

FEBRUARY



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DON'T MISS TMWA'S WORKSHOPS AND TOURS

From Sprinkler Maintenance Workshops to Verdi Hydroelectric Plant Tours, TMWA offers a variety of sessions where customers can learn more about water quality and water use. Included in this mailing is a schedule of the 2016 Workshops and Tours. All events are free, although we do require an RSVP, so mark them on your calendar today! Visit www.tmwa.com/tours for the full list.

THE TRUCKEE RIVER OPERATING AGREEMENT BEGINS: COMMUNITY'S DROUGHT RESERVES WILL ALMOST TRIPLE

A carefully crafted strategy to guide management of the Truckee River's waters is now in effect, ending decades of uncertainty. More than 27 years in the making, the Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA) now guides use of the river, our main water resource. Supporters say the long-pursued plan brings the river's management into modern times, protects the area from prolonged droughts and offers a promising future for our region as a whole.

At an event in January, TMWA Board of Directors Chairman Geno Martini said, "TROA is an absolute game-changer." TMWA is a primary signatory party to TROA, along with the U.S. Department of the Interior, the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and the states of Nevada and California. TROA, described by Martini as the "biggest and most important piece" of TMWA's water resource plan, will nearly triple the amount of water that can be stored in Truckee River reservoirs for use during times of drought.



TOP: At the TROA Celebration in January, speakers from the five signatory parties were there to explain the benefits to their organizations. From left: Geno Martini, TMWA Chairman of the Board; Leo Drozdoff, Director of the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; Jason Phillips, Deputy Regional Director of the Mid-Pacific Region of the Bureau of Reclamation; Honorable Vinton Hawley, Chairman of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; Mark Foree, General Manager of TMWA; and Arthur Hinojosa, Director of the Division of Integrated Regional Water Management for the California Department of Water Resources.

RIGHT: Mark Foree, TMWA general manager, explaining that TROA will nearly triple drought reserves.



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The agreement also resolves historic uncertainty between Nevada and California over distribution of the river's water, allocating 90 percent to Nevada. Beyond enhanced drought storage for the Truckee Meadows community, TROA modifies the operation of several reservoirs in the river system to protect and improve water quality; enhances conditions for the endangered Pyramid Lake cui-ui and the threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout; and expands the range of recreational opportunities, including boating and fishing.

For TMWA, the biggest change will be greater ability to choose when water is stored in reservoirs and when it is released for downstream use. "It brings real flexibility to the system," said Mark Foree, TMWA's general manager. "For instance, in the first month of operating the river under TROA, we were able to store 2,700 acre-feet (nearly 900 million gallons) of water. That's water we never could have saved upstream until now," Foree added.

U.S. Senator Harry Reid of Nevada, who has stewarded TROA and the related 1989 Negotiated River Settlement since his early years in office, described this milestone as critical for the future of Northern Nevada, particularly in the face of extended droughts and a changing climate. "The process has been anything but easy," Reid said. "It's taken a long time because it is so complicated. It's been a marathon."

Also announced was the purchase of an additional 4,750-acre feet at Donner Lake from the Truckee Carson Irrigation District. TMWA already owns the other half of storage rights at Donner. "This is another very important move for our community's water resource portfolio, giving TMWA even more drought storage," Foree concluded.

PROTECT WATER QUALITY IN YOUR HOME: AVOID CROSS-CONNECTIONS

Cross-connections can occur when your home's water supply system is connected with any water source that is not fit for consumption, such as your irrigation system. If a cross-connection exists due to a water line break or an open fire hydrant, contaminated water could be drawn into your household plumbing through your irrigation system. You can prevent this from happening by properly installing a backflow assembly on your irrigation system if one is not already installed.

Local governmental agencies have building departments that enforce plumbing codes to ensure that household plumbing systems, including irrigation systems, are designed and installed with backflow devices to prevent cross-connections. TMWA staff would like to ensure that the water you use in your home or business maintains its high quality. For additional information about backflow devices and prevention, please visit: www.tmwa.com/backflow.

WHERE TO CALL

General Inquiries: 834-8080
Emergency Repair: 834-8090
Water Conservation: 834-8005
Water Quality: 834-8118
Water Rights: 834-8029
Ombudsman: 848-0813



Truckee Meadows Water Authority is a not-for-profit, community-owned water utility, overseen by elected officials and citizen appointees from Reno, Sparks and Washoe County.

HOLIDAYS & EVENTS

Standing Advisory Committee
Tuesday, March 1 at 3 p.m.

Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, March 16 at 10 a.m.

Locations and details on all workshops and meetings are found here: tmwa.com/news/events-calendar

