



# NTP E-BITES

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### **EIP Update –**

The Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) is The Environmental Improvement Program was envisioned during the 1997 Presidential Summit at Lake Tahoe. President Clinton and others convened here to focus efforts on protecting the lake for future generations. The resulting program encompasses more than 700 capital improvement, research, program support, and operation and maintenance projects in the Tahoe Basin, all designed to help restore Lake Tahoe's clarity and environment.

EIP projects are designed to achieve and maintain environmental thresholds that protect Tahoe's unique and valued resources. These thresholds cover areas such as the public health and safety of residents and visitors as well as the scenic, recreational, educational, scientific, and natural values of the Lake Tahoe Basin.

The EIP has not been updated since its inception. Now, TRPA has commissioned the update of the EIP, which will include an evaluation to determine if the EIP is successful, what can be improved and what should be eliminated. Many assumptions are being asserted now that while the EIP is a good first step in restoring Lake Tahoe, it is missing critical components, like better coordinated plans to operate and maintain projects, considerations of source-water protection and integration with other community needs like pedestrian and bike-friendly corridors and parks which could be used as infiltration zones. There are many ideas for improvement.

For more information on the EIP go to: <http://www.trpa.org/default.aspx?tabindex=10&tabid=227>

### **Green Infrastructure Networks**

What is a Green Infrastructure? The term Green Infrastructure (GI) is a term that has been gaining momentum in land-use planning and development. GI is described as the sub-structure or underlying foundation on which the continuance and growth of a community or state depends within which an interconnected network of natural areas, open spaces and other "green" areas sustain natural ecosystem values and functions while providing a wide array of benefits to people, wildlife and in some cases, the economy. It is not just about open space; the connection between hubs of open space is critical, just as is the connection and integration with the build environment.

How does GI planning differ from traditional land-use planning? First of all, GI networks are planned in concert with man-made ("grey infrastructure") development. Historically conservation planning activities have occurred in **isolation** from or even in opposition to grey infrastructure development. Often conservation planning is **haphazard** and disconnected from other interrelated conservation planning efforts in surrounding areas. Funding often dictates when and how much conservation work can occur from year to year, making work **reactionary** versus proactive. This often leads to repetition or duplication of efforts, missing links in land-use development, over-stretching of resources, lack of follow-through and even total project failure. "Green Infrastructure helps communities identify and prioritize conservation opportunities and plan development in ways that optimize the use of the land to meet the needs of people and nature."

For more information on Green Infrastructure go to: <http://www.greeninfrastructure.net/>, or <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/safetealu/summary.htm> to find out about the SAFETEA-LU Federal Registry

For a presentation on this topic for your group, contact Jill Sarick at [jsarick@ntcd.org](mailto:jsarick@ntcd.org).

**TMDL and the Lake Tahoe Clarity Model Released**

One July 26th, the was public is invited to hear about the Lake Tahoe Clarity Model that will ultimately influence residential, roadway and land-management practices in the future. The presentation was by the academic team from UC-Davis who worked on the lake clarity project and focused on how a clarity depth of 100 feet can be achieved when sediment, nutrients and atmospheric deposition are reduced aggregately and separately. Pathway 2007 Forum members received the same presentation on this Thursday, July 27, 2006. Data released about the Lake Tahoe Clarity model will ultimately impact local watershed management policies by assisting in the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process and of course this ultimately affects everyone in the Basin.

For more information about the TMDL program or the public meetings, contact Dave Roberts, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, (530) 542-5469, droberts@rb6s.swrcb.ca.gov, or Randy Pahl, TMDL Program Engineer, Nevada Division of Environmental Planning, (775) 687-4670 ext. 3161, [rpahl@ndep.state.nv.us](mailto:rpahl@ndep.state.nv.us).

**The Partnership wants to hear from you!**

The Nevada Tahoe Partnership Core Committee will be participating in a strategic planning session on August 8<sup>th</sup> to determine the roadmap for the next five years. In order to better serve our constituents (that is you!) we want to know what are the pressing issues, concerns and opportunities you face living, working or owning property here in Nevada Lake Tahoe. We are in the process of submitting grant proposals and would like feedback as to what would best serve the needs of Nevada Lake Tahoe. Please submit your comments via email by August 4<sup>th</sup> to Jill Sarick at [jsarick@ntcd.org](mailto:jsarick@ntcd.org).

**A ¼ cent sales tax is proposed for Douglas County by local Political Action Committee**

In response to growing needs for local residents of Douglas County, a local group is organizing to propose a ¼ cent sales tax which would be used to fund parks, recreation, libraries, senior services, preservation of agriculture and the administration of all the above. 'Question 2' would appear on the November ballot and will raise approximately 2.65 million annually and has a sunset clause of 30 years. The kickoff meeting is set for Tuesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Minden Library. For more information contact Bob Cook at [sideshowbobcook@msn.com](mailto:sideshowbobcook@msn.com).

**FREE Chipping Program through Tahoe Douglas Fire District**

Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District now has a 3 man crew, a brand new chipper and truck to provide on-site chipping services to local residents at no charge. They ask that you bring your slash to the roadside and remove all juniper, rocks and other hazardous materials. For more information, go to: [www.tahoefire.com](http://www.tahoefire.com) or contact Curtis Fields at [cfields@tahoefire.com](mailto:cfields@tahoefire.com).

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You are receiving this email because you indicated an interest in the Partnership or because you are an identified Partner working in Nevada Lake Tahoe. If you'd prefer not to receive messages from the Partnership, please send an email to [jsarick@ntcd.org](mailto:jsarick@ntcd.org) and put "unsubscribe" in the subject line.

E-Bites are published and sponsored by Nevada Tahoe Partnership. The Partnership seeks to engage Nevada Tahoe stakeholders in locally led conservation efforts and invests in capacity building efforts to institutionalize solutions for long-term change. Currently the Partnership has 5 Core members, 1 full-time coordinator and over 100 representatives of Nevada Lake Tahoe General Improvement Districts (GIDs), Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Fire Safe Chapters (FSCs) and local residents.

Visit the Partnership website: [www.nevadatahoepartnership.org](http://www.nevadatahoepartnership.org) for up-to-date information about Nevada Lake Tahoe conservation issues. We encourage you to visit the website often for updates on local planning and resource conservation efforts.

The Partnership publishes a FREE E-Newsletter to help keep residents informed and educated as well as hosts local public forums and provides leadership development and technical training.

**CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Jill Erin Sarick

Public Outreach Specialist  
Nevada Tahoe Conservation District  
PO Box 4605  
Stateline, NV 89449-4605  
Phone 775-586-1610-23  
Fax 775-586-1612  
[jsarick@ntcd.org](mailto:jsarick@ntcd.org)  
[www.nevadatahoepartnership.org](http://www.nevadatahoepartnership.org)

*Nevada Tahoe Partnership is an initiative of Nevada Tahoe Conservation District and is sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9. Information and ideas expressed are those of the Partnership and do not necessarily reflect those of the EPA.*