



TCPUD

QUARTERLY

NEWS

A Report to Our Community

October 2007

How can the public get involved in the process?

Numerous meetings of the staff, Committees of the Board, and the full Board will occur over the next 60 days. Meetings scheduled to date as follows. Refer to www.tahoecitypud.com for updates and changes to the schedule.

- October 11, 2007 7:00 am
Water and Sewer Committee
Budget Review
- October 12, 2007 8:00 am
Finance Committee
G&A Budget Review
- October 15, 2007 1:00pm
Parks & Rec. Committee
Budget Review
- October 19, 2007 8:30 am
Full Board Water & Sewer Rate
Structures
- November 9, 2007 8:00am
Full Board Budget Review
- November 30, 2007 8:30 am
Full Board 2008 Budget Adoption &
Adoption of Rates

RATES DETERMINED... GET INVOLVED!

The Board of Directors has selected HDR, an international engineering consulting firm, to conduct a comprehensive water and sewer rate analysis. The consultants selected are not new to the area, they have previously performed rate analyses for Squaw Valley Public Service District and Alpine Springs County Water District. HDR is also under contract with the Army Corps of Engineers studying the cost of service of sewer agencies around Lake Tahoe.

The purpose of the TCPUD rate study is to ensure that rates established cover the true cost of service and equitably allocate the costs between various types of customers. The study will take into account current operational costs and project costs for replacing aging

infrastructure. It will also provide the Board with information on current industry accepted practices related to consumption-based water rate structures.

It has been many years since TCPUD undertook a comprehensive water and sewer rate analysis. The study should be complete by November and the Board is anticipated to adopt new rates with the budget adoption later this fall. The public is strongly encouraged to attend the workshop meetings. **On October 19, 2007, 8:30am, the Board will be discussing water and sewer rate structures.**

Once the Board adopts the rates, a 218 election process will be undertaken in which customers can protest the fee implementation.

THE 2008 BUDGET PROCESS

TCPUD staff has begun the annual process of budget development. Review of current expenditures, goals and priorities for 2008, and necessary infrastructure projects are undertaken during the budget process. Staff and Board will be considering an approximately \$7.5 million operational budget and approximately \$7 million in capital projects.

Why is the budget so important?

We are spending your money. Every per-

son at TCPUD, from line staff to the Board, understands that we are entrusted to administer tax funds. The annual budget is the guiding document for TCPUD's priority projects and operations. Whether it is ballfield improvements, surface water treatment facilities, additional equipment, new bike trail segments, or sewer line replacements, the needs of our public facilities are prioritized during the budget process. (See meeting schedule at left.)

To see the TCPUD

2006 Annual Water Quality Consumer Confidence Report, visit:

[http://www.tahoecitypud.com/utilities/water/20](http://www.tahoecitypud.com/utilities/water/2006-quality-report.pdf)

[06-quality-report.pdf](http://www.tahoecitypud.com/utilities/water/2006-quality-report.pdf)

or call 530-583-3796 x30.

GET READY FOR WINTER

Winterize your pipes. A frozen burst water pipe can waste thousands of gallons of water and damage personal property. Here are some tips to prevent freezing pipes:

- **Disconnect & drain hoses.** A freezing night can cause your hose, the faucet and the connecting pipe to burst. Close inside valves supplying outdoor hose bibs and open the outside hose bibs to allow water to drain. Keep the valve open so that any water remaining in the pipe can expand without causing the pipe to break.

- **Insulate pipes or faucets in unheated areas.** Insulate both hot and cold water lines in your crawl space, attic, garage, and under kitchen and bathroom cabinets. Hot water supply lines can freeze just as easily as cold water. Thermostatically controlled heat tape can be installed in areas you suspect may freeze or have frozen in the past. Local hardware stores have easy-to-install pipe wrapping materials.

- **Keep the cold out of unheated areas.** Close vents to crawl spaces to help avoid drafts. Seal doors, air vents and cracks. Do not to plug vents your furnace or water heater need for combustion!

- **Take preventative action.** Keep garage doors closed if there are water supply lines in the garage. Opening kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors allows warmer air to circulate around plumbing. In an unoccupied home conserve energy and our environment by shutting off water to the house and draining all internal piping. Leave the heat at 55° to keep the house above freezing.

- **Never run bleeder lines or drip water from fixtures to prevent frozen pipes.** This is a violation of TCPUD Ordinance 185 and is an enforceable violation. Use of excess water will lead to increased costs of service to everyone.

Locate & stake water shut-off box at the street. A small diameter PVC or steel pipe with blue markings at the top will allow TCPUD crews to recognize the location if they have to shut off the water. An easy way to remember to do this is to stake your box when you stake your driveway.

For more winter readiness information call 530-583-3796 x30.

New Teen Center

Starting in September the New Rideout Teen Center will be open every Wednesday for NTMS minimum days. Students can take the bus from NTMS to Rideout to participate in this new program. All teens are invited to participate. The after school program will provide lots of fun and educational activities in a safe, positive environment. The goal is to offer quality, serviced-based learning programs to all teens within the community. All programs are for ages 13 -18 years and the facility is open to both residents and non-residents. Call the Rideout Center at 530-583-3440 or the TCPUD at 530-583-3796 x29 for more information.

Fall Family Fun!

*Pumpkin Patch, Scarecrows
& Oktoberfest, oh my!*

Join family fun events in Tahoe City for Harvest Festival, October 6 through 13.

- TCDA's Cobblestone Oktoberfest Saturday, October 6, 4pm-7pm
Music, children's activities, refreshments

- TCPUD's Pumpkin Patch Saturday, October 13, 10am-3 pm
Rideout Community Center
Games, activities & pumpkins!

- Scarecrows on Parade all week
downtown Tahoe City

www.tahoe-city-pud.com or www.visit-tahoe.com or call 583-3796 x29 for more information.

Water Meter Update

As of September 4, 2007, TCPUD has over 1,086 residential meters. Areas fully completed are: Dollar Point, Highlands, Panorama Estates, Lake Forest Village, and Sierra Terrace. By November meters should be completed along the highway to Tahoe City, the Bittencourt Tract, and Tamarack Estates. Leaks have been detected in 25-30% of households ranging from 70 gallons per day up to 10,000 gallons per day! Please check our website www.tahoe-city-pud.com for information on how to read your meter, how to check for a water leak, and a leak repair checklist. Conserving water and protecting our resources is important.



A New Face at TCPUD

TCPUD welcomes another new employee to our District ...

- **Ashley Hall, Recreation Coordinator**
Ashley joins the Parks and Recreation department replacing an employee who moved out of the area. Ashley will be running Camp Skylandia in the summer, Project Learn during the school season, and other special events that occur throughout the year. She has a Teaching Credential from Humboldt State University, and previously worked with North Lake Tahoe Boys and Girls Club for five years. Ashley has lived on the North Shore for 10 years with her partner Christopher and their two small children Donovan, 2, and Gabriella, 1.

Bottled Water vs. Tap Water

Bottled water has become so popular that Americans buy more of it than any beverage other than soft drinks. Americans will spend an estimated \$16 billion on bottled water in 2007, and for something that you can get out of the tap for a fraction of the cost. Bottled water costs 240 to over 10,000 times more per gallon than the typical cost for tap water. Plus, more than 1 billion plastic bottles end up in California's trash every year!

TCPUD water meets **all** water quality standards set by the state of California and it tests regularly to insure that quality. TCPUD water is clean, healthy and delicious, so the next time you are thirsty reach for a glass instead, or fill your own bottle, and save money and the environment.