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NEWS RELEASE

LAKE TAHOE BOAT CERTIFICATION STICKER APPROVED FOR 2010 SEASON

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For Release Immediately

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Lake Tahoe, CA/NV – Lake Tahoe boat inspections will be upgraded this season to include an annual clean boating certification sticker and a more convenient fee structure, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Governing Board approved last week.

Called the Blue Boating Program, the certification and education program is the newest element in a broad effort to protect one of the nation's most treasured waterways. For 2010, all motorized boats on the Lake will be required to have a certification sticker.

Blue Boating certification augments the current inspection program aimed at preventing the introduction of new aquatic invasive species. The result is a combined inspection program structure that will streamline processes and minimize wait times at launch facilities.

The program represents the latest phase of an effort to protect the Lake's famed water quality from the potential effects of boating that began with a prohibition of carbureted two-stroke engines in 1999, according to the Agency.

Since 2007, mandatory watercraft inspections for aquatic invaders have been in place at all Lake Tahoe launch sites. Last year, fees were introduced to pay for the inspection service and approximately 14,000 boats were inspected.

The updated fee structure is designed to cover the costs of watercraft inspections for invasive species as well as Blue Boating element. The new inspections will cover such elements such as noise controls and proper bilge and sewage containment.

A key change from last year's fee structure is the annual fee versus a per-inspection fee. The new fee is scaled according to boat size, engine horsepower, and whether a boat is local or expected to travel to other lakes. Most local boaters will end up paying \$30 to \$40 annually. Most travelling boaters will pay \$65 to \$75 annually. Boaters can plan ahead for the inspections and see a full breakdown of services and fees on the Agency's website, www.trpa.org.

2-2-2 Tahoe Clean Boating

Another improvement to the inspection program this season will be the availability of off-ramp inspection stations around the Basin for boaters who wish to have their vessels certified before arriving at launch facilities. The locations and other details will be announced once operating contracts are finalized. Effective May 1, all boats in the Lake must have a Blue Boating Program certification and sticker to launch and operate at Tahoe. The inspection and certification process will include boater education and compliance with:

- Aquatic invasive species program
- Noise and no-wake-zone standards
- Clean bilge practices
- Wastewater management
- Engine tuning and altitude
- Payment of mitigation fee

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency cooperatively leads the effort to preserve, restore, and enhance the unique natural and human environment of the Lake Tahoe Region now and in the future. For additional information, email jcowen@trpa.org.

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