

MARCH 2016



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TMWA'S FREE WORKSHOP SERIES RETURNS THIS SPRING

TMWA offers a series of free workshops to help residents prepare their irrigation system and yard for the spring and summer season. Topics for the workshops include: Irrigation System Start-Up, Landscape Planning & Design, Tree Care, Drip System Maintenance Made Easy and Sprinkler Maintenance Made Easy. Visit tmwa.com/events-calendar for workshop dates and registration or call **834-8005**. All workshops are free and held at TMWA offices.

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 twitter.com/tmwa

 facebook.com/truckeemeadowswaterauthority

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KNOW WHAT YOU USE INDOORS BEFORE OUTDOOR IRRIGATION STARTS

We live in a high-desert climate with an average rainfall of only seven inches per year. Since water in our region is precious, TMWA encourages responsible water use at all times of the year. The best way to manage water use at your home or business is to get familiar with your TMWA bill so you can monitor how much water you are actually using. March is a great time to review your last several water bills.

A typical family of four uses about 6,000 gallons a month indoors. A handy rule of thumb is that an average wintertime water bill should be about thirty dollars. If your bill significantly exceeds this, your higher indoor usage may indicate you have a leak. The most common type of leak is from a leaking toilet flappers.

If you feel your usage is higher than it should be, detecting a leak indoors is easy to do. Use your water meter to diagnose the problem:

1. Turn off all water-using devices.
2. Locate your property's water meter. It is typically located at the front of your property, in or near the sidewalk. Write down the number currently showing on the meter.
3. Wait 20 minutes and look at the meter again. If the number has changed or the flow indicator has moved, you have a leak. Remember, you are responsible for the water usage at your home or business, even if that usage is from a leak. Visit www.tmwa.com/conservation for tips and videos on how to detect and fix leaks. You can also find a short video on testing and fixing a leaky toilet at www.tmwa.com/howto.

AQUIFER RECHARGE PROGRAM IN FULL SWING

TMWA actively manages our water resources to enhance and preserve groundwater through active and passive recharge programs. This happens in the wintertime when customers are using less water and TMWA can take advantage of available river water.

Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR), or active recharge: This program treats surface (river) water and pumps it into the aquifer via some of TMWA's existing wells located throughout the service area. The process occurs during the wintertime when water use in the community drops to one-fourth of the peak summer usage, making additional surface water available. The stored water is saved for later, should we need it during periods of high summer use.

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Passive recharge: When possible, TMWA rests, or turns off, its production wells and uses treated surface water to serve our customers. This allows us to reduce our reliance on groundwater as much as possible.

“We let ground water wells rest this time of the year and maximize the use of surface water — water that comes from the Truckee River.” explained Paul Miller, TMWA’s manager of operations and water quality. “Our goal is to maximize surface water when it is available, while also resting wells to preserve groundwater. We treat groundwater like money in the bank – we only use it when necessary,” Miller concluded.

ASR and passive recharge were established by TMWA to improve water quality and augment water resources. They were also the main goal of consolidation with South Truckee Meadows General Improvement District and Washoe County Water Resources. That is to improve the management of the area’s water resources through conjunctive use, which means minimizing groundwater pumping and maximizing the use of surface water when it is available. The water stored, and left in the aquifer, is in addition to upstream reservoir storage. Both surface and groundwater resources can be tapped should they be needed particularly during the times of high summer water use.

A REVIEW OF TMWA’S FINANCIAL STATUS

At the January Board of Directors meeting, the Board unanimously approved the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ending June 2015. Chief Financial Officer Jeff Tissier reported that TMWA was in compliance with all Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, as well as Nevada Revised Statutes. The CAFR includes the consolidation of Washoe County Water Resources and South Truckee Meadows General Improvement District with TMWA. Overall, the audited report showed excellent financial performance with operating revenues on budget and operating expenses \$3.2 million or 7% less than the revised budget. Even though hydroelectric sales were \$0.9 million or 39.3% less than the revised budget due to lower than expected river flows, water sales revenue mitigated the impact. In addition, wages and salaries were nearly \$0.9 million or 6.3% under budget, as well as employee benefits that were \$1.5 million, or 22.1% under budget as a result of not filling anticipated positions.

The Board’s reaction to the CAFR report was summed up by TMWA Director and Reno City Council Member Naomi Duerr, who said, “I just want to say that the outcome speaks to the high performance of TMWA’s financial staff. We all think the work is outstanding.”

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

Irrigation System Start-Up Workshop
Wednesday, March 30 at 5:30 p.m.

Standing Advisory Committee
Tuesday, April 5 at 3 p.m.

Irrigation System Start-Up Workshop
Wednesday, April 6 at 5:30 p.m.

Landscape Planning & Design Workshop
Saturday, April 9 at 9 a.m.

Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, April 20 at 10 a.m.

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

