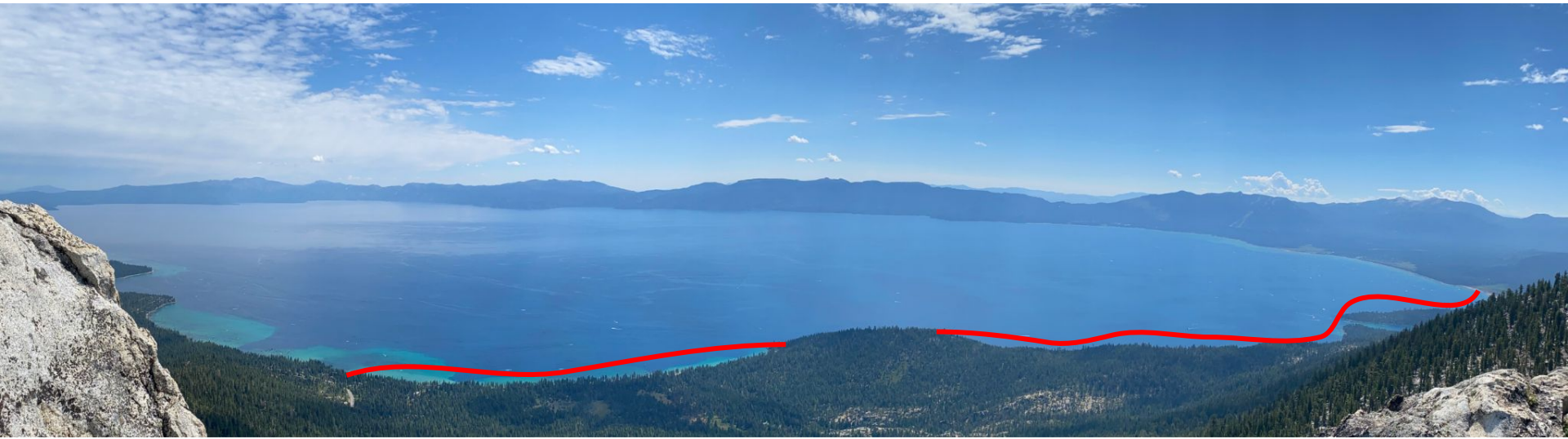
Final Removal Considerations

December 2025



Illustrative former path of lead cables

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Contents

1. Project Closure
2. September 2025 Removal
3. Open Questions
4. Finding #1: Nonprofit Lobbying
5. Finding #2: Legacy Leases
6. Final Thoughts

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1. Project Closure

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Project Update

- On September 19, 2025, **AT&T completed its final activities** associated with their commitment to remove lead cables from Lake Tahoe
- While we can confirm this final phase played out over two days, some of the challenges encountered and specific decisions **remain unknown**
- While our organizers were on site, they were **denied access** to directly observe and mislead by AT&T's contractors on the timing of removal from Tallac Creek
- We reached out to U.S. Forest Service and AT&T's partner, the League to Save Lake Tahoe, with follow up questions but **neither answered specifics**
- We respect the autonomy of parties involved, and ultimately our organization existed for one purpose - **get the lead out** - which was achieved as permitted

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Final Steps

- While we are closing our work and organization, we would like to **conclude our collaboration** by providing transparency on what we did observe
- We'd also respectfully present **two specific findings appropriate for further examination** given their potential to impact or influence other situations
- We view both as representing **future risks to Lake Tahoe**, and would respectfully ask your agency to take them into consideration
- We're grateful for your engagement and our organizers will **remain available** as a resource indefinitely as appropriate
- Thank you for your time and partnership across stakeholders over the **5 years**, and for providing permits that authorized the completion of this important work

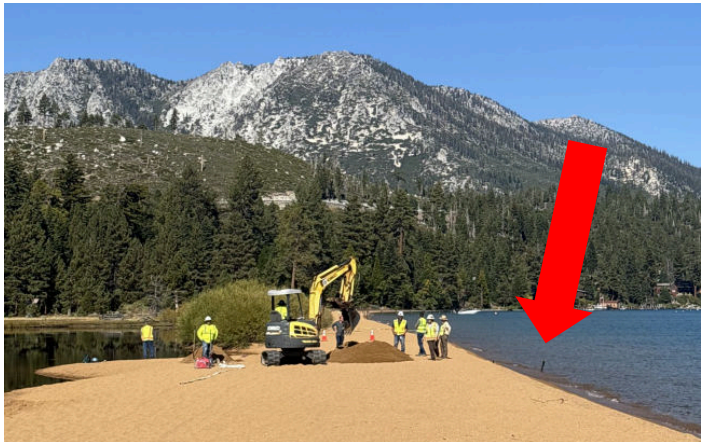
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2. September 2025 Removal

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Return to Baldwin Beach

- On **September 18**, AT&T and its partners arrived on Baldwin Beach to complete their removal of the lead cable from the water and the sands as previously permitted
- The **lead cable was still protruding from the water** as previously escalated
- Utilizing an excavator, AT&T's contractors dug into the sands to locate the lead cable - but were **unable** to
- After hours of digging, they allegedly located the lead cable but **chose to come back the following day**





Source: Photos as taken by Tahoe Lead Removal Project Organizers and partners.

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Removal Activities

- On **September 19**, AT&T and its partners returned to Baldwin Beach
- They were quickly able to relocate the lead cable from the previous day, and began **extraction and cutting** into segments





Source: Photos as taken by Tahoe Lead Removal Project Organizers and partners.

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Lead cable exposed on Baldwin Beach

- AT&T's contractors utilized an **excavator and a variety of tools** to perform the removal
- The lead cable was secured with **medal chainlink** to extract from the sands of public Baldwin Beach







Source: Photos as taken by Tahoe Lead Removal Project Organizers and partners.

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Lead cable extraction from sand

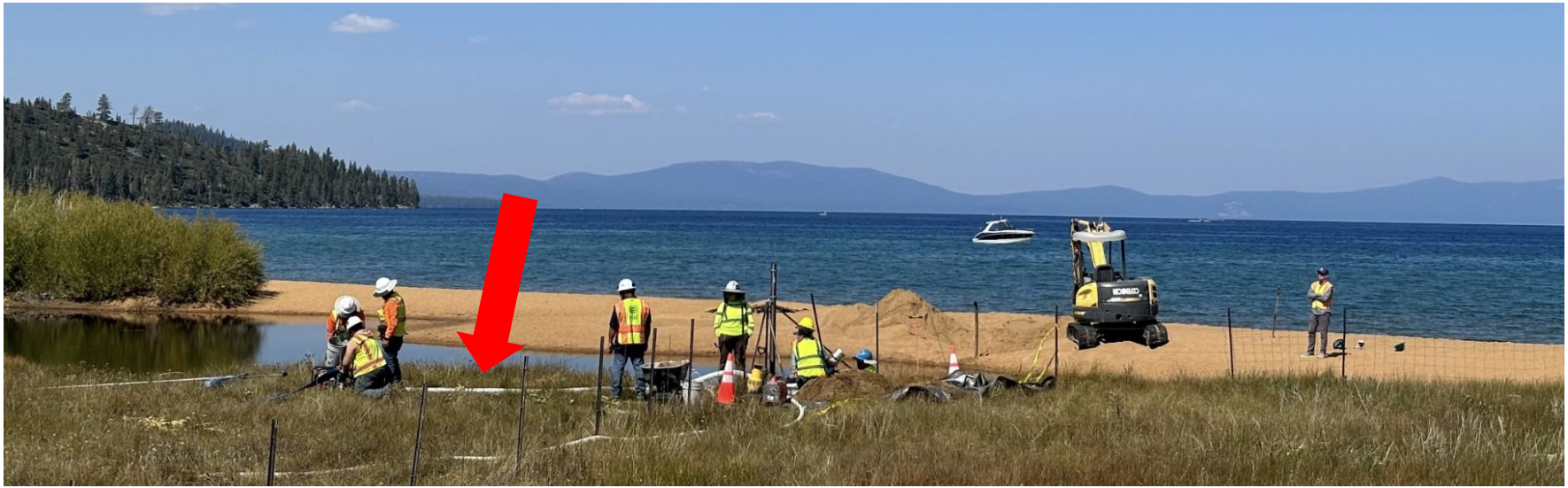


Source: Photos as taken by Tahoe Lead Removal Project Organizers and partners.

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Removal from Tahoe Yellow Cress enclosure

- After cutting the lead cable on the northern side of Tallac Creek, the crews continued activities within the **TYC enclosure** as permitted
- As previously verified earlier in September, there was **no TYC contained within the project area**



Source: Photos as taken by Tahoe Lead Removal Project Organizers and partners.

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Removal from TYC inclosure

- AT&T's partners failed to extract the lead cable during the afternoon of September 19, due to **improper equipment** and potentially methods





Source: Photo on left as taken by Tahoe Lead Removal Project Organizers and partners. Photo on right from Tahoe Daily Tribune "Remaining lead cable removed from Tahoe at Baldwin Beach" September 29, 2025, as provided by the League to Save Lake Tahoe.

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Working completed overnight?

- Our organizers were told at **~5pm PST** that the crews would be back the following day to continue removal
- However, we were surprised to find that **no one returned as apparently all activities were completed**
- This was **confirmed on September 20th by U.S. Forest Service**



Source: Tahoe Lead Removal Project Organizers and partners.

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Disturbed earth & extraneous particles at jobsite

- Evidence of a rushed final job were evident following review the following day







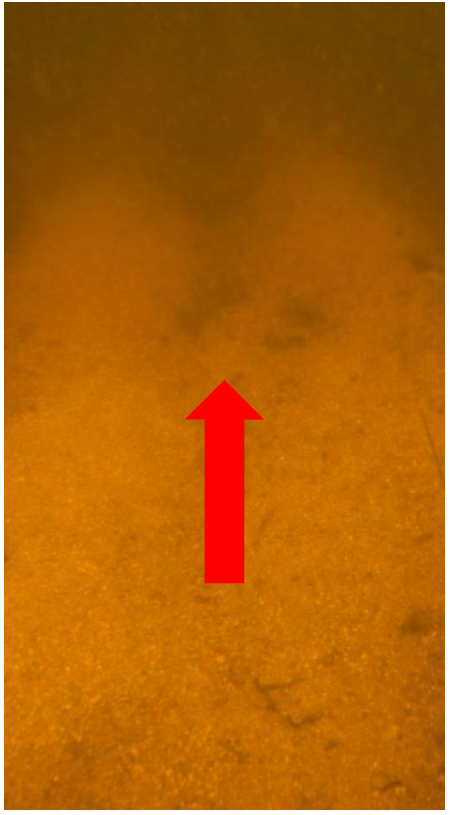
Source: Tahoe Lead Removal Project Organizers and partners on September 19, 2025.

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Path suggests pulling with the excavator

- Indentations in the sands of Baldwin Beach were evident
- This included an **underwater review** within Tallac Creek
- As shown in the picture to the right, it appears the lead cable was **pulled with the excavator after it was cut**
- The rationale behind these methods remains unknown as well as what **precautions** were taken by AT&T's partners





Source: Tahoe Lead Removal Project Organizers, and petition signers.

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Inconsistencies with our research

- In planning our own potential remove project, we **researched** a range of best practices
- **These precautions were not taken in the final removal on Baldwin Beach**
- **Uncovered hands** directly held the lead cables during activities
- The lead cable was **cut with a traditional saw**
- Lead cables were **placed directly on the sand** instead of being wrapped

TLRP Project Execution Considerations
As presented May 2024



Source: Tahoe Lead Removal Project presentation as previously submitted May 2024.

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Assessment of final steps

- We **remain grateful that AT&T upheld its commitment** to removal the lead cables from Lake Tahoe
- Objectively, they **did not act out of an abundance of caution**
- Instead, their activities were carried out under the **assumption** that the lead cables could not possible pose any risk to the environment or water
- This approach is somewhat understandable as it is **consistent with the exhibits provided** by their paid researchers in connection with their lawsuit with the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance
- However, regardless of the opinions of their paid researchers legacy infrastructure with potentially hazardous material **should be treated conservatively**

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3. Open Questions

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Attempted Outreach

- Given our organizers were denied access to the jobsite, **we were not able to properly observe all activities performed**
- We submitted a range of **follow up questions** to U.S. Forest Service as well as AT&T's self proclaimed partner - the League to Save Lake Tahoe
- **Neither entity answered our questions**, and instead directed us to ask AT&T's corporate communications team
- Given AT&T's previous legal actions against members of the Lake Tahoe community related to these cables **we declined to do so**
- We would submit the following questions, and **encourage follow up with either AT&T or their involved partners**

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Removal Questions

- Who performed the construction activities associated with removal?
- Following cuts, were all segments of lead cable capped before they came into contact with the sands of Baldwin Beach?
- For avoidance of doubt, was the lead cable entirely removed from the bottom of Tallac Creek?
- If so, how was the lead cable removed from Tallac Creek? Did this include any digging underwater or was it pulled by an excavator through the sand?
- How was the water within the TYC enclosure handled after being pumped away from where the lead cable was cut?
- Where was the water pumped from the TYC enclosure sent? Was it tested prior to movement?

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4. Finding #1: Nonprofit Lobbying

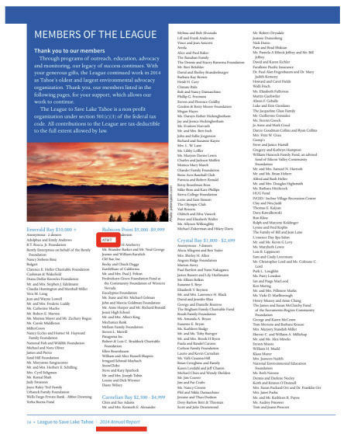
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Nonprofit engagement

- Our organizers **engaged a wide range of organizations** in sourcing potential partners in advocating for removal
- This included two **nonprofits** - League to Save Lake Tahoe and Tahoe Fund
- In conducting due diligence, we discovered that **both entities had already taken donations from AT&T from 2014 to 2020**
- They also **operated differently** during the project, showing the range of potential paths that these organizations take, including agency engagement
- Its reasonable for nonprofit to advocate, however it remains unknown whether or not they disclosed **potential conflict of interests**
- We'd ask for your to **consider any previous engagement** with these organizations throughout the duration of the removal permitting and execution

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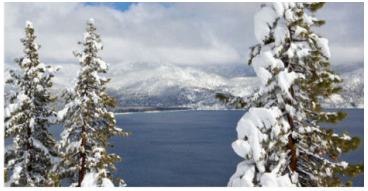
AT&T donations to League to Save Lake Tahoe

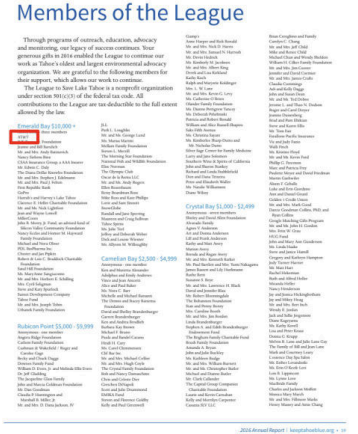

MEMBERS OF THE LEAGUE

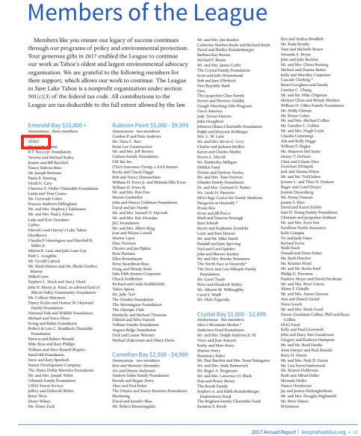
Thank you to our members

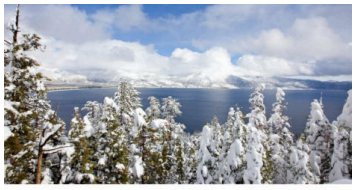
Through programs of outreach, education, advocacy and monitoring, our legacy of success continues. With your generous gifts, the League continued work in 2014 as Tahoe's oldest and largest environmental advocacy organization. Thank you, our members listed in the following pages, for your support, which allows our work to continue.

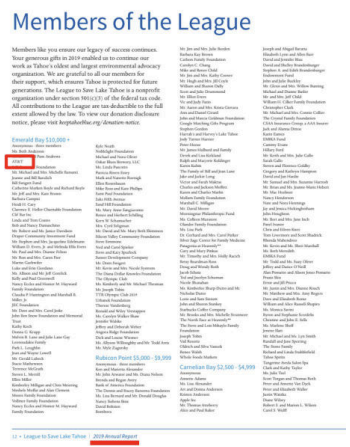
The League to Save Lake Tahoe is a non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the federal tax code. All contributions to the League are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

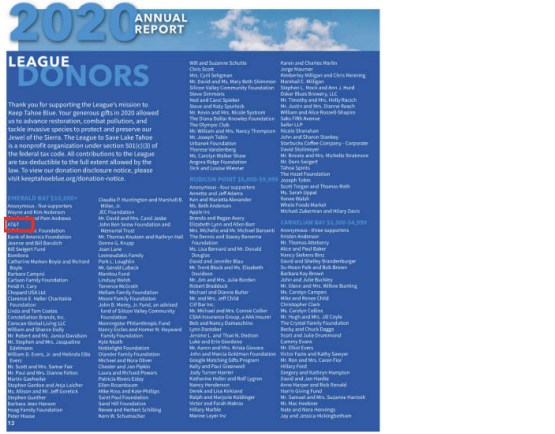












Source: League to Save Lake Tahoe annual reports https://www.keeptahoeblue.org/

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AT&T donations to Tahoe Fund

2014-15

STEWARDSHIP CIRCLE PROGRAM

TAHOE FUND INTRODUCED the Stewardship Circle campaign to help inspire, motivate, and empower stewardship of our important national treasure. Donors joined the Stewardship Circle with a multi-year commitment of at least $2,500 a year for three years.

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Norma Santiago
Chuck & Sue Scharer
Tahoe Beach Club
Tahoe City Lodge
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Terry Watt and Mark Karwowski

2016-17

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2017-18

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2022-2023

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Joe Reynolds
Ritz-Carlton, Lake Tahoe
Rachel Schindler and Dan Woodman
Ken Schultz and Kelly Miller
Serendipity Fund; Parasol Tahoe Community Foundation*
Woody and Denise Shackleton
Matt and Kathy Shiemon
Steve and Betsy Young*

SILVER-$5,000 X3
Anonymous
Anonymous
Robin Albee-Keaich and Fred Keaich *
[illegible] Anderman
AT&T*
[illegible] and Jane Teo
Walter and Estel Binder*
Nancy Binz
Paul Boschetto in Honor of Cindy Pexter*
Steven and Renee Bouck*
Patrick and Cathleen Brady
Greta and Nicholas Brown*
Camp Richardson Resort; Bob and Tammy Hassett*
Shawn Cardinal and Thomas Jirgal*
Denise Cashman*
Tim Cashman*
Victor and Debbie Castello*
Robert Chester and Jennifer Trask*

Photo: Kelsey Hamill | 30

2023-2024

SILVER-$5,000 X3
Jody and John Agaman
Anonymous
Marty and Al Babbington
Robin Albee-Keaich and Fred Keaich *
[illegible] Anderman
AT&T*
[illegible] and Kathleen Beaer
Charles Baxter and Jinee Teo
Walter and Estel Binder*
Nancy Binz
Paul Boschetto in Honor of Cindy Pexter*
Steven and Renee Bouck*
Patrick and Cathleen Brady
Greta and Nicholas Brown*
Camp Richardson Resort; Bob and Tammy Hassett*
Shawn Cardinal and Thomas Jirgal*
Denise Cashman*
Tim Cashman*
Victor and Debbie Castello*
Robert Chester and Jennifer Trask*
Ann and Kim Cook
Tampa Counter and Phil GlenFarr
Richard and Theresa Crocker; Santa Cruz County Community Foundation
Nancy and Chris Cromery
Tim and Stacey Crowley*
Todd Davidson*
Douglas and Wendy DaVore
Bill and Kelly Dietz*
Sherry Dunke
Robert and Jane Ellerbeck
Ellen and Robert Gifford
Steven and Lisa Gonzales
Jason Green Fund; Parasol Tahoe Community Foundation
Paul Grinberg and Stephanie Kattenar*
Hard Rock Hotel, Lake Tahoe
Michael and Mary Ann Hasenstab
Sara and Larry Hillman
Beth and Kevin Hirsh; Virginia B. Hirsh Foundation
Vickie Holtmeier and Glo Gordon
Carol and David Jenke
John and Glennis Jones*
Raj Karwa and John Benedikson
Kevin and Rebecca Kasseker in honor of Garrett Hartman*
Jeffrey and Mindy Katz
Jim and Nancy Kennedy*
Scott and Kathy Kiever
Steve and Dee Klein
Ralph and Margie Koldinger*
Cheryl and Grady Kromer
William and Terri Kuchuris
Sharon Lane*
David and Lisa Lauket
Paul and Sierra Leblanc
Ed and Jennifer Lee
Kirk and Debbie Ledbetter*
John Lee; The San Francisco Foundation*
Chris Lindner
Tom and Kerri Line*
Donna and Mike Loves
Brian and Leslie Martinez
Melinda Mayfield; The Mayfield Foundation*
Sam and Mary-Ellen McMullen
Steven L. Merrill Family Foundation*
Steve and Maureen Mueller in Memory of Thomas Mullarkey Jr.*
Teresa and Richard Neillo
Michele and DJ Novotney in memory of Al Barogno*
NV Energy*
Stephen Page
Linda and Alvaro Pascotto*
Rafael and Marina Pastor
Wylie and Anne-Marie Peterson
Plumpjack Group
Jennifer and Richard Porter*
Ron Randolph-Wall and Linda Brinkley; Parasol Tahoe Community Foundation*
Tim and Holly Reicich*
Craig and Julie Rauchle
Jeannie and Kevin Reeth
The Richardson Family Charitable Fund
Cory and Ryan Ritchie; Parasol Tahoe Community Foundation*
Rodrigo Sales*
Maryanne Sangiacomo
Martina and Matt Scanlan
Tom Seeliger
Eric Shore and Fred Peal*
Holden and Claire Spaht*
Cathy and Larry Spector
Wes and Sara Sperry
Lynn Suter
Tahoe City Marina
Sheree and Tony Taylor
Joyce and Jim Teel

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Stark contrast in how these nonprofits operated

KEEP TAHOE BLUE
League to Save Lake Tahoe

- Met with our organizers in person
- Proactively disclosed AT&T financial relationship
- AT&T in highest donor bracket
- Engaged agencies during AT&T's permitting process
- Communicated willingness to fund community removal
- Self appointed role as "watchdog" for removal project

TAHOE FUND

- Met with our organizers in person
- Proactively disclosed AT&T financial relationship
- AT&T in highest donor bracket
- Engaged agencies during AT&T's permitting process
- Communicated willingness to fund community removal
- Self appointed role as "watchdog" for removal project

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The failure of a “watchdog”

- Following November 2024 removal activities, the League issued a press releases and engaged media to **incorrectly** state that removal was completed
- These actions **misled the public**, and were either intentional or incompetent

League to Save Lake Tahoe
November 21, 2024 Press Release

KEEP TAHOE BLUE
League to Save Lake Tahoe

WHO WE ARE OUR WORK HOW YOU CAN HELP

MEDIA RELEASES

Lead-sheathed telecommunication cables successfully removed from Lake Tahoe

League to Save Lake Tahoe November 21, 2024

TLRP Organizer Footage

June 27, 2025



August 8, 2025

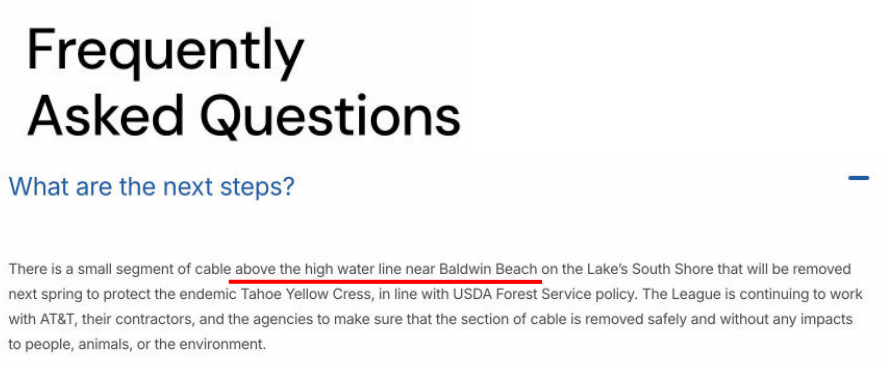


Source: https://www.keeptahoeblue.org/news/cables-successfully-removed-from-lake-tahoe/. Pictures on the right from TLRP Organizers summer of 2025.

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Presence of inconsistent public narrative

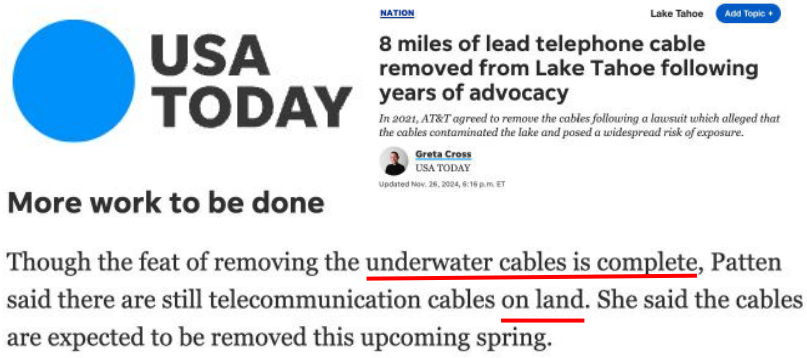
- Despite proclaiming the cables were successfully removed, the League also **alluded to the continued presence of lead** on Baldwin Beach in their FAQs as well as quotes to national media outlets
- Unfortunately this also stated that the lead cable was about the high water line, and while that level can change **what we've documented proved this false**



Frequently Asked Questions

What are the next steps?

There is a small segment of cable above the high water line near Baldwin Beach on the Lake's South Shore that will be removed next spring to protect the endemic Tahoe Yellow Cress, in line with USDA Forest Service policy. The League is continuing to work with AT&T, their contractors, and the agencies to make sure that the section of cable is removed safely and without any impacts to people, animals, or the environment.



USA TODAY

NATION Lake Tahoe Add Topic +

8 miles of lead telephone cable removed from Lake Tahoe following years of advocacy

In 2021, AT&T agreed to remove the cables following a lawsuit which alleged that the cables contaminated the lake and posed a widespread risk of exposure.

Greta Cross
USA TODAY

Updated Nov. 26, 2024, 6:16 p.m. ET

More work to be done

Though the feat of removing the underwater cables is complete, Patten said there are still telecommunication cables on land. She said the cables are expected to be removed this upcoming spring.

Source: Left from https://www.keeptahoeblue.org/news/cables-successfully-removed-from-lake-tahoe/. Pictures on the right from USA Today November 26, 2024 article https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2024/11/26/lake-tahoe-lead-cable-att/76591567007/

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Repeated engagement

- As an individual and former donor, our lead organizer **repeatedly engaged** League CEO Darcie Goodman Collins with questions regarding these dynamics and ties to AT&T
- Across 7 follow ups, she **refused** to provide context, only responding once
- This included outreach following the **discovery of the remaining lead cables** in the waters of Baldwin Beach
- We'd encourage all agencies to **ask these same questions** of the League

Questions for the League to Save Lake Tahoe

Partnership with AT&T

- Did the League accept donations from AT&T prior to the discovery of the lead cables in 2014?
- How many donations, and for what total amount, has the League taken from AT&T since the cables were discovered in 2014?
- Has the League accepted donations from AT&T executives since 2014? If so, which corporate positions did they occupy and for what amount?
- As part of the "partnership", negotiations, consulting or other workstreams related to the project, has the League taken additional funds from AT&T?
- Does the League agree with AT&T and their experts that the cables did not pose a threat to the environment while in the lake?

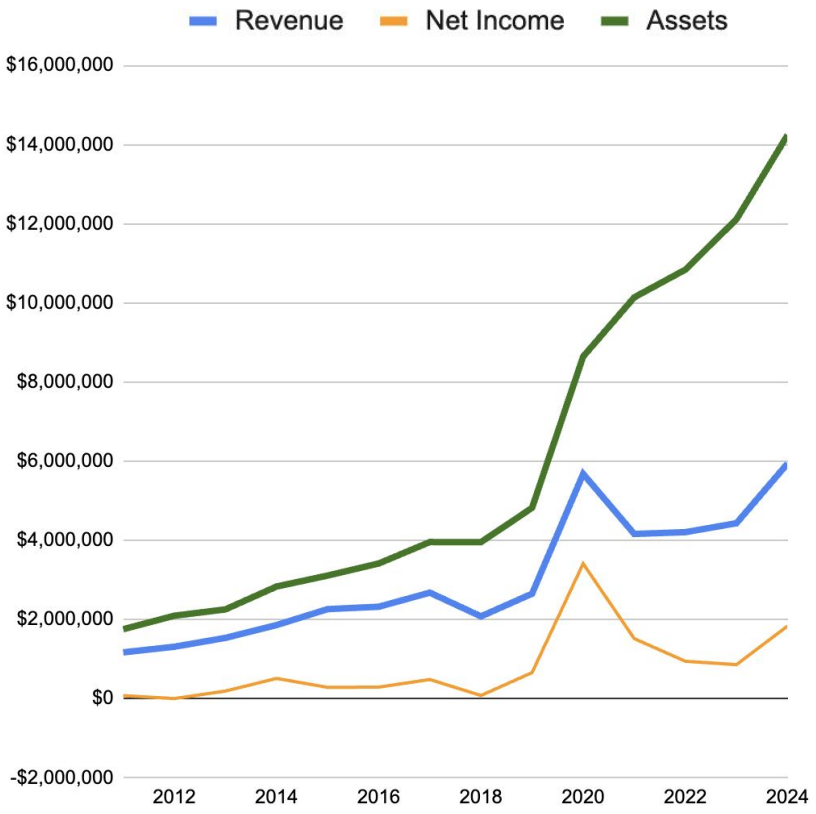
Watchdog

- Why did the League refer to the project as "complete" in its press release November 2024 but also suggest further land removal elsewhere?
- Which oversight activities did the League perform during removal?
- Of the two weeks of removal execution in November 2024, how many days were League personnel on site observing activities?
- Do you stand by the work completed by J.F. Brennan and AT&T? Did they uphold the permits and all their conditions? Were there any violations or potential violations?
- Were any removal activities conducted at night?
- Has the League conducted any water sampling after project completion?
- Does the League have a disclosure policy for conflict of interests more generally in situations where you're also acting as a "watchdog"?

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This period of time has coincided with prosperity

- Since the rediscovery of the lead cables, the financial situation of the League has **drastically shifted**
- Revenue has increased **5x**, while reported assets increased **8x** and net income went notably positive
- An inflection point in 2021 **coincides with the filing of the lawsuit**



Keep Tahoe Blue unveils new home

News | Jul 15, 2025

The League purchased the building in 2020, raising $6.9 million for the project. Construction started in 2022.



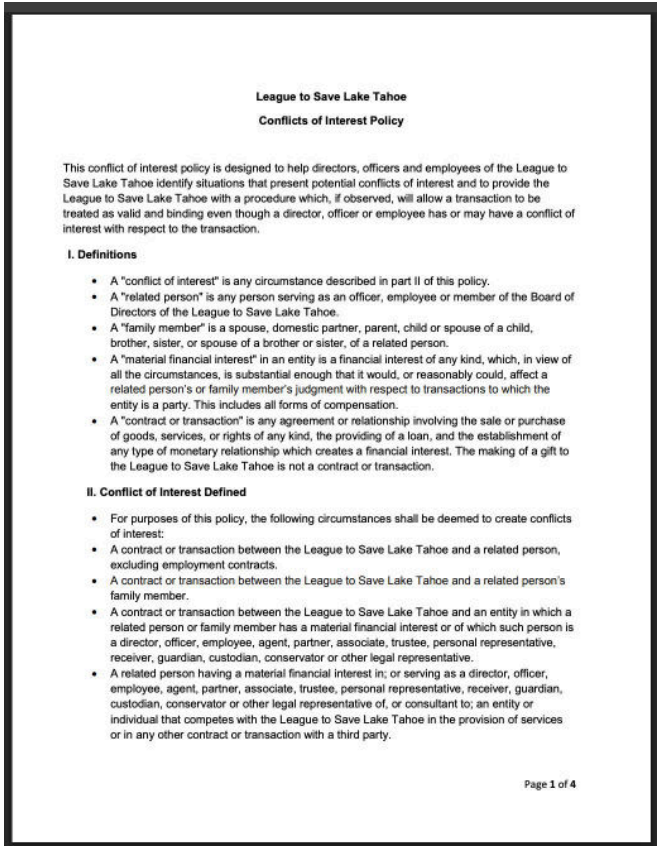
Katelyn Welsh
kwelsh@tahoedailytribune.com

Source: Article from Tahoe Daily Tribune (https://www.tahoedailytribune.com/news/keep-tahoe-blue-unveils-new-home/) Graph based on data from https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/946128680

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Inadequate organizational conflicts policy

- The League has a Conflict of Interest Policy disclosed on its website
- This document only covers “related persons” which surprisingly **does not include donors**
- By the League’s own policy, a donor cannot present a conflict of interest
- For an organization that publicly states its intent to advocate, this is an **obvious gap** that should be addressed
- We’re hopeful that this the League **was not influenced** by its financial ties to AT&T in any way shape or form



League to Save Lake Tahoe

Conflicts of Interest Policy

This conflict of interest policy is designed to help directors, officers and employees of the League to Save Lake Tahoe identify situations that present potential conflicts of interest and to provide the League to Save Lake Tahoe with a procedure which, if observed, will allow a transaction to be treated as valid and binding even though a director, officer or employee has or may have a conflict of interest with respect to the transaction.

I. Definitions

- A "conflict of interest" is any circumstance described in part II of this policy.
- A "related person" is any person serving as an officer, employee or member of the Board of Directors of the League to Save Lake Tahoe.
- A "family member" is a spouse, domestic partner, parent, child or spouse of a child, brother, sister, or spouse of a brother or sister, of a related person.
- A "material financial interest" in an entity is a financial interest of any kind, which, in view of all the circumstances, is substantial enough that it would, or reasonably could, affect a related person's or family member's judgment with respect to transactions to which the entity is a party. This includes all forms of compensation.
- A "contract or transaction" is any agreement or relationship involving the sale or purchase of goods, services, or rights of any kind, the providing of a loan, and the establishment of any type of monetary relationship which creates a financial interest. The making of a gift to the League to Save Lake Tahoe is not a contract or transaction.

II. Conflict of Interest Defined

- For purposes of this policy, the following circumstances shall be deemed to create conflicts of interest:
- A contract or transaction between the League to Save Lake Tahoe and a related person, excluding employment contracts.
- A contract or transaction between the League to Save Lake Tahoe and a related person's family member.
- A contract or transaction between the League to Save Lake Tahoe and an entity in which a related person or family member has a material financial interest or of which such person is a director, officer, employee, agent, partner, associate, trustee, personal representative, receiver, guardian, custodian, conservator or other legal representative.
- A related person having a material financial interest in; or serving as a director, officer, employee, agent, partner, associate, trustee, personal representative, receiver, guardian, custodian, conservator or other legal representative of, or consultant to; an entity or individual that competes with the League to Save Lake Tahoe in the provision of services or in any other contract or transaction with a third party.

Page 1 of 4

Source: https://www.keeptahoeblue.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/the-League-to-Save-Lake-Tahoe-conflict-of-interest-policy.pdf

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Recommendations

- Currently, we are unaware of any requirements for 3rd parties to disclose financial relationships in government agencies contact or advocacy
- Its reasonable for a nonprofit to take funds from any donor it views appropriate
- However, to take funds from a corporation with specific interests embroiled in a lawsuit, and engage government agencies without disclosing this connection has the **potential for unintended consequences or improper conduct**

Please consider asking follow up questions of the League to Save Lake Tahoe

Please consider instituting a 3rd Party Conflict of Interest Disclosure Policy

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Potential 3rd Part Conflicts Policy

Any private organization engaging with agencies on projects, legal matters, policy initiatives, permit applications, or enforcement actions must disclose all potential conflicts of interest, including:

- ***Financial donations from involved parties or their competitors***
- ***Past or current employment relationships or board positions***
- ***Contracts or agreements with any party that could benefit***

Organizations must make these disclosures when speaking to media or making public comment regarding any government matter in scope.

Failure to disclose shall result in suspension from engaging Lake Tahoe Basin agencies for 5 years.

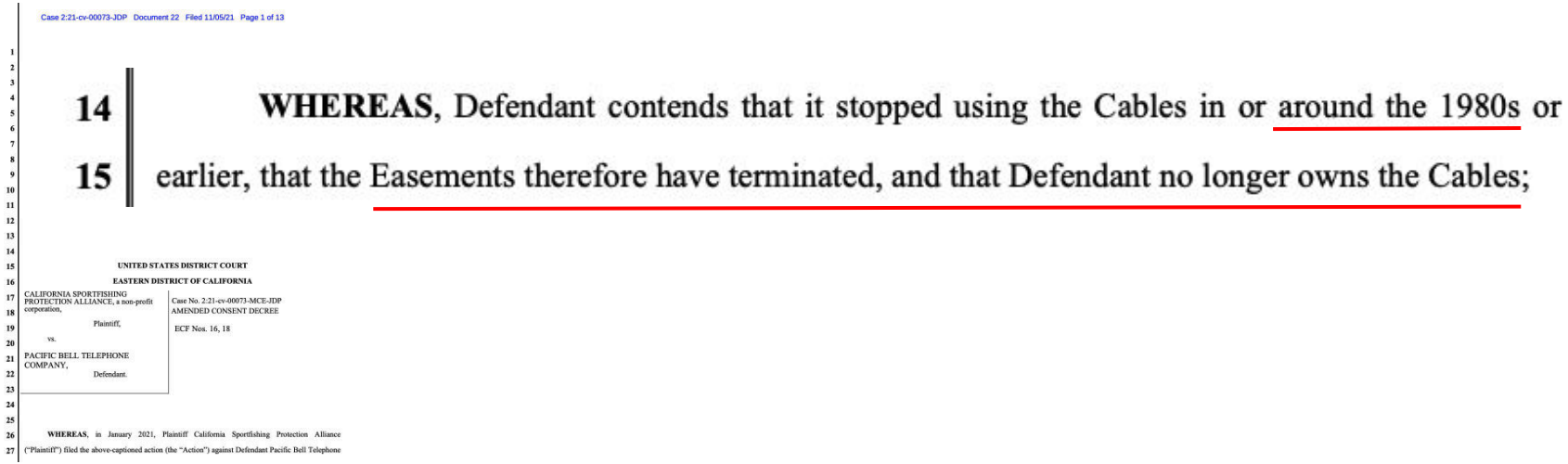
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5. Finding #2: Legacy Leases

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AT&T shifted its opinion on ownership

- In the original consent decree AT&T clearly stated that they **“no longer own the Cables”**
- This statement was **foundational** to our community efforts, providing an impetus to act
- However, by the second consent decree this was **apparently no longer their opinion**, as ownership was not addressed at all
- It remains to be seen what led to this new perspective, especially related to **easements**



Case 2:21-cv-00073-JDP Document 22 Filed 11/05/21 Page 1 of 13

WHEREAS, Defendant contends that it stopped using the Cables in or around the 1980s or earlier, that the Easements therefore have terminated, and that Defendant no longer owns the Cables;

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

CALIFORNIA SPORTFISHING PROTECTION ALLIANCE, a non-profit corporation,

Plaintiff,

vs.

PACIFIC BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY,

Defendant.

Case No. 2:21-cv-00073-MCE-JDP
AMENDED CONSENT DECREE

ECF Nos. 16, 18

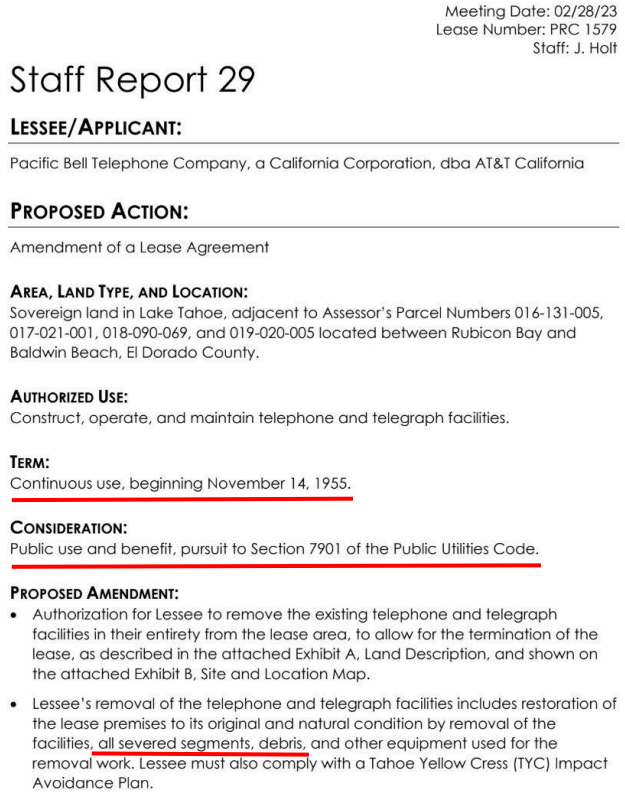
WHEREAS, in January 2021, Plaintiff California Sportfishing Protection Alliance ("Plaintiff") filed the above-captioned action (the "Action") against Defendant Pacific Bell Telephone

Source: Courtlistener CA Sportfishing Protection Alliance v. Pacific Bell Telephone Co. Complaint Document #22.

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California State Lands Commission context

- During the permitting process from 2021-23, California State Lands Commission (CSLC) provided new perspective on the easements
- They clearly stated the term was **“continuous use beginning November 14, 1955”,** meaning that the easements were not terminated as AT&T claimed to the courts
- CSLC also stated that the consideration was **“public use and benefit”**
- The proposed amendment also clearly states removal of “all severed **segments and debris**” which was not done as shown on page 14



Meeting Date: 02/28/23
Lease Number: PRC 1579
Staff: J. Holt

Staff Report 29

LESSEE/APPLICANT:

Pacific Bell Telephone Company, a California Corporation, dba AT&T California

PROPOSED ACTION:

Amendment of a Lease Agreement

AREA, LAND TYPE, AND LOCATION:
Sovereign land in Lake Tahoe, adjacent to Assessor's Parcel Numbers 016-131-005, 017-021-001, 018-090-069, and 019-020-005 located between Rubicon Bay and Baldwin Beach, El Dorado County.

AUTHORIZED USE:
Construct, operate, and maintain telephone and telegraph facilities.

TERM:
Continuous use, beginning November 14, 1955.

CONSIDERATION:
Public use and benefit, pursuit to Section 7901 of the Public Utilities Code.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

- Authorization for Lessee to remove the existing telephone and telegraph facilities in their entirety from the lease area, to allow for the termination of the lease, as described in the attached Exhibit A, Land Description, and shown on the attached Exhibit B, Site and Location Map.
- Lessee's removal of the telephone and telegraph facilities includes restoration of the lease premises to its original and natural condition by removal of the facilities, all severed segments, debris, and other equipment used for the removal work. Lessee must also comply with a Tahoe Yellow Cress (TYC) Impact Avoidance Plan.

Source: California State Lands Commision, Staff Report 29, February 28, 2023.

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Accountability for public use and benefit?

- As shown on page 34, AT&T stated that they stopped using the cables **“around the 1980s”**
- This implies that **for around 30 years the public was not using or receiving benefit from these cables despite the lease conditions**
- CSLC also stated that removal was in the State’s **“best interests”**
- This provides additional context to the **lack of urgency and accountability** through multiple years of delays

Staff Report 29 (Continued)

On November 4, 2021, the United States District Court, Eastern District of California executed an Amended Consent Decree (case number 2:21-cv-00073-MCE-JDP) which memorializes an agreement between the Lessee/Applicant and the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, a non-profit corporation, regarding the subject telephone and telegraph facilities on the bed of Lake Tahoe. The Federal Consent Decree facilitated the proposed removal project under the Commission's review, to mitigate concerns about potential leaching of lead toxins from the subject cable into the Lake. The removal of deteriorating telephone and telegraph facilities is a Public Trust benefit, consistent with the findings in the Federal Consent Decree, and is in the State's best interest. On June 23, 2022, the Lessee submitted an application proposing an amendment of lease for removal of the existing steel communications cable within the lease area, followed by restoration of such land to its original and natural condition. The cable resides on the lake bottom (is not buried), runs parallel to the shoreline in approximately 15 feet of water depth, and is partially buried at landfall locations landward of the ordinary low water mark. The lessee proposes to cut the cable at the approximate ordinary high-water mark and abandon the remaining onshore section of cable at landfall locations. Based on the submitted application and Commission records, the telephone and telegraph facilities have existed at this location since approximately 1958. The facilities were installed prior to creation of the TRPA. The Lessee is applying for permits with all applicable regulatory agencies.

Source: California State Lands Commision, Staff Report 29, February 28, 2023.

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Recommendations

- Infrastructure improvements within the Lake Tahoe Basin have proven to **provide tangible public benefit**, including these lead cables
- However, once that it became apparent that the improvements no longer provided a public benefit - and never would - **they should have been removed**
- Once this dynamic was discovered, **it should not have been AT&T's choice** on whether or not to perform removal and when

Please consider performing a cross agency review of existing corporate infrastructure leases in the waters of Lake Tahoe

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6. Final Thoughts

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Thank you

- We formally close the Tahoe Lead Removal Project with **immense gratitude** to all 7 government agencies for authorizing removal activities
- We appreciate your **engagement** not only with our organizers, but AT&T over many years and countless hours
- Despite our open questions, we remain **grateful to AT&T for taking action**
- Our view remains **that orientation should be towards future generations**, and are hopeful that the lessons learns and findings escalated are additive
- Lake Tahoe is an extraordinary, **singular place on planet earth** that will remain subject to a range of forces and influences private and public
- **Thank you** for investing yourselves so deeply in safeguarding its natural beauty, and everything you do to help make it such a special place for all

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