



**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY/NOTICE OF PUBLIC
COMMENT PERIOD AND HEARINGS
FOR THE
DRAFT EIR/EIS FOR THE TAHOE KEYS LAGOONS
AQUATIC WEED CONTROL METHODS TEST**

DATE: July 6, 2020

TO: California State Clearinghouse
California Responsible Agencies
California Trustee Agencies
El Dorado County, County Clerk
US Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Nevada State Clearinghouse
Other Interested Agencies
Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
United Auburn Indian Community
Interested Parties and Organizations
Affected Property Owners

FROM: Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA)
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

LEAD AGENCIES: Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Lahontan Regional Water Quality
P.O. Box 5310 Control Board
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SUBJECT: TRPA and Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board Notice of Availability (NOA), public comment period and public hearings for an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and a TRPA Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Tahoe Keys Lagoons Aquatic Weed Control Methods Test ("Project"). The joint environmental document analyzes the potential environmental effects of the Project.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD

The Lead Agencies invite public comment on the Draft EIR/EIS and alternatives in response to this NOA. A 60-day comment period will begin on July 6, 2020 and end on September 3, 2020. In your response, include your name, the name of your agency or organization (if applicable), and contact information.

The Draft EIR/EIS can be referenced electronically at trpa.org and tahoekeysweeds.org. Project information can also be referenced at tahoekeysweeds.org. The Draft EIR/EIS is also available for review in paper format Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board office, 2501 Lake Tahoe Boulevard, South Lake Tahoe, CA.

Comments on the Draft EIR/EIS NOA may be submitted via e-mail to tahoekeysweeds@trpa.org, or via U.S. mail to Dennis Zabaglo, Aquatic Resources Program Manager, at the above TRPA mailing address by 5:00 p.m. on **September 3, 2020**. In addition, comments may be provided at the public hearings noticed below.

ON-LINE PUBLIC COMMENT MEETINGS

The Lead Agencies have scheduled public hearings at the times indicated below. The purposes of the public hearings are to receive verbal and written input on the technical adequacy of the Draft EIR/EIS and alternatives. The Lead Agencies will consider all comments, written and oral, during the preparation of the Final EIR/EIS. Members of the public will be able to directly address committee and board members through the GoToWebinar and GoToMeeting platforms. Detailed instructions can be found at trpa.org. TRPA and the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board are committed to public engagement and transparency; we appreciate your understanding while we navigate these unique times.

On-line Public Comment Meetings:

Wednesday, July 22, 2020, 9:30 a.m.

Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
Governing Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 12, 2020, 9:30 a.m.

Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
Advisory Planning Commission
Meeting

BACKGROUND

The Tahoe Keys was constructed in the 1960s by excavating lagoons in the Upper Truckee River Marsh, and now includes more than 1,500 homes and townhomes, a commercial marina, and a commercial center. Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) became established in the 1980s and 1990s, and curlyleaf pondweed (*Potamoeton crispus* L.) was discovered in Lake Tahoe in 2003. Surveys document aquatic weeds growing rapidly to occupy up to 90 percent of the lagoon areas in recent years. Seasonal harvesting has been the main weed control practice since the mid-1980s, removing more than 10,000 cubic yards of biomass annually. Aquatic weeds have the potential to impact all the marinas around Lake Tahoe, and their continued spread constitutes the most immediate threat to the lake, according to the University of Nevada's 2015 Implementation Plan for the Control of Aquatic Invasive Species within Lake Tahoe. The goal of the project is to test control techniques of the populations of aquatic weeds in the designated test areas and reduce the spread of these plants to other parts of Lake Tahoe.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The Project site is in the lagoons of the Tahoe Keys. The Proposed Project consists of a program to test alternative aquatic weed control methods, both as stand-alone treatments and in combination. Some methods were considered as full alternatives and others were applied in support of these alternatives. Control test methods are grouped as follows:

- **Group A methods** are methods consisting of herbicide and non-herbicide treatments to achieve extensive reduction in target aquatic weeds (targeting at least 75 percent reduction) within test sites. The Proposed Project tests stand-alone treatments using EPA and State of California approved aquatic herbicides, ultraviolet light, and laminar flow aeration [LFA], as well as combined herbicide and ultraviolet light treatments. Group A herbicide methods would be tested only in the initial year of the test project. Non-herbicide Group A treatments (i.e., ultraviolet light and LFA) may be extended to additional years if monitoring indicates further treatment may be useful. For example, ultraviolet light may be repeated for a second year, while LFA testing is planned to extend over several years.
- **Group B methods** are non-herbicide maintenance treatments that are applied locally to follow up Group A treatments and control residual target aquatic weeds. Group B methods are intended to be long-term, sustainable control methods capable of maintaining aquatic weed control after initial Group A treatments have been applied to "knock down" the abundant target aquatic weeds in the Lagoons. For example, following a Group A herbicide treatment that achieves at least a 75% reduction in targeted aquatic weeds, Group B methods would be used to further control aquatic weeds and in no case would repeated use of herbicides be permitted as part of the project. Group B methods may include such actions as spot treatments with ultraviolet light, bottom barriers, diver-assisted suction and diver hand pulling techniques. Use of Group B methods would be implemented in years 2-3, following Group A methods in year 1.

Two action alternatives and a No Project alternative are being considered and analyzed at a comparable level of detail. A preferred alternative has not been identified.

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act and Article VII of the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact and Chapter 3 of the TRPA Code of Ordinances, the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board and TRPA have made available for public review and comment the Draft EIR/EIS for the project.

Interested agencies, organizations, and individuals are encouraged to submit comments on the completeness and technical adequacy of the Draft EIR/EIS and alternatives. Following receipt and consideration of public comments, the lead agencies will select a preferred alternative from the alternatives analyzed in the Draft EIR/EIS. The preferred alternative may combine features from more than one of the alternatives included in the Draft EIR/EIS.

Following the close of the public comment period, a Final EIR/EIS will be prepared and circulated in accordance with CEQA, NEPA, and TRPA requirements. The Final EIR/EIS/EIS will include responses to all comments received and a discussion of any changes to the selected alternative. The lead agencies will circulate the Final EIR/EIS before taking action on the proposed project. Following circulation of the Final EIR/EIS, each lead agency (Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board and TRPA) will follow their respective agency adoption/certification process.

Oral and written comments, including names and addresses of commentators, will be made available for public review. Individuals may request that their identity or address be withheld from public disclosure, which will be honored to the extent allowable by law. If you wish to have your name and/or address withheld, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public disclosure in their entirety.