



HERBICIDE TREATMENT OF TAHOE'S AQUATIC WEEDS RAISED AT TAHOE KEYS OPEN HOUSE

Scientific Approach Elsewhere in U.S. Effectively Reduced Threat

Public Input on Major Environment Issue Encouraged

Oct. 9, 2021 (*South Lake Tahoe, Calif.*) – Is herbicide treatment an answer for aquatic invasive weeds threatening to overwhelm Lake Tahoe?

That was one of the options included today at an Open House hosted by the Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association toward a proposed permit for an aquatic weeds control method test currently before the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Board. Aquatic weeds have spread to many areas around Lake Tahoe creating an urgency and necessity for lake-wide collaboration to control them, with the greatest concentration being found in the Tahoe Keys.

The Control Methods Test application proposes the stand-alone and combined use of various approaches including targeted herbicides and UV-C light to reduce and control the abundant growth of invasive and nuisance aquatic weeds that are compromising water quality, degrading recreational uses, and threatening the future ecosystem.

“The test will help determine the most effective, integrated management methods that will greatly reduce the impacts and threats of invasive aquatic plants on Lake Tahoe as well as improve management in the Tahoe Keys lagoons,” said Dr. Lars Anderson, an aquatic ecology/invasive species specialist and former affiliate of the University of California, Davis Weed Science Group. “The herbicides in the CMT are specifically chosen to control the target aquatic weeds while minimizing impacts to desirable native plants that are currently being suppressed by the invasive weeds. This approach has been used successfully in lakes throughout the U.S. that have the same species of invasive and nuisance plants.”

The League to Save Lake Tahoe strongly supports the proposed Control Methods Test because science clearly shows that aquatic weeds pose a dire threat, the status quo will not solve the problem, and the fate of Lake Tahoe is at stake. "To Keep Tahoe Blue, we must move forward with this comprehensive and careful test of any and all methods that could be part of the long-term solution," said Darcie Goodman Collins, PhD, chief executive officer of the League to Save Lake Tahoe / Keep Tahoe Blue. "This fact is beyond debate: if we do nothing, or fail to act quickly, the worst fate for Lake Tahoe is unavoidable."

The Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association submitted the Aquatic Weed Control Methods Test application, which required an [Environmental Impact Report](#) per the [California Environmental Quality Act](#) by Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, and an Environmental Impact Statement per the Tahoe Basin Compact

by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. Since the 1980s, TKPOA has invested millions of dollars to combat AIS on numerous concepts including weed harvesting, fragment collection, bottom barriers, bubble curtains, and supported research on other new methods.

Today's workshop attracted approximately 100 attendees and provided project background: history, goals, challenges, potential solutions, and timeline, while soliciting input from the community. The open house format featured various stations where attendees reviewed information, asked questions, and provided input. Representatives of various agencies as well as some leading scientific experts involved in the project discussed test options and addressed questions.

This joint effort now enters a critical period. The public comment period on the draft permit ends Nov. 1, 2021 and will be considered by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Board and the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board in January. If approved, testing would start in the spring of 2022, depending on water levels and other natural factors.

A second Open House will be held October 29 with information at <https://tahoekeysweeds.org/>.

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About Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association

The Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association (TKPOA) is a well-maintained and operated recreational-oriented residential association of 1,528 property owners on the shores of Lake Tahoe.