

Part 7 Public Services and Facilities Plan

This section addresses the Plan area's public services and facilities, including water, wastewater, stormwater, schools, police, and fire services. Policies focus on the provision of public services and facilities that satisfy existing and future demands and are consistent with the Regional Plan.

7.1 Regional Plan

The Regional Plan supports the provision of public services and facilities for existing and planned development, and to help protect the natural environment. Continued upgrading of public services and utilities - consistent with demand and the Regional Plan - is allowed and encouraged. Approval of new development shall consider the adequacy of public services and facilities to serve that development.

The Regional Plan treats Public Service facilities differently than other use types. Code regulations apply, but growth limits are not applied to projects that are necessary for public health and safety. Public service facilities are not subject to numeric caps like commercial, tourist, residential and recreation uses. There are also provisions for additional building height and land coverage if needed for public health and safety facilities (police, fire, water and sewage facilities, etc.) and linear public facilities (roads, trails, etc.). The standards generally limit improvements to the amount needed to achieve their public purpose.

The Regional Plan also contains policies to prevent municipal and industrial waste disposal practices from contaminating the waters of Lake Tahoe or other surface and groundwater within the region.

7.2 Potable Water

Drinking water for the Plan area comes from Lake Tahoe, local streams, smaller lakes, and groundwater. The two largest water providers in the Plan area are NTPUD and TCPUD. Additionally, there are 13 small public and private water companies that provide drinking water to residents located outside of public utility district boundaries. See Figure 7-1 for the location and service areas for water purveyors in the Plan area.

7.3 Wastewater Collection and Treatment

NTPUD and TCPUD provide wastewater collection and Tahoe-Truckee Sanitation Agency (TTSA) provides wastewater treatment for the Plan area (See Figure 7-1).

The 1969 Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act in California and executive order by the Governor of Nevada (January 27, 1971) prohibited the discharge of domestic, municipal or industrial wastewater into Lake Tahoe, its tributaries, groundwater, or the portion of the Truckee River within the Basin. Treatment plants were retrofitted with export pipelines and pump stations to transport wastewater out of the Basin. In 1971, both states prohibited the use of septic tanks and required all sewage generators in the Tahoe Basin to be connected to an existing wastewater system.

Currently, all collected raw sewage is conveyed out of the Basin through a large diameter gravity pipeline known as the Truckee River Interceptor (TRI), which is owned and operated by TTSA. The TRI conveys all raw sewage 17 miles where it is treated at the Truckee Water Reclamation Plant (TWRP), a state-of-the-art water reclamation plant that provides primary and secondary treatment, phosphorus removal, biological nitrogen removal, disinfection, and effluent filtration. Because of its location in the pristine Lake Tahoe-Truckee River area, the plant is required to meet some of the most stringent discharge requirements in the country. TWRP also treats and disposes of wastewater for Squaw Valley, Alpine Meadows and the Town of Truckee.

7.4 Stormwater

Stormwater management is high priority at Lake Tahoe and is a central component of the Regional Plan and the Lake Tahoe TMDL. These programs and facilities are detailed in the Conservation Plan water quality section.

Stormwater facilities are owned and operated by agencies and landowners in the Plan area. Consideration should be given to establishing one or more stormwater utility districts to more efficiently plan, construct and maintain stormwater facilities.

Figure 7-1: Water & Wastewater Districts

7.5 Schools

The Plan area is served by the Tahoe-Truckee Unified School District (TTUSD). The District office is located in the town of Truckee and serves about 4,000 students in California’s Nevada, Placer and El Dorado counties.



Tahoe Lake Elementary School in Tahoe City

The district encompasses more than 720 square miles. District boundaries stretch from Hobart Mills, eight miles north of Truckee to Emerald Bay, near South Lake Tahoe; and along the I-80 corridor from Cisco Grove to the west and Floriston to the east. Schools within the Plan area include Kings Beach Elementary (K-4), Tahoe Lake Elementary (K-4), North Tahoe Middle School (5-8), Cold Stream Alternative School (6-12), and North Tahoe High School (9-12). More than 1,400 students attend these public schools in the Plan area.

School enrollment has been stable or declining and no new schools are planned. The enrollment of North Tahoe High School is less than half its design capacity. Public schools, enrollment and capacities are detailed in Table 7.5. Schools are mapped in Figure 7-2.

Table 7.5: Existing Schools in Tahoe–Truckee Unified School District

<i>School</i>	<i>Total Enrollment</i>		<i>Percent Underutilized</i>
	<i>2013–14</i>	<i>Total Capacity</i>	
Elementary Schools (K–4)			
Kings Beach Elementary School	375	496	24%
Tahoe Lake Elementary School	322	304	–6%
Middle Schools (5–8)			
North Tahoe Middle School	406	535	24%
High Schools (9–12)			
North Tahoe High School	326	631	48%
Alternative Schools			
Cold Stream Alternative	14	n/a	n/a
Total	1,443	1,966	27%

Source: Tahoe Truckee Unified School District School Accountability Report Cards, 2014.

7.6 Law Enforcement

Placer County Sheriff's Department (PCSD) provides law enforcement within the Plan area. PCSD has a service area of approximately 125 square miles, stretching from Tahoma on the southern boundary, around the northern and western shores of Lake Tahoe to the California/Nevada State line, north to Truckee, and west to the crest of the Sierra Nevada.

PCSD maintains a substation at 2501 North Lake Boulevard (See Figure 7-2).

The Sheriff's Office is not currently planning improvements to the Tahoe Station, as existing facilities are adequate to maintain a sufficient level of service for the anticipated future population.

7.7 Fire Services

The North Tahoe Fire Protection District (NTFPD) provides fire, rescue, hazardous materials, river rescue, technical rope rescue, vehicle extrication, advanced life support ambulance service, pre-fire planning, and public education services within the Plan area. Currently there are six fire stations located in the Plan area. Fire station locations are mapped in Figure 7-2.



North Tahoe Fire Protection District Headquarters and Station 51 in Tahoe City

In 2012, NTFPD relocated Station 51, the district's headquarters, from 300 North Lake Boulevard to 222 Fairway Drive in Tahoe City, across from TCPUD. Additional fire station upgrades are planned, including for Station 52 in the Kings Beach Gateway Plan area.

Water supplies for firefighting efforts come primarily from approximately 850 fire hydrants located throughout the fire district, the majority of which are owned and operated by the two Public Utility Districts—NTPUD and TCPUD. In addition to these hydrants, 13 privately-held water purveyors provide water supplies for areas located outside of the PUD/hydrant service areas.

NTFPD, State and Federal fire agencies coordinate to provide wildland fire protection and forest health projects, including selective thinning and controlled burning. The Plan area is a high fire hazard area and fire protection is a priority.

Figure 7-2: Schools & Public Safety Services

7.8 Public Service and Facility Policies

- PS-P-1 Continue to manage public services and facilities in accordance with the Regional plan.
- PS-P-2 Coordinate the provision of public and private services to enhance public health, safety and welfare, reduce costs of service, and avoid duplication of services.
- PS-P-3 Support fire safety programs of the North Tahoe Fire Protection District and other organizations.
- PS-P-4 Encourage strategies to provide adequate new and more appropriate sites for existing facilities, such as the Caltrans corporation yard and Liberty Energy Tahoe City Power Substation, out of environmentally and visually sensitive areas.
- PS-P-5 Consider opportunities to locate County facilities such as the criminal justice facility, TART facilities, and other public service uses in the Plan area.
- PS-P-6 Promote the establishment of high-speed fiber optic communications equipment within the Tahoe Region.
- PS-P-7 Ensure that all proposed developments are reviewed for fire safety standards by local fire agencies responsible for its protection, including providing adequate water supplies and ingress and egress
- PS-P-8 Encourage all water systems address fire suppression water needs.

