



Shoreline Plan Info Sheet

9/19/16

Overview

In 2015, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), along with critical stakeholder partners, launched the Shoreline Plan to develop guidelines for appropriate uses along the shore of Lake Tahoe with a focus on boat and recreation access structures, including marinas, buoys, piers, boat slips, and ramps. Ultimately, the collaborative Shoreline planning initiative will update goals and policies for the Lake Tahoe shoreline section in the TRPA Regional Plan and regulations in the TRPA Code.

The overarching goal of the Shoreline Plan is to enhance recreation and protect the 72-miles of Lake Tahoe's shoreline.

Fast Facts About Tahoe's Shoreline

- The Lake Tahoe shoreline is approximately 72 miles
- 43 percent is under public ownership
- 57 percent is under private ownership
- Lake Tahoe is designated an *Outstanding Natural Resource Water*, which means it has exceptional recreational or ecological significance and is afforded the greatest protection under the Federal Clean Water Act.
- Lake Level
 - The natural rim, or low water line, of Lake Tahoe is at an elevation of 6,223 feet. When the water level rises to the maximum legal limit of 6,229 feet (also referred to as the high water line), water flows over the dam in Tahoe City into the Truckee River.
 - Over the past century, the lowest recorded lake level was 6,220 feet.
 - The lakebed, below the natural rim or low water line of 6,223 feet, is held in public trust for the benefit, use and enjoyment of the public. In California, a public trust easement exists along the shoreline between the natural rim and the high water line.





Shoreline Structures Today

- **Marinas:** There are 14 marinas located on the lake, 12 in California and two in Nevada. In general, they are privately operated and open to the public. Most of the boat slips located on Lake Tahoe are located at the 14 marinas.
- **Piers:** There are approximately 771 piers (673 private, 42 public, and 56 quasi-public, which means they are available to multiple property owners), 461 boatlifts and boathouses located on piers, and 19 floating docks.
- **Boat Ramps:** There are approximately 34 boat ramps located on the lake (15 private, 12 public, and 7 quasi-public).
- **Buoys:** As of September 2010, TRPA had permitted 3,576 buoys and had 1,297 pending applications, for a total of 4,873.

Shoreline Protection Rules Today

- **Wakes or speeds** in excess of five miles per hour by motorized watercraft within 600 feet of the waterline is prohibited by TRPA for the purposes of reducing noise, preventing shoreline erosion, and protecting water quality near the shoreline.
- **Private, single-use piers** cannot extend beyond a lake bottom elevation of 6,219 feet or TRPA's adopted pier head line, whichever is more limiting. The elevation of 6,219 feet provides four feet of mooring depth when the lake is at its natural rim, 6,223 feet.
- **Multiple-use piers** that reduce overall development potential and are available to the to multiple property owners or the general public may extend beyond an elevation of 6,219 feet and the pier headline.
- The **Buoy Line** establishes the distance for the placement of single-use buoys at an elevation 6,213 feet, which provides 10 feet of mooring depth when the lake is at its natural rim, 6,223 feet.





New Shoreline Plan Will Include:

Five policy areas focusing on structures for:

1. Boating
2. Access
3. Marinas
4. Piers
5. Low Level Adaptation

Study of Environmental Effects

The environmental effects of new shoreline structures and motorized boating on TRPA's adopted environmental thresholds (Water Quality, Air Quality, Soil Conservation, Vegetation, Fisheries Wildlife, Noise, Scenic Quality, and Recreation) will be analyzed as part of the Shoreline Plan and all impacts will need to be avoided or mitigated.

Will Streamlining the Permitting Process

Though not a policy focus area, streamlining the permitting process for buoys is a priority for the many agencies responsible for the program. TRPA convenes a monthly Shoreline Review Committee for permitting agencies to coordinate the permitting of activities and structures along the shoreline of Lake Tahoe. The Shoreline Review Committee is currently working to identify opportunities for streamlining the permitting process.

Additional Background Info

Shoreline Maps

Shoreline access, regulatory lines, natural constraints, and structures are reflected on the Shoreline Plan Maps available on the ShorelinePlan.org website.

Lake Level Information

The current lake level is available at: waterdata.usgs.gov/usa/nwis/uv?site_no=10337000