TRPA Code of Ordinance Chapter 36 - Design Standards Amendment

Stealthing Requirements for Wireless Telecommunications Facilities

Governing Board

June 24, 2026

Agenda Item XXXX

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MICROPLASTICS MEMORANDUM

OCTOBER 2024

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STAFF REPORT

Date: April 16, 2025

To: Local Government Committee

From: TRPA Staff

Subject: Plastic Pollution Reduction Actions

Summary:
Staff will provide an overview of current plastic pollution reduction actions underway and lead a discussion on potential actions to further reduce plastic pollution in the Tahoe Basin.

Required Motions:
This item is agendized "for possible action" to leave open the possibility for the Committee to take action such as providing direction to staff; however, staff is not seeking or recommending any specific motions or actions for this item.

Background:
The Governing Board has requested staff provide additional information for discussion on current science, legislation, and current or potential actions to reduce plastic pollution in the Tahoe Region. The local government committee will discuss opportunities to coordinate actions among the local jurisdictions to further reduce plastic pollution.

State and Local Plastic Reduction Actions
Both California and Nevada are addressing plastic pollution through various bill proposals. Additionally, local jurisdictions at Tahoe have taken actions to reduce plastic pollution.

California:

- SB 45 (2024-25) – Requires plastic bottles to have a cap that is tethered to the container that prevents the separation of the cap from the container.
- AB 2196 (2023-24, Introduced-Dead) - Prohibit the sale, distribution, installation, or arrangement of the installation of an overwater structure, excluding a floating home, that contains expanded polystyrene, as defined, or other plastic foam that is not fully enclosed and contained in a shell made of aluminum, concrete, steel or plastic with a minimum thickness of 0.15 inches.
- SB 54 - Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act (2022) - one of the most comprehensive plastic waste reduction laws in the U.S. It mandates:
  - A 25% reduction in single-use plastic packaging by 2032.
  - All single-use packaging to be recyclable or compostable by 2032.
  - A recycling target of 65% for single-use plastics by the same year.

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Opportunities to reduce plastics:

- Require removal of temporary erosion control BMPs in a timely manner.

- Update the BMP Handbook to encourage alternatives to temporary BMPs that contain plastic

- Education/outreach

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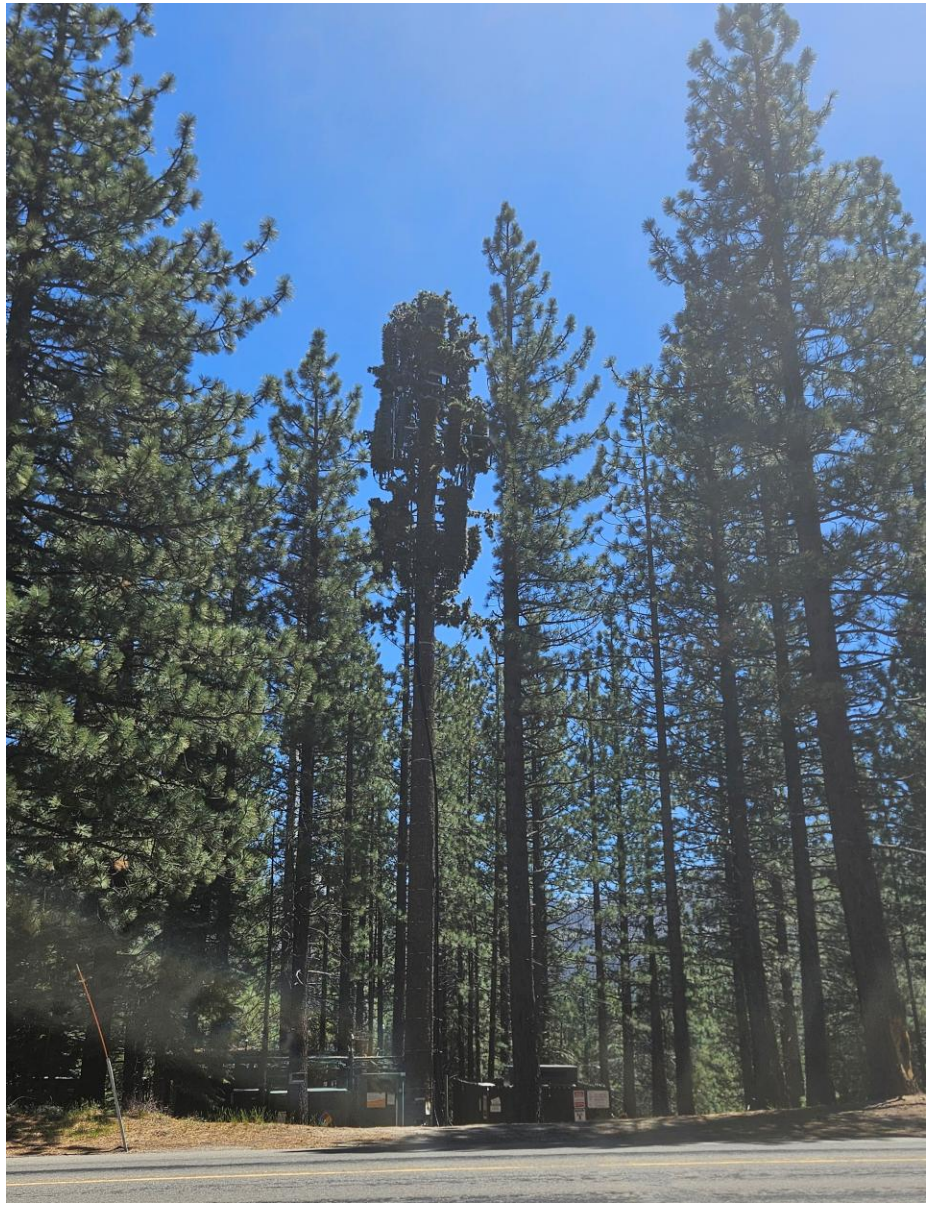

Monopine Cell Tower
Pioneer Trail and Washoan Blvd.

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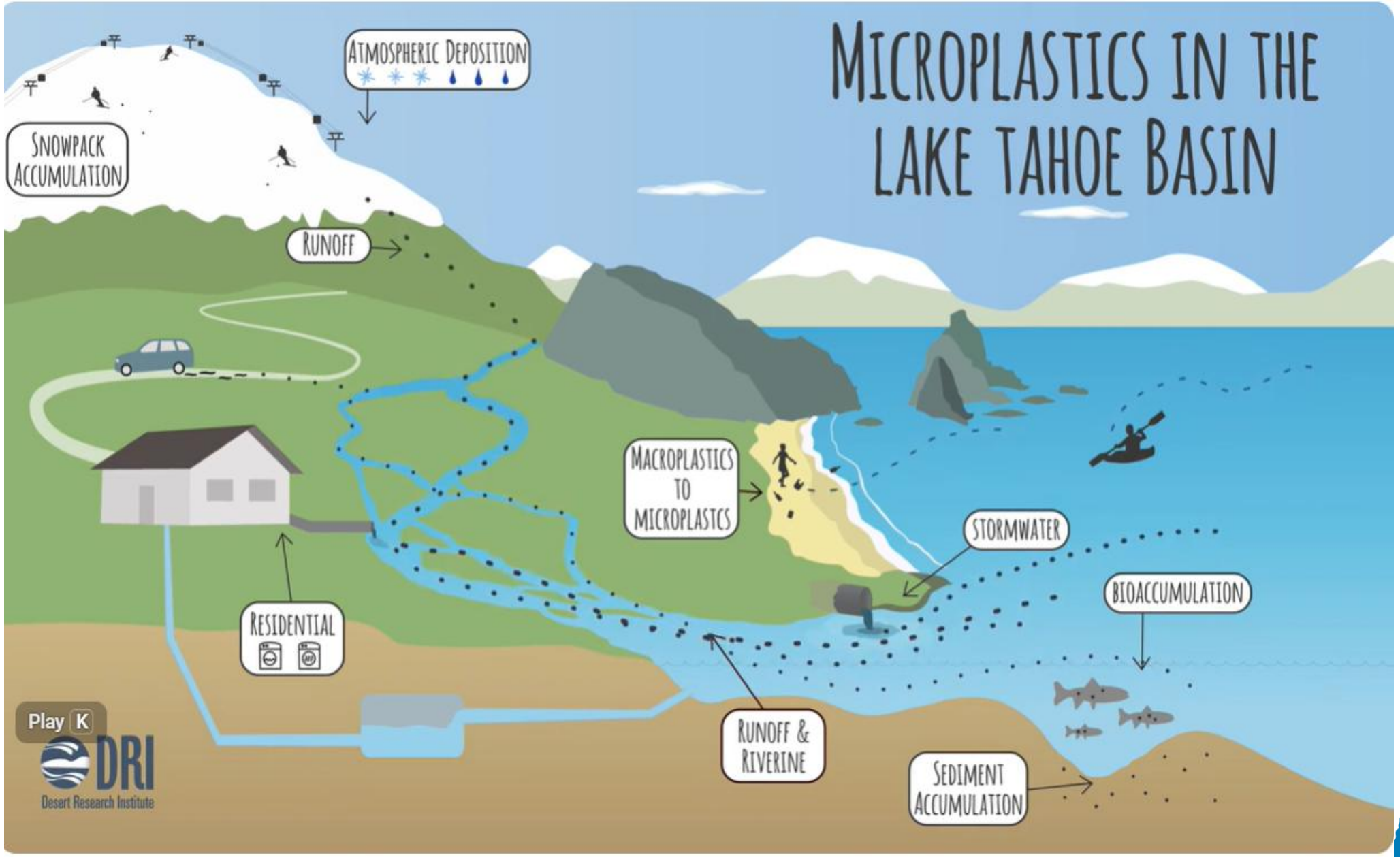

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General Policy Direction

The amendment states:

Monopines in some circumstances may be necessary to mitigate scenic impacts, it is not TRPA's preferred design approach.

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Alternative Design Approaches

- The amendment encourages applicants to prioritize alternative design approaches that minimize visual impacts while reducing reliance on plastic screening.

- The amendment expressly states that it does not create a presumption against approval of any wireless telecommunications facility or require the use or avoidance of any particular stealthing technique.

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Visual Simulations

- Simulations would depict the proposed structure.
- At least one alternative design that minimizes visual impacts without using plastic screening material would be required.

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Design, Materials, Durability

The amendment would require applicants to address measures to minimize deterioration, fragmentation, and shedding of materials.

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Amendment Approval Process

- Public Outreach
- APC Public Hearing and Recommendation to Governing Board - May 13, 2026 – The APC recommended the Governing Board approve the proposed amendment.
- Governing Board Public Hearing and Action (TBD – June 24th?)

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Questions?

Possible Action on Agenda Item 9.B

Stealthing requirements for wireless telecommunications facilities

Governing Board

June 24, 2026

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Motions

1. A motion to approve the required findings (Attachment A), including a Finding of No Significant Effect, for adoption of an amendment to Chapter 36 of the TRPA Code of Ordinances.
2. A motion to approve and adopt Ordinance 2026-__ (Attachment B), amending Chapter 36 of the TRPA Code of Ordinances to add Section 36.15, Stealthing for Wireless Telecommunications Facilities.

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The proposed TRPA Code Amendment includes the following components:

1. General Policy Direction - Alternative Design Approaches
2. Visual Simulations
3. Design, materials, and durability
4. Post-installation documentation
5. Monitoring, maintenance, and corrective action
6. Complaint Response and Corrective Action
7. Adaptive management

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