



# PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **North Tahoe Public Utility District Board of Directors Votes to Delay Implementation of Ordinance Related to Ownership of Sewer Laterals**

Kings Beach, CA – At the December 10, 2007 Board Meeting, the North Tahoe Public Utility District Board of Directors adopted Ordinance 371 which amends the District's Sewer Ordinance to clarify and adjust sewer lateral ownership and responsibility. This Ordinance went into effect on January 8, 2008, however at their January 10, 2008 Board meeting the Board voted to delay owner required testing and repair or replacement requirements of this Ordinance until May 1, 2008. The Board of Directors will consider this issue at the February Board Meeting.

“We heard the public's concerns and the Board's opinion is that time is needed to resolve items related to implementation of this Ordinance,” says Board President Lane Lewis.

Staff continues to research other local agencies that have private ownership of sewer laterals to determine the procedures, methods of testing, costs and experience in the implementation of this type of Ordinance.

The Board's Operations and Planning Committee began discussing the issue of sewer lateral ownership in July 2007 as a result of the State's new Waste Discharge Requirements in July 2007. Under new State reporting requirements for Sanitary Sewer Overflows, the District is required to report spills on sewer service laterals if the spill results from a blockage in a publicly owned sewer. District ownership of any portion of the lateral requires reporting even if the spill is the owner's responsibility. The amount of monetary liability the District can be subject to is affected by the number and frequency of reportable incidents which can affect all rate payers within the service area.

Implementation of this Ordinance may cause an increase in costs for testing but the Ordinance, as adopted, proposes to offset this cost by extending the time between required tests. Property owners may have additional costs for repair or replacement if the sewer lateral is within easements or public rights of way. The District staff is developing testing procedures with input from other agencies and private industry.

The North Tahoe Public Utility District provides sewer service between Dollar Hill and the Nevada Stateline on the North Shore of Lake Tahoe including the communities of Kings Beach, Tahoe Vista, Carnelian Bay, Cedar Flat and Agate Bay.

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