

Controlled Methods Test (CMT) – Weekly Update: September 30th, 2022

This is your weekly update regarding the Controlled Methods Test (CMT) sent to you from the TKPOA Owner Communication Working Group (comprised of volunteer Homeowners). We committed to providing our fellow TKPOA Homeowners with weekly updates, until the turbidity curtains were removed.

Well, the curtains are out! The CMT project team has published an “Implementation Review”, which we will try to summarize below. The homeowner communications team plans to take a very short break, then rally around the upcoming funding vote for year 2 of the CMT. We’ll start by sharing plans for this critical process, then continue with updates on the key issues and a “get out the vote” effort.

KEY POINTS:

- [Summer 2022 CMT Implementation Special Report Released!](#)
- **No Herbicides Detected - Divers removed the turbidity curtains on Thursday, September 22, when monitoring no longer detected herbicides in the test area.**
- **Next Steps – Funding for year 2 of the CMT gated by upcoming member vote**

Summer 2022 CMT Implementation Special Report Released: The TKPOA Project team has compiled a Summer 2022 CMT Special Report that summarizes the implementation and monitoring actions taken between May and August of 2022. While this report does not cover the effectiveness of the various treatments in detail, the project team is encouraged by the preliminary results of the herbicides and UV-C. A report covering efficacy and impact will be published by the end of the year. Some key elements of this report are:

- Background on the CMT’s design, along with a brief history of how it came together
- Extensive maps, charts, and tables illustrating the thoroughness/complexity of the test
- Explanation of the stringent environmental conditions and mitigation requirements required to implement the project in the spring of 2022
- Overview of how the project was managed, the key players, organizations, and contractors involved
- Coverage of the key setbacks experienced in year 1: several windstorms in the first two weeks after implementation, and the slow degradation of triclopyr and the extended boating restriction
- Important lessons learned from year 1, with an outline for next steps for year 2 of the CMT

You can find the entire report on the WQ website - <https://www.keysweedsmanagement.org/cmt-reports>

No Herbicides Detected: When monitoring no longer detected herbicides in the test area, divers removed the turbidity curtains on Thursday, September 22. This milestone coincided with the end of all boating restrictions in the Tahoe Keys lagoons and marked the successful end of the herbicide portion of the rigorous, three-year Control Methods Test project.

Next Steps: The TKPOA WQ team and all the supporting agencies are eager to push forward. A session to kick-off year 2 test design is scheduled for next week. That puts the important question of CMT funding, to be determined by member vote, at the top of our to do list.

On the assumption that this critical project is supported by property owners, no additional herbicide application or boating restrictions are planned for the balance of the project. Extensive monitoring will continue alongside non-chemical treatment methods for the next two years. These methods include Laminar Flow Aeration (LFA), continued UV-C light treatments, plus targeted use of bottom barriers and diver assisted dredging. The results of the test will inform long-term management plans for the Tahoe Keys and for addressing aquatic invasive weeds in Lake Tahoe. The objective of the collaborative effort is a “permit-able” approach to weed control and water quality that is both economically and logistically viable.

For additional information and updates, please refer to the TKPOA Water Quality website at www.keysweedsmanagement.org or follow us on Instagram at @tahoekeyspoa_wq. You can also contact the TKPOA Association Office, at 530-542-6444, Monday – Friday from 8:30AM – 4:30PM, Saturday and Sunday from 10:00AM – 2:00PM.

If you have questions, contact the TKPOA Water Quality Department directly by calling 530-542-6444, ext. 275 Monday – Friday from 8:30AM – 4:30PM or by email at waterquality@tahoekeyspoa.org

