



# IVGID PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

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## MICROPLASTICS IN LAKE TAHOE

Recent research published in Nature.com, included Lake Tahoe among a global list of 38 freshwater lakes with high concentration of microplastics detected.

The Tahoe Water Suppliers Association (TWSA) has worked in partnership with the Tahoe Environmental Research Center and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection to study the presence of microplastics in the surface waters of Lake Tahoe. The study was conducted from summer 2021 to winter 2022 and consisted of eight sampling events of two municipal drinking water sources in Lake Tahoe. Samples were taken from the North Shore of Lake Tahoe at the Incline Village Improvement District and the South Shore at Edgewood Water Company.

Though microplastics have been found in the waters of Lake Tahoe, as discussed in the Nature.com “Plastic Debris in Lakes and Reservoirs” July 2023 article; the association members continue to be keenly aware of and closely following the science of microplastics and the monitoring protocols. They have been actively engaged in removing plastics and preventing more plastics from entering the watershed through public education and awareness efforts. They have determined this to be the best tool to alleviate accumulation of microplastics in the environment. The municipal water samples collected consisted of two particles of polypropylene and one particle of polyester in 68.44 liters (L) of water analyzed over the study to give a microplastic abundance of 0.044 particles/L.

What this means for Tahoe Tap is one microplastic particle per 23 liters of water, or with average drinking water consumption, one microplastic particle every seven days. A single-use plastic bottle provides the consumer with 94 particles/L.

If you are concerned about consuming microplastics, Tahoe Tap is a better choice compared to packaged single-use bottles. Here are tips on what you can do to help prevent further microplastics in your drinking water: say no to single-use plastics whenever possible, pack it in-pack it out when visiting Lake Tahoe beaches, refill with Tahoe Tap and volunteer for a litter clean up and focus your efforts on plastics smaller than a bottle cap.

Method of Particle Measurement	
Microplastics were vacuum filtered through a 10 µm polycarbonate filter.	
Length (longest dimension)	
Width (shortest dimension)	

For more information on TWSA watershed protection projects and drinking water quality.

Please visit our website at [www.TahoeH2O.org](http://www.TahoeH2O.org).



REMEMBER TO TURN OFF YOUR WATER EVERY TIME YOU LEAVE!

VISIT THE IRRIGATION STARTUP INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE:  
[WWW.YOURTAHOEPLACE.COM/PUBLIC-WORKS/WATER/IRRIGATION-STARTUP](http://WWW.YOURTAHOEPLACE.COM/PUBLIC-WORKS/WATER/IRRIGATION-STARTUP)

IVGID PUBLIC WORKS IS AVAILABLE 24/7 TO RESPOND TO WATER/SEWER EMERGENCIES. CALL 775-832-1203

# IT'S SUMMER, BE AWARE OF THE NEIGHBEARS!

**WE ARE A BEAR SMART COMMUNITY.**

It is extremely important to be proactive on your property to reduce potential human/bear conflict. You can help keep bears

wild by securing trash, food and BBQs and by removing birdseed and pet food from outdoor locations, including your garage. Keep windows and doors closed and secure. Lock your car and remove all food or trash; even a food wrapper can gain the unwanted interest of a bear. 'Problem' Bears are not successfully relocated and bears are euthanized if they become habituated. Please visit [www.BearSmartInclineVillage.org](http://www.BearSmartInclineVillage.org) to learn about attractant management on your property. Call 775-832-1203 or visit [www.yourtahoeplace.com/public-works](http://www.yourtahoeplace.com/public-works) for Solid Waste Ordinance 1 and zero tolerance trash enforcement information. Visit Waste Management's website [www.inclinevillage.wm.com](http://www.inclinevillage.wm.com) or call 775-831-2971 to learn about trash storage options (including locking rental carts), how to avoid overages and services for recycling common items and yard waste.



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- See meter reads right after they are completed
- Pay by credit card or eCheck (subject to service fee)
- Change your mailing address & phone #'s
- Check your current balance



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