

Tahoe City Public Utility District

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact:** Kurt Althof  
kalthof@tcpud.org  
530.580.6057

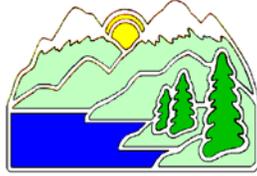
## **State Mandates Impact TCPUD Water Customers**

**Tahoe City, CA – April 27, 2015**

California is in a 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of drought. 2014 ranked as the third driest on record in terms of statewide precipitation and 2015 is on target to be even worse. Locally, the lowest recorded snowfall at the Tahoe City Dam was 59 inches, which occurred twice, once in the 1920s and again in 2014. In 2015 that record was shattered with a dismal 20 inches measured at the dam as of April 1<sup>st</sup>. The snowpack in the Sierra was 6% of average or less when measured on April 1<sup>st</sup>, with many survey locations having no snow at all. Considering these stark realities, water conservation is absolutely essential.

For the first time in history, the Governor has enacted mandatory water conservation statewide and residents are expected to conserve a cumulative 25% across the State. The State Water Board has not made the final decision, but those water providers with relatively low water use will be expected to save less than those with high water use. The TCPUD is currently categorized as a high water user due to the metric the State Water Board uses to calculate water use and compare regions and providers. This measurement is defined as gallons used, per capita, per day. The problem with this measurement for the TCPUD and other water districts in and around the Basin is that all domestic water used in second and vacation homes counts against our small full time population as defined by census data. This makes it appear that our residents are using significantly more water than they really are and places us and those like us in the top tier of targeted conservation, currently 36%. If the State Water Board doesn't change the TCPUD classification in their official determination in early May, our mandated target will be 36% savings from the baseline of 2013 use. "Our community has really done a great job conserving water over the last few years, recording a 15% reduction last year", said Tony Laliotis, Director of Utilities. "We are asking our customers to continue, and expand their conservation efforts."

Regardless of which tier TCPUD ends up in, the TCPUD Board of Directors approved updated water conservation and drought response standards in Ordinance 284 at today's April 17th monthly board meeting. "Even though our water situation isn't as dire as in other parts of the State, we must recognize our supply isn't infinite and we need to do our part too", said Erik Henrikson, Board President. "We feel the new ordinance will assist us



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in achieving our conservation goals without overly burdening our community”. The revised ordinance includes the following highlighted requirements to save water and meet the state mandates:

- Outdoor irrigation limited to 3 days per week (even number street addresses may irrigate Monday, Wednesday, Friday, odd number addresses Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday)
- Irrigation may ONLY occur between 8:00 pm and 9:00 am on designated watering days and not during or 48-hours after measurable precipitation, or when temperatures are below 40 degrees Fahrenheit.
- The application of water to hard surfaces is prohibited, except for pavement resurfacing or sealing, construction services and/or public health and safety.
- The use of water in decorative water features that do not recirculate the water is prohibited.
- Drinking water shall be served only upon request at food service and drinking establishments
- Guest linens, towels and sheets shall only be washed upon request or guest check-out
- Customers will be asked to conserve varying amounts based on their water usage, once the state sets the standards.
- Violations can include escalating penalties up to \$500 per day, water service restriction and/or water shut off.

The TCPUD is required to report water usage and enforcement efforts to the state regularly.

The complete ordinance can be found at <http://www.tcpud.org/utilities/ordinances.shtml> and general drought and water conservation information can be accessed at [www.tcpud.org](http://www.tcpud.org)

*The Tahoe City Public Utility District provides water, sewer and recreation services within its service area. The boundaries of the District lie within both Placer and El Dorado Counties, extending from Emerald Bay to Dollar Hill, and along the Truckee River to the Nevada County line. For additional information, call Kurt Althof at 530.580.6057 or send an email to [kalthof@tcpud.org](mailto:kalthof@tcpud.org).*

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