



TCPUD QUARTERLY NEWS

A Report to Our Community

Oct 2004

General Winterization Guidelines:

Significant property damage and thousands of gallons of water can be wasted as a result of frozen water pipes. Here are some general guidelines to prevent frozen pipes:

- When not occupied, shut off the water to the house and drain all the internal piping
- Never run bleeder lines or small amounts of water out of fixtures to prevent freezing. This practice violates TCPUD Ordinance 185 and is an enforceable violation.
- Close vents to crawl spaces to avoid drafts
- Locate and mark the water shut off box at the street with a stake
- Locate and mark sewer cleanouts

Please call for more info 530-583-3796, x36.

Fairwell to Larry Billiu

After over 30 years of maintaining Connors Field for TCPUD, Larry Billiu has decided to hang up his rake and turn off the mower. Larry knows every square inch of that facility and has more than a few local stories to go with it. He has mentored many local youth who are now professionals, each fondly recalls time spent with Larry on Connors field. He leaves a legacy of a strong work ethic, exemplary quality of work, and integrity throughout his tenure with TCPUD. Larry Billiu, we thank you and cherish the memories.

ANNUAL BUDGET PROCESS

Every fall, TCPUD begins its budget development process for the next calendar year. Numerous committee and Board meetings take place from October to December considering individual department and capital and operating budgets. The public is encouraged to attend these meetings. (See FAQs on next page.)

The Results are in . . .

Summer brings full use of all TCPUD facilities. We serve hundreds of thousands of visitors and seasonal residents. The following is a recap of our summer (To keep these numbers in perspective, remember that our full time population is 5,400):

WATER

- Provided 295 million gallons of domestic water
- Designed and installed an emergency temporary water treatment facility in Chamberlands (caused by well failure), treating 345,000 gallons of water per day
- Leak detection inspection performed on 12 miles of water pipeline
- Installed 26 remote telemetry units, replacing 20+ year-old technology

SEWER

- Removed 99 million gallons of wastewater from the Tahoe Basin
- Installed 48 new remote telemetry units, replacing 20+ year-old units
- Camera-inspected 30 miles of sewer main
- Continued planning and design for Grove Street pump station replacement

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Designed, permitted, and constructed projects in water, sewer, trails and parks.

	Total Cost	Grant funds
Water	\$ 550,000	\$ 85,000
Sewer	\$ 6,000	0
Trails	\$1,460,000	\$1,460,000
Parks	\$ 68,000	\$ 43,000
	\$2,384,000	\$1,588,000

ENGINEERING

TCPUD issued and inspected the following :

20 New construction permits; 101 Remodeling permits; 20 Commercial remodels; and, 111 back-flow devices

PARKS

- Truckee River Trail served over 150,000
- 1st season of new Commons Beach in full operation – significantly higher use of the park than before construction
- WCB Boat Ramp significant usage, especially due to the low water and closure of other public facilities – 5,580 boats launched
- 704 campsites used at Lake Forest campground

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RECREATION

- New Commons Beach family activities served 1200 adults and children
- Swim lessons served a record 358 children
- Sailing program instructed over 200 to sail
- Adult sports & programs – 1,400 participants
- Youth sports & programs – 1,600 participants

PROPOSITION #1A

Prop 1A, a November ballot initiative, will prevent the State Legislature from “taking” funds originally committed to local governments. Over the past dozen years, in good and bad economic times, the Legislature has shifted more than \$40 billion in property taxes from cities, counties, special districts, and redevelopment agencies, to the State to pay for its responsibilities. This shift has cost TCPUD about \$800,000. The amount diverted from local budgets keeps growing and now amounts to nearly \$5 billion annually.

Prop 1A allows for flexibility in the event of a future state fiscal emergency. The State may borrow local government funds, but they must be repaid within 3 years.

The official ballot explains: “(Prop 1A) ensures that local property and sales tax revenues remain with local government thereby safeguarding funding for public safety, health, libraries, parks, and other local services. Provisions can only be suspended if the Governor declares a fiscal necessity and two-thirds of the Legislature concur.”

For more information on Prop 1A:

PROponents:

Yes on 1A! Californians to Protect Local Taxpayers and Public Safety

1121 L Street, Suite 803, Sacramento, CA95814

OPponents:

Carole Migden, Chair, State Board of Equalization
601 Van Ness Ave, #E3-611, San Francisco, CA94102

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

TCPUD would like to offer a special thanks to:

- **Lake Forest Glen Homeowners Association & Staff** for use of their private swimming pool for public swim lessons. Over 358 children learned to swim.
- **Obexer’s Boat Company & Staff** for support and use of their facilities, and **Tahoe Community Sailing & Tahoe Yacht Club Foundations** for funding and volunteers. Our community sailing program provided lessons to 177 youth and 25 adults.

F.A.Q.’s about PUD Finances

“Does TCPUD receive property taxes?”

Yes. TCPUD receives approximately 10% of property taxes you pay. For the next 2 years the State has reduced that figure by 10% each year (-\$800,000), to help reduce its budget deficit. Estimated property tax to be received this year is \$ 3.5 million (57% of the TCPUD total operating budget).

“How do you use the property taxes we pay?”

Property tax is allocated annually by the Board and since the 1980’s has been fairly consistently used:

- 63% for water and sewer / capital
- 37% for parks and recreation operations /capital.

“Are my water and sewer fees being used for parks and recreation?”

No. Water and sewer fees are used to cover costs of operations and for infrastructure, repair and replacement. A portion of property taxes supplements the capitol fund. Parks and recreation relies on a combination of fees, grants, and a portion of property taxes to fund facilities and services.

“How much does TCPUD have in reserves?”

The Board established a policy in 2000 which set up 3 designated reserve accounts. Current reserves are:

Emergency Reserve -	\$ 500,000
Long Term Capital Reserve -	\$ 800,000
Cash Flow Reserve -	\$ 250,000
TOTAL RESERVES	\$ 1,550,000.

“Are you wasting my money?”

No. The Board and staff are very conservative with your funds. Staffing, our biggest expense, has remained consistent over the last 20 years despite the increase in service demands, regulatory mandates, and new facilities. Some of the many ways we conserve are:

- Increasing use of technology improves efficiency and savings throughout District operations
- Maximizing grants for capital projects – over \$20 million secured since 1991
- Pursuing grants for maintenance/operations. i.e., agreements secured for funding from Caltrans, and El Dorado and Placer Counties
- Advocating State officials to minimize loss of funding through State budget actions resulting in over \$1 million savings this year alone
- Developing partnerships and cost-sharing agreements with other agencies such as: North Tahoe Fire, Joint Powers Insurance Authority, Tahoe Truckee Unified School District, NLT Boys and Girls Club, State purchasing programs, Local Agency Investment Fund, Caltrans, and others.

- Utilizing community service, work release and CCC workers for parks maintenance saves an estimated \$100,000 annually.
- Mandating strong safety and prevention policies resulted in significant reduction of worker’s comp rates – a 1.81 rating in 2000 to .85 in 2005!
- Instituting safety and inspection programs reduced liability insurance premiums by 50%.
- Establishing volunteer programs and cost recovery policies for parks and recreation services.

For more information call TCPUD, 530-583-3796, or go to www.tahoecitypud.com.

Lake Tahoe Outlet & Lakeside Trail Crossing

Relationships between Federal and local agencies are typically limited to regulatory issues – the “Feds” telling the locals what and how to do it. The Lake Tahoe Outlet / Lakeside Trail Crossing project is an example of a true partnership between a local agency (TCPUD), the “Feds” (Bureau of Reclamation), and the State (California State Parks). TCPUD, with the support and assistance of State Parks, approached the Bureau of Reclamation regarding a trail crossing at the Lake Tahoe Outlet Dam. The Bureau of Reclamation not only worked with staff and trail designers, but undertook an upgrade of the dam and opened the shutters (closed for over 95 years) improving views to Lake Tahoe. This incredible partnership has resulted in regulatory permitting and tremendous financial support from other agencies.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Two pedestrian plazas along the south and north sides of the Truckee River and an bike trail will connect to an elevated pedestrian walkway across Lake Tahoe parallel to the existing dam. The project includes re-vegetation of eroded riverbank; new overlooks to allow pedestrians a view of the river and dam without conflicting with traffic; landscaping, storm water collection and treatment; and, mechanical stabilization with retaining walls to provide overall environmental improvements. New parking will be built along Mackinaw Road.

PROJECT FUNDING:

- 42% Federal** US Bureau of Reclamation
- 44% State** California Tahoe Conservancy 20%
Resources Agency 13%
State Parks 11%
- 14% Local** NLT Resort Association 9%
Placer County 2%
Placer County Redevelopment 2%
TCPUD 1%