

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
LAHONTAN REGION**

**MEETING OF AUGUST 28, 2025  
SOUTH LAKE TAHOE**

<b>ITEM 4</b>
<b>UPDATE ON RESULTS OF TAHOE KEYS LAGOONS AQUATIC WEED CONTROL METHODS TEST</b>

<b>CHRONOLOGY</b>	
January 13, 2022	The Lahontan Water Board adopted resolutions and orders allowing aquatic herbicides to be applied as part of a controlled measures test in the Tahoe Keys ( <a href="#">TKPOA CMT</a> ).
May 2022	TKPOA applied herbicides to the Tahoe Keys Lagoon and Lake Tallac.
Summer 2022 to Summer 2024	TKPOA tracked the efficacy of various proposed aquatic invasive species controls.
February 28, 2025	TKPOA submitted the final annual report.
May 13, 2025	The Lahontan Water Board adopted a resolution rescinding project approvals regarding the Tahoe Keys Lagoons Aquatic Weed Control Methods Test.
June 17, 2025	The Tahoe Science Advisory Council reviewed TKPOA's reports and the final results.
July 18, 2025	Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) hosted an informational webinar on the TKPOA CMT.
July 23, 2025	TRPA staff presented an update on aquatic invasive species program and the TKPOA CMT to the TRPA Governing Board.

<b>BACKGROUND</b>
<p>The Tahoe Keys is a residential development adjacent to Lake Tahoe. A series of artificial waterways wind between the houses to create lake access. The artificial waterways are collectively referred to as the Tahoe Keys Lagoons. There are three main water features: the Main Lagoon, the Lake Tallac Lagoon, and the Marina Lagoon. The Tahoe Keys property owners are represented by the Tahoe Keys</p>

## BACKGROUND

Property Owners Association (TKPOA) which is also responsible for the common properties.

Significant aquatic weed growth occurs within the Tahoe Keys Lagoons. The three aquatic weed species flourish in relatively shallow, slow-moving water: Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), curlyleaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*), and coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*). Of those species, Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed are invasive. Aquatic plant surveys (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017) showed the invasive aquatic weed populations grew rapidly. Approximately, 85 to 90 percent of the available wetted surface in the lagoons were infested with invasive aquatic weeds. Additionally, the invasive aquatic weeds established within Lake Tahoe near lagoon entrances. This proliferation occurred despite TKPOA attempting to control the weeds since the mid-1980s.

The Water Board requires TKPOA to manage aquatic weeds using non-chemical methods. Specifically, Order No. R6T-2014-0059 requires TKPOA to develop and implement two plans:

- Non-Point Source Water Quality Management Plan (NPS Plan) focused on land-based nutrient sources contributing to aquatic weed growth
- Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for aquatic weed management to identify methods optimizing aquatic weed management within the lagoons

Noting limitations to the non-chemical methods, TKPOA proposed the Tahoe Keys Lagoons Aquatic Weed Control Methods Test (TKPOA CMT): a 3-year test of aquatic weed control strategies. The purpose of the CMT project was to evaluate the effectiveness of multiple treatment methodologies, including chemical and non-chemical methodologies and combinations of both, to identify methodologies that will: 1) quickly reduce the aquatic invasive plant biomass, 2) bring infestation to a level that can be managed by non-chemical treatment methodologies, 3) improve water quality, 4) improve recreational benefits, and 5) reduce re-infestation.

The TKPOA CMT project divided the treatment methodologies into two groups. Group A included herbicides (triclopyr and endothal), Ultraviolet light C (UV-C), Laminar Flow Aeration (LFA), with some herbicides test sites also including the use of UV-C in the year following herbicide treatment. Group A treatment sites were also followed up with the use of Group B treatments during Years 2 and 3. Group B treatments included bottom barriers, bottom barriers with injection of hot water, diver-assisted suction/hand pulling, and additional UV-C treatments.

The Water Board authorized the TKPOA to use aquatic herbicides for a one-time application event in the first year of the TKPOA CMT. The Water Board orders required a combination of management practices, monitoring, and reporting for the entire three-year project.

The first year of the TKPOA CMT project occurred in 2022 and the project concluded in 2024.

**DISCUSSION**

This item includes a presentation by TRPA and TKPOA on the TKPOA CMT. Staff from TRPA and TKPOA will brief the board on a combination of the following: the results of the TKPOA CMT, challenges and opportunities associated with the treatment methodologies included in the TKPOA CMT, the path forward for aquatic weed control within the Tahoe Keys and future funding needs, and other information learned from the TKPOA CMT.

**PRESENTERS**

Timothy (TJ) Middlemis-Clark, Water Board, Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer

Dennis Zabaglo, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Aquatic Invasive Species Program Manager

Kristine Lebo, Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association, Water Quality Manager and AIS Coordinator

Dr. Lars Anderson, Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association, Science Consultant

**PUBLIC OUTREACH/INPUT**

Agenda materials posted on webpage. The agenda materials were also circulated to the subscribers of the following subscription topics: Tahoe Keys Lagoons Restoration Project, and Basin Plan Prohibitions Exemptions – Aquatic Pesticides.

**RECOMMENDATION**

This is an informational item only. No Water Board action is required for this item; however, the Water Board may provide direction to staff.