

## QUICK FACTS

### How much water was recharged in 2006?

During the 2006 recharge season, more than three million gallons per day were injected into ten different well sites across the Truckee Meadows.

### Did you know:

The recharge program is evaluated on an annual basis and modified as needed to provide maximum benefit to the aquifer, water quality and drought storage.

### About TMWA:

*Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) is a not-for-profit, community-owned water utility, overseen by elected officials and citizen appointees from Reno, Sparks and Washoe County. TMWA has a highly-skilled workforce who ensure the around-the-clock treatment, delivery and availability of high-quality drinking water for more than 330,000 residents of the Truckee Meadows.*

### About this series:

Water Topics in Our Community is a series of papers designed to provide the citizens of the Truckee Meadows information about key water topics in this region.

To access all of the papers, go to [www.tmh2o.com](http://www.tmh2o.com).

### About TMWA's Board of Directors:

The TMWA Board welcomes you to attend and comment at any board meeting. Meeting schedules are posted at [www.tmh2o.com](http://www.tmh2o.com).

To send a question to the Board, log on to [www.tmh2o.com](http://www.tmh2o.com). Look for the "About TMWA" section, Board of Directors. Click on "Tell the Board." We will forward all comments and questions to the Board.

### Questions or feedback?

We'd like to hear from you. Please call our new Community Communications line with any remaining questions you have on this topic or other water topics. The number is **(775) 834-8290**.

### Mailing address:

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## WHY DOES TMWA STORE WATER UNDERGROUND?

During low water years and in abundant snow years, Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) carefully manages our water resources. One of those resources is our capacity to store water underground in the aquifer; this storage is an addition to upstream reservoir storage. Both surface and groundwater resources can be tapped in the event of a drought. By injecting treated surface water to some of its wells, TMWA recharges the underground aquifer annually.

### What is recharge?

The recharge program, known as Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR), pipes treated surface water into existing wells. This water from the Chalk Bluff Treatment Plant is injected into the aquifer through several wells throughout TMWA's service area.

The process occurs during fall and winter when water use drops to one-fourth of the summer average usage and surface water is available. The stored water can then be accessed during drought periods, if necessary.

In the winter, water that recharged into the aquifer and stored for future use. The earlier in the fall that TMWA can start injecting treated water into our wells throughout Reno and Sparks, the more water can be stored and available for use in below normal precipitation years.

We use the replenished aquifers like underground reservoirs from which water can be withdrawn in the event of a water shortage.

### Why does TMWA recharge?

Our water supply depends on annual snowpack and reservoir levels. Since we can't predict how much snow we will get in any given winter, this is stored water that the community can use if there is a drought. This benefits everyone in the Truckee Meadows.

### How much water has TMWA recharged?

Since recharge began in 1993, ASR has successfully banked 17,637 acre-feet of water. An acre foot is the volume of water necessary to cover one acre of surface area to a depth of one foot, or 325,851 gallons. Thus, TMWA has stored almost six billion gallons of water for our use during dry years.

### How does recharging wells affect the water quality?

The treated water injected into the aquifer remains at high quality, meeting all drinking water standards and even improving the aquifer's water quality in the process.

### To date, have we ever needed to use recharged water?

TMWA has never needed to use any recharged water, which allows the stored water to remain as drought insurance.

### Recharge is part of ongoing water management strategies

As a community-owned water utility, we are constantly working to manage water resources in ways that benefit our residential and business customers. We will continue to look for programs such as recharge that make sense for the community's future.