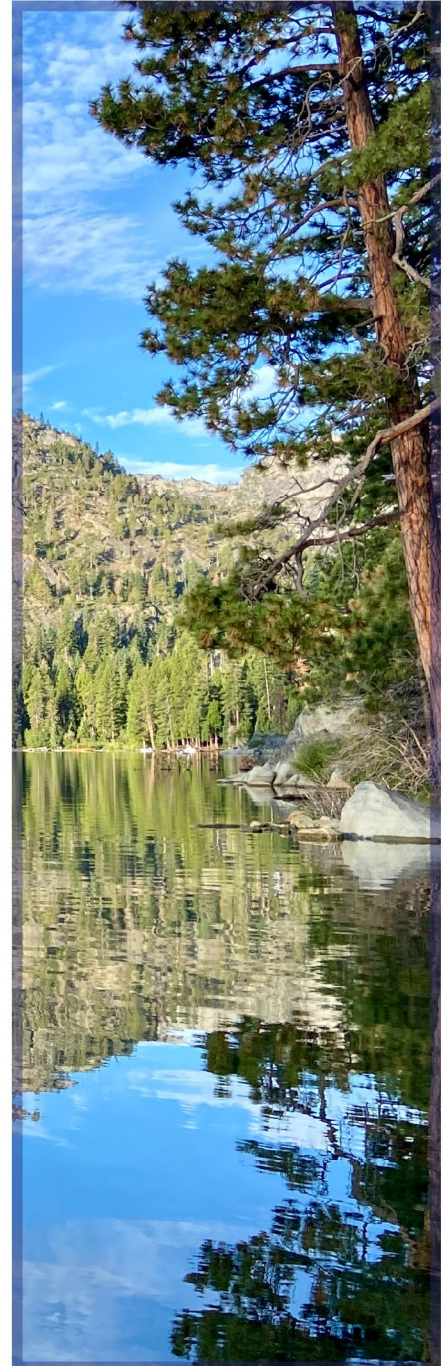
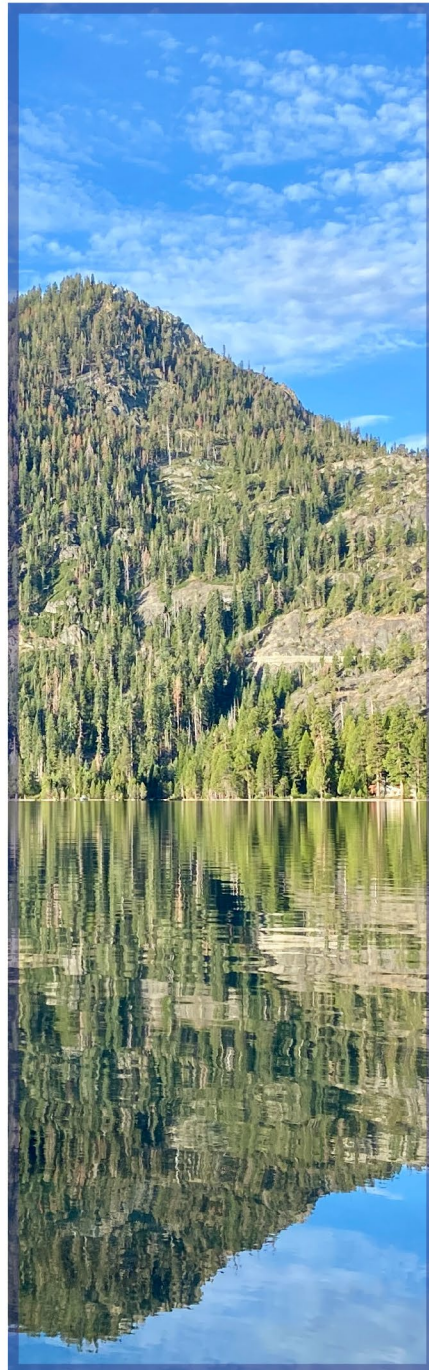
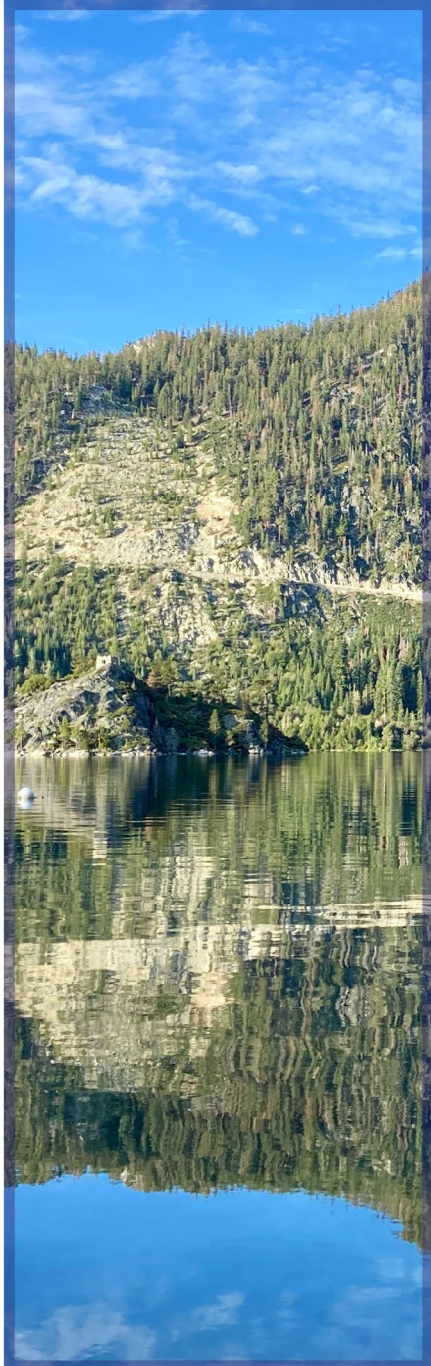


CHAPTER 6

PUBLIC FACILITIES & SERVICES ELEMENT





6

PUBLIC FACILITIES & SERVICES ELEMENT

Public facilities and services within the Plan Area include water supply and distribution, wastewater collection, stormwater infrastructure, schools, law enforcement, broadband internet, and fire protection and emergency services. These services are provided by federal, state, and county agencies; utility districts; community services districts; school districts; and fire protection districts. The TED Area Plan seeks to improve public facilities and services to increase public safety, improve infrastructure, incorporate enhanced technology, and protect water quality.

EXISTING CONDITIONS Water Supply and Delivery

The two largest water providers within the Plan Area are South Tahoe Public Utility District (STPUD) and Tahoe City Public Utility District (TCPUD). There are several other water providers that operate smaller water systems that primarily serve communities on the west shore, such as the Glenridge Water Company, Cascade Mutual Water Company, Spring Creek Tract Association, McKinney Water District, and Fallen Leaf Mutual Water Company. These water service areas are shown in Figure 6-1. Potable water within the Plan Area primarily comes from groundwater, but in some locations also comes from treated surface water.

STPUD is the water provider to the Meyers, Christmas Valley, and Pioneer Trail communities, as well as most of the City of South Lake Tahoe (outside of the Plan Area).

The water source is groundwater pumped from 11 wells in the Tahoe South Groundwater Basin, which serves over 14,000 homes throughout the South Lake Tahoe area.

TCPUD is the water provider for most of the Tahoma, Meeks Bay, and Rubicon Bay communities. Within the TCPUD district boundary, the Rubicon System in Rubicon Bay serves about 630 homes and the Tahoe Cedars System in Tahoma serves about 1,200 homes. The source of TCPUD water is groundwater from the Tahoe West Groundwater Basin.

The McKinney Water District provides water service to about 250 homes on the west side of the Tahoma area in both El Dorado and Placer counties. The source of water is the Tahoe West Groundwater Basin.

The private Glenridge Water Company provides water service to nearly 50 homes in the Glenridge community north of Meeks Bay and the source of their water is also from the Tahoe West Groundwater Basin.

Cascade Mutual Water Company and the Spring Creek Tract Association provide water service to 170 homes in the vicinity of Cascade Lake. Camp Richardson, owned by the United States Forest Service (USFS), has its own water system.

Water for the Fallen Leaf community is pulled from surface water and is provided by the Fallen Leaf Lake Mutual Water Company.

State parks within the Plan Area, including D.L. Bliss State Park and Emerald Bay State Park, are on their own water systems with water pulled from surface water.

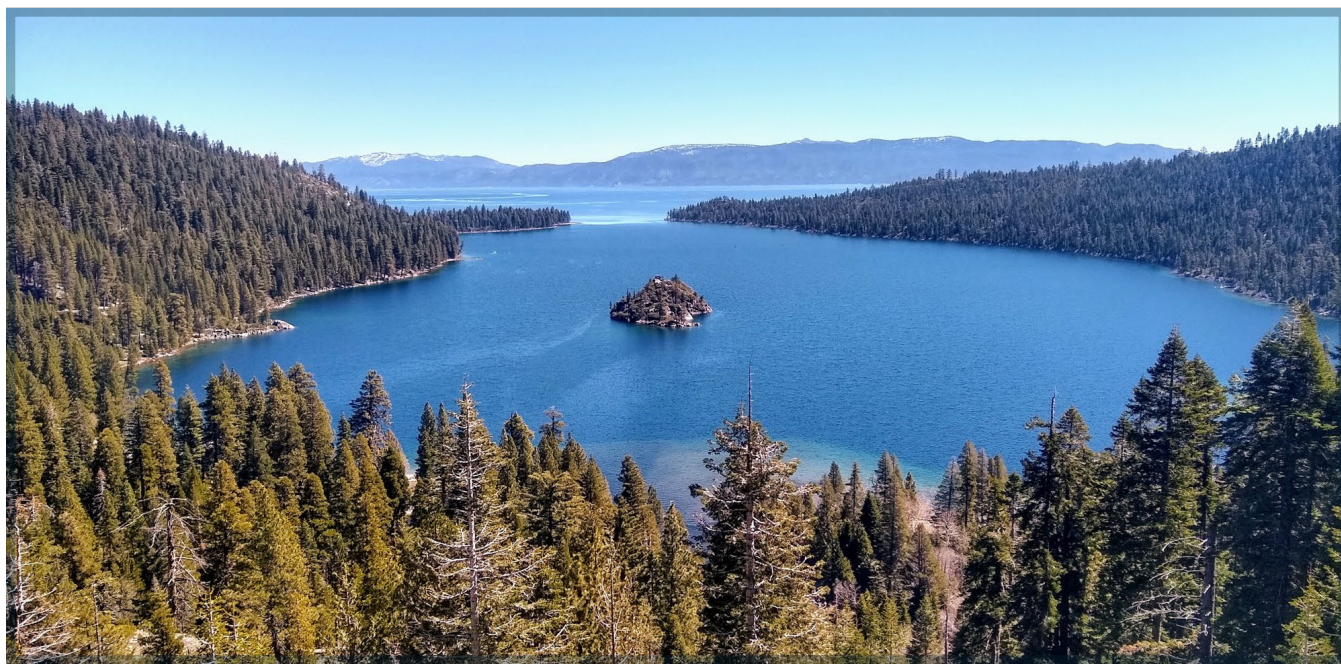
Based on water demand analysis contained in the Regional Plan Update Environmental Impact Statement, water suppliers in the Plan Area are expected to have sufficient capacity

to accommodate the maximum level of new development allowed under the Regional Plan (TRPA 2012: 3.13-11).

Wastewater Collection and Treatment

The 1969 Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act in California and the 1971 Executive Order by the Governor of Nevada prohibited the discharge of domestic, municipal, or industrial wastewater into Lake Tahoe, its tributaries, groundwater, or the portion of the Truckee River within the Lake Tahoe Basin. As a result, all wastewater and treated effluent must be transported out of the Lake Tahoe Basin for final disposal or reuse. STPUD, TCPUD, and Tahoe-Truckee Sanitation Agency (T-TSA) provide collection and treatment for wastewater originating within the Plan Area.

STPUD provides service to the portions of the Plan Area from south of Emerald Bay, in addition to the City of South Lake Tahoe.



Emerald Bay State Park has its own water system and pulls from surface water.

TCPUD provides wastewater collection for the northern portions of the Plan Area north of northern Emerald Bay. T-TSA provides wastewater treatment for wastewater generated in the TCPUD service area, as well as wastewater from four other member districts from the North Lake Tahoe and Truckee region. Wastewater service areas are shown in Figure 6-1.

The 1969 Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act in California and the 1971 Executive Order by the Governor of Nevada prohibited the discharge of domestic, municipal, or industrial wastewater into Lake Tahoe, its tributaries, groundwater, or the portion of the Truckee River within the Lake Tahoe Basin.

STPUD collects wastewater from residents and businesses within its service area and pumps it to the STPUD Wastewater Treatment Plant within the City of South Lake Tahoe, which has a capacity of 7.7 million gallons per day. Treated effluent from the plant is then exported about 26 miles to Harvey Place Reservoir, located south of Woodfords in Alpine County, where it is stored until it is released to ranchers in the area for irrigation.

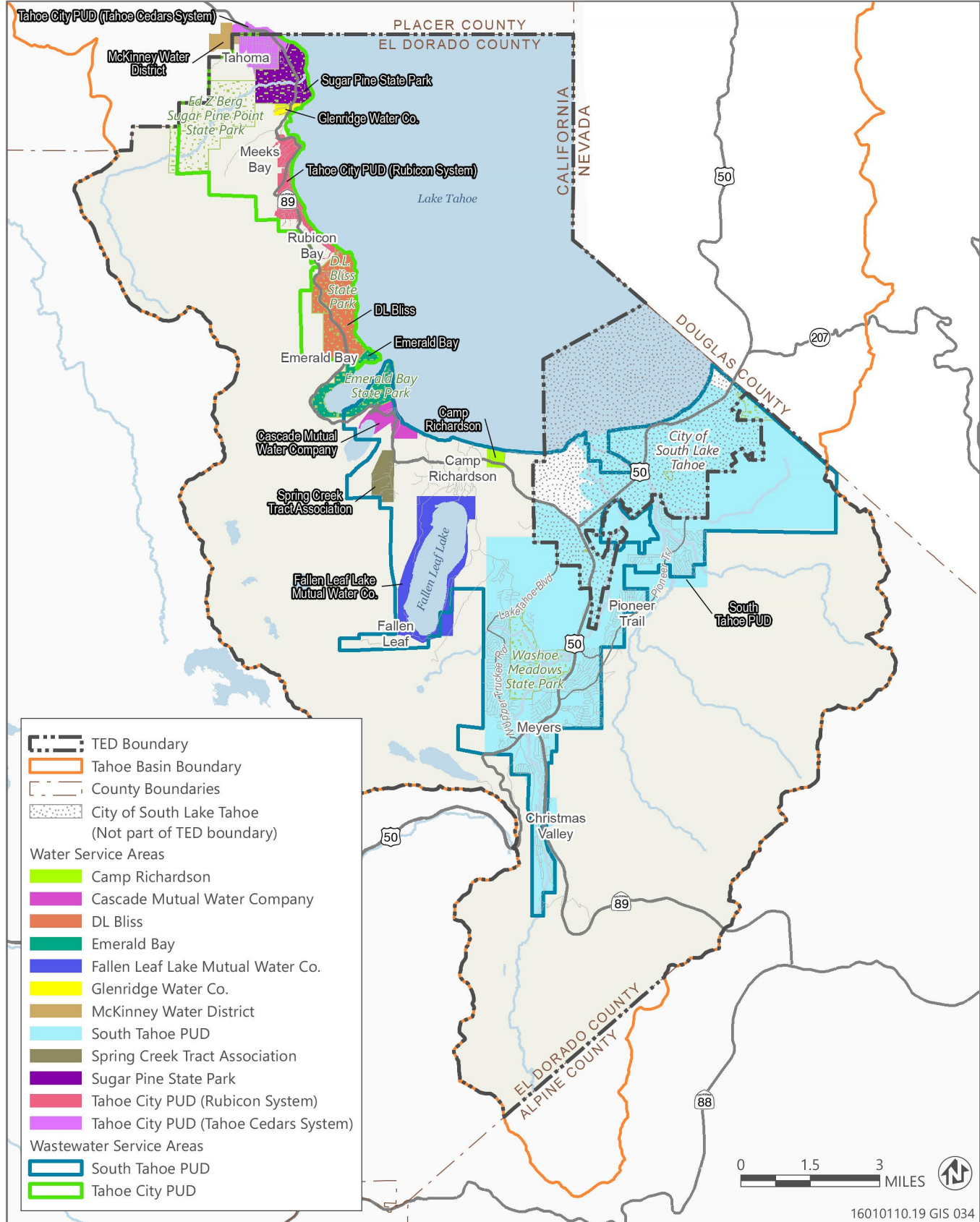
An average of 3.9 million gallons per day are exported from the STPUD Wastewater Treatment Plant to Alpine County and the treated effluent transmission pipeline passes through the Plan Area along US 50 and SR 89 over Luther Pass. Biosolids from STPUD are used as agriculture fertilizer in Douglas County, Nevada.

TCPUD collects wastewater from its service area and conveys it to the T-TSA Truckee River Interceptor Pipeline, which parallels SR 89 along the Truckee River, outside the Plan Area. The wastewater is transported approximately 17 miles to the T-TSA Water Reclamation Plant east of the Town of Truckee, which has a capacity of 9.6 million gallons per day. Wastewater is treated at the plant and effluent is percolated into the soil. STPUD, TCPUD, and T-TSA are expected to have sufficient capacity to treat wastewater generated from the maximum amount of development allowed by the Regional Plan (TRPA 2012: 16).

Electricity

Liberty Utilities is the only electricity provider within the Plan Area. The company provides electricity to the greater Lake Tahoe region, ranging from Sierra County to Mono County.

Figure 6-1 Water and Wastewater Service Areas



Note: Map to be updated with correct names for state parks in the Public Review Draft.
 Source: Data downloaded from TRPA in 2024; adapted by Ascent in 2024.

Stormwater System

Stormwater management within the Plan Area is important for protecting and restoring the water quality and lake clarity in Lake Tahoe. Landowners and right-of-way holders are responsible for maintaining stormwater infrastructure to infiltrate runoff and remove sediment from stormwater generated from their properties. This stormwater infrastructure includes detention and retention basins, culverts, ditches/swales, drainpipes, curb and gutter, as well as stormwater best management practices (BMPs) installed on individual buildings and parcels. Within the Plan Area, El Dorado County and Caltrans are responsible for maintaining stormwater infrastructure along their roadways. Planned El Dorado County stormwater improvement projects within the Plan Area include the following:

- **Cattlemans-Black Bart Retrofit Project:** A project to retrofit existing stormwater basins near Cold Creek for proper stormwater inspection and maintenance.
- **Cold Creek Fisheries Project:** The goals of this project are to enhance/improve fisheries and riparian habitat along a portion of Cold Creek, reduce sediment loading from the adjacent road, and reduce sediment loads from adjacent slopes.
- **CSA #5 Erosion Control Project Phase 3:** A project to reduce fine sediment in stormwater from the Tahoe Cedars subdivision in Tahoma.
- **Delaware Water Quality Project:** The primary goal of the project is to improve the clarity of Lake Tahoe by reducing detrimental water quality impacts that are a result of the development of Tahoe Paradise Units No. 20, 22, 23, and 24. The objective of the project is to reduce the transport of fine sediment from the project area to the Upper Truckee River by constructing water quality BMPs.
- **Fallen Leaf Road Rehabilitation Project:** Fallen Leaf Road is 4.9 miles long and extends from SR 89 to the southern end of Fallen Leaf Lake at Stanford Sierra Camp. The project involves completing roadway and drainage improvements along the entire length of Fallen Leaf Road from SR 89 to Glen Alpine Creek.
- **North Upper Truckee Water Quality Project:** The goal of this project is to restore Lake Tahoe's clarity and protect a sensitive stream environment zone (SEZ) through effective and safe conveyance of urban runoff from the project area and downstream to treatment facilities.
- **South Upper Truckee Water Quality Project:** A project that will treat eroding cut and fill slopes in the County right-of-way. Reduce the fine sediment from the urban watersheds with revegetation of disturbed areas. Install curb and gutter, rock-lined channels, sediment basins, restore SEZs, and perform right-of-way acquisitions.

Law Enforcement

Law enforcement providers within the Plan Area include the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office (EDSO), California Highway Patrol (CHP), US Coast Guard (USCG), and California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) and USFS Rangers. Police stations are mapped in Figure 6-2. The South Lake Tahoe patrol team of EDSO patrols El Dorado County lands and provides crisis response, a K-9 unit, homeless outreach, investigative services, the Office of Emergency Services, and search and rescue. EDSO also provides marine enforcement and water rescue on Lake Tahoe through their Boating Safety Unit.

CHP has an area office located in Meyers. The agency is responsible for patrols at the southern end of the Lake Tahoe Basin from Tahoma to the City of South Lake Tahoe and from Twin Bridges on US 50 to the Amador-Alpine County line on SR 88, including Alpine County and portions of the Kirkwood Ski Resort. CHP is responsible for traffic-related incidents and assists EDSO when necessary.

In addition to EDSO, the USCG and USCG Auxiliary provide marine patrol on Lake Tahoe within the Plan Area. While not technically law enforcement, the volunteer-led USCG Auxiliary provides safety patrol, boat safety checks, and boater education. The Active Duty USCG has a station in Tahoe City.

On state and federal lands within the Plan Area, CHP officers and State Parks and USFS Rangers provide law enforcement, patrol, and emergency services.

Fire Protection Services

The Plan Area is served by Lake Valley Fire Protection District (LVFPD), North Tahoe Fire Protection District (NTFPD), and Fallen Leaf Fire Department. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) provides fire services on land under the state responsibility area. Fire support services are also provided by additional state departments such as State Parks and the California Conservation Corps. Fire departments throughout the Plan Area provide mutual aid to neighboring jurisdictions. Fire station locations are shown in Figure 6-2.

LVFPD provides fire suppression, fire prevention, emergency medical services, vehicle extrication, high angle rescue, ice rescue, water rescue, and public education. The district also provides mutual aid with South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue,



Station 67, previously Meeks Bay Fire Station, services the west shore of Lake Tahoe within the Plan Area.

portions of Alpine County, and other areas of El Dorado County. Currently there are three LVFPD fire stations within the Plan Area, one of which is the district headquarters and one of which is a joint CAL FIRE station.

NTPFD provides fire protection to the north and west shores of Lake Tahoe, and within the Plan Area the district boundary extends from Tahoma to Meeks Bay. Services provided by the district include structural firefighting, wildland firefighting, backcountry/technical rescue, swift water rescue, hazardous materials mitigation, hand crews, and emergency medical services. Station 58 in Meeks Bay is the only NTPFD fire station within the Plan Area.

Fallen Leaf Fire Department is a department of the Fallen Leaf Lake Community Services District and provides fire protection to the Fallen Leaf Lake community. The department is a seasonal combination department of both paid and volunteer firefighters and provides fire suppression, emergency medical services,

rescue, code enforcement, and public education.

LTBMU provides three wildland fire suppression and fuels management crews within the Lake Tahoe Basin. Within the Plan Area, the interagency Tallac Hotshot Crew is a specialized hand crew that provides wildland fire suppression and performs fuels management projects, such as prescribed fires and mechanical treatments.

Evacuation Routes

Major roadways within the Plan Area are identified as evacuation routes. Primary evacuation routes include US 50, SR 89, and Pioneer Trail. Secondary evacuation routes are concentrated within the southern portion of the Plan Area and include Fallen Leaf Road, Tahoe Mountain Road, Lake Tahoe Boulevard, Sawmill Road, Elks Club Drive, North Upper Truckee Road, and South Upper Truckee Road.

Schools

The Plan Area is served by two school districts. The Lake Tahoe Unified School District (LTUSD) serves the Plan Area south of Emerald Bay, which includes the communities of Meyers, Christmas Valley, Pioneer Trail, Fallen Leaf Lake, and Camp Richardson. LTUSD has four elementary schools, one middle school, one high school, one continuation high school, and one online school for grades K-12. Two of the elementary schools—Meyers Elementary School (K-5) and Sierra House Elementary School (K-5)—are within the Plan Area. See Table 6-1 for information about the enrollment and capacity of the schools within the Plan Area. School locations are shown in Figure 6-2.

Tahoe Truckee Unified School District (TTUSD) serves the north and west shores of Lake Tahoe as well as Town of Truckee. Within the Plan Area, TTUSD serves the communities of Tahoma, Meeks Bay, and Rubicon Bay. The district includes five elementary schools, two middle schools, two high schools, and one continuation high school. None of the schools are located within the Plan Area.

Table 6-1 School Enrollment and Capacity

School Name	Total Enrollment	Total Capacity	Percent Utilized
Meyers Elementary School	360	450	80.0%
Sierra House Elementary School	409	450	90.8%
Elevated Digital Learning Academy	56	250	22.4%
Total	825	1,150	71.7%

Source: Data from the "2023-24 LTUSD Local Control and Accountability Plan" and LTUSD; compiled by Ascent in 2024.



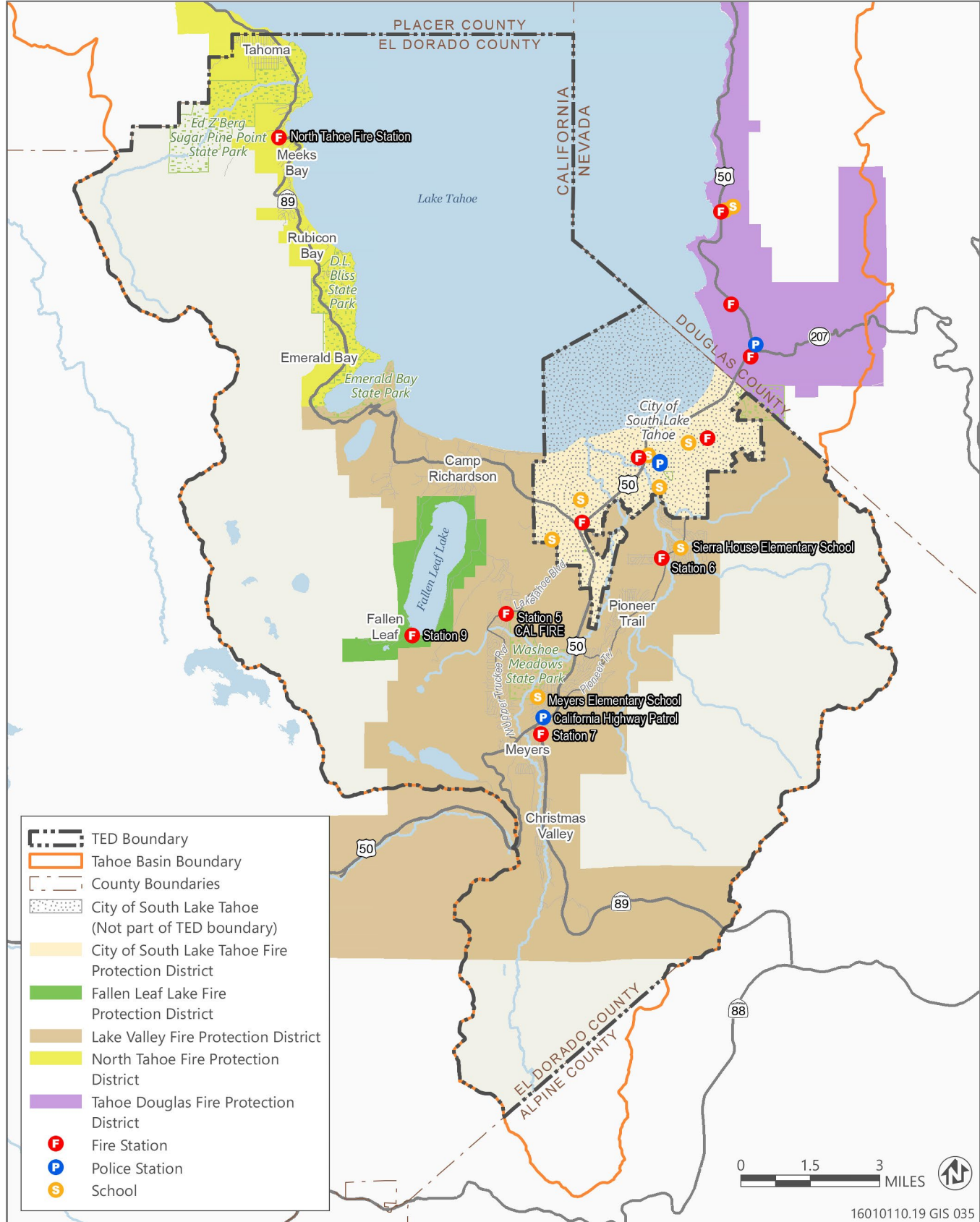
Meyers Elementary School is one of two public elementary schools within the Plan Area.

Broadband Internet

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has identified eligible locations for last-mile federal grants administered by the CPUC under the Last-Mile Federal Funding Account grant program. Locations are either "eligible," meaning they have internet upload speeds of less than 25 megabits per second (mbps) and download speeds of less than 3 mbps. "Priority eligible" areas have upload speeds of less than 10 mbps and download speeds of less than 1 mbps. Clusters of areas within Meyers south of US 50, Fallen Leaf Lake, Camp Richardson, Emerald Bay, Rubicon Bay/Meeks Bay, and Tahoe are priority eligible areas (CPUC 2021). Rubicon Bay/Meeks Bay also contains eligible areas and has the highest concentration of areas lacking adequate internet availability within the Plan Area.

The SR 89 corridor through the Plan Area is identified as a project under the California Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative in partnership with Caltrans. The project is in the pre-construction phase and will install 904.5 miles of broadband within Caltrans rights of way across the state. Middle-mile infrastructure is physical fiber optic infrastructure needed to enable internet connectivity and made up of high-capacity fiber lines that carry data at high speeds over long distances.

Figure 6-2 Public Facilities



Source: Data downloaded from TRPA in 2024; adapted by Ascent in 2024.

GOALS AND POLICIES

Goal PU-1: Public Safety

Protect and improve public safety by proactively planning for adequate emergency services and disaster response.

POLICIES

Policy PU-1.1: Emergency Service Capacity.

Maintain adequate capacity of fire rescue and suppression, police, and other emergency services in coordination with responsible agencies.

Policy PU-1.2: Emergency Planning. Support regional emergency response and evacuation planning through coordination with other agencies such as TRPA, Placer County, California Highway Patrol, El Dorado County Sheriff's Office, California State Parks, U.S.F.S Rangers, Douglas County, City of South Lake Tahoe and others as needed.

Policy PU-1.3: Co-Located Facilities. Co-locate emergency staging areas and helicopter landing areas with trailheads to improve emergency response during natural disasters and search and rescue operations, consistent with existing and planned trailheads discussed in the Recreation Element.

Goal PU-2: Service and Utility Improvements

Support public service and utility improvement projects that enhance scenic quality, support climate change adaptation, improve emergency preparedness, and improve access to public services.

POLICIES

Policy PU-2.1: Highway Signage. Limit and consolidate highway signage within the Plan Area through coordination with Caltrans to reduce visual clutter and improve roadway scenic quality.

Policy PU-2.2: Wildfire Risk Reduction. Reduce wildfire risk and improve scenic quality along roadways within the Plan Area by converting overhead powerlines to underground facilities and conducting fuels reduction treatments along utility corridors through coordination with Caltrans, Liberty Utilities, and other entities.

Policy PU-2.3: Design Standards and Guidelines. Ensure public service and utility projects throughout the Plan Area are consistent with the Development and Design Standards (Appendix A).

Policy PU-2.4: Fire Suppression. Install and maintain fire suppression infrastructure in the vicinity of developed portions of the Plan Area, such as along roadways and evacuation routes, in coordination with utility districts and other entities.

Goal PU-3: Technology Infrastructure

Provide communications and information infrastructure utilizing the best available technology.

POLICIES**Policy PU-3.1: Internet Service Access.**

Promote readily accessible distributed broadband internet service throughout the developed portions of the Plan Area by seeking grant funding, partnerships with other organizations, and by installing broadband infrastructure during implementation of other projects consistent with the Transportation Element.

Policy PU-3.2: Electric Vehicle Charging Stations.

Support installation of electric vehicle charging stations throughout the Plan Area consistent with the Transportation Element.

Policy PU-3.3: Technology Infrastructure and Transportation.

Support the development and maintenance of advanced technology infrastructure necessary for effective parking management and congestion management, including implementation of technological upgrades, roadway enhancements, and transit service improvements consistent with the Transportation Element.

Goal PU-4: Water and Stormwater Management

Maintain efficient use of the water and stormwater systems to preserve water quality and aquifer levels.

POLICIES**Policy PU-4.1: Stormwater Best Management Practices.**

Enforce stormwater BMPs on projects permitted by the County in partnership with TRPA to minimize accelerated erosion and sedimentation and infiltrate stormwater runoff consistent with the Conservation Element.

Policy PU-4.2: Flood Reduction. Improve stormwater management to reduce flooding in developed areas, particularly in residential areas within or near stream environment zones (SEZs), through stormwater retention and detention, reduction of impervious coverage, and restoration of natural hydrological patterns consistent with the Conservation Element.

Policy PU-4.3 Infrastructure Relocation:

Relocate utility infrastructure outside of SEZs to improve water quality in coordination with utility districts and other entities.

IMPLEMENTATION

Table 6-2 outlines the implementation actions that the County, along with other partner agencies, will take related to public facilities and services.

Table 6-2 Public Facilities and Services Implementation Measures

Project(s)	Description	Timeframe*	Lead Agency	Secondary Agencies
Environmental Improvement Program Projects				
Pioneer Trail Utility Undergrounding	Underground utilities along Pioneer Trail from US 50/SR 89 to Elks Club Drive.	Short-term	Liberty Utilities	El Dorado County
Pioneer Trail Fire Suppression Infrastructure	Install new water mains and fire hydrants along Pioneer Trail from Marshall Trail to Susquehana Drive.	Short-term	STPUD	TRPA and LTBMU
Taylor Tallac Sewer Line Relocation	Relocate a gravity sewer main out of an SEZ area in Baldwin Beach area to facilitate restoration.	Short-term	STPUD	LTBMU
Hazardous Fuels Reduction Surrounding Water Delivery Infrastructure	Provide fuels reductions activities around water delivery infrastructure sites.	Short-term	STPUD	California Tahoe Conservancy and LTBMU
Lower Meeks Bay Water Pressure for Fire Flow	Implement new water main and valve station in Meeks Bay.	Short-term	TCPUD	-
Liberty Utilities Resilient Corridors Project	Implement fuels reduction treatments along utility corridors owned and operated by Liberty Utilities on National Forest System lands within El Dorado County.	Mid-term	Liberty Utilities	LTBMU
West Shore Water Storage Augmentation	Improve water storage capacity to meet fire flows along the west shore of Lake Tahoe.	Mid-term	TCPUD	-
El Dorado County Broadband Fiber Project	Expand fiber optic broadband technology throughout the unincorporated areas of El Dorado County.	Long-term/Ongoing	El Dorado County	-
Other Plans/Projects				
Tahoe-Truckee Plug-in Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan Implementation	Implement actions identified in the Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan in coordination with other agencies including consumer education and outreach, providing incentives, permitting and inspection, developing ordinances and planning, training and education, utility planning, and regional coordination.	Ongoing	TRPA and Truckee Donner Public Utility District	Various

Notes: South Tahoe Public Utility District = STPUD; Tahoe City Public Utility District = TCPUD

*Timeframes include short-term (0-5 years), mid-term (6-10 years), and long-term (up to 20 years).

Source: Data compiled by Ascent in 2025.