

Tahoe City Public Utility District Advocacy Priorities 2021-2022

The 2021-2022 Advocacy Priorities serve as the basis for the District's advocacy efforts at the local, state, and federal levels, and provide guidance for staff to focus efforts and allocate resources for the District's legislative advocacy program. The Priorities outline general areas of focus as well as targeted efforts on key issues and specific proposals with enough flexibility to (1) support or oppose legislation; (2) address and provide comments on policy, rules, and laws; and (3) protect District local authority and resources.

The Priorities outlined below for the 2021-2022 legislative session, support the District's mission, vision and strategic priorities and support and supplement the District's Policy No. 1005 – Legislative Advocacy Policy. Because the Priorities are approved for the two-year legislative session, it is not always possible to anticipate additional legislative, regulatory and/or budgetary issues that may arise during that period, therefore the Board may review and modify this document as necessary.

Water & Wastewater

Water & Wastewater Operations – Oppose performance standards and operational restrictions that are infeasible and not substantiated by science and data and other efforts that hinder or limit local control. Support the development of standards that address applicability, impact, and feasibility in the context of resort communities.

Water Quality – Support the development of state or federal programs that fund septic-to-sewer conversion projects and other water quality infrastructure improvement projects which protect groundwater and surface water drinking sources.

Water Affordability – Oppose water affordability legislation that would create unreasonable, inefficient and ineffective statewide low-income water rate assistance programs that could place unnecessary financial burdens on public water systems. This includes legislation aimed at state evaluated water rate structures and administrative costs to public water systems for implementation of low-income assistance programs.

Water System Consolidation/Acquisition – Support efforts to provide funding for public agency acquisition or consolidation of private water systems with deficient infrastructure. Support efforts to require investor-owned utilities to improve infrastructure to protect ratepayers and taxpayers.

Water Infrastructure – Support measures to defray the costs of planning, financing, constructing and rehabilitating all types of water infrastructure. This includes grant programs and policies that create eligibility for water infrastructure improvement projects necessary for drinking water and wildfire suppression.

Water Conservation – Monitor and act on legislation and policy changes, including near-term drought emergency regulations that impact water efficiency standards and affordable drinking water throughout the District's service area. Support policies that facilitate a science-based and data-driven approach to water conservation mandates that allow for flexibility and local control, and support the development of standards that address applicability, impact, and feasibility in the context of resort communities.



Water Rights – Monitor proposed changes by the State Water Resources Control Board that would impact the District’s water rights and oppose measures that would create further difficulty, inefficiencies, and uncertainties in the review and reporting associated with the District’s existing water rights and new applications for water rights.

Parks & Recreation

Parks & Recreation Infrastructure and Administration – Support efforts that provide funding for the rehabilitation, development, and capital improvements for local and state park and recreation facilities in order to enhance both active and passive recreational infrastructure. This includes funding for District sponsored projects for parks, multi-use trails, and recreational programming. Oppose legislation that has a negative impact on the administration of park and recreation services including the sale of park lands and open space, relaxations of park dedication fee requirements and the imposition of regulatory or statutory requirements with no added protections or benefit to recreational consumers.

Recreation Opportunities & Access – Support programs that increase the public’s access to physical activity, proper nutrition and healthy lifestyle options through the promotion of active transportation, complete street implementation, healthy foods, youth programming and maximization of green space in urban/suburban and rural settings for personal enjoyment.

Special District Governance

Local Control – Support measures that improve the District’s ability to continue its fiscal stability, and financial independence; protect local control and authority; improve delivery of services; and create operational efficiencies. Oppose measures that hinder or limit the District’s ability to self-govern.

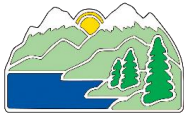
COVID-19 – Support legislative/administrative measures to secure funding for special districts to defray costs associated with COVID-19. Support policies and measures that provide flexibility for special districts to comply with existing law during unprecedented and unique circumstances.

Unfunded Mandates – Support measures which provide equitable funding for state or federal mandated programs.

California Public Records Act Reimbursement – Support legislation that would allow local governments to charge requesting parties for reimbursement of staff time involved in fulfilling Public Records Act requests.

California Environmental Quality Act – Support legislation that improves and streamlines the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and provides funding to assist local agencies in implementing CEQA.

Cyber Security – Support legislation that promotes and provides increased capacity to manage technology, adhere to regulatory compliance requirements, and reduce the risk of cyber-attacks.



Surplus Lands – Oppose legislation that removes local control of the use and dispensation of special district owned lands.

Revenue Protection – Oppose legislation that would shift or divert special district revenues, including property tax, without the consent of the affected districts.

Public Works Requirements – Oppose restrictive one-size-fits-all public works requirements that increase costs to taxpayers and reduce local flexibility.

Local Community Priorities

Wildfire Prevention & Mitigation – Support programs, legislation and funding for strategies to mitigate fire danger in the Lake Tahoe Basin and in wildland urban interfaces (WUIs), including funding for forest management, community hardening, and water infrastructure for firefighting.

Climate Adaptation/Resilience – Support legislation that advances policies and grant programs to address climate change implications through implementation of regional, multi-sectoral climate adaptation projects.

Disadvantaged Communities – Support legislation or administrative action to improve the definition of Disadvantage Communities (DACs) to allow for rural areas, like the Tahoe Basin to better compete for funding.

Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) – Support strategies to secure funding for the implementation of Lake Tahoe EIP projects that protect Tahoe’s natural resources.

Achievable Local Housing – Support efforts that achieve the goals of the Mountain Housing Council Policy Platform, so long as the efforts are in alignment with other priorities of the District.