



### **News Release**

South Tahoe Public Utility District  
1275 Meadow Crest Drive,  
South Lake Tahoe CA 96150

Contact: Shelly Thomsen  
[sthomsen@stpud.us](mailto:sthomsen@stpud.us)  
530-543-6268

### **Public Meeting on PCE Groundwater Contamination at South Tahoe "Y"**

South Lake Tahoe, CA (February 21, 2019) – On Wednesday, March 6, 2019 the South Tahoe Public Utility District, Lukins Brothers Water Company, and Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association are hosting a follow-up public meeting to provide an update on the groundwater contaminant tetrachloroethylene, PCE, found in groundwater at the South Tahoe "Y" area.

The meeting will cover recent actions taken by the Water Suppliers to protect public water supplies. The University Of Nevada Desert Research Institute will describe the groundwater model used to evaluate different clean-up scenarios. Initial findings and results will be presented. The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board will discuss recent activities taken to assess the contaminant. This public meeting is a follow-up to the public meeting in November 2018 that provided an overview of the range of alternatives being considered to remove PCE from groundwater.

In South Lake Tahoe, the primary source of drinking water is groundwater. In 1989, PCE was discovered in drinking water wells near the intersection of Highways 50 and 89, referred to as the "Y." Although the PCE first contaminated groundwater in the 1970s, it still remains in groundwater and is now believed to cover more than 400 acres (see attached map). All of the water provided by the Water Suppliers meet drinking water standards and is safe to drink.

PCE is a manmade chemical that was used from the early 1960s through the mid-1980s as a solvent for dry cleaning clothes and degreasing metal. During the late 1980s, concerns about the toxicity of PCE led Federal and State environmental agencies to list PCE as a probable carcinogen and as a toxic pollutant. Presently, five public drinking water wells have been impacted by the PCE Plume.

When PCE is detected in a well, the well is shut down and treatment is added to remove the contaminant, or an alternative source of drinking water supply is found. The Water Suppliers are working together to protect and sustain our groundwater. Find out more at the public meeting on Wednesday, March 6, 2019 from 6:00-7:30 pm at the South Lake Tahoe Airport in the City Council Chambers at 1901 Airport Road, South Lake Tahoe. For more information or to watch a recording of the public meetings, visit [www.stpud.us/groundwater](http://www.stpud.us/groundwater).

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