



Dear Jeanine Townsend, Clerk of the State Water Board.

Hello Jeanine. Please consider our (my wife and I) input below in your evaluation of whether or not to allow exemption of aquatic herbicide in the South Lake Tahoe Keys area. I've added our inputs in the email below.

As a resident of Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association, my wife and I commend the Lahontan Water Control Board and Lahontan Staff for their vision and perseverance in recently passing the amendment allowing exemptions to the prohibition of aquatic herbicides in Lake Tahoe. Non-chemical methods (harvesting, matts, and hand picking of aquatic weeds) of controlling invasive aquatic weeds have not worked in Lake Tahoe. In fact, the problem is getting worse. I've lived in the keys for 11 years and see no abatement system used to date as working, only the weeds are becoming more a nuisance and troublesome to the Lake.

We support the Lahontan Staff for their recommendation to the Lahontan Water Control Board proposing exemptions to the prohibition of aquatic herbicides in Lake Tahoe. I understand aquatic herbicides have been used in other states with great success.

As a resident of South Lake Tahoe, I treasure the pure water and pristine environment of Lake Tahoe, and see myself as one of the current stewards of this national resource. I do all I can to limit use of chemicals that contaminate the lake. If the spread of invasive and nuisance weed species is to be controlled and reversed, it must be done now, while weed populations are still limited and 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. These weed harvesters seem unable to control the weeds, as pieces just fall back and re-root and drift elsewhere. 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.

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 remoteness of the Keys to the intakes areas and the rapid dispersal of low herbicide concentrations used will assure compliance to the highest standards. Please pass this important amendment.

We have heard from concerned and caring citizens that the eradication of invasive weeds is not possible, and that, because it is not possible, the careful use of chemical methods should not be allowed. We strongly disagree with this contention of surrender and abandonment. Eradication is possible! But, more importantly, even if absolute eradication was not possible, this should not prohibit the use of this vital and proven tool against the problem. Whether herbicides would or would not completely eradicate the problem, they

have been proven time and time again to be the best method for the control of invasive aquatic weeds.

Please allow us to employ every reasonable and proven tool available to control the spread of invasive species in Lake Tahoe, and do so while the eradication of these species is still a viable goal.

My wife and I thank the State Water Board for their effort and courage in passing this amendment.

Sincerely,

Greg Peck

Joan Peck