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USDA Forest Service
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Tahoe Resource Conservation District
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South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
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NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION/OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

August 14, 2020

To: California State Clearinghouse
California Responsible and Trustee Agencies
Interested Parties and Organizations

Nevada State Clearinghouse
Cooperating Agencies

Action: **Tahoe Resource Conservation District Lake-Wide Control of Aquatic Invasive Plants Project – Lake Tahoe, California and Nevada**

Project Summary: The Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD), Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), and USDA Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) have directed the preparation of a joint environmental document for the Lake-Wide Control of Aquatic Invasive Plants (AIP) Project. The document is an Initial Study (IS) for Tahoe RCD pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); an Initial Environmental Checklist (IEC) for TRPA pursuant to the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact, Code of Ordinances, and Rules of Procedure; and an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the LTBMU prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Tahoe RCD, on behalf of the Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Coordination Committee (AISCC), and in coordination with the TRPA, is proposing to conduct aquatic plant control and management throughout suitable habitat areas within the Lake Tahoe Region including the Lake itself, tributaries, and adjacent marshes of Lake Tahoe and the Upper Truckee River and Truckee River as they flow into and out of Lake Tahoe. The Project intends to continue aquatic invasive plant control efforts in locations where previous efforts have been successful, expand control efforts to include known infestation areas, expand available methods/techniques, and to allow for rapid response to detections of new aquatic invasive plant (AIP) infestations.

Suitable habitat is present in Lake Tahoe within the City of South Lake Tahoe and El Dorado and Placer counties in California and Carson City, Washoe, and Douglas counties in Nevada. Within this large project area, several control sites have been identified for potential control methods based on existing knowledge of AIP presence.

Public Review and Comment: The Draft IS/IEC/EA is available for public review and comment until September 16, 2020. The document is available for review at the following agency websites:

<https://www.trpa.org/document/projects-plans/>

<https://go.usa.gov/xmgxT>

<https://tahoercd.org/tahoe-aquatic-invasive-species-resources/>

Tahoe RCD will maintain and be responsible for the handling of public comments submitted in connection with this notice. Written comments may be mailed to Tahoe RCD, Attn: Mollie Hurt, 870 Emerald Bay Road, #108, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150 or emailed to mhurt@tahoercd.org. Personal contact information is optional. However, only individuals or entities who have submitted their name, address, email and phone number (if available) with their substantive comments will be eligible to file an objection later regarding this project with the USDA Forest Service LTBMU (36 CFR 218.5). Please also note your comments and contact information will be considered part of the USDA Forest Service's public record and may be available for public inspection.

NEPA Comment

Process: This project will be subject to 36 CFR 218 Project-level Pre-decisional Administrative Review Process (Parts A and B). Pursuant to 36 CFR 218.25, comments on the Lake-Wide Control of Aquatic Invasive Plants Project will be accepted for 30 days beginning on the first day after the date of publication of the legal notice in the Tahoe Daily Tribune newspaper.

Only individuals or entities (as defined by 36 CFR 218.2) who submit timely and specific written comments about this proposed project during this or another public comment period established by the Responsible Official will be eligible to file an objection later in the process. It is the commenter's responsibility to ensure timely receipt of comments (36 CFR 218.25). Other eligibility requirements are defined by 36 CFR 218.25.

