



News Release

South Tahoe Public Utility District
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Recycled Water Agreement with Alpine County Ending

South Lake Tahoe, CA (October 23, 2019) – Effective the end of November, the South Tahoe Public Utility District (District) is ending an agreement with Alpine County regarding its recycled water operations. The District has been paying Alpine County an annual mitigation fee to address potential impacts caused by recycled water. Since there have not been adverse impacts from the recycled water operations over the last 35 years, the District has determined that the agreement is no longer necessary.

In 1969, all wastewater districts in Lake Tahoe were mandated to export treated wastewater out of the Basin. The District exports all of its treated wastewater, also known as recycled water, to Alpine County where it is used by ranchers and the District for irrigation.

In the 1980s the District changed its recycled water treatment process from tertiary to advanced secondary, as the original technology was unreliable. At that time, the District signed an amendment to its agreement with Alpine County to pay an annual fee to address potential adverse impacts caused by the change in water quality. Since then, Alpine County has not found it necessary to use these funds for mitigation activities.

John Thiel, General Manager for the District, said “Alpine County reached out to us last year to renegotiate the agreement. After looking into it, both parties determined that it could be terminated. Since there have been no adverse impacts caused by our recycled water operations, we feel there is no longer a need for an agreement or for any more payments.”

The District notified Alpine County that the agreement will end November 30, 2019. Recycled water from South Lake Tahoe will continue to be exported to Alpine County and used for irrigation. The District’s recycled water operations will continue to be regulated by the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board.

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