

Important Information Regarding the Potential Use of Aquatic Herbicides at Lake Tahoe

The Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association (TKPOA) has proposed a pilot test¹ of aquatic herbicides for weed control in the Tahoe Keys lagoons. The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Lahontan) must approve a prohibition exemption for this test to proceed. The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) will also review the proposal and, if approved, grant a permit for the project.

The proposal requests the one time use of three different EPA registered aquatic herbicides (Triclopyr, Endothall, Penoxsulam) at 9 different locations in the Keys lagoons in Year 1 (May/June 2018). Treatment area totals 13.7 acres about 8% of the total Keys' water area. Follow-up actions for Project Years 2 & 3 include monitoring and spot removal of any emergent plants, by using diver hand pulling and bottom barriers. A bladder dam across the west channel is proposed to physically separate the treatment area from our drinking water sources in Lake Tahoe. The dam will stay up until water quality monitoring meets certain parameters. The proposal is under TRPA and Lahontan staff review, anticipated public comment period is Jan. / Feb. 2018.

The Tahoe Water Suppliers Association (TWSA) supports the large scale testing of non-chemical methods, before the requested use of herbicides.

Here are some actions you can take:

- 1. Get informed.** This is a complex issue.
 - a. For information on the non-chemical methods that have been successful here at Lake Tahoe, visit the Tahoe Resource Conservation District website at <http://tahoercd.org/aquatic-invasive-species-control-projects>
 - b. A summary factsheet about the TWSA and water provider concerns is posted at: https://www.yourtahoeplace.com/uploads/pdf-public-works/2017_1_page_TWSA_AIS_KEYS_factsheet_2-7-17.pdf
 - c. Visit the TKPOA website for the proposed project: keysweedsmanagement.org.
- 2. Sign-up for email notification so you can submit comments at the correct time, through the official channels.** Signup takes less than a minute. Go to: www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg6_subscribe.html
Select the option: *Basin Plan Prohibition Exemptions – Tahoe only.*
- 3. Voice your opinion when comment opens.** Public comment is anticipated to open in early 2018, after the environmental documents are released. The regulatory agencies need to hear from the public. This may be the only time for written public comments.
- 4. For ongoing updates, 'like' the DRINK TAHOE TAP Facebook page.**



1. Project title: *Application for Exemption to the Basin Plan Prohibition on the Use of Pesticides for the Tahoe Keys West Lagoon Integrated Control Methods Test.* Full project text posted at: www.keysweedsmanagement.org

Non-Chemical Control Methods currently used at Lake Tahoe that can provide long-term invasive plant control.

Diver-assisted hand removal is labor intensive, and can require a greater investment of time and money. Using this method in combination with bottom barriers is an effective way of maximizing this technology while reducing the cost.



Bottom Barriers can be used effectively in large areas with smooth substrate and no structures. They have been used successfully at Emerald Bay, Crystal Shores HOA and other locations.



Testing and analysis on the effects of deep penetrating UltraViolet light on aquatic invasive weeds began in 2017. This technology showed significant plant control during the initial trials.



Other mechanical methods considered: Water Drawdowns, Dredging, Rotovating, Circulation and Aeration