



News Release

South Tahoe Public Utility District
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Public Meeting on PCE Groundwater Contamination at South Tahoe "Y"

South Lake Tahoe, CA (June 18, 2019) – On Wednesday, June 26, 2019 the South Tahoe Public Utility District, Lukins Brothers Water Company, and Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association (Water Suppliers) are hosting a public meeting to update the community about the groundwater contaminant tetrachloroethylene (PCE) found near the intersection of Highways 50 and 89, known locally as the "Y." The meeting will review recent actions taken by the Water Suppliers and by Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board to protect public water supply.

The Water Suppliers are working to identify the most cost effective means for managing the groundwater contamination problem while providing a sustainable drinking water supply for South Lake Tahoe. Over the last year and a half, they have hosted quarterly public meetings to provide the community with an update on contending with the groundwater contamination. At the last meeting in March, six different scenarios were presented that address the groundwater problem. These ranged from installing clean-up wells within the contaminate area, drilling new wells outside of the contaminate area, and increasing treatment at the current drinking water well sites within the contaminate area, to name a few. At the upcoming meeting on June 26, alternatives developed from evaluating the scenarios will be presented, with the goal of identifying the best scenario to move forward.

In South Lake Tahoe, the primary source of drinking water is groundwater. In 1989, PCE was discovered in drinking water wells. 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).

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 South "Y" PCE contamination.

When PCE is detected in a well, the well is either shut down, treatment is added to remove the PCE contaminant, and/or an un-impacted alternative source of drinking water supply is found. The Water Suppliers are working together to protect and sustain our communities groundwater supplies. All of the water provided by the Water Suppliers in South Lake Tahoe meet drinking water standards and is safe to drink.

Find out what the Water Suppliers are doing to make sure you continue to have access to clean, safe water. Attend the public meeting on Wednesday, June 26, 2019 from 6:00-7:30 pm at the South Lake Tahoe Airport in the City Council Chambers located off Highway 50 at 1901 Airport Road, South Lake Tahoe. For more information, to watch previous meetings, or to live stream the meeting, visit www.stpud.us/groundwater.

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