



## Tahoe's Source Water Remains One of the Purest in the Nation

Recent headline national news has included the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) investigation of Hexavalent Chromium 6 in



public drinking water supplies. The good news is that IVGID's municipal water quality monitoring shows no detection of this material in Lake Tahoe, our drinking water source. A strong emphasis on watershed protection programs contributes to the lake's ongoing status as a very pure source. Lake Tahoe is free from many contamination sources such as heavy industry, septic system leakage and agricultural runoff due to strict local, state and federal regulatory oversight.

Because Lake Tahoe is such a pure source, IVGID maintains a "filtration exemption" status from the US EPA for the municipal water system. This is a highly coveted status granted to only a few water providers in the USA; those providers whose source water is of exceptionally pure origin. Each year in the fall, the Tahoe Water Suppliers Association (TWSA) of which IVGID is the lead member, publishes a *TWSA Watershed Control Program Annual Report*, which documents changes to the Tahoe Basin watershed and summarizes the annual water quality results of the TWSA members. The report is available online at [www.tahoeh20.org](http://www.tahoeh20.org). It provides a wealth of information on Lake Tahoe water quality, references emerging scientific research and summarizes watershed conditions and regulatory practices in the Basin.

IVGID's emphasis on regular maintenance and capital improvements of the system infrastructure helps insure that the water does not suffer any quality loss while being delivered to your property.

There are very few places in the world, where customers can drink such pure water from their tap. This is something to appreciate while at Lake Tahoe, especially as we gain new understanding of drinking water contamination in other areas of the nation.

## Director's Corner

### The controversy over Hexavalent Chromium 6; another reason to be grateful to "Drink Tahoe Tap!"

IVGID's on-going water quality monitoring has shown no detection of Hexavalent Chromium 6 in our community water source. However, it is important to be informed of the national concerns, so the following is a summary from the US EPA website at <http://water.epa.gov/drink/contaminants/basicinformation/chromium.cfm>.

#### What is chromium (total)?

Chromium is a metallic element in the periodic table. It is odorless and tasteless. Chromium is found naturally in rocks, plants, soil, volcanic dust, humans and animals. The most common forms of chromium in the environment are trivalent (chromium-3), hexavalent (chromium-6) and the metal form (chromium-0). Chromium-3 occurs naturally in many vegetables, fruits, meats, grains and yeast. Chromium-6 and -0 are generally produced by industrial processes.

#### What are EPA's drinking water regulations for chromium?

The Federal Safe Drinking Water Act requires EPA to determine the level of contaminants in drinking water at which no adverse health effects are likely to occur. Contaminants are any physical, chemical, biological or radiological substances or matter in water. These health goals, based on possible health risks and exposure over a lifetime with an adequate margin of safety, are called maximum contaminant level goals (MCLG). The MCLG for chromium (total) is 0.1 mg/L or 100 ppb. EPA has set this level of protection based on the best available science to prevent potential health problems. EPA has set an enforceable regulation for chromium (total), called a maximum contaminant level (MCL), at 0.1 mg/L or 100 ppb. MCLs are set as close to the health goals as possible, considering cost, benefits and the ability of public water systems to detect and remove contaminants using suitable treatment technologies. In this case, the MCL equals the MCLG, because analytical methods or treatment technology do not pose any limitation. In 2010, the EPA initiated a reassessment of the health risks associated with chromium exposure and determined that the 0.1 mg/L or 100 ppb MCLG and 0.1 mg/L or 100 ppb MCL for chromium (total) is still protective of human health. When this human health assessment is finalized in 2011, EPA will carefully review the conclusions and consider all relevant information to determine if the current standard should be revised. States may set more stringent drinking water MCLGs and MCLs for chromium (total) than EPA. If you have any questions about the EPA regulations, or have questions about the community water service, please feel free to contact me at (775) 832-1203.

— Joe Pomroy, Director of Public Works

# OTHER NEWS



CONSERVATION AND COMMUNITY NEWS



## Last Tracks

Diamond Peak's signature event begins its 10<sup>th</sup> season on Feb 5<sup>th</sup>. Take the last chair up to the mid-mountain Snowflake Lodge on Saturdays and enjoy wine tasting and appetizers before skiing or snowboarding down a freshly groomed run at sunset. Pick your ticket up at Guest Services at 2:30 pm and get some runs in before Last Tracks begins at 4:30pm. Must be 21 or older and ski/snowboard at an intermediate level. Last Tracks tickets cost \$29. Subject to sellout. Advanced purchase recommended.

## Private Last Tracks

Are you looking for a unique way to celebrate your birthday, anniversary or special occasion? Have your own Private Last Tracks. You can have it on any day of the week except on Saturday. Every person in the group must be able to ski or snowboard down an intermediate run. Please contact our sales department for more details at (775) 832-1132 or [sales@diamondpeak.com](mailto:sales@diamondpeak.com).

## Ski for as little as \$32 a day

Buy a mini-pass and save money. A Mini Pass works like a gift card. You choose how many days you want on the card. Each time you ski 1 day is subtracted from the card. A Mini Pass is a great gift for friends or family plus it's transferable, so you and your friends can use it! Go to [http://www.diamondpeak.com/tickets\\_passes/mini](http://www.diamondpeak.com/tickets_passes/mini) for details and restrictions.

## Lift ticket and Lunch for \$20

Ski or snowboard on your lunch break. It'll make your work day go by much faster! Monday-Friday from 11am-1pm (non-holiday). Get a lift ticket and a \$10 food voucher for just \$20.

## A Short Sleep for the Bears.....

With all the storms and snow, most of our area bears have entered a light hibernation. But be prepared, they will emerge during the warmer spells we have through-out the winter.



## Stash Your Trash.org

It is very important that trash and food are stored properly year-round. If you need any information about trash containment such as: how to purchase a BearSaver cart, what is the process for installing a bear box or have general bear questions— please contact Waste Not at (775) 832-1284 or [wastenot@ivgid.org](mailto:wastenot@ivgid.org). We are here to be of service!



[Reach Your Peak Over 6,000 Feet](#)—Health & Wellness Community Fitness Challenge Starts in February.

[Gentle Yoga](#)—Tuesdays, 12:10-1pm

[Middle School Dance](#)—Friday, January 28

[Swim Lessons Session V](#)—February 1-March 3

[55+ Snowshoe Hike Series](#)—Every Tuesday, weather permitting

[Girls Night In](#) (Ages: 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade)—Friday, February 25

[Tahoe Tiny Timbers Gym Time](#)— Every Tuesday (no gym time on school holidays)

[2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Community Snowshoe Full Moon Hike to Snowflake Lodge](#) —Friday, March 18

[Micro Soccer](#) — begins March 28

[Adult Volleyball & Indoor Soccer](#)—sign-up now, leagues begin in February

[Friends of the Recreation Center—First Fridays:](#)

Members are encouraged to bring a friend to check out the Recreation Center for free on the first Friday of the month. (Friend/guest must check-in with member at the host counter)

[www.inclinerecreation.com](http://www.inclinerecreation.com)  
775-832-1300