

Resolution #3
Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs

PRESERVE LAKE TAHOE BI-STATE COMPACT

Submitted by: Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club

Background: Activities at Lake Tahoe have been managed by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency under a bi-state (CA and NV) compact first signed into law by the Governors of the two states in the early 1980's. Decisions are made by the TRPA Board with members from both states and carried out by the staff of the agency.

In the 2011 session of the Nevada State Legislature, a bill (SB271) was introduced to withdraw Nevada from the compact. This bill was passed in the closing hours of the Legislature with modifications calling for withdrawal in three years if the governing board continued to restrict new developments on the Nevada side of the lake. Governor Sandoval was asked to veto the legislation by all environmental groups but did not do so. Large development on the Nevada side of the lake would result in decreasing the clarity of the lake and an increase in air pollution from construction and traffic. Governor Brown of CA is strongly opposed to this legislation. Failure of the bi-state compact could also result in the loss of federal funds for the lake. The Sierra Club and other groups are mounting a campaign to educate Nevada legislators about the dangers of this legislation and seeking a repeal of the bill in the 2013 session.

Resolution: The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs strongly supports the efforts of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, a bi-state compact established by the states of California and Nevada to prepare and adopt land use development plans, and to manage related regulatory and enforcement activities, in the Lake Tahoe Basin, and opposes attempts by either state to withdraw from the compact.

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