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STAFF REPORT

Date: May 17, 2023
To: TRPA Governing Board
From: TRPA Staff
Subject: Tahoe Keys Control Methods Test Project Update

Summary and Staff Recommendation:

Staff and partners from the Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association, and the League to Save Lake Tahoe are providing an update on the Tahoe Keys Control Methods Test (CMT) Project, which began implementation in May 2022.

The CMT is an innovative test to determine what treatment methodologies to control invasive aquatic plants are best suited to treat the entirety of the Tahoe Keys in the future. The update focuses on why the CMT is crucial to the long-term health of the lake, the process and steps to get to implementation, followed by a summary of activities that took place during the first year, what was observed, and the plan for the second year of the project. The update will also include partner perspectives and activities that complement the work of the CMT.

The first year of the CMT tested two methods, referred to as Group A, that have the potential to provide a significant knockback of weeds by 75%. Those methods include approved aquatic herbicides, and ultraviolet light, used in combination and independently. In addition, the use of laminar flow aeration is being assessed for its ability to alter conditions within the Tahoe Keys to make them less suitable for weed growth. The update will describe experiences and challenges of implementation, results from water quality monitoring, and the observed aquatic weed response to treatments.

The second year of the test is estimated to start in late Spring of 2022. TKPOA representatives will describe how the information obtained in the first year is informing how follow-up, Group B treatments will be used to maintain the knockback achieved in the first year. Group B methods consist of only non-herbicidal methods.

The update will conclude with perspectives from the League and describe how additional efforts in and around the Keys work in concert with the CMT, such as bubble curtains, boat back-up stations, AIS treatments offshore of the Tahoe Keys, and a new pilot project in the East Channel to prevent fragment spread being implemented in coordination with the Tahoe Keys Marina.

This item is for informational purposes and no action is required.

Contact Information:

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