

November 14, 2011

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Lahontan Region  
2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd.  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Re: Public Comment - Proposed Amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region to Allow Pesticide Use in Lake Tahoe

As a resident and homeowner in Tahoe Keys, and direct stakeholder who would be affected by proposed amendments referenced above, like many homeowners in the area I have concerns about the health effects of such pesticide and herbicide use in Lake Tahoe and its adjoining waters.

My concerns include the close and immediately adjoining proximity to the Tahoe Keys water lagoons of the three Tahoe Keys water wells that provide potable water to the 1,500+ homes and businesses served by these wells and the possible effects that the introduction of herbicides or pesticides in these lagoons might have on these wells, located in a downward trajectory of the lagoons to be treated with these chemicals. Is there any chance of proposed herbicides so used affecting the water quality of these water wells?

Another concern is the health of swimmers, boaters, paddleboarders, children, pets, and others using the Tahoe Keys lagoons for daily water recreation, including myself, family, guests, and pets. Are the pesticides proposed 100% safe for such contact and occasional ingestion?

It is reasonable to ask that use of pesticides, herbicides, and other chemical treatments in Lake Tahoe and its adjoining waters be approved only upon study and certification by an unrelated, third-party, unbiased, disinterested, arms-length, certified lab that attests with no uncertainty that uses of such chemicals are 100% safe for human, animal, and wildlife contact and ingestion. Some households at Lake Tahoe receive their drinking water directly and untreated from the lake's shorelines. Lake Tahoe's status as an Outstanding National Resource justifies the need for extraordinary care, caution, and protection. It is reasonable to expect that a full Environmental Impact Study examining all aspects of this amendment change is in order, before such proposed amendments are enacted.

Sincerely,

B.J. Hodge  
402 Wedeln Ct.  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150