

From: Laura Patten <Laura@keptahoebblue.org>
Sent: 1/23/2024 2:07:25 PM
To: Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>
Cc: jesse@keptahoebblue.org <jesse@keptahoebblue.org>; DarcieGoodman-Collins <Darcie@keptahoebblue.org>;
Subject: League Comments- Operations & Governance Committee Agenda Item No. 4 & Consent Calendar Item No. 2 Tahoe Keys
Attachments: [image001.png](#), [2024.01.23 LTSLT Comments on Keys Mitigation.pdf](#)

Good afternoon,

On behalf of the League to Save Lake Tahoe, please see the attached support letter for the Operations & Governance Committee Agenda Item No. 4 & Consent Calendar Item No. 2, Tahoe Keys Mitigation Fund release.

Please let me know if there are any follow-up questions.

Thank you,
Laura

Laura Patten

Natural Resource Director, League to Save Lake Tahoe

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League to Save Lake Tahoe

Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
Operations and Governance Chair and Committee Members
128 Market St., Stateline, NV 89410
Submitted via email

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Re: Support for Tahoe Keys Water Quality Mitigation Fund interest (\$200,000), to match pursued grant funds and to initiate planning for the Tahoe Keys Lagoons Long-Term Water Quality Improvement Project (EIP# 01.02.01.0106)

Dear Operations and Governance Chair and Committee Members,

The purpose of this letter is to provide the League's support for the approval of the Tahoe Keys Water Quality Mitigation Fund interest, to match pursued grant funds and to initiate planning for the Tahoe Keys Lagoons Long-Term Water Quality Improvement Project (EIP# 01.02.01.0106). The League is dedicated to protecting and restoring the environmental health, sustainability, and scenic beauty of the Lake Tahoe Basin. In connection with our mission, we advocate for projects that control and manage Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in the Lake Tahoe watershed to a point of ecological insignificance, thus protecting Lake Tahoe's fragile ecosystem. The release of these funds is integral to a long-term plan for the Tahoe Keys.

The Tahoe Keys aquatic weeds are the largest ecological threat to Lake Tahoe's renowned water quality. A long-term plan for controlling and containing the weeds is integral to the health of the lake. The combination of location, environmental conditions, and human impacts in the Tahoe Keys has resulted in over 90% of the Keys lagoons becoming infested with aquatic weeds. This makes the Tahoe Keys the single largest infestation of aquatic invasive weeds at Lake Tahoe and ground zero for the spread to the rest of the lake. Aquatic weeds spread by fragments and floating reproductive seeds (known as turions) that are carried by boats and on surface water currents out of the Keys and into the lake proper. Focusing on long-term control and management of aquatic weeds with these funds will move the long-term planning process forward while the Tahoe Keys Lagoons Aquatic Weed Control Methods Test (CMT) is in process.

The League has supported the CMT through planning, cross-sector collaboration, funding and public education. Our organization has also funded and provided technical support for non-herbicide control and containment testing, as well as expanded monitoring and public education as follows:

- Eyes on the Lake citizen science program trainings (2014-present)
- Tahoe Keys west channel bubble curtain and SeaBins project (August 2018)
- Boat back-up station improvements (2018-current)
- Hydroacoustic scanning of Lake Tahoe for aquatic weeds (2018-current)
- 5.9-acre laminar flow aeration project (April 2019 - present)
- Aquatic weed removal through diver-assisted suction dredging in the Tahoe Keys Complex (2020)
- Expansion of west channel bubble curtain and installation of east channel bubble curtain (2021)
- Aquatic weed removal through diver-assisted suction dredging in the Tahoe Keys east channel, complementing the bubble curtain to create a physical barrier between the marina and the lake (2021)
- LFA monitoring to measure efficacy and improve efficiency (2022-present)
- Bubble curtain efficiency improvements including installation of a compressor in the west channel (2022-current)
- Lead on bubble curtain efficiency and efficacy monitoring working group (2022-current)
- East channel containment pilot project utilizing aquatic weed robots (2023-present)

The League recognizes the complex issues that the Tahoe Keys needs to address with long-term planning and management to ensure success. We are supportive of utilizing these mitigation funds to safeguard long-term water quality conditions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Laura J. Patten'.

Laura Patten
Natural Resource Director
League to Save Lake Tahoe