

TAHOE MOUNTAIN NEWS

Serving Lake Tahoe's South Shore Since 1994

<https://www.mountainnews.net/201910/26/>

MOUNTAIN NEWS LETTERS & VIEWS

"Letters"

Continued from Page 9

of the current judicial system.

Without the judicial system protecting the residents of California, the lawless will be emboldened. As a local voter, my vote has been and will be for leaders that will protect and assure that justice will prevail. If that isn't your mandate, then, my vote will reflect that change.

Sincerely,

Penny Huber
South Lake Tahoe

Offering a solution to tourist traffic

On September 5th, a few residents and I presented the turn restriction proposal to the County Transportation Advisory Committee. They admitted that their methods of the Nudge, Super Nudge and closures (to address tourist traffic in Meyers) did not produce the results needed.

While there was support for our proposal as being a viable and enforceable solution from the CHP, EDSO, and LVPD, and it showing to be a cost-saving measure, the County has put this on a back burner. Our Supervisor, Sue Novasel, stated in the meeting that anything done has to be "data driven." The staff replied that data would not be collected until Spring 2020 - meaning possibly in May.

Meanwhile, the residents have taken to the Nextdoor app and other social media to air their frustrations with nothing being done about our traffic problem. Understandably, the frustration with the lack of action is palpable. Residents have had it with the traffic conditions they face on many Sundays and holidays as visitors clog their neighborhoods, using traffic apps seeking short cuts around Pioneer Trail and Highway 50 traffic congestion.

If you are interested in learning more about the plan and advancing the ball on the proposal, you can go to <http://ching.itjRXYH5en>, go down to Updates-Actual Turn Restriction Proposal, and review what is being proposed. If you like it, please sign the petition.

In addition, a public meeting will be scheduled soon to provide more information as we keep the community informed on our progress (albeit slow). We will suffer through another winter with more of the same as we experienced over the past few years.

We need our officials to be responsive to the problems we face and to the residents' needs!

Jeffrey Spencer
Meyers

Councilman urges support for LWCF

Californians, including the people of Lake Tahoe, love our

public lands. We love the cold, deep blue waters of Lake Tahoe, the rugged mountains, and the varied forests that are part of the nearly 100 million acres of land all Californians can claim ownership of. We love these public lands not just because of their natural beauty, but because they are central to our way of life. Many of us live here, or moved here, because of what they provide - culture, lifestyle, and livelihood. As a council member I understand how important investments in our public landscapes, many of which have been protected using the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), are for small businesses and outdoor retailers in Tahoe, the state, and across the West.

I just returned from Washington, D.C. where I met with some of the California congressional delegation. I thanked them for reauthorizing LWCF and asked them to protect our public lands by acting swiftly to fully and permanently fund LWCF. The Trump administration is abandoning the core values that have helped to maintain California's beauty and ecological diversity.

In California, LWCF funds used to continue our conservation traditions are used for everything from acquiring and developing new public lands to building trails, parks, playgrounds and so much more. Since 1965, California has received close to \$2.5 billion for federal, state, and

local public lands projects, which, among other things, has helped create or improve over 1,000 state parks. These funds are critical for the continued protection and enhancement of California's extensive public lands system.

Across the country, LWCF is the nation's most successful land conservation program, providing critical investments for our lands and communities and supporting tens of thousands of parks and outdoor recreation projects benefiting nearly every American across the country and fueling an \$887 billion outdoor recreation economy. This growing economy supports over 7.6 million American jobs, including 691,000 in California. Jobs like these are essential to communities such as South Lake Tahoe where millions of visitors come each year to experience the world-class outdoor opportunities that we have to offer.

But right now, this vital fund that protects and sustains our livelihoods is at risk. Earlier this year, Congress permanently reauthorized LWCF but did not permanently fund it, putting its capacity to enhance California's communities and economies at stake. The Trump administration is currently proposing to slash the LWCF's funding by 95 percent. If the Trump administration is successful, it means there will be fewer and fewer places available for public access and recreation.

But there is something we can

do. We need to stand together to urge the full California congressional delegation to take the next step in protecting our public lands by permanently funding LWCF as part of the appropriations deal. I urge everyone to call or write their elected representatives and urge them to permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Once fully funded, the LWCF will continue to sustain the flourishing outdoor recreation economy that supports our town and the hundreds of others like it across the country. It will preserve the land upon which we live, work, and play for our children and our children's children.

Devin Middlebrook
South Lake Tahoe

Devin Middlebrook is a member of the South Lake Tahoe City Council.



We'd love to hear from you! Letters to the Editor P.O. Box 8974, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96158 or tahoomountainnews@gmail.com