

2215 Morro Drive  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150



February 6, 2012

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the State Water Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Re: Comment Letter-Pesticide Prohibition Basin Plan Amendment

Dear Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the State Water Board:


An amendment to the Tahoe Basin Plan that allows limited use of aquatic herbicides in Lake Tahoe and the Keys was passed by the Lahontan Water Board by unanimous vote at an open Lahontan Board meeting in December, 2011. We understand that the proposed amendment also needs to go before the State Water Board. We strongly urge the board to pass this important amendment to allow us to employ every reasonable and proven tool available to control the spread of invasive species in Lake Tahoe. We need to do it while the eradication of these species is still a viable goal.

Extensive research was conducted this past summer in the Keys. The project was done in cooperation with TRPA and the Lahontan Water Board. The research will continue in the summer of 2012. It includes "dye studies" to map the degree to which herbicides, if applied, would be contained in the Keys. These empirical 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 will assure compliance to the highest standards.

We thank the State Water Board for their consideration of this amendment.

Sincerely,

  
Stephen A. Conklin

  
A. Elizabeth Creer

Residents

