governments in the Tahoe Basin include five counties (Placer, Douglas, Washoe, El Dorado, and Alpine, though Alpine County does not have services in the Tahoe Basin); and two cities, the City of South Lake Tahoe, which is incorporated and the unincorporated Carson City. Local Tahoe Basin governments vary greatly in the types of communities they serve ranging from urbanized and densely populated cities such as South Lake Tahoe and Stateline, Nevada to smaller and sometimes-exclusive lakeshore communities such as Incline Village. Among the six local jurisdictions, Carson City is unique in that its jurisdiction includes primarily public land.

Local governments are generally responsible for (1) entering into and conforming with memorandums of understanding between the local government and TRPA, (2) implementing remedial water quality projects, and (3) preparing community plans and other related plans necessary for their jurisdiction.

Funding mechanisms for the various local governments include the following:

Measure S

In September 2000, voters in the City of South Lake Tahoe approved Measure S which implements an \$18 per year residential parcel tax to help fund specific recreational improvements. Commercial property owners will also contribute to the program. Specific improvements include a new ice rink, local ball fields, and capital improvements at Tahoe Paradise Park, as well as ongoing park operations and maintenance. The program will also provide funds the next 30 years for construction of new bicycle trails. This investment will provide the necessary local match for obtaining state funds for bike trail construction.

Redevelopment Area Funds

Tax increment financing is a method of financing public improvements with dedicated property tax revenue. To collect this revenue, a redevelopment area is created and a “base-year” assessed property value is determined. Property taxes collected on a base year value are distributed to preexisting taxing jurisdictions as usual; however, taxes collected on any increases in property values above the base year are dedicated to financing public improvements. There are two redevelopment areas in the Tahoe Basin that produce tax increment funds, including a portion of the City of South Lake Tahoe and in Kings Beach along the north shore of the Lake. Redevelopment funds will contribute a portion of the local funds needed for future EIP improvements.

Transient Occupancy Tax

The transient occupancy tax is a tax on visitor accommodations. Within the Tahoe Basin, five jurisdictions levy a transient occupancy tax at a rate of 10 percent. These include the City of South Lake Tahoe, and Placer, El Dorado, Washoe, and Douglas Counties. These jurisdictions approve projects that are funded by the tax, which is typically used to promote tourism and for development and construction of infrastructure projects. Of the 10 percent tax levied in Placer County, two percent of the revenue collected from the Tahoe community is to be used to fund infrastructure improvements.

In addition to local governments, resource conservation districts also participate in EIP project implementation in partnership with other local entities. Grant funds are most often provided through the Federal government.

11.0 BASIN WORKING GROUPS

There are approximately 30 interagency working groups that exist to address a range of environmental resource issues in the Tahoe Basin. The membership of these groups is primarily made up of Federal, regional, state and local agency staff; however, a number of dedicated landowners, members of the business community, students, and citizens also participate in working group meetings. The groups provide an arena for integration and information sharing. Some groups are more interdisciplinary, focusing on a wide range of environmental issues, while others focus more specifically on protection and maintenance of one or more of the nine ETCC's. Many of the working groups initially formed to aid TRPA staff with the completion of the threshold evaluation reports, as required every five years. However, as these groups met to provide a comprehensive look at the state of the Tahoe Basin environment, they became aware of the utility of gathering natural resource staff from different agencies to complete a task. The groups began to tackle more and more issues, and new groups formed with interests independent of the threshold evaluations.

Table 3 describes the mission, vision and purpose and goals of the working groups. In some cases, a group's mission and purpose may be intertwined and therefore, no particularly specific distinctions exist between the mission and purpose.

TABLE 3. Tahoe Basin Working Groups' – Mission and Purpose

Name	Mission/Vision	Purpose/Goals/Tasks
<i>Interdisciplinary Groups</i>		
Science Advisory Group	Ensure seamless and continuous flow of information between the scientific community and management/regulatory agencies to promote effective adaptive management in the Basin	Provide TRPA and community with timely, sound, scientific information on land use planning and management issues including restoration and mitigation Serve as Steering Group for research Provide forum for organizing scientific activities, developing strategies and networking collaboration among scientific institutions
Integration Team	To integrate multi-agency efforts to implement the EIP	Improve and integrate the process of implementing EIP projects Act as a liaison between the executive officers of the member agencies and the staff

Name	Mission/Vision	Purpose/Goals/Tasks
<i>Groups Concerned with the Biota</i>		
Biological Advisory Group	Advise the region's biological resources management policy and research needs Coordinate and ensure information sharing among region's biologists Define and develop management strategies Prioritize research and restoration needs	Provide new avenues for coordination and improve existing coordination efforts Better exchange of information/data amongst the different Lake Tahoe agencies Define and prioritize biological research, management and information needs Establish professional relationships Unify and organize a stance on different political issues that may impact biological resources Exchange information/knowledge of agency's policies, background, and positions on issues Provide peer review of research, monitoring, and management policy Provide a unified voice for wildlife issues that are scientifically based, not politically motivated Provide an annual forum for reporting out of biological information to a wide audience
Forest Health Consensus Group	Recommend to TRPA changes to the Regional Plan regarding forest ecosystem by identifying and defining objectives and strategies that educate and assist the decision-making bodies and the general public on current and long-term dynamics of the forest ecosystem by looking at the Tahoe Basin forest ecosystem as a whole	Define the desired future conditions of the ecosystem Develop an ecosystem management strategy that provides guidance for attaining future condition Recommend an ongoing system for monitoring and evaluation the condition of the Forest ecosystem and the long-term effectiveness of the management strategies and adapting them to new information and changing conditions
Nevada Ecosystem Advisory Team	Provide coordinated ecosystem-based leadership among Federal, state, and local organizations to enhance and sustain Nevada's natural and economic resources	Improve communication and coordination among agencies to develop ecosystem-based perspective for all activities Develop a strategy to empower local communities to enhance their ecosystems Streamline paperwork, reduce red tape and regulation, and share resources
Tahoe Yellow Cress Technical Advisory Group		Create a conservation strategy for the yellow cress Was to provide final conservation strategy to governing board in August 2001

Name	Mission/Vision	Purpose/Goals/Tasks
<i>Groups Concerned with Water Quality</i>		
Water Quality Working Group	Address relevant water quality issues, foster coordination, communication, unified direction, and appropriate decision making within and between agencies, use limited resources in a cost-effective manner	<p>Improve communication between water quality program members</p> <p>Share and learn the technical and research aspects of water quality.</p> <p>Coordinate, mobilize, and share technical data and other water quality research information</p> <p>Coordinate agency work programs</p> <p>Insure coordination by organizing the group into subgroups for the most efficient and effective use of time.</p> <p>Define financing needs and identify opportunities to coordinate and combine program/project funding and resources.</p> <p>Define research needs and priorities.</p> <p>Evaluate existing water quality monitoring programs, identify where gaps exist, and establish additional monitoring and feedback tools.</p> <p>Integrate water quality improvement efforts to improve efficiency and results.</p> <p>Develop a consistent set of goals, objectives, and procedures as it relates to public outreach, research, monitoring, and project development.</p> <p>Improve outreach to and inclusion of the general public</p> <p>Provide recommendations to policy makers</p> <p>Improve the attainment of regulatory goals</p> <p>Improve project BMP effectiveness, design, planning, and implementation.</p> <p>Develop project priority criteria</p>
Stream Environment Zone Technical Advisory Group	Provide for a long-term focus on SEZ restoration	<p>Evaluate urban runoff treatment relative to SEZs</p> <p>Review and prioritize watershed approach to evaluation of SEZ restoration needs</p> <p>Coordinate not duplicate SEZ restoration project technical advisory group</p>
Lake Tahoe Source Water Group	Coordinate state Source Water Protection Program and incorporate source water protection measures into TRPA 208 plan.	<p>The Lake Tahoe Source Water Protection Program includes development of a Coordination Plan that will follow the development and implementation of state source water assessment and protection plans in the Lake Tahoe Region. The Coordination Plan will be developed using a watershed approach. USEPA is looking for this Coordination Plan to serve as a model for application to other interstate watersheds in the United States.</p> <p>Status.</p>

Name	Mission/Vision	Purpose/Goals/Tasks
STPUD Groundwater Management Plan Stakeholder Advisory Group	Prepare Draft Groundwater Management Plan	
Lake Tahoe Sewer Agencies	Bring together utility districts and regulators to identify areas where sewer pipeline infrastructure may be an environmental hazard to Lake Tahoe	
<i>Groups Concerned with Recreation</i>		
Recreation Advisory Group	Evaluate and make constructive recommendations regarding the recreation threshold while sustaining the environmental resources and economic viability of the Region	Provide understanding of how thresholds are defined and implemented Identify indicators that lead to effective evaluation Analyze progress toward threshold maintenance and attainment Quantify/qualify/identify current conditions and trends in the region's recreational activities Get recreation identified as an important part of the economy and quality of life in the Basin Update database of public/private provider facilities Create Regional Recreation Master Plan
Tahoe Coalition of Recreation Providers	Provide a forum for the expression of divergent points of view within the recreation industry. Serve as a clearinghouse for recreation providers regarding projects and activities in the Region	
<i>Groups Concerned with Noise Levels</i>		
Noise Working Group	Provide expert technical advise on noise issues within the Region Provide peer review of proposed and existing noise programs Make recommendations to TRPA	
<i>Groups Concerned with Outreach and Education</i>		
Lake Tahoe Environmental Education Coalition (subgroup: Tahoe Citizens Environmental Action Network)	Bring agency and educational organizations together into a coalition and formulate a coordinated, comprehensive strategy that will effectively teach all sub-audiences at Lake Tahoe decision-making skills to help them make informed decision and change their behaviors	
Communications Working Group	To facilitate and coordinate the exchange of information among research institutions and between research institutions and the public.	

Name	Mission/Vision	Purpose/Goals/Tasks
<i>Groups Concerned with Best Management Practices Effectiveness</i>		
Tahoe Basin Interagency Road Maintenance and Operations Committee	Identify and seek alignment of “best” management practices and design standards in an effort to minimize the effects road operation and maintenance have on the environment in the basin, and to reduce review efforts by regulatory agencies.	
Performance Review Committee	Improve maintenance activity effort to keep capital improvements functional. Aimed largely at county public works departments. Also concerned with commercial and tourism allocation issues.	This group is driven by TRPA Ordinance 33.2.B(5)(b)(ii) which requires each county and the CSLT to demonstrate adequate maintenance of water quality facilities prior to receiving 100% of the respective jurisdiction’s residential allocation for development.
Large Project Water Quality BMP Maintenance Group	Improve maintenance activity effort at private properties with uses containing large areas of impervious coverage, and uses with a high potential to degrade water quality to keep capital improvements functional.	
Erosion Control Technical Advisory Committee	To set policy for development and review of erosion control projects, and evaluate their effectiveness. Also, to act as a forum for new approaches and techniques for erosion control and water quality treatment.	
Tahoe Basin Revegetation Group	To encourage information sharing on revegetation, evaluate successful techniques and plant materials for revegetation, and to encourage revegetation as a cost-effective means of erosion control.	
Shore Zone Review Committee	Coordination of shore zone project review and enforcement activities by shore zone agencies. Project level decisions predominate. There is less policy level discussions/decisions with this group.	

Name	Mission/Vision	Purpose/Goals/Tasks
Upper Truckee River Focused Watershed Group	To use the Upper Truckee watershed as a focus and model watershed to coordinate activities aimed largely at the protection and enhancement of water quality in the watershed, and ultimately, Lake Tahoe. To design an action or watershed plan which may be applied to all watersheds in the Region.	<p>Assessment of the current conditions of watershed resources.</p> <p>Obtain commitments of the Federal, state, and local agencies, as well as local groups, and residents.</p> <p>Identify watershed improvement needs, including management and physical needs.</p> <p>Develop coordinated Action Plan to address needs.</p> <p>Identify available and potential resources (\$, labor, etc.)</p> <p>Implement Action Plan</p> <p>Monitor and assess.</p> <p>Adjust actions as needed.</p>
<i>Groups Concerned with Air quality and Transportation</i>		
NDOT Master Plan Partnering Process	To work as a team in a spirit of partnering to produce a quality master plan that meets all user, schedule and phasing requirements, is cost effective, properly administered and produces the data upon which to effectively design, build and maintain the necessary erosion control and storm water management facilities. To define and provide preliminary design for water quality improvements on Nevada Highways 28 and 50.	
Tahoe Transportation Commission and Tahoe Transportation District	This is a formal committee. It is publicly noticed.	Responsible for input into regional plans and regional improvement programs.
Lake Tahoe Transportation and Water Quality Coalition	A consensus-based forum for discussion and action on issues of mutual concern and interest involving Lake Tahoe's leading business, tourism, environmental and property rights organizations.	<p>Regularly meet with representatives of Tahoe's major regulatory and land use agencies, including TRPA and the USFS</p> <p>Organization and development of Lake Tahoe's annual Joint Federal Legislative Agenda</p> <p>Advocate Federal funds for Tahoe projects and programs, with an emphasis on Federal funds in support of the Lake Tahoe EIP.</p> <p>Coordinates a "Transportation Working Group," which facilitates consensus and organizes support for a variety of transportation project and planning programs</p>
Prescribed Burning Technical Advisory Committee	Coordinate prescribed burning activities in relation to air quality thresholds.	To coordinate prescribed burning activities towards reduction of smoke and precipitation to surface waters.

Name	Mission/Vision	Purpose/Goals/Tasks
Nevada Water Resources Association	No information is available at this time	
Clean Cities Coalition		Increasing the use of alternative fuels and decreasing the Nation's dependence on foreign fuel sources.
Nevada Bond Act Technical Advisory Committee	To provide technical input for the awarding of grants, through the 1996 Nevada Tahoe Bond Act, for the purposes of implementing erosion control and stream environment zone restoration projects.	The 1996 Nevada Tahoe Bond Act authorizes the issuance of state general obligation bonds to provide grants to local governments and the department of transportation to carry out projects for the control of erosion and the restoration of natural watercourses on the Nevada side of the Tahoe Basin.

12.0 REFERENCES

- (Corps) United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Sacramento District, 2003. Lake Tahoe Basin Framework Study Wastewater Collection System Overflow/Release Reduction Evaluation.
- (Council 1979) Western Federal Regional Council (Council). 1979. Lake Tahoe Environmental Assessment.
- (LTBEC 1999) Lake Tahoe Basin Executives Committee (LTBEC). 1999. Progress Report Federal Actions at Lake Tahoe, p. 4.
- (STPUD 2003) South Tahoe Public Utilities District (STPUD). 2002 – 2003. Internet address: <http://www.stpud.us/index.html>
- (TRPA 2001) Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA). 2001. Environmental Improvement Program: The Cooperative Effort to Preserve, Restore, and Enhance the Unique Natural and Human Environment of the Lake Tahoe Region. Vol. I Program Overview, Executive Summary, p. 6, and Volume III, EIP Financing Plan.
- (TRPA 2002a) Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA). 2002. 2001 Threshold Evaluation Report. Introduction, pp. 1-9 and 1-10. Internet address: http://www.trpa.org/news/2001_thresholds.html
- (TRPA 2002b) Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA). 2002. 2001 Threshold Evaluation Report, Executive Summary, p. xxiii. Internet address: http://www.trpa.org/news/2001_thresholds.html
- (USEPA 1974) United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). 1974. The Lake Tahoe Study.
- (Washoe Tribe 1995) Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California (Washoe Tribe). 1995. Internet address: <http://itcn.org/tribes/washoe/intro.html>

