



Dear Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the State Water Board

2/17/2012

COMMENT LETTER-PESTICIDE PROHIBITION BASIN PLAN AMENDMENT

As a resident of Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association, I can attest first hand that Current methods of controlling invasive aquatic weed species are successful only in maintaining open channels for navigation. Because of the Harvesting, boat traffic out on to the lake contributes to the spreading of the weed problem.

The problem of invasive species is getting worse. It can still be controlled.

It can still be eradicated. But we must be granted the tools to do so now!!

We support the Lahontan Staff for their well-research recommendation to the Lahontan Water Control Board proposing exemptions to the prohibition of aquatic herbicides in Lake Tahoe. We now trust that the State Water Board will pass this important Amendment before invasive species are not controllable

The homeowner association that I belong to (Tahoe Keys) has invested vast resources Towards controlling weeds in the Keys by the use of weed harvesters. A full summer crew is employed to operate 4 large mechanical weed harvesters which run 8 hours a day and 6 days a week. We can only remove weeds to a depth of 5-feet. After harvesting, the majority of weeds remain to adversely impact beneficial uses, degrade water quality by increasing water temperature, recycling nutrients, providing habitat for non-native warm water fish, and impacting the safety of water contact recreation. Because of these known adverse impacts, it is in the best interest of the State Water Board to preserve and improve water quality by allowing the careful, controlled use of all proven methods to control aquatic weeds.

Extensive research was conducted this past summer in the Keys. The project was undertaken in cooperation with TRPA and the Lahontan Water Board, and will be continued in the summer of 2012. The study included what are called "dye studies" to map the degree to which herbicides, if applied, would be contained in the Keys. These studies have demonstrated that the controlled application of herbicides in the Keys will remain in the Keys and not impact surface water intakes in other areas of Lake Tahoe. The remoteness of the Keys to the intakes areas and the rapid dispersal of low herbicide concentrations used will assure compliance to the highest standard.

We thank the State Water Board for their effort and courage in passing this amendment.

Sincerely

Chris & Pat Disney

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