

Courtney Baumann
Engagement Manager
Leader, *Eyes on the Lake* Invasive Species Monitoring Program
Keep Tahoe Blue

March 11, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of Keep Tahoe Blue and our *Eyes on the Lake* Invasive Species Monitoring Program, I am pleased to offer this letter of support for the Tahoe Environmental Research Center's (TERC) application for the Rural Nevada Marketing Grant to promote the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) exhibit at the Tahoe Science Center.

Keep Tahoe Blue strongly supports TERC's efforts to advertise and expand awareness of the AIS exhibit. Public education is the first line of defense in protecting Lake Tahoe from the introduction and spread of new aquatic invasive species. Through our *Eyes on the Lake* program, we see firsthand how informed and engaged community members can play a vital role in early detection and prevention. Increasing visibility and visitation to the Tahoe Science Center will help educate residents and visitors about the threats posed by invasive species and the actions they can take to safeguard the lake. Empowering the public with knowledge is essential to preserving Lake Tahoe's ecological health and iconic clarity.

Protecting Lake Tahoe is not only an environmental priority but also an economic imperative. The long-term health of Lake Tahoe is directly connected to the economic stability and vitality of the Tahoe Basin. As a world-renowned destination, the region's tourism economy depends on the lake's environmental quality. For this reason, protecting Lake Tahoe is in the best interest of Travel Nevada and the Nevada Division of Tourism. Investments in education and outreach that prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species ultimately protect the natural resource that sustains the Basin's communities and businesses.

Keep Tahoe Blue appreciates the opportunity to support TERC's important work and encourages favorable consideration of this application. We look forward to continued collaboration to protect Lake Tahoe for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Baumann". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Courtney Baumann

Engagement Manager

Leader, *Eyes on the Lake* Invasive Species Monitoring Program

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