

The 5G Rollout at Lake Tahoe, *With Plastics*



by Alan Miller

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Miles: I offered to publish this on my site in hopes of finding Alan some allies in this fight, which have so far been far too few. I have never done much local work, being more focused on national or international matters, and I have only been in this area a short while, but this seems like a worthy cause. The letter to the editor included below was refused for publication, so I thought I would put it up here, where it will get far more readers.

Lake Tahoe—Jewel of the Sierras and *Outstanding National Resource Water* designate under the Clean Water Act—is one of the largest, purest water bodies in the world. Deep, blue. Magnificent! Like literally everywhere else, it is now contaminated by microplastic (MP) waste and growing electromagnetic smog. Straddling California and Nevada, the Jewel has long been eyed by developers. In the heady days of the young environmental movement, California’s fake-environmentalist Governor Ronald Reagan and Nevada’s Governor Paul Laxalt proposed, and in 1969 Congress ratified, the formation of the bi-State Tahoe Regional Planning Agency ([TRPA](#)) to provide for the “wise use” and “conservation” of the public resources direly needed. Sounds great, right? Well, no.



[Note the celltower camouflaged as a tree.] I think we are seeing the fruits of the tree (above) those Governors planted as a seed and set aside for their billionaire developer-buddies at Lake Tahoe. They helped usher in the unfettered rise of the wireless telecoms to serve the real estate and tourist industries, by stacking of the boards and commissions. This, while declines in water quality continue despite the billion of public funds spent for restoring its famed clarity (visibility in the water once being over 100 feet, now 60 feet). Reagan went on to sign the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act in California (1969), which became the model for the federal Clean Water Act (1972), Clean Air Act, Toxic Substances Control Act and many other environmental laws that followed. The Clean Water Act permit system enacted was to eliminate pollutants, but *enables* pollution by providing a shield from liability. All this connected to the unchecked global wireless expansion by the world's militaries and telecoms, a key lynchpin in the global population-information control strategy we are now seeing. All part of the strategy to gain hold of the pollution-control narrative with unelected Boards and Commissions, appointed by those at the top, the politicians. The very ones bought and controlled by the big-money industrialists and served by Capitalism's Invisible Army.

A small but determined group of individuals is working to [roll back the rollout](#) of wireless technologies at Lake Tahoe, and I am one of them. Initially we were opposed to industrial macrotowers (to 112 feet and extendible) in our views and residential neighborhoods,

unwanted exposure to microwaves, detriments to property values and especially increased forest fire dangers. As you may remember, last year's huge Caldor Fire very nearly wiped us out. Later we came to find out the wireless industry's solution to meet regional visual "scenic standards" is to put toxic plastic on them to disguise them as vegetation. These faux-monopines shed toxic PVC plastic wastes. We have made the case to the California Regional Water Quality Control Board that the toxic plastic and MP waste emissions must stop to protect public health and water quality, and action has been taken against the California telecoms at Lake Tahoe to begin regulating the industrial waste emissions.

In part this action may be due to California Governor Newsom's 2021 appointment of Attorney General Rob Bonta, the State's top law enforcer, who has taken a bold step to expose the collusion behind what he terms "the global plastics crisis." No exaggeration. The world-ocean is choked with plastics. The global air-ocean contains plastic dust we all breathe. Plastic is in the water and food. Recycling is nil; that was the industry's ruse, putting recycling symbols on products. We all got faked out. Think about it: every piece of plastic you ever touched is likely still in existence, though it may now be microscopic man-made particles, MPs (toxic themselves) with added toxins like deadly lead, dioxins, cadmium, tin, zinc, and lots more unmentionables. They break up, but don't break down chemically. The plastics industry has BIG plans for expansion, and must delude the public to do so (again). Their plan is to move from fossil fuel to more plastics. In April 2022 AG Bonta began [investigating](#) the big fossil fuel and petrochemical industries, to his credit. The telecoms are also supported by the electronics industry: plastic computers and cell phones, with their planned-obsolescence designs and often-unmanaged toxic e-waste. No accident, a grand plan under the appointees in the regulatory agencies, "the slow walk" to a toxic planet, as Miles says. I really think the end game with MPs (and microwaves) may be to destroy all life. Fortunately many governments are taking action, starting against "single-use" plastics, packaging, bottles, etc. [Miles: so California isn't doing everything wrong. Or maybe Bonta is controlling the opposition.](#)

Our attack on tower plastics may provide a new avenue for citizen activists against wireless macrotowers and plastic pollution everywhere to put a kink in the plans of the wireless monopine industry, as we begin to move our efforts beyond Lake Tahoe. In some cases, if they can't disguise the towers, the telecoms can't erect them. In an era when many U.S. communities and local governments are unsuccessfully trying to stop the burgeoning wireless/5G industry onslaught, at Lake Tahoe we have an opportunity for success. Tahoe's TRPA is unique in not being pre-empted by FCC rules. Despite that, TRPA and others are colluding with the telecoms, or are cowed by them, [and so have been sued in our landmark case in U.S. District Court in Sacramento.](#) We expect to survive Motions to Dismiss and then enter the Discovery phase. It may be a long road, and anyone who would like to learn more about our [Tahoe case](#) or contribute tax-exempt to our capable, dedicated legal team please see additional information and this [funding link](#), with grateful thanks. Most recently, TRPA

actions to final-approve a tower in the City of South Lake Tahoe have been Appealed. The Appeal is pending and I wrote the following article for our newspaper summarizing the matter, and inviting ALL across the globe with an interest in Lake Tahoe to participate.

Guest Column, Tahoe Daily Tribune (pending Publication 9/23/22?)

TRPA IS A PROVEN TOXIC WASTE ENABLER AND BASIN DESECRATER

By Alan Miller (South Lake Tahoe CA, September 19, 2022)

Why would I write that? Because the evidence is in and the public has a right to know: TRPA has knowingly, willingly and repeatedly violated federal and state laws and policies, as well as its own Bi-State Compact, by repeatedly approving of wireless towers that shed prohibited, uncontrolled toxic polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic and microplastic (MP) wastes to the environment. The evidence includes deadly lead in the MPs, and no exposure to lead is considered safe. We now have a dozen or more approved large “monopine macrotowers,” each adorned with up to 10,000 pounds of PVC plastic to resemble fake pine trees, with more coming. There is now a public record with substantial evidence that PVC plastics from monopine towers readily degrade in the microwaves, and Tahoe’s UV sunlight and icy weather extremes. The plastic-leaf litter is rapidly dispersed into the sacred Tahoe environment on the extreme winds and in storm runoff, where the plastics break up but remain toxic, and enter the soil, water and food web as MPs. MPS from a variety of sources have been found in Lake Tahoe, with more water testing planned for specific evidence of PVC. Nonetheless, these monopine tower wastes are a toxic danger to our waters and communities and are a poisonous public nuisance.

These monopines are brought here by the lakewide wireless telecom industry and TRPA appears to be in cahoots to blanket the unique Lake Tahoe basin with invisible electromagnetic radiation from the towers. The common-man “proof” that the wireless industry’s microwave radiation is detrimental is the ongoing, complete refusal by any U.S. government agency to revise unsafe 1990s-era health and environmental safety regulations. This, despite hugely more wireless use and scientific evidence contrary to safety. They know that reviewing that would likely kill the wireless-5G industry that sickens and kills many of us. Now to add to that there are the ongoing, expanding monopine wastes to abate, and since those waste are plastics, that clean up would be almost impossible.

Wireless has changed the Basin for the worse in ways both seen and unseen. The public has had no say. The wireless towers and antennas now number well over 1000, mostly on the South Shore, with no limit in sight. (Tower estimate from antennasearch.com; TRPA should disclose exact numbers.) These towers and antennas represent an increasing THREAT OF FIRE due to welding mishaps, a tower fire, collapse or other incidents, all potential impacts

ignored by TRPA. It only takes one tower fire to destroy everything. Burned plastics give off/contain deadly poisons, endangering our heroes with deadly dioxins and hydrogen chloride. TRPA's most ludicrous claim is the towers are needed for public health and safety, when many safe, better, viable alternatives for wired and wireless connectivity exist, alternatives TRPA stubbornly refuses to evaluate. With the increased fire threats our homes and all the things we hold dear are at stake, all the millions for "restoration" that hasn't shown up yet. The dangers TRPA presents to our communities with its continued recklessness are matched only by its arrogance and disrespect for the citizens and the laws it is charged to uphold.

Tahoe Stewards has generated petitions with over 5000 signatures against the ill-conceived Verizon monopine proposed at 1360 Ski Run Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, all ignored. If you thought the TRPA Approval was a "done deal," it is not. All concerned by TRPA's outrageous actions are encouraged to participate in a September 28, 2022 TRPA public hearing on an Appeal of Project plan revisions. The Appeal is based on TRPA ignoring its own laws and regulations for its telecom buddy, Verizon, including for ignoring permit application requirements, coverage and excavation requirements, public environmental review procedures, vegetation protection and many other things which so many others have struggled with at TRPA's hands. Verizon seeks and will get a pass from TRPA's Board unless the staff approval is revoked in response to public concerns. Even if wireless is not your issue, TRPA's ongoing lawless, favorable treatment for the telecoms is ultimately to the significant detriment of all who value our unique environment. You can make a difference. See Appeal info at TRPA's website under Documents links on or after September 21, 2022, www.trpa.gov; all may comment in writing on the Appeal, and listen or speak in person or online.

The TRPA does not serve this basin or its mission in wireless matters, only its telecom clients. Ignoring science, public input, and following the incompetent advice of its former Director, its staff and attorney, the TRPA Governing Board has approved, and continues to approve, one after another of these monopine fire threats, which become unregulated toxic dump sites. TRPA has acted in a covert, conflicted alliance with the telecoms, the so-called Tahoe Prosperity Center, the City of South Lake Tahoe, and various Counties, other public agencies and private developers around the Tahoe basin to install the monopines and other wireless facilities. TRPA's lawless acts, under color of law, constitute treason, are a danger to all the values important to us as citizens, and must stop. TRPA has not heard "NO" from those aware of this, and we will keep saying it until they do: NO MORE MONOPINES. No more illegal, piece-meal approvals without a basinwide Environmental Impact Report, as required. The latest TRPA monopine approval, Verizon's tower near Sand Harbor last August, is more of the same, keeping public documents off their website, no application, no environmental analysis available, only a fraudulent Final Permit. Who knows what towers

are coming soon to your neighborhood? TRPA won't tell us as they sneak around ignoring their own regulations and public concerns.

Maybe you didn't know TRPA has two sides: one epitomized by the public-relations Grandstand on the Sand that is the annual Lake Tahoe Summit, and the other, as follows: TRPA has for decades been allowing these plastic monopines to meet important TRPA "scenic" requirements for large industrial towers. While making secret plans, they are actively working to prevent public knowledge or participation in the telecom industry's multiple-at-a-time wireless small-cell rollout basinwide, with no visible planning. TRPA has actively quashed any opposition under misinformation, bureaucratic weight, conflicts of interest and bizarre legal tactics, while hiding behind the dangerously and notoriously corrupt Federal Communications Commission, which does not preempt it. Senator Feinstein's staff was contacted and has taken no action. After these unplanned toxic monopines are approved, TRPA never looks back. TRPA has never enforced a permit condition or any other regulation against a telecom after a final permit is approved and construction is complete, including scenic mitigation requirements. The Permits expire but the towers remain as they move on to other toxic tower approvals. Stripped of their plastics, the monopines become toxic waste sites and industrial eyesores like the Angel's Roost tower on our public USFS lands at Heavenly Valley Ski Area. I am standing up for the people and nature I love. Please make your views known and help stop these illegal TRPA activities.

Alan Miller is a registered California civil/environmental engineer and a retired long-time employee of the CA Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region, at Lake Tahoe. His opinions are his own, protected as free speech under the U.S Constitution. He may be reached concerning these matters at syngineer1@protonmail.com.