



TCPUD

QUARTERLY

NEWS

75 Years of Service 1938-2013

A Report to Our Community

April 2014

Governor Calls for 20% Water Use Reduction

On January 14, 2014, Governor Brown issued a proclamation for California, declaring a drought state of emergency. The proclamation urges all Californians to reduce their water use by 20% and conserve water in every way possible.

Like the rest of California, this extremely dry winter for Tahoe follows two previous years of dry conditions. As of March 10, snowpack was just 35% of normal. TCPUD's main water supply is from deep groundwater wells which are showing decreased levels. This is concerning, but if all customers make an effort to conserve water, the District's water supplies should not reach critical status this summer. Please see the insert on water conservation tips and links to websites included in this newsletter.

COMMUNITY INPUT

The TCPUD is your District and your input and participation are valuable. One way to be involved is to attend Board and committee meetings. The TCPUD Board meets monthly and provides online viewing. For a schedule of all upcoming Board and committee meetings, or to view the board meetings online, please visit www.tahoecitypud.com.

2014 TCPUD Planned Construction Projects

PROJECT NAME	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	TENTATIVE START / FUNDING
Hwy 89 Water Line Conductor Casing Crossings	Install conductor casing crossings for future water system improvements	April TCPUD
Bocce Ball Court, TC Golf Course	Construct a 2nd bocce ball court to provide additional recreational opportunities	May TCPUD
Dollar II Water Service Line Replacement	Install dedicated water service valves to eliminate the existing water leakage	May TCPUD
Commons Beach Sand Replenish	Improve conditions at the beach area and enhance the overall park experience	May or Sept Grant funded (TBD)
Upper Ellis Rd & Grouse Dr Water Line Replacements	Install new water lines to replace undersized lines for fire protection flow rates	August USFS, TCPUD
Lake Forest Boat Ramp Rehab	Replace 50-year-old concrete ramp; dredge channel to improve public safety	Fall WCB, NLTRA
Truckee River Trail Pavement Rehab	Rehab the heavily used Truckee River Trail to improve safety	September TBD
Truckee River Restoration & Access	Construct 3 formal, well-defined river access points; habitat and riverbank restoration	September CA Natural Resources Agency
West Shore Export Truckee River Crossing	Repair section of sewer pipe at river crossing to protect environment	September TCPUD
Kilner Park Tennis Courts	Rehab the courts to provide a safer, more enjoyable experience for tennis and pickleball players	September TCPUD
TCPUD Administrative Building & Yard BMP Compliance	Install BMPs including rock slope protection, and replace storm drainage collection	September TCPUD
Homewood Bike Trail	Construct 1-mile of Class 1 trail to complete the missing link in West Shore network	TBD CTC, NLTRA, EEMP, Placer City, Tahoe Fund

TCPUD Mission: To serve the people, our community, and its environment by providing safe and reliable water and sewer service for the protection of public health, and parks and recreation services to enhance quality of life.

DO WE HAVE YOUR EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION?

It is essential that the District has contact information for our customers so we can reach you immediately if an emergency arises. Please consider sharing your email address to receive notification of water or sewer emergencies. To be added to the emergency email notification list email: tviehmann@tcpud.org. We won't share your email, or use it except in an emergency.

Another Success Story!

TCPUD Replaces 80-Year Old Failing Lake Forest Water System at No Cost to District Ratepayers

After six years and extraordinary assistance from the State, TCPUD completed the acquisition and full replacement of the Lake Forest Water System. \$4.2 million was invested in the project at no cost to the ratepayers of the District.

Summary of Expenses & Grant Funding for Lake Forest

SUMMARY OF EXPENSES

Acquisition & Assessment District	\$ 1,197,440
Design Phase	397,191
Construction Phase 1: 10" Water Main	656,764
Phase 2: Neighborhood water system replacement	1,704,024
Phase 3: Customer service lateral relocations	245,671
Total Expenses	\$ 4,201,090

FUNDING SOURCES

Placer County Redevelopment Agency	\$ 400,000
California Dept of Public Health (Prop 50)	2,000,000
State Revolving Funds Grant (SRF)	1,300,000
Placer County – Park Dedication Fees	31,370
Lake Forest Customers (Collected 4/11 thru 11/13)	483,659
TCPUD Partial offset for administration	(13,939)
Total Funding	\$ 4,201,090

The Bottle vs. The Tap – Do You Know Where Your Drinking Water Comes From?

Reprinted from an article by Madonna Dunbar, Tahoe Water Suppliers Association, printed in "Tahoe in Depth," a publication of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

Here in the Tahoe Basin, we are blessed with some of the cleanest water in the world - the water we share as residents and visitors at Lake Tahoe is fed solely from rain and snowmelt. While other watersheds, both nationally and internationally, face declining tap water quality from issues such as industrial contamination, agricultural runoff, and sewage influx, Tahoe's long history of clarity protection has yielded a second benefit - superior drinking water with extremely low detectable levels of biological contamination. Tahoe Tap is so pure that six of the Tahoe municipal water systems hold a very rare

"filtration exemption" treatment permit.

For reference, there are only 60 "filtration exempt" systems in the entire United States, out of approximately 160,000 public water systems reporting to the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Filtration exemption is granted only to systems with an extremely pure source water and a high level of watershed protection in place.

About 50% of Tahoe's municipal tap water is sourced from surface water, drawn from Lake Tahoe through long intake lines. The other 50% is provided from wells tapping into groundwater aquifers. Lake sourced raw water is tested then disinfected with ozone and ultra violet treatment and finished with a small dose of chlorine to maintain disinfection in the pipes and distribution system. Groundwater sources are monitored and disinfected with chlorine for distribution. If you are worried about chlorine, a simple carbon filter will alleviate the chlorine, or pour

the water into a pitcher and allow it to air.

By contrast, bottled water (40% of which is carbon filtered, repackaged tap water) is minimally regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, if at all.

Protecting the purity of Tahoe drinking water was one of the reasons behind the formation of the Tahoe Water Suppliers Association (TWSA) in 2003. The members of TWSA are the larger municipal water providers in the Basin who source their tap water from Lake Tahoe. We take providing safe, delicious, and minimally treated tap water very seriously. Every December, we publish "The Tahoe Water Suppliers Association Annual Report" outlining collective watershed protection efforts and tap water quality. For more information, visit www.TahoeH2O.org or call 775-832-1212. TCPUD is an active member of the Tahoe Water Suppliers Association.



New Face at TCPUD

The District is proud to announce the recent addition of Barbara Butterfield as Administrative Assistant for the Parks and Recreation Department. She comes with a wealth of experience after working for K.B. Foster Civil Engineering, Inc., of Carnelian Bay for 17 years. At 13 Barbara moved to Tahoe's West Shore with her family and attended North

Tahoe High. She now resides in Loyalton with her husband and daughter. When Barbara is not working she loves to garden growing her own vegetables, tending the chickens, and caring for her fruit trees – apple, pear, plum, walnut and even a chestnut tree. Her daughter raises a pig each year for 4H and sells it at the Plumas-Sierra County Fair, in Quincy.

SR 89/Fanny Bridge Community Revitalization Project and West Shore Trail Extension to Meeks Bay

After many years of study and effort, the Tahoe Transportation District (TTD) has been awarded a \$25.5 million grant from the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) for the State Route 89/Fanny Bridge Community Revitalization Project, the extension of the West Shore Trail to Meeks Bay and the Dollar Creek Shared Use Path. The purpose of each of these projects is to enhance mobility and access throughout North and West Lake Tahoe. Public meetings will be occurring this summer on these significant projects. Please visit the TTD website for more information: www.tahoetransportation.org.



75 Years of Service
1938 - 2013

Tahoe City Public Utility District

Celebrating 75 Years of Community Service

In honor of this milestone, the District commissioned a series of articles, written by Laura Read, to share the TCPUD's history and its role in Tahoe City and the community at large.

The following article was first published in August 2013, in the Sierra Sun.

The District first plunged into parks management in 1947 when it assumed maintenance of Commons Beach from Placer County. The lakefront parcel, deeded by President Ulysses S. Grant in 1872 to "the People of Tahoe City," needed constant upkeep, and when Placer County wasn't fulfilling this duty, the PUD's first manager, Bill Vernon, shouldered the job.

After the 1960 Olympics, as West Shore communities expanded, residents wanted enrichment programs that everyone could enjoy. In a survey of ratepayers in 1969, the District asked if it should expand its mission to include organizing public activities and park management. Ratepayers voted "yes."

Thus followed a surge in activities and classes, including an adult softball league, a sailing camp, and an outdoor day camp called Camp Skylandia, still beloved summertime traditions for both locals and second homeowners.

Today, every year the Parks and Rec Department engages more than one million residents and visitors from all over the world. Department staff members manage a kaleidoscope of facilities, including seven athletic fields, nine community parks, three beach parks, one boat ramp, five community buildings, five playgrounds, 22 miles of paved multi-use trails, six tennis courts, one dog park, one golf course, one campground, and Truckee River ingress and egress ramps. A catalog of District activities – 32 pages this year – presents classes for art, science, music, soccer, volleyball, paddleboard, swimming and pickleball.

Most District-maintained parks are owned by different entities, such as the U.S. Forest Service, Placer County, or California State Parks, all of which have maintenance and operation agreements with the PUD. That's one place where collaboration comes into play.

The District's tenacity has to do with the extraordinary commitment from board members and staff. Without their public outreach and problem solving, life in Tahoe City would be significantly less thrilling.

Tahoe City's Lakeside Trail is a prime example of the multi-faceted work, according to Parks and Rec Director Bob Bolton. Conceived 40 years ago, the paved path



extends from 64 Acres across Highway 89 and the Tahoe City Dam, along Commons Beach and the Tahoe City Marina, and in front of Boatworks Mall. It curves through aspen groves, under shady cliffs and past a lively marina that few visitors previously experienced. The trail's beauty belies the enormous efforts that went into coordinating nine property owners and 12 non-profit and government funders. From preliminary design through two environmental documents and much fundraising, the whole undertaking took 20 years. Construction took 11 years.

One of the trail's jewels is Commons Beach. Because of its many features (playground, picnic spot, beach, grass), the Commons is the heart of town. Hosting free

summer concerts and outdoor movies, as well as kayak and paddleboard rentals requires partnerships with the Tahoe City Downtown Association, Placer County and local businesses such as Tahoe City Kayak. Collaboration is key.

Across town, the District has remodeled a new place, Rideout Community Center. There's a community garden outside, and a full-size commercial kitchen inside. At night, adult basketball and volleyball fill the gymnasium, and during the day, the sounds of children's enrichment programs echo in the halls.

From the hour that manager Bill Vernon became the Commons Beach maintenance man to the moment today's general manager, Cindy Gustafson, inaugurated the Lakeside Trail, the TCPUD has elevated North Tahoe's quality of life. Just like the 1872 gift of Commons Beach that President Grant gave to the people of Tahoe City, and the volunteer parents' gutsy efforts at Pomin Park, the District's parks and its recreation programs have changed lives. They are soundly fixed in history.

UPCOMING RECREATION EVENTS

- 4/19 Spring Eggstravaganza, 10am, Commons Beach
 - 5/3 Summer Recreation Sign up Day, 9am, Rideout
 - 5/31 Rideout Rummage Sale – a new community yard sale
 - 6/23 Camp Skylandia & Sailing Camps begin
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2014 TAHOE CITY FARMERS MARKET

Thursdays, 8am - 1pm
Commons Beach: 5/22 - 6/19; 8/28 - 9/25
Tahoe Lake Elementary: 6/26 - 8/21

You Can Reduce 20% of Your Water Use with these Easy Tips!

INDOOR CONSERVATION / RESIDENTIAL

- Run the dishwasher only when full
- Don't leave water running while rinsing dishes
- Turn off water when brushing teeth
- Shorten showers
- Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket
- Wash only full loads of clothes
- Fix leaky toilets
- Fix leaky faucets
- Install a new high-efficiency clothes washer (& get a rebate from TCPUD!)
- Replace older, high-volume flushing toilets (& get a rebate from TCPUD!)

LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION / RESIDENTIAL

- Water your yard only before 8am to reduce evaporation
- Reduce each irrigation cycle by 1-3 minutes, or eliminate one irrigation cycle per week
- Water only after the top inch of soil is dry; Reset irrigation controllers and replace batteries in the spring
- Repair leaks and broken sprinkler heads
- Add 2" - 3" of mulch around trees and plants to reduce evaporation
- Install water-efficient drip irrigation system for trees, shrubs and flowers to get water to the plant's roots more efficiently
- Upgrade to a "smart irrigation controller" that automatically adjusts watering times for hotter weather, and shuts down the system when it rains
- Replace a portion of lawn with beautiful native plants reducing irrigation at your home to have the greatest water saving impact; native landscaping will reduce irrigation and save water!

OTHER OUTDOOR IDEAS

- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks
- Don't leave the hose on while washing your car; get a self-closing nozzle
- Repair any leaks around pool and spa pumps
- Repair leaking hose bibs
- Install covers on pool and spas to reduce evaporation

ESTIMATED SAVINGS!

2 - 4.5 gallons / load
2.5 gallons / minute
2 gallons / minute
2.5 gallons / minute
1.6 gallons / flush
15 - 50 gallons / load
30 - 50 gallons / day / toilet
15 - 20 gallons / day / leak
20 - 30 gallons / load
2.2 - 3.8 gallons per flush

ESTIMATED SAVINGS

20 - 25 gallons / day
Use the landscape calculator and watering index
15 - 25 gallons / minute;
up to 250 gallons per cycle
20 gallons / day / leak
20 - 30 gallons / day / 1000 sq ft
20 - 25 gallons / day
40 gallons / day
33 - 60 gallons / day / 1000 sq ft
depending on climate

ESTIMATED SAVINGS

8 - 18 gallons / minute
8 - 18 gallons / minute
20 gallons / day / leak
15 - 20 gallons / day / leak
30 gallons / day

Check out these website for more information: www.tahoecitypud.com www.wateraware.org www.saveourH2o.org

Did you know?

Here are some facts about TCPUD's Water Service ...

TCPUD serves water to 4,214 homes and businesses 24/7, 365 days per year. The District provides water service in five dis-

tinct areas (Tahoe City, Alpine Peaks, Squaw Valley entrance, Rubicon and Chamberlands). TCPUD serves approximately 460 million gallons of water annually. For more information:
www.tahoecitypud.com
530.583.3796

TCPUD has:

- 11 water storage tanks
- 10 groundwater wells
- 1 Lake intake with treatment plant
- 70 miles of water lines
- 6 booster pump stations to move the water