

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

**[6560-01]
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY**

[FRL 812-4]

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA

**Joint Marine Sanitation Device
Standard for Lake Tahoe**

On August 11, 1977, notice was published that the States of California and Nevada jointly had petitioned the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, to determine that adequate facilities for the safe and sanitary removal and treatment of sewage from all vessels are reasonably available for the waters of Lake Tahoe, a portion of which is in each State. The petition was filed pursuant to Section 312(f) (3) of Pub. L. 92-500. Section 312(f) (3) states:

After the effective date of the initial standards and regulations promulgated under this section, if any State determines that the protection and enhancement of the quality of some or all the waters within such State require greater environmental protection, such State may completely prohibit the discharge from all vessels of any sewage, whether treated or not, into such waters, except that no such prohibition shall apply until the Administrator determines that adequate facilities for the safe and sanitary removal and treatment of sewage from all vessels are reasonably available for such waters to which such prohibition should apply.

The information submitted to me by the State of California certified that four pumpout facilities are available to service the vessels in the California waters of Lake Tahoe. These are the Tahoe Boatworks in Tahoe City, which serves approximately 50 boats per summer and takes four to five minutes to pump out sewage from the average boat, Sunnyside Resort in Tahoe City, which serves approximately 360 boats per summer and takes five minutes to pump out the average boat . Obexer's Resort in Homewood which serves 8 to 10 boats per summer and takes two to three

NOTICES

minutes to pump out the average boat; and the Tahoe Keys Marina in South Lake Tahoe, which serves 30 to 40 boats per summer and takes five minutes to pump out the average boat. The first three pumpout facilities discharge their wastes to the municipal sewerage system of the Tahoe City Public Utility District.

The State of California also certified that sewage from both the Tahoe City and South Lake Tahoe Public Utility Districts receive the equivalent of at least secondary treatment. The petition stated that both Tahoe Boatworks and Sunnyside Resort are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the summer, and various hotels during the winter, Obexer's Resort and Tahoe Keys Marina are open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. during the summer, and closed during the winter. All of the listed marinas can pump sewage from the largest recreational vessel that can be launched on Lake Tahoe at a public facility.

The information submitted to me by the State of Nevada certified that one sewage pumpout facility is available to service vessels on the Nevada side of Lake Tahoe. This is a State owned and operated facility at Sand Harbor that is available for use 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. The petition stated that there has been no overcrowding at the Sand Harbor facility and that pumpout time varies between one and ten minutes. The pumpout facility is located immediately adjacent to the boat launching and recovery ramp and, during maximum lake elevation, the deepest draft vessels operating on Lake Tahoe can use the pumpout facility.

The State of Nevada further certified that sewage collected at Sand Harbor is discharges into a 1,500-gallon holding tank; the wastes from the holding tank are transported by truck to an approved sanitary landfill in Carson City.

A single comment was received by the Agency. The comment was directed toward the reasons for the States' petitions rather than toward the petitions' merits.

Following an examination of the petition and supporting information, and a consideration of the single comment received pursuant to the

59105

August 11 FEDERAL REGISTER notice I have determined adequate facilities for the safe and sanitary removal and treatment of sewage from all vessels are reasonably available for the waters of Lake Tahoe. This determination is made pursuant to section 312(f) (3) of Pub. L. 92-500.

Dated: November 8, 1977

Douglas M. Costle,
Administrator