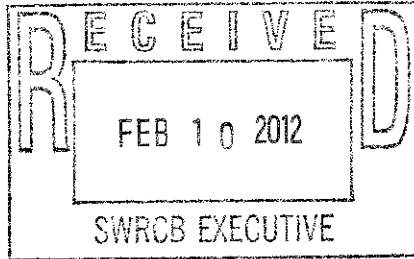


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February 8, 2012



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

Re: Comment Letter-Pesticide Prohibition Basin Plan Amendment

Dear Ms. Townsend:

I have been a resident of the Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association area for the last 41 plus years. I commend the Lahontan Water Control Board and its staff for the vision and perseverance in recently approving the amendment allowing exemptions to the prohibition of aquatic herbicides in Lake Tahoe. I now trust that the State Water Board will approve this important amendment. Non-chemical methods (harvesting, mats, and handpicking of aquatic weeds) of controlling invasive aquatic weeds have not worked in Lake Tahoe. In fact, the problem is getting worse.

Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association has invested vast resources towards controlling the weeds in the Keys by the use of weed harvesters. A full summer crew is employed to operate four large mechanical weed harvesters which run eight hours a day and six days a week. Weeds can only be removed to a depth of five feet. After harvesting, the majority of weeds remain to adversely impact beneficial uses, to 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. 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.

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

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William H. Hair", written over a horizontal line.

WHH:la

cc: Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association
Attn: Greg Feet, General Manager

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