



The California Tahoe Alliance is a coalition of 11 public and private organizations in the Lake Tahoe Basin. We advocate for the preservation and protection of Lake Tahoe, focusing on addressing the most pressing public policy challenges facing the region.

## Preserving the Lake Tahoe Basin

Each year 15 million people visit Tahoe, including hundreds of thousands on busy summer weekends. Yet, the resident population is approximately 55,000. Climate change-fueled wildfire, smoke, and extreme weather events such as winter storms and summer heat, threaten the fragile ecosystem. The immediate tools and resources needed to increase resiliency in the Basin are:



- Climate bond allocations of **\$115M** for projects that increase climate resilience and implementation of the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP).
- A **\$6 million appropriation** to leverage and match federal funds.
- Passage of **SB 1088 (Alvarado-Gil)** that will enable upgrades to water infrastructure for fire suppression purposes.
- Funding to prevent additional Aquatic Invasive Species from entering Lake Tahoe.

## Public Policy Priorities

As California plans for the future and looks to preserve and protect the Tahoe Basin, we are advocating for the following policy priorities that will help this vital ecosystem thrive:

- **Lake Clarity:** Restoring Lake Tahoe’s clarity in the face of climate change.
- **Recreation:** Promoting equitable access to recreation opportunities.
- **Wildfire Preparedness:** Reducing wildfire risk and improving water and transportation infrastructure.
- **Climate Change Resilience:** Creating resilience for the Tahoe Basin’s ecosystems.
- **Watershed:** Managing demands on recreation in a fragile watershed.

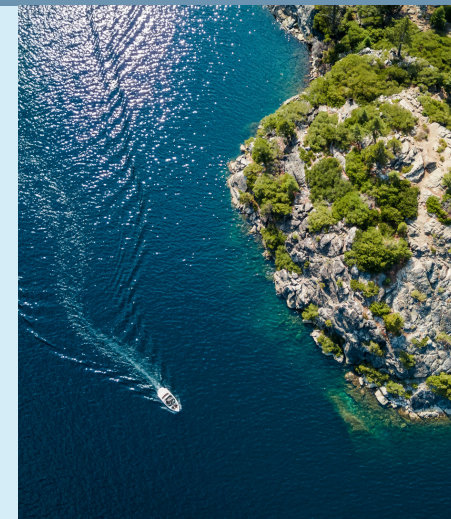


## Addressing Climate Impacts

This year, the California Tahoe Alliance is advocating for passage of a climate resilience bond that includes funding needs for Lake Tahoe to prepare the region’s treasured natural resources for climate impacts like wildfire, extreme precipitation, drought, and warming temperatures.

These funds are crucial to provide a California match for funds from Nevada, the federal government, and the private sector for the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP).

We also look to ensure that funding be directed to the California Tahoe Conservancy, as a vetted and trusted state agency, to distribute funding to priority projects that will achieve climate resilience goals as identified in adopted regional climate, wildfire, invasive species, and other plans.



## Wildfire Preparedness

In August 2021, the Caldor Fire became the largest wildfire ever to burn in the Tahoe Basin. The fire burned approximately 10,000 acres and impacted the Basin's largest sub watershed in the Upper Truckee River.

Vegetation that once covered the steep slopes in the burn scar has been replaced with charred trees, ash, and bare soils in some areas of the Tahoe Basin. To accelerate the work to create fire-resilient communities within the Tahoe Basin,



**\$6 million** is requested to be allocated to the California Tahoe Conservancy to leverage and match the \$10 million in federal funds appropriated through the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act.

The California Tahoe Alliance supports **SB 1088** (Alvarado-Gil) that would establish state matching funds to enhance water infrastructure across the state. Specifically, the bill would create a Rural and Small Community Fire Resilience Program within the Office of Emergency Services to work in coordination with the Department of Water Resources, the State Water Resources Control Board, and other state entities to develop a program that would improve water system infrastructure, as prescribed.

Funding requested is for projects that are shovel ready, CEQA/NEPA ready, and will upsize water systems in the wildland urban interface by installing fire hydrants and new storage tanks, upsizing waterlines, emergency generators, and critical interties between systems.



## Reducing Traffic Congestion & Enhancing Transportation

Improving transportation in Tahoe is a top priority as traffic congestion and a lack of parking negatively impact lake clarity and the resident and visitor experience. Personal car travel dominates how people get to and from the Tahoe Basin. In 2017, California and Nevada convened a bi-state consultation with public and private partners to accelerate transportation improvements at Lake Tahoe.

The Transportation Action Plan that identifies priority projects and services found the need for \$400 million over 20 years. California must continue to invest in a connected transportation system that prioritizes transit, trails and technology to move people around the region as efficiently as possible.



## Aquatic Invasive Species

Human-introduced aquatic invasive species (AIS) have overrun portions of Tahoe's waters, altering its cherished ecosystem, deteriorating lake clarity, and paving the way for further invasive species proliferation.

The warming waters due to climate change are expanding shoreline habitats, providing additional breeding grounds for AIS infestation. Funding is needed to address these challenges, specifically for the following initiatives:

- **Inspections:** Establish permanent watercraft inspection stations to stop the introduction of AIS.
- **Monitoring:** Continue to expand lake-wide prevention, control, and monitoring of existing AIS populations and potential new outbreaks.
- **Education:** Implement and expand mobile clean, drain dry stations, and education for non-motorized recreators.

