## Tahoe Sierra IRWMP Drought Preparedness Project

## Attachment 2: Water Conservation Measures

The Tahoe Sierra IRWM Drought Preparedness Project has the following conservation measures or restrictions implemented, as part of an ongoing water conservation program, or as a result of the 2014 drought:

**South Tahoe Public Utility District** (STPUD) has a water conservation program in place to implement the voluntary Best Management Practices as identified in the Memorandum of Understanding the District holds with the California Urban Water Conservation Council. In addition, STPUD has a water use ordinance that places mandatory watering restrictions on all customers, allowing only three days per week for irrigation based on address numbers, prohibiting all continuous discharge of water from hoses and prohibiting irrigation of any non-landscaped, natural vegetation or undeveloped property. Additional mandatory conservation measures are described in stages for emergency water conditions in this ordinance and will be considered if drought conditions worsen in 2015.

Conservation information is also distributed to customers via the website: www.stpud.org and the District Digest bill insert, Spring 2014 (attached to this application). In addition, STPUD is in the process of a Groundwater Management Plan update and has formed an Implementation Group for this process. Drought impacts on groundwater are a focus of this group and STPUD has also developed several public presentations regarding drought impacts on drinking water and groundwater sources and presented them to the City of South Lake Tahoe, the US Forest Service, and several other agencies and institutions. Copies of these presentations are available upon request.

**Lukins Brothers Water Company** (Lukins) is under the governance of the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California and is currently in the process of adopting the PUC's Resolution for Drought Procedures. In addition, Lukins provides water conservation best management practices information on their website: www.lukinswater.com and has activated voluntary conservation measures: irrigation watering three times per week based on property address, no continuous discharge of water from hoses and no irrigation of any non-landscaped, natural vegetation or undeveloped property. With the current loss of two drinking wells due to PCE contaminations that exceed the MCL, Lukins will be looking at developing a mandatory water conservation program which would require filing an advice letter with the PUC.

**Squaw Valley Public Service District** (SVPSD) A drought task force was formed in February 2014 that meets monthly to monitor drought impacts. A public meeting was held in April 2014 with the Squaw Valley Groundwater Management Plan Implementation Group to discuss potential drought impacts and share strategies. SVPSD has implemented voluntary conservation measures and distributed conservation literature in the 2014 Winter and 2014 summer Newsletter bill insert (both attached to this application). In addition, SVPSD provides water conservations information for water customers on the website: www.svpsd.org. In 2001, the SVPSD adopted a water conservation ordinance that details the stages for water conservation during emergencies. This ordinance is also available on the website. Mandatory

additional conservation measures as detailed in this ordinance will be considered if drought impacts continue into 2015.

**Tahoe City Public Utility District** (TCPUD) In conjunction with the Governor's 2014 Proclamation, declaring a drought state of emergency, the TCPUD prepared a press release encouraging voluntary water conservation measures. The press release (attached to this application) referenced TCPUD's 2009 adopted Water Conservation and Drought Response Ordinance, available on the TCPUD website: www.tahoecitypud.com. The purpose of the Ordinance is to preserve water resources, reduce the risk and severity of water shortages when drought or natural disaster occurs, and to establish a drought preparedness and response plan. The ordinance will serve as the guide for mandatory implementation of water conservation should the drought conditions worsen in 2015. In addition, TCPUD offers an on-going water conservation program that includes water conservation information for customers on the website, as well as water conservation rebates for toilets and washing machines.

**GOVERNOR CALLS FOR 20% REDUCTION IN WATER USE**

On January 14, 2014, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. 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.

In Tahoe, we have experienced lighter than average precipitation over the past few years. This lack of precipitation is showing impacts on the water levels in the Tahoe City Public Utility District's wells. The good news is that if customers conserve water, the District's water supplies will not reach critical status this summer, even if the drought conditions continue.

The Tahoe City Public Utility District encourages all customers to rethink the way they use water on a daily basis and take action now to conserve.

Below are tips on how to reduce water use, indoors and outdoors.

**How You Can Reduce Household Water Use**
(Adapted from www.saveourh2o.org)

By following these water-saving tips, you can help save water every day:

**In the Home:**
Laundry Room

- Use the washing machine for full loads only to save water and energy
- Install a water-efficient clothes washer, which will save up to 16 gallons per load. TCPUD offers a cash rebate program for all District customers who install Energy Star Clothes Washers. Visit www.tahoecitypud.org for more information.

Kitchen

- Run the dishwasher only when full. This saves both water and energy.
- Install a water- and energy-efficient dishwasher.
- Install aerators on the kitchen faucet to reduce flows.
- When washing dishes by hand, do not let the water run. Fill one basin with wash water and the other with rinse water.
- Do not use running water to thaw food. Instead, defrost food in the refrigerator.
- Keep a pitcher of drinking water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap.
- If you accidentally drop ice cubes, do not throw them in the sink. Drop them in a houseplant instead.

Bathroom

- Install low-flow showerheads and save up to 2.5 gallons each time you shower.
- Take five-minute showers instead of 10-minute showers. This will save anywhere from 12.5 gallons to 25 gallons per shower.
- Install aerators on bathroom faucets and save up to 1.2 gallons per person per day.
- Turn water off when brushing teeth or shaving and save approximately 10 gallons per day.
- Install a high-efficiency toilet and save up to 19 gallons per person per day. TCPUD offers a cash rebate program for all District customers who install a High Efficiency Toilet. Visit www.tahoecitypud.org for more information.
- Put food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the bowl without flushing, there is a leak.
- Consider buying a dual-flush toilet. It has two flush options: a half-flush for liquid waste and a full flush for solid waste.
- When washing your hands, turn the water off while you lather.
- Take a five-minute shower instead of a bath. A bathtub can use up to 70 gallons of water.

**Outdoor Cleanup**

Water is often a go-to tool for outdoor clean-up jobs but it is time to re-think how you use water outdoors.

- Use a broom to clean driveways, sidewalks, and patio and save 8-18 gallons per minute.
- Wash cars and boats with a bucket, sponge, and hose with self-closing nozzle and save 8-18 gallons per minute.

**Reduce Irrigation for the Biggest Impact!**

Reducing irrigation at your home will have the largest impact on saving water. The TCPUD encourages the community to consider native landscaping at their properties to reduce irrigation and save water.

***Make conservation a way of life to protect our natural environment and resources.***

**For more information:**

**www.tahoecitypud.com** **530.583.3796**

# Summer Water Tips:

**Suggest Watering Days:** Even number street addresses water Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Odd number street addresses water Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday. NO landscape irrigation on Saturdays.

**Lawn Watering Tips:** Do not water between noon and 7pm, this will help prevent evaporation. Lawns require 1" of water per week, which is equal to about 20 minutes of watering two to three times per week.

- Install a working stop & drain. A working stop & drain is required on all homes, and allows homeowners the ability to turn off water to your home.
- Use a broom instead of water to clean driveways, decks and other surfaces.
- Do not allow sprinklers and hoses to overflow into streets and adjacent properties.
- While washing your vehicle, boats, trailers, etc. use a bucket and flow control spray nozzle on your hose.
- Report water waste and leaks to Lukins Brothers Water at (530) 541-2606 or info@luknswater.com.

## 2014 DROUGHT INFORMATION

On January 14, 2014, Governor Brown declared California a state of Emergency and directed officials to prepare for drought conditions. This includes urging of consumer reduction of water conservation of 20%. Lukins Brothers Water Company is actively applying for grants to fund water conservation programs which include water meters for all customers and additional funding for waterline replacement projects.

We hope that all of our customers will do there part to help reduce water consumption by more than 20%. Below are helpful conservation websites:

Squaw Valley Public Service District
305 Squaw Valley Road
Post Office Box 2026
Olympic Valley, CA 96146

## IMPROVEMENTS TO COMMUNITY DUMPSTERS

The District recently completed updates and improvements to our Community Dumpster Site. Changes were requested by the community and directed by the District's Board of Directors to address deteriorating aesthetics and persistent abuse at the facility. Staff from both the Public Service District and Tahoe-Truckee Sierra Disposal (T-TSD) constantly respond to overflowing dumpsters that result from illegal dumping.

While the dumpsters are intended for **household trash and recyclable materials only**, some have abused the benefit by dumping *illegal* materials such as construction materials, appliances, furniture, yard debris and hazardous materials. Negative impacts from illegal use of the site include unwanted visits from bears and other wildlife, increased operating costs and an unacceptable appearance of the community's asset.

Improvements include new dumpsters, installation of a gate to prohibit truck access and updated signage. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and if you are having trouble reaching the chute please consider bringing a foot stool. If you have a large amount of household trash or any of the materials listed above, please go to the Dump, officially called the *Eastern Regional Landfill Material Recovery Facility (MRF) and Transfer Station*, on Cabin Creek Road, 5½-miles north on Hwy. 89, before you reach Truckee. Their website is www.waste101.com

### NEW LOOK FOR NEWSLETTER

How do you like our new look? Just like flat screen TV's with broader acceptance and use, costs for color printing have decreased dramatically! Because of that, we are able to print our newsletter in color. We have also redesigned the look of the newsletter to bring it into the 21st century.

### NEW MEMBERS

The District is proud to be a new member of the ***Squaw Valley Business Association*** and ***Squaw Valley Institute***.

WINTER 2014

# WATER IN SQUAW

The PSD continues its focus on one of its primary missions: to provide a safe and reliable supply of water while protecting the valley's natural resources and environment. The District is busy implementing information from the *Creek / Aquifer Interaction Study*, assessing water supply from the aquifer to meet demands of new development, pursuing a secondary source of supply to reduce unacceptable vulnerabilities, and carefully managing our existing supply in preparation of drought conditions.

The recently completed *Creek / Aquifer Interaction Study* enhances our understanding of the valley's hydrology and informs us how to avoid negative impacts to Squaw Creek. Following are some results from the study that will be used to guide the management of our groundwater.

- Annual variations in flows in Squaw Creek are primarily a function of snowpack in the watershed and impacts from the District's water supply operations are negligible.
- Groundwater travels through the aquifer very quickly. A contaminant spill could impact our water wells before we can remediate it, supporting our efforts to obtain a secondary source of water supply.
- Pumping water from the eastern portion of the aquifer has a greater long-term impact on wetlands and surface flows in Squaw Creek than pumping in the western portion.
- New wells should distribute pumping in the aquifer; we should place some adjacent to Squaw Creek and others distant from the creek to benefit from a Pumping Management Plan.

The layout of an expanded well field is a critical element in the preparation of the Water Supply Assessment (WSA) for the *Village at Squaw Valley* Project. Although much of the work needed to complete the WSA is done, minor tweaks are needed to reflect the recent reduction in the size of the project. The WSA is required by state law due to the size of the proposed project and assesses the availability of water supply to meet *existing* demands, *project* demands and *future* demands anticipated in the next 20-years. As the overlying landowner, Squaw Valley Real Estate has some rights to the water in the underlying aquifer and proposes to supply their project with these local groundwater sources. Although this critical document is prepared by the District, it is paid for by the developer, who also dictates the schedule to complete it.

While the District looks forward to improving its reliability of water supply from the aquifer, we are also keenly focused on geographically diversifying our resources by evaluating a preferred alternative for a redundant source of water supply. Our vision is the installation of a utility corridor between Squaw Valley and Truckee for natural gas, fiber optic cable, a secondary source of water and a Class I Bike Trail, allowing residents, businesses and visitors the life safety benefits of modern-day utilities. The advantages also include improved fire safety from additional hydrants along the Truckee River and the elimination of propane tanks and deliveries. The cost of the project is high but through collaboration and with strong partnerships, we believe we can realize the long term benefits for our community.

These three projects highlight the PSD's commitment to meet its duty to serve and satisfy its statutory requirements to deliver safe and reliable supplies of water without harming the environment. Fulfilling these obligations demonstrates our fiduciary responsibility to the community as well. Our duty to supply water to properties within the

*Continued on Page 5, WATER*

**SQUAW VALLEY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT**
**Post Office Box 2026**
**Olympic Valley, California 96146-2026**
**530/583-4692 - voice 530/583-6228 - fax**
**http://www.svpsd.org**

**SQUAW VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT**

# Fire and Safety Notes

## Planning For the Future: Squaw Valley Fire Department's Capital Facilities Plan

by Pete Bansen, Fire Chief

Capital Facilities Plans provide a blueprint for the acquisition of assets that will address the impacts of growth and create a funding mechanism for those assets by apportioning mitigation fees on commercial and residential development. Fire mitigation fees collected in this manner can only be used for infrastructure that addresses the impacts of growth - they cannot be used to fund replacement of existing assets or operations.

Squaw Valley Fire Department's Plan - unchanged since 2001 - contains an item that proposes a second fire station to be staffed by resident firefighters who can provide the Department with critical staffing to respond to a single large incident or multiple, simultaneous emergencies. The resident station concept has been used for decades at fire districts serving resort areas in Colorado and a similar program using student firefighters is utilized at UC Davis. The concept leverages the lifestyle benefits of a resort community to provide a level of emergency services to the community that we would otherwise be unable to afford.

As a fire chief, adequate staffing for emergency response is a constant concern. Many years ago, our Department was a primarily volunteer organization, with roughly two dozen members who all lived - and for the most part worked – in the Valley. When an emergency call was received, 6 to 8 volunteers would reliably respond along with the paid staff. Fires generated a significantly larger turnout - a good thing, because fire suppression requires a considerable number of people for safe, effective, *legal* operation.

Today, our Department is composed completely of paid staff - California law has made volunteer departments in an area like this obsolete - and many members of our staff live at some distance from the Valley. Our firefighters make a decent, middle-class wage, but even with two incomes in a family, Truckee and Reno are the closest affordable housing markets for young families.

Because our staff members are some distance from the District when off-duty, the availability of "callback" - the response of off-duty members back to the District for an emergency - is either delayed or impractical. The result is that virtually every emergency call requires a mutual aid response from our adjoining Districts in order to have adequate staffing. Callback or the availability of a reserve group of employees greatly enhances our ability to respond to a larger incident or simultaneous calls.

This situation is by no means unique to Squaw Valley; both North Tahoe and Truckee Fire Districts, despite being significantly larger than our agency, have the same need. Squaw Valley Fire actually *provides* mutual aid much more frequently than we *receive* it. The fire departments in this area are increasingly interdependent and function much more like one large department than a handful of smaller ones.

The 'resident station' concept relies on a collaboration between the fire department, resort operator and local community colleges. Sierra College, Lake Tahoe Community College and Truckee Meadows Community College - to name just the institutions in the immediate area - all have fire science programs that prepare students for fire service careers. The entry level standard for fire department employment is the California State Fire Marshal "Firefighter 1" certification, which is granted following completion of a fire academy program as well as on the job experience with a fire department. The community college programs satisfy the academic requirement and the resident firefighter program provides students with the opportunity to fulfill the on the job training element.

In resort community resident programs, resident firefighters live at a station proximate to the resort, which typically provides them with a full-time, seasonal job. The resort benefits from the availability of qualified, highly-motivated, reliable employees who have local housing and in return will allow them to leave their jobs for emergency calls. The community colleges are able to provide a quality internship opportunity for their students and the fire department has a pool of trained and readily available firefighters when a large incident (or simultaneous incidents) demand it. It's a win-win-win-win situation, but the biggest winner is the community which has an enhanced level of service at a low cost.

The development of a resident fire station at the west end of the Valley could also provide a footprint for a secured, permanent landing zone for air ambulances, a resource that we use with increasing frequency for skiing injuries. Just a few years ago, the use of a Care Flight or CALSTAR helicopter to transport an injured person to the Trauma Center in Reno was a relative rare occasion: perhaps once or twice a season. Today, because of the improved availability and shorter response times from the air ambulance services, combined with a greater appreciation of the improved patient outcomes resulting from rapid transport to a facility providing definitive care, we use air ambulances almost weekly. As development proceeds in the Valley, the availability of a dedicated landing zone in a location with predictable access, appropriate lighting, snow removal and no hazardous obstructions would be of a significant and potentially life-saving benefit to the community and it could be on the roof of the resident fire station.

Although the resident fire station has been in the Fire Department's Capital Facilities Plan since 2001 and has been unchanged during that time, it has survived the test of time in good condition. The program is relevant and realistic to addressing the needs of a growing Valley as it was a dozen years ago and it takes into consideration both the factors occasioned by growth in the Valley and the operational relationships between fire protection agencies in the region. As a result, it's a creative and collaborative way to address our needs into the future and it's an excellent project to fund with mitigation fees generated by development.



## *CALIFORNIA'S RECORD DROUGHT - LET'S SAVE OUR WATER*

California is in its third consecutive dry year and is facing the worst drought in its history. As calendar year 2013 was the driest year in recorded history for many areas of California, Gov. Jerry Brown issued a formal drought proclamation on Jan. 17, 2014 and called for a voluntary 20% water reduction statewide. The snowpack readings taken January 30, 2014 revealed the lowest snowpack water content in the history of such record keeping in California – a fact that underscores our severe water shortage. Snow surveyors with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) measured the snowpack's water content at only 12% of average for this time of year. Snowpack is critical to the water supply in California, as it is in Squaw Valley, because it melts into our aquifer to provide our drinking water, irrigation, and snowmaking. The water content reading of 12% is far lower than measurements taken during the severe drought years of 1976-'77, which showed winter snowpack water content readings of 22% and 25% respectively.

The Public Service District shares the Governor's concern and is implementing its *Water Conservation Program*, incorporated into our Water Ordinance. It includes three stages of drought alert and water conservation measures aimed at promoting the health, welfare, and safety of our customers. The District is also leveraging the framework of cooperation inherent in the *Olympic Valley Groundwater Management Plan* to coordinate the management of groundwater in Squaw Valley with other pumpers of the aquifer.

Coordination and cooperation in the management of our water resources are critical but also heavily depends on water conservation measures from all of the community's residents, business, and visitors. As this winter remains dry, now more than ever, we all need to save every drop we can in our homes and places of work. Saving water is not hard. We simply need to be smart about using what we have.

Water Conservation information is available at our office at 305 Squaw Valley Road and the District encourages a review of ***www.saveourh2o.org*** for additional information and ways to reduce your water use by 20%. Rethinking the way we use water – both indoors and outdoors – will help stretch our limited supplies and ensure water is there when we need it. If we all work together, we can make a difference for Squaw Valley.

Remember, every drop of water is important. Use water wisely. The drought is on--turn your water off.

### *WATER SAVING TIPS*

- Install aerators on bathroom faucets
  *Saves 1.2 gal.*
- Turn off water when brushing teeth or shaving
  *Saves 10 gals.*
- Fix leaky toilets
  *Saves 30-50 gals.*
- Install a high-efficiency water-sense-labeled toilet
  *Saves 1.28 gal per flush*
- Wash only full loads of clothes
  *Saves 15-45 gals.*
- Take five minute showers instead of 10 minute showers
  *Saves 12.5 gals.*
- Install efficient watersense-labeled shower heads
  *Saves 10 gals.*

***WATER Continued from Page 1***

District's boundary is clearly defined by California State law and reinforced by a body of case law; and is independent of any construction or development plans. The District can't use water supply to control growth. Placer County is the agency with jurisdiction over decisions on how land is used and developed in Squaw Valley. The PSD is clear about these separate roles and remains objective to any new plans for development. By maintaining a position of neither pro-development nor anti-development we avoid risk of expensive litigation and legal challenges from developers, as well as those opposed to growth. As always, we operate within the regulatory framework that protects the natural resources and environment we cherish.

Customer Service Office
1275 Meadow Crest Drive
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Phone: 530.544.6474
Fax: 530.541.0614
info@stpud.dst.us.ca

*Basic services for a complex world*

The South Tahoe Public Utility District is a special district formed in September 1950, and provides environmentally and fiscally responsible water and wastewater collection, treatment, and recycling for the community of South Lake Tahoe. Special districts are a form of local government that are usually created to provide specific services that are not being provided by other governmental entities. The District is governed by a five-member Board of Directors that are elected in staggered four-year terms. Directors must reside within the service area of the District. Special districts provide focused, specialized service and are considered, by many, the most responsive form of local government. Board meetings are held on the first and third Thursday of each month at the Board Meeting Room located at 1275 Meadow Crest Drive. The District welcomes your attendance and participation.

The District has over 18,000 sewer connections and over 14,000 water connections. Our unique and innovative recycled water export system transports an average of 4 million gallons-per-day of reclaimed water 27 miles to the Harvey Place Reservoir, where it is stored for agricultural land application to ranches, under contract, during the dry summer months. The District is proud of this cutting edge system.

**Visit us on the web! www.stpud.us**

## Sprinkler Spruce-Up

It's been a long, dry winter for your yard. While your plants go dormant to cope with the colder weather, your sprinkler system can feel the effects of winter, too. Cracks in the pipes can lead to costly leaks, and broken sprinkler heads can waste water and money. You could be losing up to 25,000 gallons of water or more over a six-month irrigation season!

Now is the perfect time to spruce up your irrigation system before you ramp up your watering efforts this spring and summer. To get started, follow these four simple steps—inspect, connect, direct, and select:

- **Inspect.** Check your system for clogged, broken, or missing sprinkler heads. If you're not the do-it-yourself type, go with a pro—look for an irrigation professional certified through a WaterSense labeled irrigation program.
- **Connect.** Examine points where the sprinkler heads connect to pipes/hoses. If water is pooling in your landscape or you have large wet areas, you could have a leak in your system. A leak as small as the tip of a ballpoint pen (1/32nd of an inch) can waste about 6,300 gallons of water per month.
- **Direct.** Are you watering the driveway, house, or sidewalk instead of your yard? Redirect sprinklers to apply water only to your lawn or prized plants.
- **Select.** An improperly scheduled irrigation controller can waste a lot of water and money. Update your system's schedule monthly, or select a WaterSense labeled controller to take the guesswork out of scheduling.

Don't forget to add "sprinkler spruce-up" to your spring cleaning list this year. The South Tahoe Public Utility District offers FREE Irrigation Efficiency Evaluations to assist you with *your* Sprinkler Spruce-Up! Visit www.stpud.us/water_conservation.html or call 530.543.6268 for more information. You can also learn more about maintaining a water-smart yard by visiting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense website at www.epa.gov/watersense/outdoor.

South Tahoe Public Utility District

# District Digest

Spring Edition April 2014

Special points of interest:

- Upcoming Public Workshops
- Turf Buy Back Program
- Drink Tahoe Tap
- A Brush with Kindness

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## Why Conserve Water?

Water is California's most precious natural resource, but the state is currently facing its worst water shortage crisis in modern history. On January 17, 2014, Governor Brown proclaimed a State of Emergency and called on Californians to reduce their water use by 20 percent. Calendar year 2013 was the driest year in recorded history for many areas of California, and current conditions suggest no change is in sight for 2014.

Water conservation is always important in California, but this year no one can afford to waste any water. We all need to do our part.

Saving water is not hard. We simply need to be smart about using what we have. Rethinking the way we use water—both indoors and outdoors—will help stretch our limited supplies and ensure water is there when we need it.

The South Tahoe Public Utility District is committed to conserving water and fostering a culture of efficient water use in our community. Our Water Conservation Program offers a variety of water efficiency incentives, services, and resources to help residents and businesses use water wisely.

To learn more about our program, visit www.stpud.us and select Water Conservation or contact the Water Conservation Specialist at 530.543.6268.

## Watering Restrictions in Effect

Spring has arrived! As you may be thinking about your summer gardening plans, please remember that watering restrictions are currently in effect.

The following provisions of the Water Conservation Program are necessary to conserve water resources and minimize cost to the District and our customers:

- Do not allow water to flow over the ground surface or from sprinklers onto surfaces that are not able to absorb water, or on neighboring properties.
- Repair all leaks in plumbing and irrigation systems.
- The irrigation of non-landscaped, natural vegetation or undeveloped property is prohibited.
- Always use an automatic shut-off nozzle on hoses. Continuous discharge from a hose is prohibited.

Please report to the District all signs or indications of water leaks or water waste. And remember, Water the Right Day...and the Right Way!

**The Right Day is...**

Even Numbered Addresses:

**Monday, Wednesday, and Friday**

Odd Numbered Addresses:

**Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday**

**NO LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION ON SATURDAY**

**The Right Way** is to properly amend the soil before planting, and to water the appropriate amount for the vegetation type and soil conditions.

# Turf Buy Back is Back!

A beautiful example of Tahoe-friendly landscaping.

The South Tahoe Public Utility District (District) recognizes that lawn areas help to provide defensible space, play areas for children and pets, and serve an integral role in a comprehensive landscaping plan. However, turf is one of the most water intensive landscaping options and requires substantial maintenance. Non-functional lawns - those that are rarely used - waste water and represent an ongoing cost in both time and resources for the home and business owner. From an environmental perspective, lawns tend to be over fertilized and over watered. With porous Tahoe soils, this combination can push nutrients intended for the lawn into the watershed where they eventually make their way into Lake Tahoe. Once there, they provide nutrients for algal growth that can affect the legendary clarity of the Lake.

The Turf Buy-Back Program is a rebate program that offers homeowners the opportunity to remove their lawn and replace it with Tahoe-friendly native or adaptive vegetation. The District is excited to announce the return of the Turf Buy Back Program this summer!

The Turf Buy-Back Program 2014 offers a rebate of $1.50 per square foot of turf removed, with a maximum rebate of $3,000. The program requires that a minimum of 400 square feet of turf be replaced, and the area to be converted must be an irrigated/maintained, established lawn. **Your lawn must be verified by District Water Conservation Program staff prior to turf removal in order to be eligible.**

The program is partially funded by a water conservation grant from the California Department of Water Resources. It is available to all District water customers and is offered on a first come, first served basis. Funds are limited and terms and conditions apply. Please contact the Water Conservation Specialist at (530) 543-6268 for more information, or to be placed on a waiting list.

"Each year, billions of empty plastic water bottles are taken to landfills."

# Better than Bottled Water...

The Tahoe Water Suppliers Association (TWSA) is a regional partnership of Nevada and California Water Suppliers serving the Lake Tahoe region. The South Tahoe Public Utility District (District), along with other members of TWSA, urge you to kick the bottled water habit and drink from the tap! Here's why:

**QUALITY!** - Tahoe Basin tap water is some of the best in the world. The District pumps its drinking water from deep underground aquifers fed by the Sierra snowpack and mountain streams. Who knows where your bottled water came from? Tahoe Tap means proven quality.

**SAFETY!** - Drinking water in California is regulated by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and meets the most stringent standards in the world. Bottled water is regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and meet significantly lower standards.

**COST!** - The District's water costs fractions of a penny per gallon. Contrast that to the average price of nearly $3.00 per gallon in retail stores. It's a bad deal. That's almost as expensive as gasoline!

**IT'S BETTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT!** - Each year billions of empty plastic water bottles (estimated at 1.5 million tons annually) are taken to landfills. These bottles take years to biodegrade! They are an unnecessary waste of a resource, not to mention a huge cost to produce and dispose of.

So the next time you have a choice, Just Say NO to Bottled Water!







# Habitat for Humanity - *A Brush With Kindness*

El Dorado County Habitat for Humanity

Are you a homeowner who needs a little help with the exterior of your home, and are you unable to do it yourself or pay someone else to do it? Do you need exterior paint, minor exterior repairs, or basic landscaping or yard clean up? If so, Habitat for Humanity has a program called *A Brush with Kindness* for qualified homeowners.

*A Brush with Kindness* is a program of El Dorado County Habitat for Humanity that helps low-income homeowners by offering exterior home improvements. Volunteer teams work to improve the condition of homes by painting, landscaping, and performing minor exterior repairs at minimal costs to homeowners who would otherwise be unable to complete these repairs on their own. Able-bodied homeowners are encouraged to work alongside the volunteers in a cooperative effort.

For more information or to find out if you qualify, contact Carolyn Meiers at 530.541.4654 or email us at sltahoehabitat@gmail.com.

# Upcoming Public Workshops

The Board of Directors of the South Tahoe Public Utility District is seeking public input about critical decisions that could affect your sewer and water rates, as well as your quality of service, public health, and environmental protection. There are three specific challenges that are important for our customers to understand:

- Need to provide enough water to all the neighborhoods we serve if another major wildfire should strike in our area. This involves replacing undersized pipes and upgrading pumps and other facilities.
- Need to conform to a state law that requires us to meter all water connections.
- Need for the wastewater system to be secure against leaks and breaks that can cause sewage spills, and to ensure that we can continue to pump our recycled water to Alpine County, as required by state law.

District engineers have already developed a 10-year plan of necessary system improvements and repairs, as well as estimated costs. The bottom line is that it will cost tens of millions of dollars to undertake the work. The District must find a balance between the speed of improvements and the rates our customers pay. You will soon be receiving a Proposition 218 notice which outlines the maximum amount your rates could increase in the next 5 years.

Please consider participating in one of the upcoming public workshops to provide your input in the process:

**Thursday, April 17th at 6:00pm**

**Thursday, May 15th at 6:00pm**

All workshops are held in the District's Board Room, located at 1275 Meadow Crest Drive in South Lake Tahoe. If you are unable to attend but would like to provide your input, we encourage you to do so by contacting the District at 530.544.6474, or by email at info@stpud.dst.ca.us.

Your questions and feedback are important to us!

"The District must find a balance between the speed of improvements and the rates our customers pay."

## 2013 Consumer Confidence Report

The 2013 Consumer Confidence Report, which contains valuable information regarding your drinking water, will be available for viewing at www.stpud.us/2013_CCR.pdf on July 1, 2014.

If you do not have access to the internet, you may have a hard copy mailed to you after July 1, 2014 by contacting the Customer Service Department at 530.544.6474 during regular work hours (M - F 8am to 5pm.)

Squaw Valley Public Service District
305 Squaw Valley Road
Post Office Box 2026
Olympic Valley, CA 96146

## DEPARTING WORDS FROM ALETA DRAKE

After 28 happy years with the District and 41 years in Tahoe, I find it time to move on in my life. During this time, I have seen many changes in Squaw with the rise of the Resort at Squaw Creek, a new Village in the heart of the valley and new owners of the mountain. I worked for several companies in Squaw prior to being recruited by the District, maintaining the accounts for the construction of the Aspens Condos, Squaw Ridge Condos, Squaw Summit Subdivision and the PlumpJack Convention Center to name just a few. All in all, I have many years of wonderful memories to be thankful for. There are many more changes in the works here and I will be anxiously watching to see if they actually become reality. It is exciting to see the evolution of such a beautiful valley.

Many of you in Squaw Valley have become very special friends. I leave with the confidence that the employees of the District will continue to serve you as the most qualified staff I have ever worked with. Please welcome Tom Campbell as the new Finance and Administration Manager. He is a very competent replacement that I am sure you will find helpful and pleasant to work with.

My husband and I will be off traveling the USA in our new 5th wheel. I have always loved to travel and can't wait to see this beautiful land of ours. Hopefully, you will give me your e-mail addresses so I can keep in touch with you as we go "walk-about".

I WILL SINCERELY MISS YOU ALL! *Aleta*

## CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

The Squaw Valley Public Service District is proud to supply safe, reliable and healthy water that meets or exceeds State and Federal public health standards for drinking water. Annually, the PSD publishes a water quality report titled "Consumer Confidence Report" as required by the State Department of Public Health to inform customers about the quality of their drinking water. This report is based on a culmination of water sample data collected throughout the year from selected sample sites. It can be accessed on our website at the following link: http://www.svpsd.org/pdffiles/ANNUAL_QUAL_RPT.pdf

SUMMR 2014

# DROUGHT UPDATE

California Governor Jerry Brown declared a drought emergency in January, 2014, announcing the lowest total rainfall in the state's 163-year history and asking residents to voluntarily reduce their water use by 20%. Although much of the media coverage of the drought focuses on areas west of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, the Squaw Valley Public Service District is embracing best-management practices to conserve water and prepare for the potential of aquifer levels lower than we've ever seen.

Every year, District water system operators manage pumping in the aquifer in response to declining aquifer levels in the later months of summer. Pumping is managed daily by reacting to aquifer levels at each well and by rotating pumping between the District's four active wells. Monitoring of these groundwater levels will continue this summer as they are expected to drop sooner than normal.

The District is also aggressively seeking out and repairing leaks in our water distribution system. Recently, water leaks at the Stables property, two of our wells and on the S-turn on Squaw Valley Road were found and repaired. As the age our system reaches upwards of 50-years old, we're seeing vulnerabilities we plan to address and portions of the system in need of replacement. Your water user fees help to fund these repairs and capital replacements.

As we continue monitoring drought conditions and weather forecasts, implementation of the District's Water Conservation Program remains a potential course of action for our Board of Directors to consider. It is part of the PSD's Water Ordinance and includes three stages of drought alert and water conservation measures aimed at promoting the health, welfare, and safety of our customers. We remain in Stage 1 or Normal Conditions now. The District may also leverage the framework of cooperation inherent in the Olympic Valley Groundwater Management Plan to coordinate the management of groundwater in Squaw Valley with other pumpers of the aquifer.

Of course, the District continues its work to drought-proof our water supply and establish more reliable sources of supply to our existing and future customers. Progress continues on the Redundant Water Supply – Preferred Alternative Evaluation to identify a feasible alternative water supply that provides supply source redundancy to our system and better prepares us to respond to historical drought periods or contamination in our community's sole source of water.

Please do what you can to reduce your water consumption by a minimum of 20%. Check your water consumption at our website at www.svpsd.org. See page three for outdoor water conservation tips.

## *DISTRICT WELCOMES NEW FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION MANAGER*

The Board and staff are pleased to introduce Tom Campbell as the District's new Finance and Administration Manager. After an extensive search and recruitment process, Tom was selected to fill the role of the District's retiring 28-year veteran Controller/Network Administrator, Aleta Drake.

Tom is a graduate of Juniata College of Huntington, PA, where he studied business management with a concentration in finance and accounting. Prior to joining the District, he was the Director of Finance for Physician's Weekly, a medical publisher of Basking Ridge, NJ, where he oversaw the reorganization of its financial operations resulting from several private equity deals. He has also worked with other media and advertising agencies including Star Marketing, Jena Publishing, and Hartmann Media Solutions.

Tom has extensive experience managing finance and business operations in corporate and private business environments. Tom's primary objectives are to continue managing the day-to-day accounting operations of the District, with a focus on optimizing operational efficiencies and enhancing the District's financial transparency throughout the execution of the District's strategic plan.

Tom has relocated from Pennsylvania to join the PSD team. In his free time, he enjoys outdoor activities including skiing, kayaking, fishing, camping, mountain biking, and disc golf. Tom also produces musical artists in his spare time, having recorded hundreds of live and studio songs over the past 15 years, releasing several albums, and receiving an award for Independent Album of the Year in 2007.

**SQUAW VALLEY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT**
Post Office Box 2026
Olympic Valley, California 96146-2026
530/583-4692 - voice 530/583-6228 - fax
http://www.svpsd.org

SQUAW VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

# Fire and Safety Notes

Summer, 2014

## Personnel News

**Firefighter Michael Sacci** is our newest full-time employee. Michael has worked with Squaw Valley Fire since 2012 and manages to balance his work for us with service with the Nevada Air National Guard and coaching at Incline High School. Michael and his wife Natalie live in Incline Village, Nevada.

**William Marshman** is our newest part-time Firefighter-Paramedic. Will grew up in Truckee and has also worked at North Tahoe FPD and Northstar Fire Department. Will comes from a fire service family - his father, Steve, worked at Northstar Fire Department for many years. Will is married and lives in Reno.

**Fire Captain Sal Monforte** has been recuperating from a motorcycle accident last July and will (hopefully) be back at work by the time you read this.

## Green Waste Disposal

Thanks to an agreement with Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal, Placer County residents can dispose of up to 6 cubic yards of vegetation at the Cabin Creek Road facility at no charge between May 1 and October 31. That's about 40 bags of material or a couple of standard pickup loads. You must bring proof of residence (such as a utility bill for your Squaw Valley home).

Green waste is also collected with household trash on Monday mornings, but the trash company will only take a couple of bags at a time. If you 'meter' out your bags of pine needles two or three at a time, they'll be collected, but if there are forty bags at the curb, the trashmen will NOT take two bags a week until they're gone...

## Fire Season Preparation and Defensible Space

It's unnecessary to go into any discussion of the severe drought conditions currently being experienced in California and by now you've heard a great deal of bluster about what a terrible fire season it promises to be. At the Squaw Valley Property Owners Meeting, a gentlemen asked a question that I thought was perceptive and interesting and it allowed me to provide a somewhat detailed and lengthy answer that I hope some in the audience found enlightening. He asked, "What's the risk to the Valley of a fire that starts on Highway 89?". My reply involved an explanation of the conditions that affect wildland fires: the idea that a number of factors contribute to the relative ease of ignition and rate of spread of a wildland vegetation fire. Those factors include the types of fuels present, the amount of moisture in those fuels, temperature, relative humidity, wind and topography. In evaluating the risk of fire, we assess all of those factors and combine them to create predictive indices which for some agencies drive the allocation of resources. The indices help determine how aggressively they assign initial attack resources to suppression efforts (and I should note that this is true for the larger, wildland agencies - our Department simply throws everything we have at every fire).

In terms of structure protection and modifying the fire environment so that people and property can be protected from a wildland fire, only one of the variables mentioned above is under our control (discussions of climate change aside). That is, "What fuels are present, in what quantity and in what proximity to the structures to be protected?" When we talk about 'defensible space', it really comes down to modifying the environment in the area that will most directly affect ignition of a home. The fuels present in that area are the only factor that we can modify and are the single most decisive factor in whether a structure can be saved or even if resources are assigned to that effort. In a wildland-urban interface fire, resources for structure protection are chronically limited and stretched thin - as is the water supply - and homes that have the ability to "stand alone" or that can be protected with minimal intervention are generally the ones that survive the fire. Homes with construction elements that don't resist fire well or that have vegetation that, when burned, is likely to carry the fire to the home are simply passed over in favor of homes that provide a greater likelihood of success.

Defensible space is all about modifying the factors within your control to give your home a better chance of survival. Your help in controlling the fire environment surrounding your home is both badly needed and greatly appreciated, especially this summer.

## New Emergency Notification System for Squaw Valley

Squaw Valley Fire Department is now utilizing a service called ***Nixle*** as a way of better communicating emergency information to our residents. Nixle is a web-based application that can provide emailed or "texted" notification to residents of a geographic area. You need to be a subscriber to information distributed by Squaw Valley Fire Department, but it's a very simple, one-step process and we will use it only for urgent notifications.

Some of the situations in which we foresee Nixle being useful are advising of high or extreme avalanche warnings for the Valley's Potential Avalanche Hazard Areas, information on wildland fires or smoke, emergency evacuation, power issues, flooding and potential weather emergencies. Nixle has been used to good effect by neighboring jurisdictions for a little over a year and we see potential (if infrequent) benefit to our community. It's easy to subscribe and equally easy to unsubscribe if you choose.

For more information, see: http://www.nixle.com/
To subscribe to SMS alerts, text 96146 to 888777 - you'll receive a confirmation text
There is also an app available for iPhone and iPad: search "Nixle" in the iTunes store.



## OUTDOOR WATERING CONSERVATION TIPS

Most people think that they use more water indoors than outdoors. Typically, the opposite is true. In some areas, 50% or more of the water we use daily goes on lawns and outdoor landscaping. There are lots of ways to save water at home, but reducing the water you use outdoors can make the biggest difference of all. Here are a few easy ways to change the way you use water outside your home.

**Know the Basics**

- Water early in the morning or later in the evening when temperatures are cooler. Save: 25 gallons/each time you water
- Check your sprinkler system frequently and adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street. Save: 15-12 gallons/each time you water
- Choose a water-efficient irrigation system such as drip irrigation for your trees, shrubs, and flowers. Save: 15 gallons/each time you water.
- Water deeply but less frequently to create healthier and stronger landscapes.
- Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants to reduce evaporation and keep the soil cool. Organic mulch also improves the soil and prevents weeds. Save: 20-30 gallons/each time you water/1,000 sq. ft.
- Plant drought-resistant trees and plants. Save: 30- 60 gallons/each time you water/1,000 sq. ft.

**Don't Overwater**

One easy way to cut down how much water you use outdoors is to learn how much water your landscaping actually needs in order to thrive. Overwatering is one of the most common mistakes people make.

**Outdoor Cleanup**

Water is often a go-to tool for outdoor clean-up jobs.

- Use a broom to clean driveways, sidewalks and patios. Save: 8-18 gallons /minute.
- Wash cars/boats with a bucket, sponge, and hose with self-closing nozzle. Save: 8-18 gallons/minute.
- Invest in a water broom. If you have to use water to clean up outside, a water broom will attach to your hose but uses a combination of air and water pressure to aid cleaning. Water brooms can use as little as 2.8 gallons per minute (gpm) to remove dirt, food spills, leaves, and litter from concrete and asphalt while a standard hose typically uses 5 to 20 gpm.

## TWO BOARD SEATS UP FOR ELECTION

Are you interested in serving the Olympic Valley community? Two seats on the Squaw Valley Public Service District Board of Directors are up for election on Tuesday, November 4, 2014.

The District is governed by a five-member Board of Directors elected to four-year terms. Directors are elected "at large" by the registered voters within the boundaries of the District. Monthly meetings of the Board are held on the last Tuesday of each month, at 8:30 a.m., in the Squaw Valley Public Service District's Community Room.

Candidates may file Nomination Petitions starting July 16, 2014. In the Tahoe area, forms may be obtained at the Tahoe City Customs House, 775 North Lake Boulevard, Tahoe City, from Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., excluding holidays.

If you are interested and would like more information regarding the District or the position of Director, please stop by the District office, or call 530-583-4692.

A free candidate workshop is tentatively scheduled for Friday, July 11th at 6:00 pm at the North Tahoe Event Center, 8318 North Lake Blvd, Kings Beach. For more information, as well as locations for workshops in western Placer County, contact the County Elections Division at 530-886-5650 or at election@placer.ca.gov.