

TAHOE KEYS STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE PROGRESS REPORT JUNE 2020

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document is to describe the accomplishments and progress made by the Stakeholder Committee during the planning and Scoping phases of the environmental documentation of a test of aquatic weeds control in the Lake Tahoe Keys Lagoons.

This document also describes next steps for the Stakeholder Committee and public engagement as the lead agencies, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) and the Lahonton Regional Water Quality Control Board (LWB) enter the review of the Draft and Final EIR/EIS.

STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Tahoe Keys Property Owner Association (TKPOA) has been conducting aquatic weeds research and management for over 30 years. In 2018, TKPOA applied to study the potential impacts of the implementation of large-scale treatment methods, including the consideration of the use of herbicide for the first time in Lake Tahoe.

Because herbicide was included among the methods for management, TRPA and LWB are responsible for studying the potential impacts of, and permitting, future aquatic weeds management. Understanding that long term solutions will require strong partnerships, these agencies have invested in several platforms for public and stakeholder engagement to inform their decision making.

Starting in the fall of 2018, the two lead agencies and the project applicant (TKPOA) joined the League to Save Lake Tahoe, The Tahoe Water Suppliers Association, and the South Tahoe Resource Conservation District on a Stakeholder Committee to discuss the goals and approach to studying the impacts of weeds management methods.

Between November of 2018 and June of 2019, the Stakeholder Committee met 9 times, and also dedicated considerable time in between meetings reviewing documentation building agendas. The Committee studied the considerable work done by TKPOA, including their most recent application to update their Integrated Management Plan, and the recent TRPA environmental checklist.

As a result of the thought leadership of the members of the Stakeholder Committee, a proposal was developed that included four key elements:

- Because there is more to learn about the efficacy of emergent technologies, and because of strong concern over the potential impacts of herbicide use, that the most appropriate step at this time is to analyze the potential impacts of *testing*, on a limited basis, large scale treatment methods and long-term management methods within the Keys Marinas. Any plans for long-term management should be informed by near- and medium-term tests and monitoring.

- All parties endeavor to complete environmental documentation, permitting and public engagement by an agreed upon timeline that supports initiating tests in the spring of 2021.
- The lead agencies and their technical consultant endeavor to develop stronger and broader understanding of baseline conditions, including the potential impacts to Lake Tahoe, if “no action” is taken to mitigate aquatics weeds in the Keys Lagoons.
- The environmental document would benefit from some independent review of methods and findings.

This proposal was commented on by another tier of interested organizations, partner agencies and concerned individuals, the Stakeholder Consultation Circle (SCC). Also, during the comment period during the Scoping phase of this environmental document, public meetings and hearings collected comments on this approach. With some noted reservations about the potential use of herbicide, there was widespread support for three elements of the approach suggested by the Stakeholder Committee. As such, the Stakeholder Committee played a unique and influential role in shaping the timing and approach to this environmental document.

For their part, TKPOA embraced these suggestions and developed an entirely new application, focused on testing, which is now the focus of this EIR/EIS process.

NEXT STEPS FOR STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

TRPA and LWB will soon release a Draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement. During the official comment period, the Stakeholder Committee, the SCC and the public will review and comment upon the analysis of alternatives for testing treatment methods, the analysis of potential impacts and the description of baseline conditions.

Between the Draft and the Final environmental document, the lead agencies will select a suite of tests for treatment methods, and proceed with permitting; or, decide that no additional action will be taken at this time. All stakeholders and members of the partners are free to comment on their preferred approach to testing treatment methods. If there is apparent alignment of interests and preferred tests, that will be noted.

Stakeholder Committee will continue to meet periodically throughout the duration of this environmental document, at least. This will continue to provide a forum for detailed discussion and problem solving among key partners in any future implementation of weeds management.