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The League to Save Lake Tahoe is dedicated to protecting and restoring the environmental quality, scenic beauty and low-impact recreational opportunities of the Tahoe Basin. We focus on water quality, its clarity and other critical environmental issues to "Keep Tahoe Blue."



League's Regional Plan Vision

Balances Incentives & Regulation

The League to Save Lake Tahoe seeks a regional plan that balances four main principles – restoration, renovation, redevelopment, and regulation – to achieve environmental goals. These principles would serve as the four pillars of environmental protection at Tahoe. Maintenance of the social and economic health of the region depends upon a strong foundation of environmental protection.

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's preferred approach focuses almost exclusively on what it calls "environmental redevelopment," creating a one-legged stool on which to build the future of Lake Tahoe. For at least seven years, the League to Save Lake Tahoe has provided constructive feedback on the next 20-year regional plan update. Currently, there are four alternatives that provide varying levels of regulation, urbanization and redevelopment incentives, but all far short of assuring achievement of Tahoe's unique environmental goals.

Nearly 75 percent of these standards are not being met, including those relating to air quality, water quality, scenic resources, vegetation, soils, wildlife and many more. Many standards urgently require updates based upon current scientific knowledge, so they are strong enough to protect Tahoe's significant values. This is a critical task that should have been completed in 2007. For example, the nearshore clarity standard is one of the few standards technically in compliance, yet visually, nearshore clarity is in a dramatic state of degradation. Beachgoers are noticing slippery rocks covered with wads of algae for the first time at Tahoe.

The Compact requires TRPA to achieve these environmental standards, while interfering as little as possible with local autonomy so that jurisdictions can pursue economic and social goals. For this reason, the League is urging the TRPA to create a plan that balances a strong regulatory framework with an incentive-based approach to achieve these environmental standards.

A responsible plan would include greater emphasis on restoration and much less focus on urbanization, which will only exacerbate traffic and congestion. It would enhance regulations where they can have the most impact. It would take a "go-slow" approach to development. New residential allocations and other development rights, including commercial space, would be issued only as the region shows progress toward meeting environmental standards. Affordable housing would be provided by renovating existing stock, rather than building new structures.

The plan would emphasize redevelopment that reduces our overall development footprint. It would require transferring development out of less appropriate areas like meadows, and concentrating it into more appropriate areas like the Stateline casino corridor. It would include additional scenic protection zones within urban boundaries and along major roadways, where views of the lake and the mountains are currently available. It would emphasize protecting and restoring naturally functioning wetlands, which are proven "technologies," as opposed to expensive engineered solutions. Enhancing low-impact recreation opportunities would also be a main focus.

The plan would implement height standards that protect Tahoe's scenic beauty. It would include a two-story height maximum, which is similar to the height standards allowed in the current regional plan. Extra height would only be allowed if coupled with retirement of development from sensitive land and restoration of this land to a naturally functioning and infiltrating state.

Finally, there is an effort underway to unravel and weaken the very regulations that are necessary to protect Tahoe's unique natural resources. A better plan would enhance regulations to not only prevent degradation, but ensure environmental improvement. For example, we now know that major sources of fine particles that are so damaging to lake clarity are coming from roads and urban areas, including the sand applied during snow removal operations. More frequent street sweeping, with sweepers that employ the best available technology for picking up fine particles, could bring enormous benefit to water and air quality. At the same time, much greater progress is needed to achieve BMP compliance on private properties, which is only hovering at about 25 percent.

For more information on the regional plan visit www.keeptahoeblue.org under "Projects."

Annual Meeting

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 6-8 PM

Please join us for this year's meeting, which will be held at scenic Cavallo Point in Sausalito. This restored lodge is situated within historic Fort Baker, a part of Golden Gate National Parks.

The event will feature cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, guest speakers and board elections.

Please RSVP before October 10 by emailing ana@keeptahoeblue.org, or check your mailbox soon for our official invitation, proxy form and RSVP envelope. We hope to see you there!



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Keep Tahoe Blue News

**THE LEAGUE TO
SAVE LAKE TAHOE**

955 Emerald Bay Road
S. Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

(530) 541-5388

www.KeepTahoeBlue.org
info@KeepTahoeBlue.org

EDITOR

Amanda Royal

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Karen Spivey

www.Firesign-Designs.com

Scientists

Keeping Close Eye on Road Sand

Road sanding and salting is receiving more and more scientific attention at Tahoe, according to several abstracts presented at the 5th Biennial Lake Tahoe Basin Science Conference this spring.

Scientists suspect that dust from paved roads is a major source of the fine sediment that's causing the decline in lake clarity. Fine sediment is smaller than a human hair, and is a concern because it can remain suspended in the lake

for decades, rather than settling to the bottom as do larger particles.

Scientists at the Desert Research Institute in Reno studied sources of fine sediment in "atmospheric deposition," or pollution that falls into the lake from the air. Atmospheric deposition is responsible for 15 percent of overall pollution clouding lake clarity. Scientists looked at several sources, including vehicle emissions, wood burning, wildfires and road dust. They found that road dust is the major source of the larger fine particles that enter the lake via the air, particularly in South Lake Tahoe, where traffic is the greatest. The major source of the smallest fine particles was wood burning during fall and winter months, followed by vehicle emissions. Scientists found little evidence that wildfires in or out of the basin were a major contributor. Researchers are continuing to study stormwater runoff to see how much road sand flows into the lake when picked up by rain and snowmelt.

Fine particles from road dust contain a high amount of phosphorous, one of the nutrients that causes algae growth. Research showed that the low-phosphorous sand, combined with a de-icing solution, can reduce phosphorus input by a factor of four, but the materials should be swiftly removed and prevented from entering the Lake. Researchers have also identified the most effective street sweepers for picking up fine sediment.



Many of the street sweepers used in Tahoe are not the best available technology for picking up fine particles that are so damaging to lake clarity.

WATER BUGS DECLINE

Tahoe's native water invertebrates are decreasing at an alarming rate, another study showed. These tiny "water bugs" are important indicators of ecosystem and water quality health. One species that is only found at Tahoe has experienced a 99 percent decline, scientists found. Another type of stonefly that is in rapid decline is so unique that it is one of only two species on Earth that never emerges from the water.

Several factors could be affecting these species in such a dramatic way, including the human introduction of nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorous, which leads to algae growth. Or, invasive species like non-native shrimp and crayfish could be changing the food web.

Caires, Andrea. "Long-Term Change in Benthic Invertebrate Assemblages in Lake Tahoe" (presentation). 5th Biennial Lake Tahoe Basin Science Conference, March 16-17, 2010. Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences.

Oscar de la Renta & Saks

A Visionary Duo

Fashion visionary Oscar de la Renta combined forces with Saks Fifth Avenue on August 7 to deliver one of the most successful benefits ever for the League to Save Lake Tahoe.



League employees Marilyn Armstrong (front) and Melissa Thaw (back), along with several volunteers, help set up for the event

The annual event - held on the lake at the home of Mara Fritz - offered 640 League supporters a day of fashion and mingling with like-minded friends, whose desire to protect our national treasure is the unifying reason for the event each year. In addition to featuring Oscar de la Renta's 2011 Resort Collection, the benefit offered an entertaining live auction, a silent auction, and a raffle which included prizes of gift certificates from de la Renta.

This year's benefit marked the 41st year of the



Guests mingle and enjoy the views before the fashion show begins.

fundraiser, which provides the means for the League to monitor land-use policies and development projects and continue to advocate for programs to protect and restore the ecosystem health of Lake Tahoe. Saving the lake requires widespread dedication and the commitment of these supporters to Keep Tahoe Blue. We thank everyone who made this year's benefit a success.

The Many Ways of Giving

With more than 4,000 generous supporting households across the nation, the League to Save Lake Tahoe often functions as the only voice for environmental protection at Tahoe. Membership in the League provides an essential base of support for our advocacy programs.

If you are interested in learning more about ways to help preserve and protect Lake Tahoe, please consider matching gifts or planned giving.

MATCHING GIFTS

You can double your donation with the help of your employer when you give to the League to Save Lake Tahoe. Many companies offer matching gift programs to their regular employees, part-time employees, retired employees, spouses of employees, and Board of Directors. Ask your benefits department if your employer has a matching gift program, and follow the steps they provide in their guidelines.

PLANNED GIVING

Leave a legacy for future generations by including the League in your estate plan. We encourage you to consider planned giving as an avenue for making a difference in one of the following ways: life insurance, real estate, a bequest in your will or living trust, stock, or a qualified retirement plan. There are many estate-planning options, including establishing a charitable remainder trust or charitable lead trust. Your legal advisor is the best person to help set up the planned gift most appropriate for you. For more information please contact our office at (530) 541-5388; we will be happy to provide a brochure on the subject.

In Memory

Bill Lane of Sunset Magazine

Former Sunset Magazine publisher and long-time League supporter L. William Lane passed away July 31 at the age of 90.

Lane supported a broad range of conservation causes throughout his life, and the Sierra Nevada was a place that was close to his heart. Lane first visited the Sierra Nevada in 1929, when his family embarked on a vacation after moving to the Bay Area. One of their first stops was Lake Tahoe. He was just 9 years old, but the trip would change his life, he'd later say. As a teenager and college student in the 1930s, Lane worked in the Sierra backcountry doing trail work and stocking lakes with fish.

Lane's boldest move as publisher of Sunset magazine was his decision to speak out against the pesticide DDT, and ban advertisements from makers of the product. The move cost the company millions, but it influenced policy makers in Washington who eventually outlawed the product. The magazine was also influential in bringing attention to Lake Tahoe and its environmental challenges.



In 2004, Lane created the Lane Family Endowment for the League to Save Lake Tahoe. The endowment has provided a critical safety net for League operations and advocacy work. Since then, Lane and his family continued to be generous supporters of the League. Additional gifts to the endowment are welcome.

Lane was a leader and a dedicated advocate for the public interest. He set an example for us all on how to create a better world. He will be missed.



In Memory

Homer Hayward of Hayward Lumber

Prominent lumberman Homer M. Hayward, 89, passed away July 30, 2010. Tahoe was his home six months out of the year. He took great pride in his Tahoe cabin since he personally built it. He used the money from his war bonds to purchase a lake side lot in Agate Bay in the early 1950s and drove a lumber truck from Salinas to Tahoe every weekend to supply the lumber and work on his dream cabin. That cabin became a natural meeting place for friends and family year after year. He met his wife, Nancy, at the Christmas Tree Lodge on Mount Rose and proposed to her after the 1960 Olympics in Squaw. Homer was a member of the "greatest generation," pillar of the community, a hero, a man of integrity, courage and compassion; concerned to the end about everyone else. He supported numerous nonprofit causes, including the effort to Keep Tahoe Blue, the Tahoe Rim Trail and training for North Tahoe firefighters. If you stopped by his house at Tahoe, you'd always get invited to dinner. His greatest joy was being surrounded by family and friends. The walls of his house show all the pictures of his glorious parties. Three plaques show all the people that he taught how to water ski behind the boat "Wayward," which is a 1958 baby blue Chris Craft. He is buried at Trails End Cemetery in Tahoe City, next to his beloved wife.

League Priorities

The League monitors all major land-use decisions and proposed policies in the basin.

The League's biggest priority is the regional plan update (see page 2). Another big priority has been our shorezone case, in which we recently received a decisive victory (see opposite page.) Other projects and priorities include:

HOMEWOOD MOUNTAIN RESORT

The League continues to monitor the proposed development at Homewood Mountain Resort. Current plans call for hundreds of residential units, a 75-room hotel, a retail village, lodge, underground parking garage and amphitheater. The resort sits on the West Shore between Tahoe City and Tahoma, an area that experiences heavy traffic congestion in the summer. The developer predicts an increase in summertime traffic and a decrease in winter-time traffic. The developer has also been implementing best management practices, including restoring old and unused dirt roads that wind through the ski resort. These restoration efforts could produce water quality benefits, but it remains to be seen whether they will outweigh the new development, traffic, and air quality impacts of the project. The League awaits the outcome of the project's environmental review.

BOULDER BAY

The environmental review for the Boulder Bay development at the site of the Biltmore Hotel was released in early September. The California attorney general's office had taken issue with the original traffic analysis. With the final review complete, the traffic analysis still appears to be insufficient. The current project proposal contains eight tall buildings which do not adhere to the TRPA code or the existing community plan for the surrounding area. The TRPA governing board is expected to review the project in November.

SIERRA COLINA/BURKE CREEK

The League has challenged a proposed residential subdivision at Burke Creek, an 18-acre parcel on the Nevada side of Tahoe's South Shore, as TRPA decided to exempt

the roadways within the project from coverage limitations. Such new subdivisions have been prohibited at Tahoe for decades, and the renewal of such approvals could quickly become catastrophic for watershed protection efforts.

LAKE TAHOE RESTORATION ACT

The League to Save Lake Tahoe successfully promoted the inclusion of language in the proposed reauthorization of the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act to commit the local unit of the Forest Service to the achievement of Lake Tahoe's environmental standards, to withdraw the area from new mining claims, and to enhance protections for water quality and soils in the implementation of forest projects. The League does not agree with every policy choice made in the reauthorization, which changes the balance of responsibilities among federal, state, and other entities at Lake Tahoe, and we are concerned that watershed restoration is not given sufficient priority in the bill. Nevertheless, we strongly support the reauthorization, which is needed to support the local economy and public safety as well as to help assure continued funding for environmental improvements.

ASPEN FOREST RESTORATION

Crews from the Forest Service and California Tahoe Conservancy began work this summer restoring about 60 acres of aspen groves near the Upper Truckee River and around the Angora Fire area. The projects are made possible by \$285,000 in funding from the South Tahoe Public Utility District, as part of a plan developed in collaboration with the League to Save Lake Tahoe to mitigate recycled water export line construction impacts.

Sandy Beach Project Will Be Downsized

The League to Save Lake Tahoe and the Friends of Tahoe Vista have settled their litigation against the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and Placer County challenging those agencies' approval of the "Cerulean Estates by Wyndham" luxury timeshare project on the site of the Sandy

Beach campground in Tahoe Vista. Everyone who loves Tahoe Vista's rustic character will be pleased to know that the Cerulean Estates project will not go forward as planned, but will have to be significantly modified, including reducing the amount of legal coverage on the site.

The League salutes the local community for uniting so solidly against this ill-advised project, and expresses appreciation to the many people who contributed to this victory for the local community and for the effort to Keep Tahoe Blue.



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Shorezone **Victory** Holds TRPA to High Standard

In a landmark decision that will affect all future development plans at Lake Tahoe, a federal district court judge on September 16 ruled in favor of the League and overturned a plan to add thousands of buoys, 138 new piers, hundreds of slips, and dozens of boat ramps along the lake's shoreline.

"This is a great day for everyone who wants to Keep Tahoe Blue," said Rochelle Nason, executive director of the League. "This decision provides the guidance the agency needs to resume its rightful place as the leader of a bi-state, science-based, and broadly supported effort to save Lake Tahoe."

The judge agreed with the League that new boat facilities should not be allowed along the shoreline until the TRPA shows how it will achieve mandatory environmental goals aimed at restoring Lake Tahoe.

This news broke just as we were sending our newsletter to the press. Executive Director Rochelle Nason will provide a presentation and analysis of the case, including what it means for the region's future, at our October 19 annual meeting (see page 2). More information on the decision and its implications will arrive in your mailboxes shortly. Please check our Web site, www.keeptahoeblue.org, for updates.



Join Us on facebook

With over 60,000 fans, the Keep Tahoe Blue Facebook page is quickly becoming the most robust source of information about Tahoe on

the Web. Join our page to find out about events, issues, science, news articles and information related to environmental protection and low-impact recreation at Lake Tahoe.

We welcome suggestions on events, photos or articles to post.

We started the page just last year to engage, educate, and inspire everyone to be good stewards of the lake. We have been pleasantly surprised at its success. We have fans in dozens of countries and cities across the world.

To find our page, search for "Keep Tahoe Blue" on Facebook, or visit this link: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Keep-Tahoe-Blue/130342373333>

THE LEAGUE TO SAVE LAKE TAHOE

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Membership in the League to Save Lake Tahoe is \$50 per year and includes the Keep Tahoe Blue News. The League is a non-profit 501 (c)3 organization under the federal tax code. Dues and contributions to the League are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Your gift helps fund the League's educational, legal, scientific and advocacy efforts. We thank you for your support.



In Memory of ...

January 1 – August 11, 2010

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Celia Barbaccia

SALLY CHARLES

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"BRENT & CHRISTINA'S WEDDING"

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