

# TAHOE SCIENCE ADVISORY COUNCIL

## AGENDA | July 2024 COUNCIL MEETING

**Date:** Thursday July 18, 2024

**Time:** 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Location:** [Zoom](#)

**Documents:** <https://www.tahoesciencecouncil.org/live-documents>

TIME	AGENDA ITEM	Documents
10:00	<b>Welcome and Agenda Review</b>	
10:05	<b>Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Budget/operations</li><li>• Plastics work group</li><li>• Water quality work group</li><li>• Data coordination work group</li><li>• Co-chair update</li></ul>	<a href="#">Water Quality Monitoring Program Review</a>
10:50	<b>2024 Tahoe Summit</b>	
11:00	<b>Council Operational Approach</b> Leveraging both internal and external expertise	Summary below
11:40	<b>Council Member Round Robin</b>	
12:00	<b>Adjourn</b>	

**Council Members:** Sudeep Chandra (UNR), Adrian Harpold (UNR), Monica Arienzo (DRI), Tamara Wall (DRI), Alex Forrest (UCD), Steve Sadro (UCD), Max Moritz (UCSB/DANR), John Melack (UCSB), Pat Manley (PSW), *Open* (PSW), Ramon Naranjo (USGS), Joe Domagalski (USGS), Jason Kuchnicki (NDEP), Ashley Conrad-Saydah (CNRA)

Robert Larsen (CNRA), Alison Toy (UCD), Caelan McGee (Facilitator)

**Next Meeting:** September 19, 2024

## Council Operational Approach

Resource management agencies and other stakeholders regularly engaged the Tahoe Science Advisory Council to review existing research and monitoring, summarize the state of the knowledge of various topics, and recommend future work. Depending on the request and available resources, the Council has responded in several different ways.

- Straight-forward questions – When agency staff reach out with a general question, the Program Officer will connect staff with a Council member with relevant expertise. Email exchange may lead to a meeting with Council members and staff to discuss the issue. Engaged Council members may solicit input from others within their network.

Example: California Tahoe Conservancy staff received a proposal about using bees as bioindicators of restoration success. Dr. Pat Manley and two other scientists reviewed the proposal, met with agency staff, and provided feedback on both the proposal and the overall concept of pollinators as indicators of system change.

- Formal Peer Review – Agency staff occasionally ask the Council to review reports or other material. These requests are supported by a “peer review charge” document that outlines the documents for review and specific questions. Such requests are generally managed by the Council’s peer review committee chair (Dr. Adrian Harpold). In coordination with the Program Officer, Dr. Harpold identifies reviewers and coordinates the review. The cost of these reviews is supported by either Council operational funds or provided by the requesting agency.

Example: The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and Lahontan Water Board requested peer review of the periphyton monitoring program and associated results. Council members were offered the opportunity to suggest reviewers, and three external experts were selected. The group reviewed the material and provided written responses to the questions posed in the review charge. Individual reviews were summarized in a memorandum that was circulated to the Council and shared with the requesting agencies.

- State of the Knowledge – Agencies can provide resources directly to the Council to summarize existing information and/or available data. Commonly, this work involves literature review, critical evaluation of recent studies, and program synthesis. These projects may also entail data analyses to inform current system understanding. Council work groups generally lead these efforts, coordinating expectations and findings with agency staff. These projects are also commonly supported by external experts that review available information and provide fresh perspectives.

Example: The Lahontan Water Board via TRPA contracted with the Council to conduct a series of tasks related to Lake Tahoe's pelagic monitoring program, clarity, and nearshore conditions. The Water Quality work group has led the conversation with Lahontan and other partners, developing summaries and coordinating relevant scientists to review the work group's findings and provide recommendations.

- New research and monitoring – When funds are available, the Council coordinates with agency staff and management to identify priorities and draft requests for proposals (RFPs) to invest available resources on shared priorities.

Example: The Council was awarded funding through the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act to support priority "science to action" projects. Council members, agency staff, and stakeholders worked together to define general areas of interest and develop a collaborative proposal review process.