

QUICK FACTS

Number of new Truckee River water rights:

None since 1944

Remaining water rights:

Approximately 50,000 acre-feet of Truckee River water rights and approximately 19,000 acre-feet of creek rights remain for future conversion and possible development.

New importation projects in development:

Three

Where do water rights come from for new growth?

Willing owners sell their water rights to purchasers who convert them from agricultural to municipal use.

Does growth pay for growth at TMWA?

Yes, it does. The development community pays for all new facility and water rights expenses related to growth when they want to build a new project. The TMWA Board instituted this policy shortly after TMWA was formed in 2001. *(For details, see our Topic Paper on Growth.)*

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.

WHO DEVELOPS NEW WATER AND IMPORTATION PROJECTS?

In a growing desert community, questions often arise regarding the need to develop new water resources and the relationship to growth. This Topic Paper addresses new water sources and information on proposed importation projects.

Does Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) develop new water supply projects?

The TMWA Board of Directors recognizes the need for the development of additional water resources for use within TMWA's jurisdiction, but believes the costs to advance such projects should be paid by developers or new customers. TMWA monitors the progress of new water projects, but relies on private industry to actually implement them. Developers and for-profit companies research and fund prospective water supply projects. They are responsible for obtaining the necessary government approvals, including all environmental reviews and State Engineer permitting. TMWA will work with viable projects approved by the appropriate governmental agencies. This means that TMWA may be involved in ultimately operating the new water project, but all costs to develop it will be at the expense of the developer and new customers.

What is TMWA's role in growth in our community?

Water resources are clearly an important element in the growth of our community, but TMWA plays no direct role in growth decisions. Local governments – the city councils of Reno and Sparks and the Washoe County Commission – ultimately set the communities' direction on growth. As a water provider, TMWA manages existing, and plans for future, water supplies. TMWA cannot deliver more water than is available through its existing water rights and drought reserves for any purpose, including growth. If you wish to have input on the issue of growth, contact your elected representative at Reno, Sparks or Washoe County, and/or members of the local planning commissions.

Will the community need more water in the future?

In the future it may become necessary for developers to provide additional sources of municipal water supply to support continued growth in the Truckee Meadows. Although there is a fixed amount of Truckee River water rights (approximately 50,000 acre-feet of Truckee River water rights) that can be converted from agriculture to municipal and industrial use in the Truckee Meadows, these water rights in conjunction with available ground water should be sufficient to meet estimated new demand beyond 2030 *(for more information see our Water Rights Topic Paper)*.

Current potential water projects in development:

Several potential water supply projects have been presented to the TMWA Board at various times during its open meetings. At this time, TMWA continues to monitor progress on the following projects. You may have also heard about the following projects in the news.

• Vidler Water Company/Fish Springs Water Importation Project:

The Vidler Water Supply Project (formerly known as the Truckee Meadows Importation Project or Honey Lake Project) has been permitted by the State of Nevada to import 8,000 acre-feet of groundwater from the Honey Lake area. Water supplied by this project is proposed to serve the Stead, Silver Lake and Lemmon Valley areas. Construction was completed in 2007 with the first water deliveries beginning in 2008.

To access all of the papers, go to 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.

To send a question to the Board, log on to 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**.

In October 2007, an agreement was approved between the Washoe County Commission and Fish Springs Ranch LLC to transfer the water importation infrastructure to the County (at no charge) for operations and maintenance. The water rights associated with the project have been banked with Washoe County for use by third-party developers. Washoe County will develop a rate structure for users benefiting from the new water supply to recover costs for operations and administration.

Contact information: www.vidlerwater.com (775) 885-5000

- **Intermountain Water Supply (IWP):**

The IWP (formerly known as the Warm Springs Importation Project) is proposed by Intermountain Water Supply, Inc., to import groundwater from Dry Valley and Bedell Flat to the North Valleys. A total of about 2,000-3,000 acre-feet per year is proposed for importation. Water delivered by the IWP would be available for use and distribution by either Washoe County or TMWA. The project would be constructed in up to three phases in order to match the demand for water in the North Valleys.

IWP has completed its Environmental Impact Statement. A record of decision, identifying the preferred alternative, has been issued by the U.S. Department of the Interior. In addition, water use and inter-basin transfer rights for pumping in Dry Valley have been secured. The State Engineer has also approved a water right totaling 144 acre-feet per year for the IWP for Bedell Flat. At the time the record of decision was issued, an appeal and new water rights application were submitted by IWP to the State Engineer for the remaining 356 acre-feet per year.

Contact information: Robert Marshall (775) 323-1601

- **Aqua Trac LLC:**

Aqua Trac LLC is a water importation project that proposes to bring 80,000+ acre-feet of water to the Fernley area. The groundwater would be transported via a pipeline from the Granite Springs Valley in Pershing County. If constructed, the imported water could be used to supplement municipal supplies in Fernley, Pyramid Lake tribal communities and Spanish Springs Valley.

There are issues being studied regarding the amount of sustainable water yield from groundwater sources in Kumiva Valley, Granite Springs Valley and Winnemucca Lake Valley. In September 2007, the State Engineer denied Aqua Trac's applications to transfer water. The project is undergoing more research and study.

Contact information: Tom Gallagher, Summit Engineering, www.summitnv.com (775) 747-8550

Other projects:

- **Red Rock Valley Ranch LLC**

In 2008, this project was permitted to import 855 acre-feet from the Red Rock area to serve the North Valleys. The project sponsors are in the process of acquiring the necessary rights of way and permits from local governments leading to construction of the pipeline. TMWA has an option to purchase this project should it ever be constructed.

- **Sonterra**

Proposed groundwater: 7,200 acre-feet from San Emidio and Hualapai Flat to serve Fernley.
Status: Pending all approvals.

- **High Rock Holdings/Juniper Hills Partners LLC**

Proposed groundwater: 10,000-14,000 acre-feet from Hualapai Flat to Fernley.
Status: Pending all approvals.



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