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## RAPID-RESPONSE PROTOCOL FOR NEW AQUATIC INVASIVE PLANT INFESTATION FOR MARINAS

Aquatic invasive species are the largest threat to Lake Tahoe's delicate ecology. If left unchecked, they threaten to damage the Lake's famed water quality and clarity that make this a special place to visit and call home. Marinas are the prime habitat for aquatic invasive plants, so public agencies and nonprofits are asking for your help to stop new infestations early.

Early detection and rapid response (EDRR) is a critical component of aquatic invasive species management. EDRR increases the likelihood that localized invasive populations will be found, contained, and eradicated before they become widely established. EDRR can slow range expansion, and avoid the need for costly long-term control efforts. Staff working in marinas and other high risk areas should be vigilant in surveilling and monitoring sites for new aquatic invasive plant infestations. In addition to EDRR, site staff should ensure compliance with all monitoring requirements to prevent infestations and allow for coordinated reporting, monitoring and response to any new infestations.

If staff at a marina or other site determine a potential aquatic invasive plant infestation, follow the following protocol:

### **I. Report the Action.**

- a. The property owner and/or the person(s) that found the new infestation of attached aquatic invasive plant species should report the observation to:**
  - i. Jesse Patterson or Laura Patten (League): [Jesse@keptahoeblue.org](mailto:Jesse@keptahoeblue.org), [laura@keptahoeblue.org](mailto:laura@keptahoeblue.org)
  - ii. If available provide following details:
    1. location (descriptive and coordinates),
    2. photo, including a close-up image of plants and site location where feasible,
    3. description of plants (species observed, presence of floating fragments of invasive species, approximate density/distribution)
- 2. The League will coordinate with the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinating Committee (LTAISCC) co-chairs, Mollie Hurt (Tahoe RCD) and Dennis Zabaglo (TRPA) to determine immediate next steps.**
- 3. The LTAISCC co-chairs will work with the property owner to determine the scope of work, funding for initial site assessment, and implementing agency based on the size and extent of the infestation.**
- 4. LTAISCC co-chairs will identify funding sources and a further scope of work if needed based on site assessment.**
- 5. Next Steps based on the extent of treatment and assessment will be determined by the LTAISCC co-chairs and communicated with property owner.**

## Resources and Contacts

- [Lake Tahoe Region AIS Action Agenda 2021–2030](#)
- **Tahoe Resource Conservation District**
  - Mollie Hurt, Director of Programs and LTAISCC co-chair: [mhurt@tahoercd.org](mailto:mhurt@tahoercd.org)
  - Sara Matthews, Aquatic Invasive Species Control Program Coordinator, [smatthews@tahoercd.org](mailto:smatthews@tahoercd.org)
- **Tahoe Regional Planning Agency**
  - Dennis Zabaglo, Aquatic Resources Program Manager and LTAISCC co-chair: [dzabaglo@trpa.gov](mailto:dzabaglo@trpa.gov)
  - Emily Frey, Aquatic Invasive Species Projects Coordinator, [efrey@trpa.gov](mailto:efrey@trpa.gov)
- **The League to Save Lake Tahoe**
  - Jesse Patterson, Chief Strategy Officer: [jesse@keptahoeblue.org](mailto:jesse@keptahoeblue.org)
  - Laura Patten, Senior Science Policy Analyst: [laura@keptahoeblue.org](mailto:laura@keptahoeblue.org)