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March/April 2018 Newsletter

It appears that winter has finally arrived to Tahoe! Although we may be snowed in right now, there are still a lot of plans and projects in the works for our area and the Tahoe region, many of which will specifically affect the West Shore, including but not limited to the following:



Construction activities:

- Meeks Bay bike trail
- Fanny Bridge/SR 89 Realignment
- Homewood Mountain Resort

Planning activities for future projects:

- Meeks Bay Marina
- "Corridor Plans" for SR 89 from Tahoma to South Lake Tahoe
- Tahoe City Lodge

FOWS will remain diligent in our efforts to influence projects and plans and keep you informed. If you are looking to get more involved in planning for the future of the West Shore, there are many ways you can help! In addition, if you belong to a Homeowners Association (HOA) on the West Shore, we welcome the opportunity to speak with you and your neighbors as you gather for your annual HOA meetings this year. Please [contact us](#) for more information.

Sincerely,

Judith Tornese,
President

Regional and local planning updates:

TRPA environmental threshold standards update process:

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) is required to ensure that specific environmental standards (aka "[threshold standards](#)"), such as water clarity, are being achieved. However, most of the current standards were adopted almost forty years ago. TRPA, with help from a [bi-state science committee](#), is undertaking a [process](#) to update the standards, beginning with forest management, stream environment zones, and transportation. FOWS believes it is important that any revisions maintain equal or better environmental protection, and will continue to follow this process closely.

TRPA Development Rights Strategic Initiative:

Although providing affordable housing so people can "live and work" in community centers (and thereby reduce driving) is a TRPA [Regional Plan policy](#), TRPA is proposing to allow current financial "incentives" for affordable housing (which reduce the cost of development) to be used for moderate-income housing - a concept that raises concerns about unmet affordable housing needs.

TRPA also aims to revise how new development is regulated. Currently, there are a limited number of new units available for residential, tourist, and commercial uses. The impacts of each use vary (for example, consider the typical *timing* of visitor versus resident vehicle trips). However, TRPA proposes to allow these units to be 'converted' from one use to another without sufficiently accounting for how different uses impact local areas.



Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership:

Phase Two of the [Lake Tahoe West \(LTW\) Restoration Partnership](#) uses models and the best available scientific information to examine different approaches to improve forest health and resilience. For example, models can estimate what our forests will look like if we focus primarily on thinning (i.e. the selective removal of trees and brush) versus [putting more planned fire back on the ground](#). The approaches are not meant to reflect actual proposed treatments, but rather to provide contrasting information that will help guide future planning.

Project updates:

Fanny Bridge/SR 89 Realignment:

[A recent update](#) states that (weather permitting) the construction company will continue pouring concrete for the new Truckee River bridge abutments in March. In addition, the Tahoe City Trout Sculpture will soon be dismantled as an agreement regarding a new location could not be reached.



Meeks Bay Marina:

Placer County and the U.S. Forest Service plan to issue the combined Notice of Preparation/Notice of Intent (which will outline potential future development and restoration options at the site) by late spring/early summer.

State Route 89 "Corridor" Planning (Tahoma to South Lake Tahoe):

TRPA has hired a consultant to begin "Corridor" Planning for State Route 89 from South Shore to Tahoma. FOWS will provide more information as it becomes available.

Meeks Bay Bike Trail:

The [SR 89/Meeks Bay Bike Trail Project](#) will construct an extension of the west shore bike trail system south of Sugar Pine Point along SR 89 to Meeks Bay, heading toward Emerald Bay. Completion is anticipated by the end of fall 2018.

Other projects:

FOWS will continue to update you on the following projects as new information becomes available:

- [Alpine Meadows to Squaw Valley Base-to-Base Gondola](#)
- [Homewood Mountain Resort](#)
- [Martis Valley West Specific Plan](#)
- [Tahoe City Lodge](#) - Recent activities include an [agreement with Placer County](#) to obtain tourist unit development rights and a [proposed agreement](#) with the Tahoe City PUD regarding parking, the club house, and other arrangements with the Tahoe City Golf Course. Construction is anticipated in 2019.
- [Tahoe Keys Proposed Herbicide Use](#)
- [Tahoe Maritime Center](#) - According to Placer County, the proposed project has been withdrawn by the applicant.

- [Village at Squaw Valley Specific Plan](#) - The courts have scheduled hearings in March for [both aspects of the lawsuit](#) filed by Sierra Watch.
- Other regional projects (including the White Wolf and Alpine Sierra Subdivision [Projects](#) in Alpine Meadows)

Additional ways to support FOWS (at no cost to you)!

Save Mart:

The eScrip Shares program allows shoppers to designate FOWS to receive donations earned through their purchases; up to 3% of your purchase at Save Mart and [other stores](#) will be donated to FOWS at no cost to you. Sign up for a new account or register your existing account [through this link](#) , then simply provide your phone number at checkout and funds are donated to FOWS ([click here for a short instruction sheet to get you started](#)) .

Amazon Smile:

We've joined the Amazon Smile program; all you have to do is order from Amazon through [this link](#) and 0.5% of your purchase will be donated to FOWS at no additional cost to you!



We invite you to contact us to learn more, ask questions, or simply get to know the FOWS Board.

Please contact Jennifer Quashnick, FOWS Conservation Consultant, at: jqtahoe@sbcglobal.net , or Judith Tornese, FOWS President, at: jmtornese@aol.com .

Friends of the West Shore | www.friendswestshore.org

