

AB 2679

Strengthening Recreation Demand Management While Protecting Tahoe Communities

Tahoe Spark Recommended Author's Amendments

Why These Amendments Are Needed

AB 2679 establishes important new tools to improve public safety and recreation management in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Tahoe Spark supports the direction of the bill and recommends targeted amendments that strengthen implementation while preserving its overall purpose.

Lake Tahoe functions as a single, interconnected recreation system spanning California and Nevada. Visitor demand shifts rapidly among beaches, trailheads, ski resorts, downtowns, and surrounding recreation areas in response to congestion, weather, parking availability, and special events. These fluctuations create significant consequences for California's mountain communities, where many homes are used as de facto lodging and residents face an affordability crisis. At the same time, unmeasured and unrepresented visitation distorts the State's climate, energy, housing, and transportation assessments, effectively creating a point of resource extraction across two states without corresponding investment in community resilience.

Effective management therefore requires a basin-wide carrying capacity framework supported by coordinated California–Nevada legislative oversight to ensure that resident needs, environmental protection, and public safety are addressed comprehensively.

Recommended Author's Amendments

Complete a Carrying Capacity Plan First

Require preparation and legislative approval of a comprehensive Carrying Capacity Plan then implement congestion pricing for recreation demand management and community resilient investments. The plan should evaluate transportation, recreation demand, emergency response, communications, utilities, greenhouse gas impacts, visitor electrification, community resilience, and recreation-area spillover.

Improve California–Nevada Coordination

Coordinate implementation with Nevada because Lake Tahoe functions as one recreation system. Utilize Nevada's existing Marlette Lake–Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Oversight Committee and establish a parallel California Donner Lake–Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Legislative Oversight Committee to review implementation, community impacts, and future governance recommendations. A request for Bi-State Consultation and Data Center Moratorium through 2028 was requested to the Marlette Lake–Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Oversight Committee on July 17, 2026.

Evaluate Recreation-Area Spillover

Require analysis of how management actions at one destination affect beaches, trailheads, ski areas, Donner recreation destinations, neighboring communities, housing, emergency access, and the seasonal demand cost of public services throughout the broader Tahoe- Donner Corridor.

Prioritize Community Resilience

Direct visitor-generated revenues first toward community resilience before expanding visitor-serving infrastructure. We are a declining resident population with a growing visitor demand and limited infrastructure and public service capacity.

Increase Transparency

Require annual public reporting on carrying capacity performance, visitation, population, congestion, revenues, expenditures, greenhouse gas assumptions, infrastructure performance, and community resilience outcomes.

Legislative Request

Tahoe Spark respectfully requests adoption of these targeted amendments to strengthen AB 2679 while preserving its core purpose of improving public safety, transportation, climate, and recreation management. These recommendations provide a practical framework for protecting Lake Tahoe's environment, supporting year-round communities, and coordinating implementation across the California–Nevada recreation system.

Tahoe Spark will host a public information meeting on July 23rd, ahead of the August 1 amendment deadline. More information will be available at jointahoespark.org and on social media at @TahoeSPARK.