
STAFF REPORT

Date: January 18, 2023
To: TRPA Governing Board
From: TRPA Staff
Subject: Adoption of 2023 Watercraft Inspection Fee Schedule

Summary and Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Governing Board adopt the proposed Resolution (Attachment A) containing the 2023 Watercraft Inspection Fee Schedule.

Required Motion:

To approve the proposed 2023 Watercraft Inspection Fee Schedule, the Governing Board must make the following motion:

- I. A motion to adopt the proposed Resolution (Attachment A) approving the 2023 Watercraft Inspection Fee Schedule.

In order for the motion to pass, an affirmative vote of any 8 members of the Board is required.

Project Description/Background:

In 2008, TRPA initiated the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Watercraft Inspection Program (Program) to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) into the waters of the Lake Tahoe Region. The program serves as a national model and is a tremendous success with no new invasions detected since the program began.

TRPA Code allows for the collection of fees from the boating public as a long-term funding source for the Program which complements public funds. The TRPA Governing Board approved the current fee schedule in December 2020. The Program utilizes two different stickers to indicate that a boat has paid the appropriate fee for that season— one for boats that are exclusively used on Lake Tahoe (“Tahoe Only”) and one for boats launching on Lake Tahoe and in other bodies of water outside of the Region (“Tahoe In and Out”). The Program also allows for a Single Inspection Pass with a reduced rate that is valid for one inspection at the inspection station and seven consecutive days of seal inspections at launch ramps. In addition to the annual sticker fees, the Program charges for each decontamination performed. The decontamination fee can be avoided if boaters adhere to the “Clean, Drain and Dry” practice the Program promotes.

For the last few years, labor rates have risen creating increases in programmatic costs associated with performing inspections and decontaminations. Cost saving measures in 2021-22 are also being implemented, most notably by reducing the number of inspection stations from four to three. The Truckee Inspection Station was closed prior to the 2021 season and the program was able to meet demand in both 2021 and 2022 due to the implementation of an appointment system, which also maximized the

effectiveness of staff by spreading the demand throughout the week and across the stations. In addition, the inspection fee surcharge associated with the appointment system generated approximately \$82,000 the last two years.

The proposed fee schedule includes no adjustments to the cost of the inspections or decontaminations. The only addition to the schedule is to adopt a fee for lost stickers. In the past, we have provided a free replacement sticker. The replacement creates administrative work for the program.

The proposed fee schedule shown in *Exhibit 1* does not include the \$12 Shoreline Program fee approved by the Governing Board in October 2018. The shoreline fees do not cover costs of the AIS inspections, rather it contributes to, among other items, control activities of existing species in the lake that can be spread by boats to other areas of Lake Tahoe. The Shoreline fees will be collected at the time of sale of the AIS sticker.

Regional Plan Compliance:

The proposed action complies with all requirements of the TRPA Goals and Policies, Plan Area Statements, and Code of Ordinances, including all required findings in Chapter 6 of the TRPA Code of Ordinances.

Contact Information:

For questions regarding this agenda item, please contact Thomas Boos, at (775) 589-5240 or tboos@trpa.gov.

Attachments:

A. Resolution

- Exhibit 1 – Fee Schedule and Operational Plan

Attachment A

Resolution

TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY
TRPA RESOLUTION NO. 2023 –

RESOLUTION AMENDING THE WATERCRAFT INSPECTION FEE
AMOUNT AND SCHEDULE, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 2023

WHEREAS, the introduction of aquatic invasive species such as quagga and zebra mussels pose a threat to the integrity of the Lake Tahoe Region’s ecosystem, recreation, water purveyance systems and economy in general; and

WHEREAS, Subparagraph 63.4.2.E of the TRPA Code of Ordinances as amended April 2011 requires that an owner and/or operator of a Boat Ramp (excluding Marine Railway Systems) or other Boat Launch Facility shall close any ramp or facility if the provisions of Subparagraphs 63.4.2.(A)-(C) are not met in order to prevent the launching of motorized watercraft; and

WHEREAS, Subparagraph 63.4.2.A of the TRPA Code of Ordinances as amended April 2011 further requires that all motorized Watercraft shall be inspected by TRPA or its designee prior to launching into the waters of the Lake Tahoe Region to detect the presence, and prevent the introduction of, aquatic invasive species; and

WHEREAS, Subparagraph 63.4.2.B of the TRPA Code of Ordinances as amended April 2011 further requires that all Watercraft inspected pursuant to Subparagraph 63.4.2.A shall be subject to decontamination if determined necessary by the TRPA or its designee; and

WHEREAS, Subparagraph 63.4.2.D of the TRPA Code of Ordinances as amended April 2011 further states that Inspections and decontaminations performed pursuant to Section 63.4 are subject to a fee related to the costs of performing such services and other Watercraft inspection program costs; and

WHEREAS, Subparagraph 63.4.2.D of the TRPA Code of Ordinances as amended April 2011 further states that the TRPA Governing Board will review and approve the fee amount and schedule annually; and

WHEREAS, during the April 2011 Board meeting, the TRPA Governing Board adopted Resolution 2011-07 making watercraft subject to a fee for inspection, decontamination and other program costs; and

WHEREAS, the Watercraft Inspection plan for 2023 requires a combination of public and private funding currently estimated at \$1,900,000 to inspect and decontaminate motorized watercraft; and

WHEREAS, state funding from both California and Nevada has been secured to support aquatic invasive species inspections for 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency on September 24, 2008 directed staff to bring to the Board for consideration an equitable fee schedule; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Board of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency that the amount and schedule of the aquatic invasive species inspection fee effective January 2023 through December 2023 be as shown in Exhibit 1; (Attached)

PASSED and ADOPTED by the Governing Board of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency this 25th day of January 2023, by the following vote:

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent:

Cindy Gustafson, Chair
Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
Governing Board

Exhibit 1 to Attachment A
Fee Schedule and Operational Plan

ATTACHMENT A, EXHIBIT 1

Staff Proposed Fees for 2023 Boating Season (effective January 2023 through December 2023) and Operational Plan

<u>2023 Sticker Fee Schedule</u>		
Tahoe Only Stickers	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
All Sealed Vessels	\$33.00	\$33.00
Tahoe In & Out Stickers	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Personal Watercraft (PWC)	\$48.00	\$48.00
Vessels 0.1 ft. - 17.0 ft.	\$48.00	\$48.00
Vessels 17.1 ft. - and Greater	\$88.00	\$88.00
Single Inspection Passes	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Personal Watercraft (PWC)	\$43.00	\$43.00
Vessels 0.1 ft. - 17.0 ft.	\$43.00	\$43.00
Vessels 17.1 ft. - and Greater	\$68.00	\$68.00
Decontamination Fees	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Simple Decontamination (single system, jet ski)	\$20.00	\$25.00
Complex Decontamination (multiple systems)	\$50.00	\$50.00
Drained ballasts		\$25.00
Undrained ballasts		\$50.00
Simple decontamination and drained ballast		\$50.00
Complex decontamination and drained ballast		\$75.00
Simple decontamination and undrained ballast		\$75.00
Complex decontamination and undrained ballast		\$100.00
Attached mussels	\$250.00	\$250.00
Projected Decontamination Revenue-Increase		\$46,000
Lost Sticker Fee	Current \$0	Proposed \$10