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Contact: Tobi Tyler, Sierra Club Tahoe Area Group, tylertahoe1@gmail.com, (510) 427-5662

Sierra Club and Suntex Marinas Reach Landmark Agreement to Advance Environmental Protection at Tahoe Keys Marina

Collaborative settlement establishes a model for improved stormwater treatment, marina dredging, shoreline protection, and scientific research at Lake Tahoe

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, Calif. — The Sierra Club Tahoe Area Group and South Lake Tahoe resident Alan Miller have reached a settlement agreement with Suntex Marina Investors, LLC, owner and operator of Tahoe Keys Marina through Tahoe Keys SMI LLC, and the City of South Lake Tahoe. The agreement establishes important environmental commitments that could help set a new standard for stormwater treatment and responsible marina redevelopment and operations throughout the Lake Tahoe Basin.

The agreement follows concerns raised about the environmental impacts of the proposed Tahoe Keys Marina Redevelopment Project, including stormwater pollution, aquatic invasive species, historical contamination, and protection of Lake Tahoe's sensitive shoreline.

Rather than prolonging the dispute, the parties worked collaboratively to identify practical solutions that advance environmental protection while allowing the redevelopment project to move forward.

"We appreciate Suntex's willingness to work with the Sierra Club to find meaningful solutions," **said Tobi Tyler, Vice Chair of the Sierra Club Tahoe Area Group**. "Suntex is demonstrating that marina modernization and environmental stewardship can go hand in hand. By stepping forward with these commitments, Suntex has an opportunity to set the pace for other marinas around Lake Tahoe," **said Alan Miller, who is also a California Licensed Civil Engineer**.

Key Environmental Commitments

Improved Stormwater Treatment: Suntex has agreed to pursue a capture, treat, and discharge system for runoff from impervious surfaces, reducing reliance on underground infiltration. Subject to regulatory approval and the agreement's cost (up to $750,000) and feasibility provisions, the system will treat stormwater before discharge to surface waters. Two years of

monitoring will evaluate its effectiveness in removing hydrocarbons, phosphorus, nitrogen, lead, copper, and fine sediment.

Marina Dredging and Aquatic Invasive Species: Suntex will initiate the design and permitting process for maintenance dredging within the marina, committing up to $750,000 toward the effort. Dredging could help address accumulated sediments and support efforts to manage aquatic invasive plants, including Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed. Suntex will also explore coordinating dredging activities with the Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association.

Safer Shoreline Materials: Suntex has agreed to use uncoated metals or coatings meeting specified drinking-water infrastructure standards for replacement bulkheads, committing up to $300,000 in additional costs for the coating system. The agreement also includes safeguards for handling dredged materials and managing associated water.

$100,000 for Lake Tahoe Science: Suntex will contribute $100,000 toward scientific research on plastic and microplastic pollution and/or improvements to Lake Tahoe's water quality. This investment will improve understanding of ongoing environmental threats and potential solutions from plastic pollution in Lake Tahoe.

Setting a Higher Standard for Lake Tahoe Marinas

Lake Tahoe's marinas play an important role in recreation and the local economy, but they also have a responsibility to protect the lake's exceptional water quality and ecological health.

The Tahoe Keys Marina agreement offers an opportunity to demonstrate how marina owners, environmental organizations, and public agencies can work together to address environmental challenges through practical improvements and investments in scientific research.

"We recognize and appreciate Suntex for taking these environmental concerns seriously and committing resources toward solutions," **Tyler said**. "We hope these efforts will encourage other marina operators to evaluate their own facilities and adopt stronger water-quality protections. Protecting Lake Tahoe should be a shared responsibility and a standard that everyone strives to meet."

Although implementation of certain provisions remains subject to regulatory approvals and feasibility requirements, the agreement represents a constructive step toward improving environmental practices at Tahoe Keys Marina.

The Sierra Club Tahoe Area Group looks forward to seeing these commitments implemented and hopes the collaboration will serve as an example for future marina improvements throughout the Lake Tahoe Basin.

"Suntex deserves recognition for working toward solutions that benefit both its marina and Lake Tahoe," **Tyler added**. "We appreciate its commitment to doing what is needed and right for the long-term health of the lake."

About the Sierra Club Tahoe Area Group

The Sierra Club Tahoe Area Group advocates for the protection and restoration of Lake Tahoe's environment, including water quality, forests, wildlife, and the ecological integrity of the Lake Tahoe Basin.