



TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER AUTHORITY
Board of Directors

AGENDA

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.
Sparks Council Chambers, 745 4th Street, Sparks, NV

Board Members

Chair Geno Martini	Vice Chair Vaughn Hartung
Member Neoma Jardon	Member Jeanne Herman
Member Jenny Brekhus	Member Naomi Duerr
Member Ron Smith	

NOTES:

1. The announcement of this meeting has been posted at the following locations: Truckee Meadows Water Authority (1355 Capital Blvd., Reno), Reno City Hall (1 E. First St., Reno), Sparks City Hall (431 Prater Way, Sparks), Sparks Justice Court (1675 E. Prater Way, Sparks), Washoe County Courthouse (75 Court St., Reno), Washoe County Central Library (301 South Center St., Reno), Washoe County Administration (1001 East Ninth St., Reno), at <http://www.tmwa.com>, and State of Nevada Public Notice Website, <https://notice.nv.gov/>.
2. In accordance with NRS 241.020, this agenda closes three working days prior to the meeting. We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for persons who are disabled and wish to attend meetings. If you require special arrangements for the meeting, please call 834-8002 before the meeting date.
3. The Board may elect to combine agenda items, consider agenda items out of order, remove agenda items, or delay discussion on agenda items. Arrive at the meeting at the posted time to hear item(s) of interest.
4. Asterisks (*) denote non-action items.
5. Public comment is limited to three minutes and is allowed during the public comment periods. The public may sign-up to speak during the public comment period or on a specific agenda item by completing a "Request to Speak" card and submitting it to the clerk. In addition to the public comment periods, the Chairman has the discretion to allow public comment on any agenda item, including any item on which action is to be taken.
6. In the event the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are absent, the remaining Board members may elect a temporary presiding officer to preside over the meeting until the Chairman or Vice-Chairman are present (**Standing Item of Possible Action**).
7. Notice of possible quorum of Western Regional Water Commission: Because several members of the Truckee Meadows Water Authority Board of Directors are also Trustees of the Western Regional Water Commission, it is possible that a quorum of the Western Regional Water Commission may be present, however, such members will not deliberate or take action at this meeting in their capacity as Trustees of the Western Regional Water Commission.

1. Roll call*
2. Pledge of allegiance*
3. Public comment — limited to no more than three minutes per speaker*
4. Approval of the agenda (**For Possible Action**)
5. Approval of the minutes of the May 17, 2017 meeting of the TMWA Board of Directors (**For Possible Action**)

¹The Board may adjourn from the public meeting at any time during the agenda to receive information and conduct labor-oriented discussions in accordance with NRS 288.220 or receive information from legal counsel regarding potential or existing litigation and to deliberate toward a decision on such matters related to litigation or potential litigation.

6. Report on the results of 2017 legislative activities and bills — John Zimmerman and Steve Walker, Walker & Associates*
7. Discussion and possible action, and direction to staff on the Interlocal Agreement between Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) and City of Reno for the City Energy Project (CEP) – Reno — Lynne Barker, City of Reno, and John Enloe, TMWA **(For Possible Action)**
8. Presentation on proposed Conservation, Communications and Outreach Plan for 2017, discussion and possible direction to staff — Andy Gebhardt and Marlene Olsen **(For Possible Action)** (Continued)
9. Informational report on TMWA Rule 7 and banked water rights inventories, and water rights acquisition considerations and processes, including current market processes for fractionated water rights acquisitions — John Zimmerman*
10. Discussion and action on nomination and election of Chairman and Vice Chairman and request for Board adoption of Resolution No. 253 appointing a Chairman and Vice Chairman for Fiscal Year 2018 — Mark Foree **(For Possible Action)**
11. General Manager's Report*
12. Public comment — limited to no more than three minutes per speaker*
13. Board comments and requests for future agenda items*
14. Adjournment **(For Possible Action)**

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TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER AUTHORITY
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MAY 17, 2017
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors met on Wednesday, May 17, 2017, at Sparks Council Chambers, 745 4th Street, Sparks, Nevada. Chair Martini called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Jenny Brekhus, *Naomi Duerr, Vaughn Hartung, Jeanne Herman, **Neoma Jardon, **Geno Martini, and Ron Smith.

A quorum was present.

* Member Duerr was present via telephone.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Chair Hartung.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Martini recommended to move agenda item 8 to be heard after agenda item 12, followed by a legal briefing.

Upon motion by Member Hartung, second by Member Smith, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the members present, the Board approved the amended agenda, to hear agenda item 8 after agenda item 12.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 19, 2017 MEETING

Upon motion by Member Hartung, second by Member Brekhus, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the members present, the Board approved the April 19, 2017 minutes.

6. DISCUSSION AND ACTION, AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION TO STAFF REGARDING 2017 LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES AND CURRENT BILLS, AND TMWA RECOMMENDED POSITIONS ON LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

John Zimmerman, TMWA Water Resources Manager, presented the list of bills that TMWA is tracking which passed the April 25th deadline out of the first House. Mr. Zimmerman requested Board direction on AB404, *oppose*, which is staff's recommendation, but the TMWA legislative subcommittee recommended to change it to *watch*.

Steve Walker, TMWA Lobbyist, provided a brief overview of the status of bills TMWA is monitoring.

Member Smith inquired about AB379, asked for staff to monitor closely if the amendments proposed require the cities to eliminate parks, then TMWA should change its position to *oppose*. Mr. Walker replied he has been monitoring it closely, it is still in motion and the issues are still being addressed. Vice Chair Hartung confirmed there is an 'opt out' clause for each of the local entities.

Mr. Walker provided an overview on AB404, creating the Nevada Office of Inspector General, which is in the Assembly Ways and Means committee and has not moved forward. Vice Chair Hartung noted he recommended at the legislative subcommittee to bring this bill to the Board for review to continue to *oppose* or change to *watch/neutral*.

Member Brekhus noted the City of Reno has opposed AB404, but was not sure to what benefit it would be to TMWA to oppose.

Vice Chair Hartung recommended TMWA should continue to oppose AB404.

Upon motion by Member Hartung, second by Member Smith, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the members present, the Board approved staff recommendation on all bills, including maintaining the position of *oppose* on AB404.

7. PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL DIRECTION TO STAFF REGARDING AN AGREEMENT TO USE RECLAIMED WATER FROM THE TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY (TMWRF) AS PROPOSED BY THE TAHOE RENO INDUSTRIAL GENERAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (TRI GID)

Member Jardon stated NRS 281A.420 requires her to disclose any potential conflict of interest since her family has ownership interest in property at 610 & 620 Waltham Way, in Storey County, Nevada. Member Jardon noted this will not financially benefit or harm her and her family with regards to above mentioned agenda item.

John Enloe, TMWA Director of Natural Resources, mentioned this item was heard at both the Cities of Reno and Sparks Council meetings last week. Mr. Enloe presented the staff report and background for Board review and to provide direction to staff regarding the use of treated effluent water from TMWRF as requested by TRI GID. Staff has researched the benefits, and met with both the State Engineer and

Federal Water Master, of year-round use of treated effluent water to help maintain appropriate levels of nitrate in the effluent discharged to the Truckee River, which is good for TMWRF. To provide the replacement return flow for the annual 4,000 acre feet (AF) of TMWRF reclaimed water that TRI GID would need, TRI GID would provide 1,500 AF, the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) would provide between 1,500-2,200 AF via the State of Nevada, and TMWA would provide between 300-1,000 AF of community water resources. Several options are available to TMWA to provide the return flow requirement, including three PCE Remediation District Wells, other groundwater wells (since groundwater does not have a return flow requirement), and Donner Lake minimum releases. The technical issue of providing effluent to TRI GID has been resolved, it is now a matter of a policy decision for the Board to move forward; if so, the Cities of Reno and Sparks, and TRI GID would move forward to negotiate an agreement, which would also entail a Return Flow Management Agreement, which would be brought back for Board approval.

Vice Chair Hartung asked which entity would pay for the infrastructure to move effluent from TMWRF to TRI GID, the length of time for the agreement and expressed his concerns for a long-term agreement. Mr. Enloe replied the TRI Center would pay for the infrastructure, the duration for the agreement has not been decided, but it could be a 20-year agreement with a provision to extend it another 20 years.

Member Brekhus understood the technical component, but expressed reservations on the policy of providing resources to TRI GID, which has grown extremely quickly without the infrastructure needs accounted for, and reiterated concerns she expressed in 2013 at a Regional Planning Governing Board meeting where she asked for transparency and rate setting for effluent, but nothing has been done. She questioned TMWA rate-payer investments in the PCE program, and expressed concern that TRI GID is not paying into the program and yet they are experiencing great financial advantages with the abated taxes at the expense of surrounding jurisdictions. Mr. Enloe replied the remediation district reimburses TMWA for its operating expenses when they do not need to pump the wells to meet demand. Part of the Return Flow Management Agreement would address Member Brekhus' concerns; it would be stipulated in the agreement TMWA would be reimbursed if it incurred any cost to provide the community resources. Mark Foree, TMWA General Manager, added the PCE Remediation District paid for all treatment facilities at the well sites.

Mr. Enloe stressed this is a beneficial solution for all parties involved, especially at no cost; providing TRI GID with effluent water is a more efficient use of water, leaves good quality water in the river and provides significant benefit to TMWRF customers by deferring improvements because of the nitrate issue.

Member Smith pointed out TMWRF is not rescuing TRI GID by providing water to them, rather to look at them as a customer who is building a pipeline, and are willing to pay for a commodity, that TMWRF has. Also, setting rates falls under the negotiating team to determine, not this Board, while drafting the agreement, which will be brought forth for approval and the Board can recommend changes at that time.

Member Duerr stated the potential agreement is beneficial for all parties involved and is supportive of the negotiations and TMWA to be part of the agreement.

Vice Chair Hartung noted Washoe County is neutral on this agreement, but reiterated his concern the need for smaller more localized high-quality waste treatment facilities to treat to a higher standard. He also

asked for the negotiating team to look at the value of the commodity over time and if the team has addressed availability to meet demand during a drought. Mr. Enloe replied the effluent provides a benefit as a drought-proof water supply. TRI GID also has substantial groundwater resources (not in the Truckee Meadows Basin) and ample effluent water storage; they could potentially build their own independent water system.

Member Jardon noted there was ample discussion at the City of Reno Council meeting and there is plenty of work to do by the negotiating team. She thanked TMWA staff for addressing this issue for almost two years to get to this point, and pointed out the continued need to have more open lines of communication with Storey County, TRI GID, and Cities of Reno and Sparks on all matters that would impact each entity, not just issues relating to water.

Member Brekhus asked Mr. Enloe if he has spoken with representatives from the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe (PLPT) regarding this issue. Mr. Enloe replied that he had not, but that a representative from the TRI Center has). Member Brekhus also expressed her concern that TRI GID has surfaced as a competitor to TMWA (for Truckee river water rights) and about the implications related to water resources and stressed she would like to see a benefit returning to TMWA and rate-payers.

Member Brekhus asked what action is staff requesting. Mr. Enloe replied it is similar to what the Cities of Reno and Sparks; to have permission to continue to work on this effort and for TMWA to provide technical support since TMWA is already managing water resources on a day-to-day basis. He added, he can bring back answers to Member Brekhus' questions and address her concerns.

Vice Chair Hartung asked who would own effluent water. Mr. Enloe replied that would be decided during negotiations and added the Truckee river water rights are sometimes leased for the benefit of return flow.

Discussion followed regarding how to direct staff to move forward, that the Board recognized members in the public who are part of the negotiating team and can address the Board's concerns during negotiations, and bring back the draft agreement for review and approval or to give further direction.

Member Brekhus motioned to move forward with providing technical assistance to the cities in the broader negotiation and to return to the Board with an option that involves pricing for community water resources provided by TMWA to support TRIGID effluent use.

Member Smith agreed with going forward with it, but with no restrictions.

Upon motion by Member Brekhus, second by Member Jardon, which motion duly carried by five to one, with Member Smith dissenting, the Board approved staff to continue providing technical assistance to the Cities of Reno and Sparks in the broader negotiations and to return to the Board an option for pricing community water resources to support effluent water.

***Chair Martini left at 10:46 a.m.*

9. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THIRD QUARTER FISCAL YEAR 2017

Tabitha Carlisle, TMWA Financial Controller, presented on the third quarter, ending March 31, 2017 financial performance for FY 2017; change in net position is \$30 million, operating revenues were \$4.9 million over budget which can be attributed to rebound in water sales, but were \$1.5 million under budget for water sales in April due to the wet season; operating expenses were \$3 million lower than budgeted, in part due to lower services and supplies, and keeping power expenses low by utilizing time-of-use pumping; the water meter retrofit programs was \$1 million under budget due to the sale of groundwater will-serve commitments; developer contributions are significantly ahead of budget by \$6.9 million; spending on capital outlays and construction projects was approximately \$17.4 million, which is significantly under the budget of \$35.9 million due to weather delays; and the capital contributions from others of \$11.8 is due to the Farad settlement, which TMWA has received \$21.5 million to date.

Vice Chair Hartung asked how the money from the Farad settlement would be used and suggested reestablishing hydro generation. Michele Sullivan, TMWA Chief Financial Officer, replied it has not been decided, but they will look at all options.

Member Brekhus asked if the GASB 75 had to do with booking OPEB. Ms. Sullivan replied yes, it is booking unfunded liability on OPEB, which is determined by GASB 75, but our actuarial analysis determines how much we need to fund the plans to achieve fully funded status and the timing has yet to be determined, but possibly in the next 10 years.

***Member Jardon left at 11:30 a.m.*

10. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 251: A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE THIRD BUDGET AUGMENTATION AND BUDGET REVISIONS FOR FY 2017

Ms. Sullivan presented on the proposed third budget augmentation and budget revisions for FY 2017. She highlighted an increase in water sales by \$2.4 million which includes an increase of \$1.9 million in water sales that conforms with the funding plan assumptions, and \$0.5 million which is the estimated increase related to the 3% rate increase in May; employee benefit expenses of \$0.6 million required by GASB 75 has moved to FY 2018; river monitoring expenses of \$0.3 million will be incurred in FY 2019; \$1.0 million grant funding received related to TROA; water meter retrofit revenue expected to decrease by \$1.2 million due to groundwater will-serve sales in FY 2017 which do not include the retrofit fee; increase will-serve water right sales by \$3.6 million; two large developer contributions, one for \$1.2 million for the Truckee Canyon Water Treatment Plant, and one for \$0.9 million for D'Andrea #3 pump station; and an additional \$11.8 million received from insurance as partial settlement for flood damage at the Farad Hydro Plant; and cash flow will decrease by about \$3.8 million mainly due to the use of the debt service reserve fund of \$32 million to pay down debt in the 2017 bond refunding, offset by lower capital expenditures.

Member Brekhus recognized the budget augmentations reflect the assumptions made in the funding plan, and necessary to monitor the budget throughout the year. She suggested the Board review the second-year rate increase and consider blending it over two-years. She also noted the meter retrofit program is both a revenue and expense. Ms. Sullivan replied yes, and it is all reserved which does not affect rate-payers.

Upon motion by Member Brekhus, second by Member Smith, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the members present, the Board adopted Resolution No. 251 to approve the third budget augmentation and budget revisions for FY 2017.

11. PUBLIC HEARING ON ADOPTION OF BUDGET

11.A DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON REQUEST FOR ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 252: A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE FINAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2018 AND THE 2018-2022 FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Ms. Sullivan presented the proposed FY 2018 budget noting the funding decreases of \$400,000 to the Truckee River Fund and \$210,000 to the cloud seeding program, and decreased river monitoring expenses since it won't be required until 2019. She also noted that the effect of implementing GASB 75 was added to employee benefits expense. Additional cash will be used to pay down commercial paper, based on higher water will-serve sales in FY 2017.

Member Brekhus asked how many full-time employees (FTEs) TMWA has. Ms. Sullivan replied 206 employees is budgeted for FY 2018.

11.B PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

Upon motion by Member Smith, second by Member Herman, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the members present, the Board adopted Resolution No. 252 to adopt the final budget for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2018 and the 2018-2022 Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

12. PRESENTATION ON PROPOSED SUMMER 2017 CAMPAIGN AND WATER LEADERSHIP COMMUNICATIONS PLAN, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION TO STAFF

Member Brekhus proposed to move this agenda item to the next meeting.

Upon motion by Member Brekhus, second by Member Smith, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the members present, the Board approved to move agenda item 12 to the next meeting.

Vice Chair Hartung recessed the Board for a closed door legal briefing on agenda item 8 at 11:34 a.m.

Vice Chair Hartung resumed the Board meeting at 12:09 p.m.

8. REQUEST FOR BOARD APPROVAL TO INITIATE LEGAL ACTION AGAINST FARR CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION DBA RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY AND QUEST INSPAR, LLC IN RELATION TO THE TMWA CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT TITLED FLEISH PENSTOCK AND HIGHLAND INVERTED SIPHON STRUCTURAL LINING, PWP # WA-2016-038

Upon motion by Member Smith, second by Member Brekhus, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the members present, the Board approved to initiate legal action against Farr Construction Corporation dba Resource Development Company and Quest Inspar, LLC in relation to the TMWA capital improvement project titled Fleish Penstock and Highland Inverted Siphon Structural Lining, PWP # WA-2016-038.

13. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Foree informed the Board that Lake Tahoe is about 1 foot below its maximum limit and all reservoirs will soon fill and spill. He reminded the Board that they approved funding a year ago for the One Truckee River (OTR) initiative to provide a restroom pilot program along the river, which has not happened because of OTR's inability to contract with Sani-Hut; the City of Reno said it can contract with Sani-Hut if TMWA reimburses them, allowing them to move forward with the program unless the Board has any concerns.

Vice Chair Hartung asked Mr. Pagni if this needed to be brought back for approval. Mr. Pagni replied, no, Mr. Foree, as the General Manager, has the authority since this has already been budgeted, unless the Board has issue with moving forward then it would have to be brought back for direction.

Member Brekhus asked if the location has been decided and noted she has no issue with moving forward. Mr. Foree replied at Fisherman's Park location in Reno.

Mr. Foree also informed the Board TMWA has a contract with Vertex for its call-center, billing services, etc. and staff found out yesterday that Vertex has sold its call-center and business outsourcing business to another company, but since TMWA's agreement with Vertex has a "successor" clause, TMWA's contract and pricing will be honored by the acquiring company and we do not anticipate any issues during the transition.

14. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

15. BOARD COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Member Brekhus referred to the budget line item on assembling fractional water rights, and requested a brief explanation at a future meeting on how an individual may pursue it and for what purpose.

Vice Chair Hartung inquired if it would take staff more than two hours to put together the staff report. Mr. Foree replied yes, most likely, but staff can briefly explain the budget line item at a future meeting at the Board's discretion.

16. ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, Vice Chair Hartung adjourned the meeting at 12:18 p.m.

Approved by the TMWA Board of Directors in session on _____.

Sonia Folsom, Recording Secretary

*****Chair Martini was present for agenda items 1 thru 7 only.***

*****Member Jardon was present for agenda items 1 thru 7 and 9 only.***



STAFF REPORT

TO: Chairman and Board Members
THRU: Mark Foree, General Manager
FROM: John Zimmerman, Manager of Water Resources
DATE: June 12, 2017
SUBJECT: **Report on the results of 2017 legislative activities and bills**

The 2017 legislative session ended on June 5, 2017. Attached is a list of bills TMWA monitored during the session that were enacted. Staff, Mr. Walker, and Mr. Pagni will summarize key enacted legislation, the potential impacts to TMWA, and respond to any questions. Additionally, they will advise the Board regarding any relevant new information regarding the session and the upcoming interim session.

Content	Description	Sponsor	Tags	Board/Committee Position	Effective Date
AB5	Provides for the creation of certain local improvement districts. (BDR 22-233)	Committee on Government Affairs	Energy, Governance	1/3 WATCH, NEUTRAL	July 1, 2017
AB8	Revises provisions governing the collection of delinquent municipal utility charges. (BDR 21-323)	Committee on Government Affairs	Financial, Risk Management, Governance	11/21 WATCH, SUPPORT	October 1, 2017
AB11	Revises provisions governing the operation of unmanned aerial vehicles. (BDR 44-137)	Committee on Transportation	Emergency Mgmt, Safety, Motor Vehicles, Governance	11/21 WATCH, NEUTRAL	May 19, 2017
AB26	Revises provisions governing the dissemination of certain records of criminal history to certain persons by the Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History. (BDR 14-138)	Committee on Corrections, Parole, and Probation	Human Resources	1/4 WATCH, NEUTRAL	May 26, 2017
AB32	Revises provisions governing pest control. (BDR 49-176)	Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining	Governance	1/9 WATCH, NEUTRAL	July 1, 2017
AB34	Revises provisions relating to government land. (BDR 26-179)	Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining	Property	12/20 WATCH, NEUTRAL	July 1, 2017
AB36	Revises the Charter of the City of Reno. (BDR S-448)	Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections	Governance, Open Meeting, Records, Boards and Elections	1/6 WATCH, NEUTRAL	July 1, 2017
AB50	Revises provisions relating to the imposition of certain fees, civil penalties and administrative fines by the State Environmental Commission. (BDR 40-181)	Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining	Financial, Risk Management, Governance	12/29 WATCH	May 22, 2017
AB54	Revises provisions relating to reports of certain accidents or motor vehicle crashes by employers. (BDR 53-160)	Committee on Commerce and Labor	Emergency Mgmt, Safety, Motor Vehicles	1/6 WATCH, NEUTRAL	October 1, 2017
AB79	Revises provisions relating to economic development. (BDR S-404)	Committee on Government Affairs	Financial, Risk Management, Water Rights (Resources, Conservation)	1/6 WATCH, NEUTRAL	May 19, 2017
AB83	Makes various changes relating to insurance. (BDR 57-159)	Committee on Commerce and Labor	Financial, Risk Management	1/6 WATCH, NEUTRAL	January1, 2018
AB106	Revises provisions governing state governmental procurement. (BDR 27-295)	Spiegel	Governance	2/9: WATCH	January1, 2018
AB107	Provides for the sealing of records relating to eviction under certain circumstances. (BDR 3-689)	Bilbray-Axelrod	Financial, Risk Management, Governance	2/10: WATCH	October 1, 2017
AB113	Requires certain employers to make certain accommodations for a nursing mother. (BDR 23-7)	Spiegel	Human Resources	2/9: WATCH, SUPPORT	July 1, 2017
AB114	Revises provisions governing irrigation districts. (BDR 48-639)	Titus	Water Rights (Resources, Conservation)	2/9: WATCH, SUPPORT	July 1, 2017
AB138	Authorizes the de minimus collection of precipitation under certain circumstances. (BDR 48-445)	Carlton	Water Rights (Resources, Conservation)	2/10: WATCH, NEUTRAL	July 1, 2017
AB169	Revises provisions governing certain fees collected by county recorders. (BDR 20-832)	Jauregui, Brooks and Carrillo	Governance, Open Meeting, Records, Boards and Elections	2/17 WATCH	October 1, 2017
AB209	Revises provisions governing the forfeiture of water rights. (BDR 48-308)	Oscarson	Water Rights (Resources, Conservation)	2/15 WATCH	July 1, 2017
AB227	Makes changes relating to domestic partnerships. (BDR 11-784)	Carrillo	Human Resources	2/17 WATCH	July 1, 2017
AB246	Revises provisions relating to the creation of a local improvement district and tax increment area. (BDR 22-705)	Kramer, Benitez-Thompson, Daly, Hansen and Titus	Governance	3/2: WATCH	July 1, 2017
AB249	Requires the State Plan for Medicaid and all health insurance plans to provide certain benefits relating to contraception. (BDR 38-858)	Frierson, Bilbray-Axelrod, Sprinkle, Benitez-Thompson, Yeager, Elliot Anderson, Araujo, Brooks, Bustamante Adams, Carlton, Carrillo, Cohen, Daly, Diaz, Flores, Fumo, Jauregui, Joiner, McCurdy II, Miller, Monroe-Moreno, Neal, Ohrenschall, Spiegel, Swank, Thompson and Watkins	Human Resources	3/2: WATCH	January1, 2018

AB276	Revises provisions relating to employment practices. (BDR 53-289)	Assemblymen Spiegel, Joiner, Diaz, Bilbray-Axelrod, Carlton, Cohen, Miller, Swank, Thompson and Yeager; Senators Parks, Manendo and Segerblom	Human Resources	3/16: WATCH	June 3, 2017
AB280	Revises provisions relating to preferences in bidding for certain contracts for businesses based in this State. (BDR 27-1060)	Assemblymen Frierson, Carrillo, Monroe-Moreno, Sprinkle, Neal, Araujo, Benitez-Thompson, Bilbray-Axelrod, Carlton, Cohen, Daly, Fumo, Jauregui, Joiner, McCurdy II, Miller, Ohrenschall, Spiegel, Thompson, Tolles, Watkins and Yeager; Senators Ford and Cannizzaro	Public Works	3/29: WATCH	July 1, 2017
AB334	Prohibits a driver from operating a motor vehicle in the extreme left lane of a controlled-access highway under certain circumstances. (BDR 43-154)	Ellison and Edwards	Emergency Mgmt, Safety, Motor Vehicles	3/20: WATCH	July 1, 2017
AB375	Allows the imposition of certain taxes, fees, rates, charges, levies or assessments in a county to fund approved flood management projects of a flood management authority based on the recommendations of a flood control project needs committee. (BDR S-473)	Sprinkle, Benitez-Thompson, Joiner and Daly	Emergency Mgmt, Safety, Motor Vehicles, Governance, Water Rights (Resources, Conservation)	3/20: WATCH	June 12, 2017
AB379	Authorizes certain local governments to create a parks, trails and open space district. (BDR 25-211)	Joiner	Water Rights (Resources, Conservation)	3/24: SUPPORT	July 1, 2017
AB380	Revises provisions relating to real property. (BDR 10-340)	Assemblyman Yeager; Senators Cannizzaro, Denis, Ford, Gustavson, Harris, Roberson and Segerblom	Property	3/21: WATCH	October 1, 2017
AB384	Revises provisions governing the consideration of the criminal history of an applicant for employment by the State or a county, city or unincorporated town. (BDR 23-33)	Assemblymen Thompson, McCurdy II, Flores, Araujo, Carrillo, Bilbray-Axelrod, Brooks, Bustamante Adams, Carlton, Daly, Frierson, Fumo, Miller, Monroe-Moreno, Neal, Ohrenschall, Sprinkle and Yeager; Senators Ford, Atkinson, Spearman, Cancela, Parks, Denis, Segerblom and Woodhouse	Human Resources	3/21: WATCH	January1, 2018
AB458	Revises provisions governing industrial insurance. (BDR 53-489)	Committee on Commerce and Labor	Human Resources	3/29: WATCH	July 1, 2017
SB10	Revises provisions governing the publication of information concerning unclaimed and abandoned property. (BDR 10-407)	Committee on Judiciary	Property	11/21 WATCH, NEUTRAL	June 4, 2017
SB26	Makes certain changes concerning governmental entities that contract with or invest in companies that boycott Israel. (BDR 27-418)	Committee on Government Affairs	Governance	11/21 WATCH, NEUTRAL	July 1, 2017
SB47	Makes various changes relating to the appropriation of water. (BDR 48-499)	Committee on Natural Resources	Water Rights (Resources, Conservation)	1/6 WATCH, SUPPORT	June 9, 2017
SB51	Makes various changes relating to the adjudication of vested water rights. (BDR 48-180)	Committee on Natural Resources	Water Rights (Resources, Conservation)	12/29 WATCH, NEUTRAL	May 26, 2017
SB53	Revises provisions relating to the installation, operation and maintenance of telecommunications facilities. (BDR 18-234)	Committee on Transportation	Information Tech	1/6 WATCH	May 26, 2017
SB69	Revises provisions relating to state government. (BDR 54-229)	Committee on Commerce, Labor and Energy	Governance, Human Resources, Open Meeting, Records, Boards and Elections	1/5 WATCH, NEUTRAL	June 16, 2017

SB74	Revises provisions relating to water. (BDR 48-178)	Committee on Natural Resources	Water Rights (Resources, Conservation)	12/29 WATCH	June 9, 2017
SB78	Revises provisions relating to local government financial administration. (BDR 31-403)	Committee on Government Affairs	Financial, Risk Management	1/9 WATCH, NEUTRAL	July 1, 2017
SB84	Makes various changes relating to ethics in government. (BDR 23-250)	Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections	Governance	1/6 WATCH	January1, 2018
SB138	Authorizes the creation of a local improvement district for a waterfront maintenance project. (BDR 22-678)	Hardy	Financial, Risk Management, Property, Water Rights (Resources, Conservation)	2/17 WATCH	July 1, 2017
SB188	Revises provisions prohibiting certain discriminatory acts. (BDR 18-106)	Parks, Cannizzaro and Ford	Human Resources	2/17 WATCH	July 1, 2017
SB197	Extends the deadline for issuing certain bonds for certain environmental improvement projects in the Lake Tahoe Basin. (BDR S-493)	Committee on Government Affairs	Governance	3/2 WATCH	May18, 2017
SB198	Extends the deadline for issuing certain bonds relating to the property and natural resources of Nevada approved by the voters in 2002. (BDR S-494)	Committee on Government Affairs	Governance	3/2 WATCH	May18, 2017
SB230	Makes various changes relating to judgments. (BDR 2-512)	Committee on Judiciary	Financial, Risk Management, Human Resources	3/2 WATCH	October 1, 2017
SB233	Requires the State Plan for Medicaid and certain health insurance plans to provide certain benefits. (BDR 38-817)	Senators Ratti, Cancela, Spearman, Cannizzaro, Woodhouse, Atkinson, Denis, Ford, Manendo, Parks and Segerblom; Assemblymen Benitez-Thompson and Frierson	Human Resources	3/2 WATCH	January1, 2018
SB239	Revises provisions relating to common-interest communities. (BDR 10-471)	Harris	Governance, Water Rights (Resources, Conservation)	3/15: WATCH	October 1, 2017
SB246	Revises provisions relating to public works. (BDR 28-667)	Manendo, Hardy, Parks, Settlemeyer, Hammond, Atkinson, Denis and Farley	Public Works	3/16: WATCH	July 1, 2017
SB253	Establishes the Nevada Pregnant Workers' Fairness Act to provide protections to female employees and applicants for employment who are affected by a condition of the employee or applicant relating to pregnancy, childbirth or a related medical condition. (BDR 53-773)	Cannizzaro, Ratti, Woodhouse, Cancela, Ford, Denis, Farley, Hardy, Manendo, Parks, Segerblom and Spearman	Human Resources	3/24: SUPPORT	October 1, 2017
SB270	Revises provisions relating to water. (BDR 48-359)	Committee on Natural Resources	Water Rights (Resources, Conservation)	3/16: WATCH	January 1, 2028
SB312	Revises provisions relating to driving under certain conditions. (BDR 43-94)	Manendo	Emergency Mgmt, Safety, Motor Vehicles	3/20: WATCH	October 1, 2017
SB460	Revises provisions governing the membership of the Local Government Employee-Management Relations Board. (BDR 23-556)	Committee on Government Affairs	Human Resources	3/28: WATCH	July 1, 2017
SB462	Authorizes a board of county commissioners to create a committee to review general improvement districts. (BDR 20-496)	Committee on Government Affairs	Governance	3/28: WATCH	July 1, 2017
SB502	Makes various changes relating to the Public Employees' Benefits Program and the Public Employees' Deferred Compensation Program. (BDR 18-979)	Committee on Government Affairs	PERS, PEBS	3/28: WATCH	July 1, 2017
SB513	Increases the limit on the assessment for water distribution expenses. (BDR 48-905)	Committee on Natural Resources	Financial, Risk Management, Water Rights (Resources, Conservation)	3/28: WATCH	July 1, 2017



STAFF REPORT

TO: Board of Directors
THRU: Mark Foree, General Manager
FROM: John Enloe, Director Natural Resources
DATE: June 21, 2017
SUBJECT: **Discussion and possible action, and direction to staff on the Interlocal Agreement between Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) and City of Reno for the City Energy Project (CEP) – Reno**

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board authorize the General Manager to execute the Interlocal Agreement between TMWA and the City of Reno for the City Energy Project as a VISIONARY level sponsor, and provide financial support to Reno in the amount of Twenty Thousand dollars (\$20,000). Payments can be made in two installments, one in 2017 and one in 2018. TMWA plans to participate in the CEP and the Better Buildings Challenge with respect to increasing water efficiency. TMWA would develop a standardized water conservation goal, which participants of the Challenge would strive to meet or exceed.

Background

The City of Reno was invited to join the City Energy Project as one of 20 pioneering cities working to boost local economies and reduce climate pollution. The City Energy Project is a national initiative to cut energy waste in large buildings while making American cities healthier and more prosperous. Buildings account for the majority of energy use and climate pollution, and a relatively small number of large buildings can account for a considerable portion of a city's energy use and carbon pollution.

The City of Reno will work with an industry-led Commercial Green Building & Energy Efficiency Task Force to catalyze investments in energy efficiency and green building through public policies and programs. A comparison of green buildings to conventional commercial buildings found that, on average, green buildings offer the following benefits:

- 26% less energy
- 33% less greenhouse gas emissions
- 15% less water use
- 13% lower operating costs for new construction and 8.5% for existing buildings
- 10.9% increased building value for new construction and 6.8% for existing buildings

Discussion

Launched in 2011 by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the Better Buildings Challenge is a voluntary program designed to improve the efficiency of commercial, institutional, multifamily, and industrial buildings by 20% over ten years. The City of Reno will join over 50 communities nationwide that have initiated a Better Buildings Challenge in their communities. To kick-off the City Energy Project, the City will launch the Better Buildings Challenge. The Better Buildings Challenge has a simple but proven program design. The overall goal of the program is to reduce energy use by 20% within ten years or less.

The Better Buildings Challenge expanded its program to include water savings and address the growing need to conserve this natural resource. Many Better Buildings Challenge programs are now setting water-savings goals, sharing solutions, and gaining recognition for their efforts. TMWA was asked by the City to participate in the CEP with respect to increasing water efficiency. TMWA would develop a standardized water conservation goal, which participants of the Challenge would strive to meet or exceed.

CITY ENERGY PROJECT–RENO INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

This Interlocal Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into on this 6th day of June, 2017 (the "Effective Date") by and between the City of Reno ("Reno"), a general purpose municipality and Truckee Meadows Water Authority ("Sponsor"), a Joint Powers Authority entity created pursuant to a cooperative agreement among the cities of Reno, Nevada, Sparks, Nevada and Washoe County, Nevada, pursuant to N.R.S. Chapter 277, collectively the "Parties".

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, Reno was invited to join the **City Energy Project** ("CEP") as one of 20 pioneering cities working to boost our local economies and reduce climate pollution by cutting energy waste in large buildings through a national initiative of the Natural Resources Defense Council ("NRDC") and the Institute for Market Transformation, generously supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, and the Kresge Foundation.

WHEREAS, in *Nevada's Clean Energy Future*, NRDC reports that energy efficiency is our cheapest source of energy, and the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project assessed that by investing in energy efficiency in Nevada, households and businesses can save \$3.4 billion by 2020, cut electricity use by 22%, and reduce CO₂ emissions by 4.4 million metric tons, and these investments in energy efficiency is projected to support 4,680 new jobs—in trade, installation, professional services, manufacturing, engineering, and research—boosting Nevada's economy; and

WHEREAS, the Parties are public agencies as defined in NRS 277.100(1)(a); and

WHEREAS, NRS 277.180 provides that any one or more public agencies may contract with any one or more other public agencies to perform any governmental service, activity or undertaking which any public agency, entering into the contract, is authorized to perform; and

WHEREAS, The Parties wish to memorialize their agreements and the terms and conditions upon which each Party shall conduct its obligations.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and promises contained herein, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, each of the Parties hereby agrees as follows:

1. RIGHTS & DUTIES

- 1.1. **Sponsor Commitment:** For participation as a **VISIONARY** level sponsor, Sponsor shall provide financial support to Reno in the amount of Twenty Thousand dollars (\$20,000) and submit payment within thirty (30) days of execution of this agreement, or an otherwise agreed upon schedule. Payments can be made in two installments, one in 2017 and one in 2018.
- 1.2. Sponsor shall mail payment to:
 - City of Reno
 - Attn: Lynne Barker
 - PO Box 1900
 - Reno, NV 89505
- 1.3. **Sponsor's Rights:** In consideration for Sponsor's contribution to CEP, Reno shall provide the sponsor benefits set forth in the **Appendix – Sponsor Rights**, and achieve program goals of advancing energy efficiency and green building solutions within the commercial and industrial building sector.

1.4. **Sponsor Duties:** Sponsor shall:

- a. Identify a representative that will serve as the primary contact for CEP to receive reports and respond to inquiries. Sponsor Representative:

Name	Laine Christman, Resource Economist & Conservation Administrator Robert Charpentier, Communications Specialist
Title	
Phone	834-8049, 834-8092
Email	lchristman@tmwa.com ; Rcharpentier@tmwa.com

- b. Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement and Sponsor's advance written consent to each separate use, Sponsor grants to Reno the right to use Sponsor's trademarks, trade names, and logo designs and company descriptions as prepared and delivered to Reno by Sponsor, in any medium of advertising, marketing materials, and/or promotional goods distributed solely in conjunction with CEP and in accordance with Sponsor's trademark usage guidelines. Sponsor shall provide such guidelines, and a high resolution JPG of organization's logo to fulfill marketing and communication benefits.
- c. URL for link to fulfill digital marketing and communications benefits:

URL	www.tmwa.com
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2. TERMS & TERMINATION

2.1. **Term:** Subject to the terms and conditions herein, this Agreement shall be effective for a two-year period upon the Effective Date and continue through March 31, 2019, unless terminated as provided in this Agreement.

3. INDEMNIFICATION

3.1. Reno shall, to the fullest extent allowed by law but subject to the limitations pursuant to Chapter 41 of the Nevada Revised Statutes, hold harmless, indemnify and defend Sponsor from all losses, liabilities or expenses of any nature that may be incurred as a result of or arising from this Agreement or the CEP, or as a result of any claim, demand, action or cause of action arising out of the negligent acts, errors or omissions on the part of Reno, its employees or agents.

4. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- 4.1. This Agreement is binding upon and inures to the benefit of the Parties and their respective heirs, estates, personal representatives, successors and assigns.
- 4.2. This Agreement shall be governed, enforced and construed under the laws of the State of Nevada.
- 4.3. This Agreement constitutes the entire understanding and agreement of the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof, and supersedes and replaces all prior understandings and agreements, whether verbal or in writing, with respect to the subject matter hereof.
- 4.4. This Agreement may not be modified, or amended in any respect, except pursuant to an instrument in writing duly executed by the Parties.
- 4.5. In the event a party fails to appropriate or budget funds for the purposes as specified in this Agreement, Reno

hereby consents to the termination of this Agreement. In such event, the party shall notify Reno in writing and the Agreement will terminate on the date specified in the notice. The Parties understand that this funding out provision is required under NRS 244.320 and NRS 354.626.

- 4.6. In the event either Party brings any legal action or other proceeding with respect to the breach, interpretation, or enforcement of this Agreement, or with respect to any dispute relating to any transaction covered by this Agreement, the losing Party or Parties in such action or proceeding shall reimburse the prevailing Party or Parties therein for all reasonable costs of litigation, including reasonable attorneys' fees.
- 4.7. No delay or omission by either Party in exercising any right or power hereunder shall impair any such right or power or be construed to be a waiver thereof, unless this Agreement specifies a time limit for the exercise of such right or power or unless such waiver is set forth in a written instrument duly executed by the person granting such waiver. A waiver of any person of any of the covenants, conditions, or agreements hereof to be performed by any other Party shall not be construed as a waiver of any succeeding breach of the same or any other covenants, agreement, restrictions or conditions hereof.
- 4.8. All notices, demands or other communications required or permitted to be given in connection with this Agreement, shall be in writing, and shall be deemed delivered when personally delivered to a Party (by personal delivery to authorized representative of Party) or, if mailed, three (3) business days after deposit in the United States mail, postage prepaid, certified or registered mail, addressed to the Parties as follows:

To Reno:	Lynne Barker, Sustainability Manager	To Sponsor:	Laine Christman, Resource Economist & Conservation Administrator
	City of Reno		TMWA
	1 East First Street, 12 th Floor		1355 Capital Blvd.
	Reno, Nevada 89505		Reno, Nevada 89520

This Agreement is effective upon the date the last signing Party signs this Agreement ("Effective Date").

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have executed this Agreement.

CITY OF RENO	SPONSOR
Dated this ____ day of _____, 2017	Dated this ____ day of _____, 2017
By:	By:
Sabra Newby, City Manager	Name, Title
APPROVED AS TO FORM:	APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Deputy City Attorney	Title

APPENDIX

CITY ENERGY PROJECT–RENO SPONSOR RIGHTS

By supporting CEP–Reno, Sponsor positions their organization at the forefront of energy efficiency and green building innovation and ideas. In return for Sponsor's generous contribution, Sponsor shall receive the following benefits, and the benefits in the Sponsor Levels & Benefits table:

1. Participate in exclusive webinars and briefings on program progress, upcoming events and market intelligence;
2. Gain recognition as a leader in energy efficiency and green building, and build awareness of Sponsor's sustainability efforts;
3. Showcase Sponsor's solutions at local events;
4. Engage with a targeted audience of decision-makers to build new business opportunities;
5. Learn, share ideas and forge valuable partnerships.

SPONSOR LEVELS + BENEFITS	LEADER \$5,000	INNOVATOR \$10,000	VISIONARY \$20,000
Recognition as Partner of Sustainability & Climate Program on new website & communications			✓
Co-branded on City Energy Project (CEP) Reno materials as Visionary Partner			✓
Recognition, table & opportunity to address audience at annual CEP Reno Leadership Awards			✓
Annual Guest Blog or Case Study of your energy, green building or sustainability achievements		✓	✓
Recognition as sponsor in CEP Reno program materials & at all events, incl. Leadership Awards		✓	✓
Showcase solutions at CEP Reno events and workshops, and opportunity to address audience		✓	✓
Recognized as Sponsor and Partner of Reno Better Building Challenge launched Q2 2017	✓	✓	✓
Recognition as sponsor on all CEP Reno program printed and digital materials	✓	✓	✓
Logo + link recognition on City's CEP Reno webpage to be launched early Q2 2017	✓	✓	✓



STAFF REPORT

TO: TMWA Board of Directors
FROM: Mark Foree, General Manager
THRU: Andy Gebhardt, Operations and Water Quality Director
Marlene Olsen, GoodStanding
DATE: May 1, 2017
RE: Presentation on proposed Conservation, Communications and Outreach Plan for 2017, discussion and possible direction to staff (Continued)

Report Highlights:

- *With water supplies at record highs this year, a standard conservation plan will be in effect with particular focus and emphasis on smart water use.*
- *The plan will use all forms of communication: multi-media advertising, news coverage, direct customer messages in bills, social media, digital media and website content, in addition to some tactics that are more unconventional, such as restaurant cards and public restroom mirror stickers.*
- *Due to the implementation of the Truckee River Operating Agreement, the opportunity exists to change the conversation and mindset of the community about water supply planning, droughts and how our water situation has improved. We will begin Year One of an educational effort entitled: Water Leadership Plan.*

Contents:

Summer 2017 Campaign	Pages 2-5
Water Leadership Communications Plan	Pages 6-8
Summary from Research	Attached

Summer 2017 Campaign

Situational Analysis:

This campaign is a component of TMWA's 2016-2035 Water Resource Plan (WRP) Demand-Side Management Programs. See Volume II, Chapter 5.

Per the WRP, TMWA is committed to public education about conservation and efficient water use. TMWA utilizes every opportunity to promote education. TMWA's conservation plan extends beyond a responsibility for resource stewardship and must fulfill specific provisions—including water conservation requirements per the Joint Powers Agreement, the NRS, regional planning and TROA. The plan for this year is a Level 1 Response, meaning Standard Conservation will be needed with standard conservation messaging.

Overview:

The Summer 2017 Campaign will begin in June and will run concurrently alongside the new Water Leadership Communications Plan.

The campaign will test a *Smart About Water* (SAW) messaging platform that may be incorporated into the brand position, based on results. This year, the opportunity is rare and timely to broaden messaging well beyond conservation and into other topics regarding diligent water management, as it is rare to have water capacity levels so robust.

Being “Smart About Water” is a focused, long-term-orientated platform. It addresses the findings in the SAW research (see addendum). Intensive planning and coordination at multiple community levels over multiple decades have provided a solid foundation for securing the water supply in this region. The 2017 summer campaign will establish this fact and celebrate the Truckee River as the amazing multi-use economic and community resource that it is.

The campaign will rely upon an integrated effort comprised of paid advertising, including traditional media such as print, television and radio buys, while increasing our presence through a wider array of digital advertising and search channels. Additionally, the campaign will integrate and leverage many of TMWA's “owned channels” – social networks, email database, website, newsletters and blogs – to increase exposure and audience reach.

Goal:

Build awareness and reinforce the message of smart water use in the community

Campaign Dates:

June 5- September 17

Objective 1: Test the Smart About Water messaging across all campaign communication channels:

The campaign will introduce SmartAboutWater.com, which will redirect to appropriate landing pages living on TMWA.com through the Summer '17 campaign. The campaign will be supported through engaging messaging that includes the following:

- How TMWA, and water planners before TMWA, have stewarded our region's resilient water system over the decades

- Our incomparable water system that serves us
- Community pride in our water resources and the Truckee River and its importance to our customers' quality of life
- A reminder for our community to always be Smart About Water

Measurement will include increased awareness as reflected in the annual, fall follow-up survey, social media engagement (Likes, shares, reposts, discussion), and engagement through the website and dedicated landing pages.

Objective 2: Integrate TMWA's owned channels into the overall communications outreach:

By integrating TMWA's respected owned channels – website, social networks (i.e. Facebook, YouTube, Twitter), blog, email database and newsletters – into the campaign. This allows us to:

- Reach a broader audience
- Engage and build a supportive online community
- Coordinate messaging across a breadth of communication channels
- Build a stronger, more cost-effective communications program

Measurement for integration will include a boost in awareness as reflected in the annual fall follow-up survey, social media engagement (Likes, shares, reposts, discussion), emailed newsletter open and click-through rates, and engagement through the website and dedicated landing pages.

Target Audiences:

Customers: Residents and Businesses
Community at large

Key Messaging (in paid campaign and digital media):

Demonstrate how TMWA and water users are and have been “Smart About Water” through all media channels.

- Smart water use: reminders to be Smart About Water
- Leverage the history and a half-century of progress resulting in a sustainable supply of water for the region
- Celebrate the many ways the community enjoys and benefits from our water resources
- Highlight water system improvements and subject matter expertise
- Water into the future—TROA and stable water supply
 - Illustrate requirements and determinations in accessing water for growth

Tone:

Friendly. Affable. Humble. Human. Approachable. Collaborative. Celebratory.

Across the board, through advertising, web copy, newsletters, online video, everywhere... these are the characteristics that TMWA's messaging should convey.

Communications Strategies:

Communications strategies are overall approaches used to achieve stated objectives and are explained below.

Integrated Campaign:

Our creative direction is in production. Because we are introducing TMWA's new Smart About Water brand messaging, we are developing a new look and feel for the campaign, according to TMWA's brand guidelines. The intent is to produce an advertising design and messaging direction that will continue for the next three years or more.

The media buy will be based on a strategic media mix that effectively reaches TMWA's target audience of age 25+. Although we have focused on homeowners in the past, because of outside watering, this year we will consider all water users. Ad space will be purchased in local print, radio, television and social media channels. We require added value (contributed space) for all placements, through either additional space, website content, on-air contests, etc. Television stations will again be offering weather sponsorships where forecasters can provide up-to-date information.

Finally, this summer campaign's media buy will reflect the evolving communication habits of our audiences and will place an ever-greater emphasis on digital advertising network and search-engine optimized buys.

Channels and tools:

The messages above will appear across the media spectrum — multi-media advertising, digital/online, news releases, FAQ's, videos, infographics, emails, bill inserts, envelope backers, etc. We will introduce an array of infographics: *State of the Water*, *How a Developer Gets Water Service*, *Meet Your Standing Advisory Committee*, etc. These graphics will provide content for social channels and website.

Supporting collateral will include tent cards available for restaurants, as this is a popular program over the years and reinforces the smart water use message. Public restroom mirror stickers have also been popular and will be continued. Distribution includes all restrooms in the Greater Nevada Stadium during baseball and soccer games.

Website:

TMWA.com will have dedicated pages promoting smart water use. These landing pages will be monitored through analytics to provide tracking data from specific ads and social media posts.

A blog will be incorporated as part of the website that conveys specific water-related information. The tone will be light and engaging, and is meant to reinforce messaging, including enjoyment and respect of the resource.

Digital and Social Media:

To foster conversations and sharing, staff will utilize regular postings, paid and boosted ads, videos, blog posts, photos, and infographics on various social media channels, including local media, Facebook, YouTube and Twitter. Active listening and responding as needed is also part of what staff does every day.

News Coverage:

The local media and weather forecasters play an important role in conveying the Smart About Water messaging in general, and conservation and other key messaging to the community, in particular. Staff will be responsive to incoming media requests. Tools used to convey our message include: editorial board meetings, desk sides, infographics, interviews, press release, media, FAQ's infographics, tours, etc.

Direct Customer Communications:

Monthly inserts, envelope backers, bill messages, brochures, etc. will convey the pertinent messaging. Cadence for release of information will coincide with the summer integrated campaign.

Workshops/Events:

The conservation department will continue to offer efficient-landscaping workshops throughout the spring and summer. A TMWA exhibit, will also be present at appropriate events such as Earth Day.

TMWA Water Leadership Communications Plan

Overview

The purpose of this plan is to create a more transparent understanding of water resource management in the Truckee Meadows. As a trusted steward of quality water delivery, current perception holds TMWA in a leadership role for broad-scale management of water resources in the region. Though this perception has served TMWA well, the Water Leadership Communications Plan seeks to expand TMWA’s role, and take on misinformation in the community by positioning it as the architect of needed collaboration, education and stewardship that will benefit the knowledge base of the community-at-large.

Positioning: Leadership and Smart About Water

The plan introduces a **Smart About Water (SAW)** position platform and addresses key issues identified in public-perception research projects conducted in the fall of 2016. Accordingly, the long-term goal of this strategic communication plan is to establish high levels of regional water-management knowledge among civic, political and public stakeholders. The outcome will effectively define TMWA’s role as a quality water service provider while educating the community about how broader water-use decisions are made in the region. At present, TMWA holds the url: smartaboutwater.com.

<p><u>Target Audience 1</u> Government stakeholders (Elected city, county and state officials, relevant government staff, civic opinion leaders.)</p>	<p><u>Target Audience 2</u> Community-based organizations (Neighborhood Advisory Boards, civic groups, industry/business groups, environmental groups)</p>	<p><u>Target Audience 3</u> Customers & Community (Residents, businesses)</p>
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Objective for Year 1— 2017

Nurture Collaborative Relationships, Acknowledge Water Management Perceptions

Audience 1/ Government stakeholders – Strategic Goal and Tactics

Develop messaging on growth and development and build consensus with city, county, the community and state partners – using education tactics on the role each plays on the topic:

- Immediate: Gain better understanding from TMWA Board/exec team how to build collaboration to explain growth and respective roles/responsibilities each has
- Immediate/Ongoing: Begin 1x1 meetings with political, civic and opinion leaders to highlight SAW survey findings and how to work together to inform customers and community
- Fall: State of the Water media/public event.

Audience 2/ Community-based Organizations – Strategic Goal and Tactics

Develop an engaging outreach program positioning TMWA's (and the community's) farseeing leadership and expertise in managing and maintaining the region's water supply. Tactics include

- Immediate-Ongoing: NAB and CAB Smart About Water presentations, focusing on historic underpinnings, TROA and TMWA's role in growth and water supply. Demonstrate diligent, proactive TMWA infrastructure improvements
- Immediate-Find or create panel discussions to which TMWA leadership can contribute with like-minded peer organizations (cities, county, regional planning, etc.)
- Immediate-Ongoing: Develop presentation deck and coordinate presentations to civic organizations (Rotary, EDawn, Chamber, Soroptimists, WIN, etc.) focusing on TROA education/significance and all pieces of the water planning puzzle: TROA, Donner Lake, North Valley Project, Mt. Rose Fan projects, ASR, Conjunctive Use Projects. (We've been working towards this day for a long time.)

Audience 3/ Customers & Community – Strategic Goal and Tactics

Combine TMWA's traditional summer campaign--paid, owned and earned channels -- with new leadership messaging, focusing on smart water use for first year (and out of the political domain) and lightly introducing SAW and leadership messages. Tactics include:

- Immediate: Develop proactive, summer water-season paid advertising campaign introducing Smart About Water messaging (see addendum).
- Immediate: Integrate TMWA Owned Channels (Online/Social/Email): Develop strategic direction to more dynamically integrate TMWA's owned channels into plan. Tactics include sharing supporting collateral to e-newsletter list about state of the water graphic (see bullet below), blog and/or news update. Through more direct calls to action, promote sign ups to social media channels and website in order to build audience engagement and begin to develop core group of TMWA social evangelists and influencers
- Immediate: Online/Social – Dynamic graphics that illustrate state of the water supply, and other campaign-aligned support collateral
- Immediate: Online/Social: Share information to e-newsletter list about state of the water graphic, blog and/or news update. Promote sign ups to social media channels and website.
- Present day - 24 months: Develop PR campaign targeting regional media (launch in second year)
- Spotlight the SAC's (standing advisory committee) role (ensuring a customer-driven perspective stays involved in the way decisions are made)
- Based on feedback from summer campaign, begin integrating the Smart About Water messaging and positioning into brand platform.

Objectives for Year 2—3

Spring/Summer 2018 moves into further integration of collaborative principles toward more interactive partnerships that align community messages and campaigns across a broader network of institutions (cities, county) and stakeholder groups (civic organizations). With a platform that mutually acknowledges and reinforces facts regarding water resource management, integrative, multi-agency approaches to addressing regional water concerns become more formalized. By year 3 the public has received consistent information from multiple channels across various stakeholder groups-- and misinformation regarding factors that impact water resource management in the region is effectively dismantled.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF RESEARCH

SUBMITTED ON JANUARY 4, 2017

PRODUCED BY



OBJECTIVE

The overall intent of this research is to establish baselines of public awareness and confidence levels surrounding sustainability of the long-term water supply in the Truckee Meadows. In doing so, other objectives also include identification of primary influencers and activities that shape public perceptions and create a collective understanding the community has about water in the region.

The outcome of the findings is to get a prioritization of key community concerns regarding water management and stewardship in the Truckee Meadows. With community concerns prioritized, public dialogue about water in the region can become more meaningful and relevant to residents, which helps protect future engagement levels.

METHODOLOGY

Surveys were distributed between Oct. 26 – Nov. 11, 2016 by public link via the Truckee Meadows Water Authority and OneTruckeeRiver. Channels included email and social media.

Statistical Confidence: Out of a total 1,844 responses; 1,815 were from TMWA-oriented distributions and 29 were from OneTruckeeRiver distributions. A sample of 1,844 is solidly representative of the Truckee Meadows population of 400,000+; with a 95% confidence level and a 3% +/- confidence interval. In other words, leadership can be confident that decisions made based upon the research results are representative of the whole of the Truckee Meadows area.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Basic Needs, Complex Systems

In developed countries, delivery of high-quality, safe drinking water is considered a primary municipal function. The expertise of the Truckee Meadows Water Authority to provide dependable, clean water is broadly acknowledged by the public and established— 90% believe TMWA is succeeding in providing an uninterrupted supply of healthy drinking water. (InfoSearch International, 2013-2016).

Yet perceptions about the ability of current water management plans, policies and agreements to chart a solid future for the region hold less confidence. For survey questions that addressed these topics, uncertainty in the future is demonstrated in three ways: 1) ratings with lower agreement levels, 2) more stating they 'do not know' and 3) a broader scattering of ratings across the respective response scales. Specifically, this is demonstrated by the following specific results:

- The ability of water management policies to *secure a vibrant future* had the lowest agreement level (47%) and 15% opted to select 'do not know'. (Agreement level = sum of Strongly Agree and Agree.)
- The Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA) *effectively safeguards the community's water future* had slightly more agreement (52%), yet 22% 'do not know' enough about it to answer.
- Forty percent of respondents have some degree of skepticism that the region's water plans are *based on reliable facts and available knowledge*, and 14% 'do not know' enough to answer.
- In these topics of operational governance, limited central tendency exists in how questions were rated, demonstrating limited community consensus for each topic.

To address these points, advantages exist to increase public awareness and education for two reasons:

- 1- Conceptually, awareness levels are already considerable. Agreement in each of the operational governance questions is at 47% or higher. That said, how each are specifically structured to help secure the future of the resource is a disconnect to bridge.
- 2- Informationally, TMWA is *the* favored source of facts for the community on the topic of water in the region: 33% of respondents prefer getting news directly from TMWA newsletters/inserts and another 10% would rather rely on TMWA staff or management directly. Local news reports (25%) and conservation and environmental leaders (15%) follow in preference.

With a credible and trusted foundation already established, TMWA-sourced public education campaigns could greatly reduce the 'Do Not Know' responses and potentially increase agreement levels in the process. With outreach, the bulleted findings above represent key areas of public perception that will be insightful benchmarks for the future.

Controls Against the Unknown

The clearest message delivered from all questions was that the county and cities should *make water capacity and supply a high priority factor for growth*. Respondents were extremely unified in how they answered this question: 94% agreed with an average of 6.6 on a 7-point scale. When it comes to water resources needed for growth, residents have a solid opinion even though gaps exist in understanding how water policies or plans may apply to the topic.

In open-ended questions, themes of controlling development and growth carry over as priority topics. In the minds of most respondents, it is meaningless to talk about the future of water in this region without also addressing development and growth.

Conclusion

Conservation and growth have intertwined futures in the perception of the public. When people witness new growth occurring in tangent with conservation messaging, it creates dissonance towards the long-term viability of both.

The impact of growth on the water supply is currently based on anecdotal understandings as there is no entity directly addressing the topic. Not having a trusted source to explain how development and shifting water supplies are balanced opens the door to skepticism about who realistically will benefit from conservation.

If left unaddressed, perceptions that conserved water serves to make additional growth possible may become 'fact' based on opinion only. The long-term consequence of this scenario for TMWA may be reduced participation in future conversation efforts and erosion of credibility that is currently very high.

The full report further outlines the path of public knowledge formation that currently exists based on research insight, as well as the findings that informed this summary. Recommendations are also presented to address distortions revealed in the research that are impacting public perception.

POTENTIAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT APPLICATIONS

Building Blocks of Public Perception

The findings in this report suggest the following path of correlations currently influence public awareness:

- 1) As a municipally-owned resource, residents tend to be protective about water use in the region.
- 2) Residents are pro-active to ensure water is not wasted in their homes.
- 3) Residents expect corresponding levels of diligence from local business operations.
- 4) Residents believe that new development should be limited due to uncertainty in the supply year over year.
- 5) Regulatory or governmental management to address growth in context of the water supply is not understood by residents and is perceived as lax or non-existent.
- 6) Guidance and controls provided by plans, policies or the Truckee River Operating Agreement are not understood by residents in content or application.

Points #1 and #2 represent high levels of awareness that benefit the collective community. The public owns their impact on water resources, resulting in high participation in conservation. This has high benefit to TMWA.

Concerns on points #3, #4 and #5 represent a lack of control (which may be due to a lack of information) that residents find unnerving. How elements of point #6 may secure the future of water is not understood.



STAFF REPORT

TO: Chairman and Board Members
THRU: Mark Foree, General Manager
FROM: John Zimmerman, Manager, Water Resources
DATE: 12 June 2017
SUBJECT: **Informational report on TMWA Rule 7 and banked water rights inventories, and water rights acquisition considerations and processes, including current market processes for fractionated water rights acquisitions**

At the May Board meeting, Member Brekhus requested a summary of the budget relating to water right purchases by TMWA and the relationship to fractionated Truckee River water rights. The following is a brief discussion regarding those topics.

TMWA Water Right Purchases

TMWA's budget includes \$150,000 for water right purchases. These funds are reserved so that TMWA may seize opportunities to purchase water rights at prices significantly below the Rule 7 price. TMWA is not aggressively pursuing water right purchases at this time because there are almost 6,000 acre-feet in its Inventory. Additionally, third parties have banked approximately 27,600 acre-feet with TMWA, all of which could be used for future commitments.¹ For comparison purposes, in 2016 TMWA sold approximately 789 acre-feet of will-serve commitments from its Inventory and accepted another 675 acre-feet from others for dedication and commitment. Accordingly, while TMWA staff consider most offers to sell water rights, they do not pursue them unless they are substantially lower than the current Rule 7 Inventory price or have certain attributes that make them more useable or beneficial to TMWA (e.g. those with relatively senior priority) and can be transferred to, and used by, TMWA without significant administrative cost or effort.

Fractionated Water Rights

According to TMWA's current Water Resource Plan, available Truckee River irrigation water rights that have not been converted to municipal use are fractionated in more than 40,000 pieces spread over more than 30,000 individual parcels. Pursuing ownership of these water rights is time-consuming and costly because water rights are considered real property, and therefore, record title must be searched and confirmed at the County Recorder's Office for each

¹ 12,000 acre feet per annum (afa) of mainstem Truckee River rights, 4,100 afa of creek rights, and 11,500 afa of groundwater rights (of which roughly 8,000 afa are Fish Springs rights).

fractional interest (some of which consist of as little as a hundredths of an acre-foot). Additionally, the status of the water rights must be researched at the Federal Water Master and State Engineer offices to make sure they are in good standing and can be used for the intended purposes.

After record title and status are accepted and the fractional interest is purchased, the owner must then update the ownership records of the State Engineer's Office to be able to use it. The State Engineer charges a filing fee and requires the new owner to show the complete chain of title from the current owner in the state's records to the new owner. This process may be time-consuming and expensive because the owner listed in the state's records is not always the current owner. In some cases, the owner set forth in the Truckee River decree is still listed as the owner in the state's records, and thus, title must be traced all the way back to the date of the decree (1944) and brought forward. Also, if the new owner needs to change the manner of use, place of use, or point of diversion of the water right to use the water, then they must file a change application with the State Engineer. The change application process is somewhat time-consuming (roughly 6-12 months if not protested), expensive, and subject to public notice and protest. Further, the State Engineer may require a separate change application for each fractional water right.

TMWA staff consider all of the above-described factors when analyzing water rights offered for sale and determine whether such purchases are worthwhile and not cost-prohibitive. In addition to TMWA, there are water right brokers that undertake the above-described work on behalf of clients seeking water rights for their projects.



TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Mark Foree, TMWA General Manager
DATE: June 6, 2017
SUBJECT: Discussion and action on nomination of Chairman and Vice Chairman and request for Board adoption of Resolution No. 253 appointing a Chairman and Vice Chairman for Fiscal Year 2018

The Cooperative Agreement forming TMWA requires the Board to appoint a Chairman and Vice Chairman to serve one year terms coinciding with the fiscal year. Said appointments would take effect July 1, 2017 and continue through June 30, 2018.

TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION NO. 253

A RESOLUTION TO APPOINT OFFICERS

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Truckee Meadows Water Authority Cooperative Agreement among the City of Reno, City of Sparks, and County of Washoe, the Board of Directors is required to appoint a chairman and a vice chairman from its membership; and

WHEREAS, the officers appointed are to hold office for a period of one year commencing the first day of each fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the last day of the current fiscal year is June 30, 2017, and the terms of the current officers will expire as of that date,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby appoints:

_____ to serve as its chairman for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017.

Upon motion of _____, second by _____, the foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted June 21, 2017, by the following vote of the Board:

Ayes: _____

Nays: _____

Abstain: _____

Absent: _____

and

_____ to serve as its vice-chairman for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017.

Upon motion of _____, second by _____, the foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted June 21, 2017, by the following vote of the Board:

Ayes: _____

Nays: _____

Abstain: _____

Absent: _____

Truckee Meadows Water Authority
Resolution 253 (continued)

Approved June 21, 2017

Chairman Geno Martini
Truckee Meadows Water Authority

STATE OF NEVADA,)
 : ss.
COUNTY OF WASHOE.)

On this 21st day of June, 2017, Geno Martini, Chairman of the Board of Truckee Meadows Water Authority, personally appeared before me, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, and acknowledged that he executed the above instrument freely and voluntarily and for the purposes therein mentioned.

Notary Public



STAFF REPORT

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Mark Foree, General Manager
DATE: June 6, 2017
SUBJECT: General Manager's Report

Attached please find the written reports from the Management team including the Operations Report (*Attachment A*), the Customer Services Report (*Attachment B*), and the Water Resource and the Annexation Activity Report (*Attachment C*).

Included in your agenda packet are press clippings from May 11, 2017 through June 14, 2017.

Also, Christian Kropf, TMWA Senior Hydrogeologist, wrote an outstanding article on how TMWA manages conjunctive use across five hydrogeologic regions; all of which have benefited either by reduced pumping, passive recharge, increased use of surface water, reduced decline in water levels, and reduced arsenic concentrations. This article was published in the Spring 2017 edition of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Source and can be found in the press clippings.



STAFF REPORT

TO: Board of Directors
THRU: Mark Foree, General Manager
FROM: Scott Estes, Director of Engineering
BY: Bill Hauck, Senior Hydrologist
DATE: June 12, 2017
SUBJECT: **Operations Report**

Summary

- The record-setting 2017 snowmelt runoff has peaked and river flows are receding
- Flows are still significantly above average for this time of year
- Lake Tahoe is projected to fill to capacity by July 1st
- The lake continues to rise and is just ½ foot from its maximum legal elevation
- All other storage reservoirs on the Truckee River system will be full by July 1st
- Normal Truckee River flows are projected over the course of the next 2 to 3 years
- Hydro revenue for May 2017 will be approximately \$286,315

(A) Water Supply

- **River Flows** - Truckee River flows at the CA/NV state line were approximately 3,100 cubic feet per second (CFS) this morning. Flows remain significantly above average due to the big snowpack and runoff of 2017. The river is projected to flow very high over the next month or so before finally leveling off in mid-July.
- **Reservoir Storage** - The elevation of Lake Tahoe is currently 6228.62 feet (0.48' below the legal maximum storage elevation of 6229.10 feet). Current reservoir storage is as follows:

Reservoir	Current Storage (Acre-Feet)	% of Capacity (Percent)
Tahoe	685,600	92%
Donner	9,085	96%
Independence	16,675	95%
Prosser	16,249	55%
Stampede	217,704	96%

In addition to Donner and Independence lakes, TMWA has approximately 10,200 acre-feet of water stored between Boca and Stampede Reservoirs under the terms of TROA.

TMWA’s total back-up reservoir storage between Donner and Independence lakes and TROA is approximately 36,000 acre-feet as of this morning.

- **Outlook** - The 2017 Water Year will go down as one of the biggest ever in terms of both snowpack and streamflow runoff. The water supply outlook for the region could not be better. All reservoirs on the Truckee River system (including Lake Tahoe) will be completely full by July 1st. In fact, this will end up being single largest recovery year in terms of gains in reservoir storage at Lake Tahoe in recorded history. The 2017 Water Year has by any measure officially ended (with an exclamation point) one of the worst droughts this region has ever experienced (2012-2016).

(B) Water Production

Demand - Last week customer demand averaged 104 million gallons per day. For the year-to-date, demand is approximately 98% of 2016. At this time surface water comprises about 90% of our raw water supply, and groundwater the other 10% from production wells located throughout TMWA’s service territory.

(C) Hydro Production

Generation - Average Truckee River flow at Farad (CA/NV state line) for the month of May was approximately 4,800 cubic feet per second (CFS). TMWA’s Verdi power plant was on-line for the entire month. The Fleish, and then the Washoe plant were also brought back on-line during the month of May after extended outages. We were very close to the 300K mark for the first time in many months.

Hydro Plant	Days On-Line	Generation (Megawatt hours)	Revenue (Dollars)	Revenue (Dollars/Day)
Fleish	27	1,508	\$108,217	\$3,491
Verdi	31	1,513	\$107,570	\$3,470
Washoe	20	981	\$70,527	\$2,275
Totals	78	4,002	\$286,314	\$9,236



STAFF REPORT

TO: Board of Directors
THRU: Mark Foree, General Manager
FROM: Marci Westlake, Manager Customer Service
DATE: June 6, 2017
SUBJECT: **May Customer Service Report**

The following is a summary of Customer Service activity for May 2017.

Ombudsman

We had one call this month for a customer that was disputing a bill that he did not think he should have been billed for a vacant property, we called and explained the reasoning.

Communications

Customer outreach in May included:

- Bill Hauck, Will Raymond and Kelli Burgess were at Chalk Bluff for a Treatment, Quality and Storage presentation and 2 people attended.
- Lauren Kunin had a Tree Care Workshop at Capital with Dale Carlon and 14 people attended.
- Ian Dasmann was at Chalk Bluff for a Water Treatment presentation for Better Work Bookseller, 5 people attended.
- Kara Steeland was at High Desert Montessori School for Snapshot Day with 10 people attending.
- Jessica Gearhart and Christian Kropf were at NDEP for Snapshot day with 35 people attending.
- Dillon Hansen and Joe Stokes were at Chalk Bluff for a Water Treatment presentation and 12 people attended.
- Lauren Kunin was at Peavine Elementary School for a conservation presentation and 21 children attended.
- Neece Schlesener and Lauren Kunin both had Walking tours for Conservation and 6 people attended those tours.

Conservation (January 1 – December 31)

- 711 Water Watcher Contacts
- 485 Water Usage Reviews

Customer Calls – May

- 8,235 phone calls handled
- Average handling time – 4 minutes, 29 seconds per call
- Average speed of answer – 21 seconds per call

Billing – May

- 125,478 bills issued
- 78 (<.1%) corrected bills
- 14,435 customers (12.0%) have signed up for paperless billing to date.

Service Orders –May (% is rounded)

- 7,843 service orders taken
- 4,615 (59%) move-ins / move-outs
- 386 (5%) cut-out-for-non-payment and cut-in after receiving payments, including deposits and checks for tamper
- 954 (12%) zero consumption meter checks
- 242 (3%) re-read meters
- 549 (7%) new meter sets and meter/register/ERT exchanges and equipment checks
- 390 (5%) problems / emergencies, including cut-out for customer repairs, dirty water, no water, leaks, pressure complaints, safety issues, installing water meter blankets, etc.
- 128 (2%) high-bill complaints / audit and water usage review requests
- 579 (7%) various other service orders

Remittance – May

- 35,880 mailed-in payments
- 26,761 electronic payments
- 29,504 payments via RapidPay (EFT)
- 17,194 one-time bank account payments
- 5,718 credit card payments
- 3,494 store payments
- 2,112 payments via drop box or at front desk

Collections –May

- 16,719 accounts received a late charge
- Mailed 7,343 10-day delinquent notices, 5.8% of accounts
- Mailed 1,211 48-hour delinquent notices, 0.9% of accounts
- 137 accounts eligible for disconnect
- 130 accounts actually disconnected (including accounts that had been disconnected-for-non-payment that presented NSF checks for their reconnection)
- 0.12% write-off to revenue

Meter Statistics – Fiscal Year to February 28

- 2 meter retrofits completed
- 1,225 meter exchanges completed
- 1,232 new business meter sets completed
- 122,639 meters currently installed



MONTHLY CONSERVATION REPORT

Tuesday, May 30, 2017

Conservation Response Initiation Type (to-date)

Drive-bys	604
Deliveries	10
Hotline Reports	61
Email Reports	36
Total	711

Watering Violations Observed (to-date)

Waste	90
Wrong Day	558
Wrong Time	2
All Violations	650

Response Actions Taken (to-date)

Educational Visits	487
A.M. Letters	166
Courtesy Calls	48
No Actions	10
All Actions	711

Water Devices Supplied (to-date)

Faucet Aerators	0
Hose Timers	2
Nozzles	18
Low-flow Shower heads	0
Tree Root Feeder	0
All Devices	20

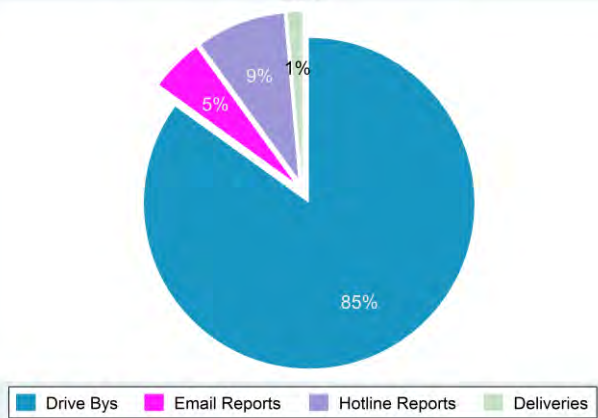
Additional Conservation Actions (to-date)

Water Usage Reviews	485
Tree Care Visits	32

Number of Attendees to Workshops (to-date)

Irrigation System Start-up #1	Cancelled
Irrigation System Start-up #2	12
Irrigation System Start-up #3	20
Landscape Planning & Design	31
Tree Care	23
Walking Tour, Part 1 - University Ridge Park	13
All Workshops	99

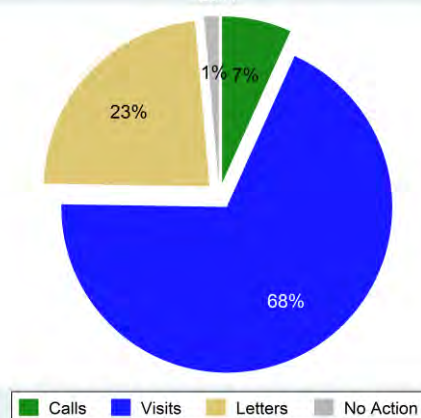
Conservation Response Initiation Type 2017



Watering Violations Observed by Conservation Consultants 2017



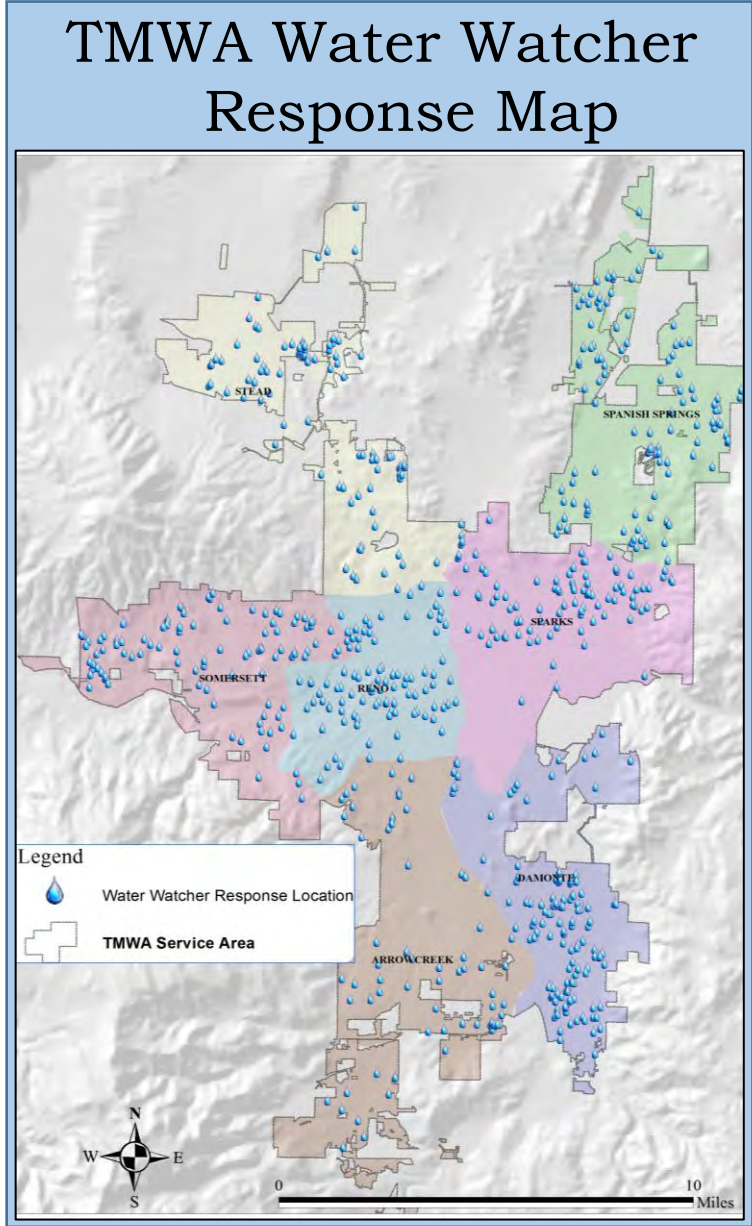
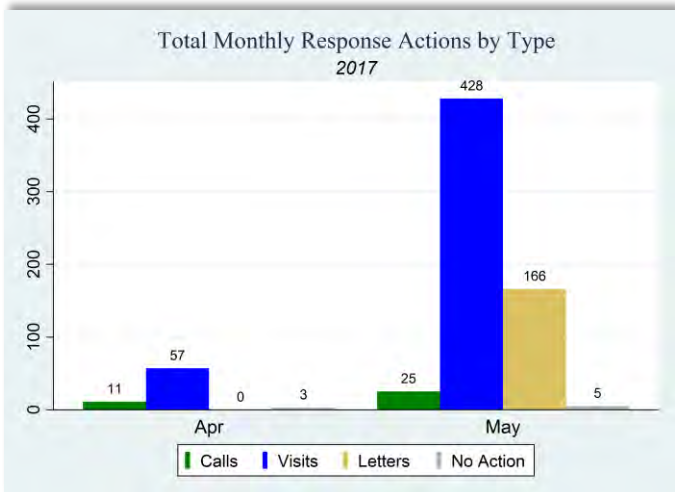
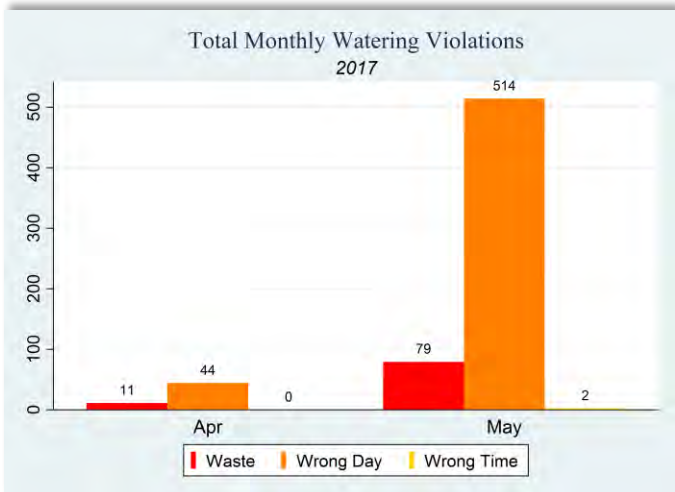
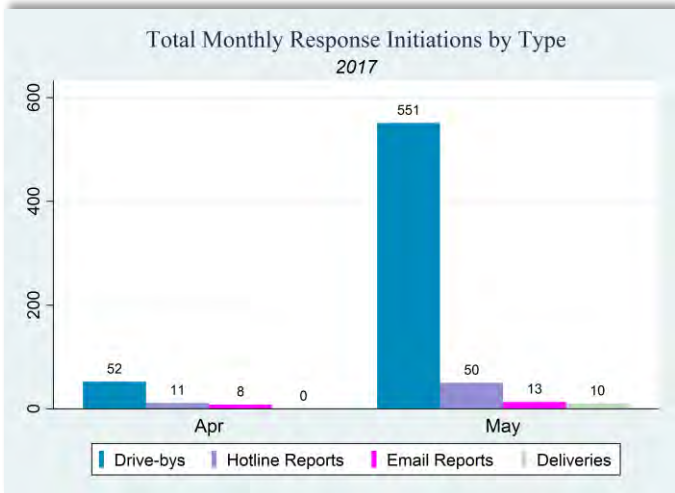
Actions Taken by Conservation Consultants 2017





MONTHLY CONSERVATION REPORT

Tuesday, May 30, 2017



JUNE – Hot and dry. A warming trend is projected to be higher than normal for the first few weeks of June with no clear signs of precipitation, according to the NWS. However, the Truckee River has likely seen its peak flow. Stay cool out there!



STAFF REPORT

TO: Chairman and Board Members
THRU: Mark Foree, General Manager
FROM: John Zimmerman, Manager, Water Resources
DATE: 13 June 2017
SUBJECT: **Report Water Resources and Annexation Activity**

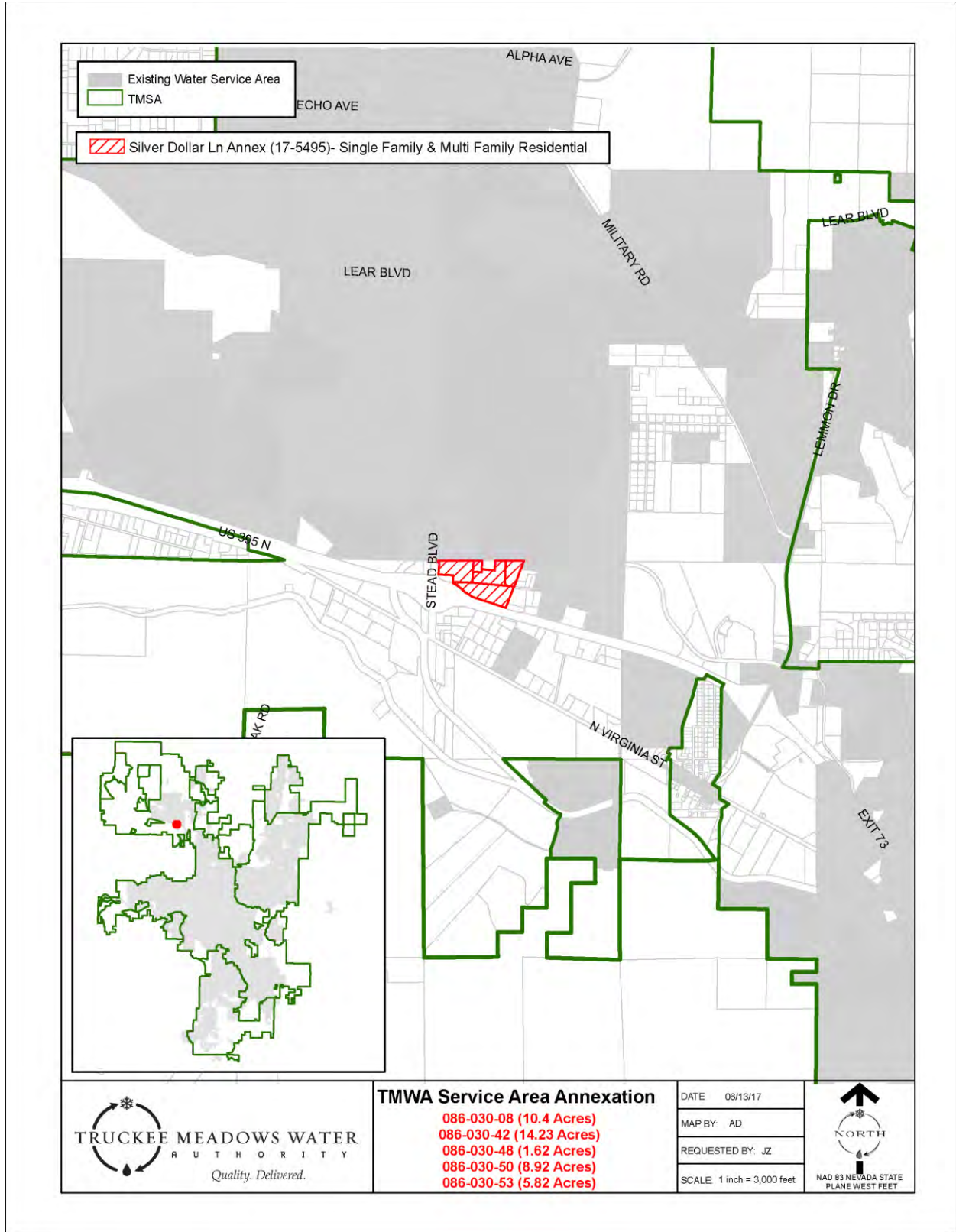
RULE 7

Rule 7 water resource purchases and will-serve commitment sales against purchased water resources through this reporting period:

Beginning Balance	5,996.44 AF
Purchases of water rights	0.00 AF
Refunds	0.00 AF
Sales	- 94.07 AF
Adjustments	34.07 AF
Ending Balance	5,936.44 AF
Price per acre foot at report date:	\$7,500

WATER SERVICE AREA ANNEXATIONS

Five single-family and multi-family parcels totaling 40.99 acres in Stead. (See attached map).



TMWA Service Area Annexation

- 086-030-08 (10.4 Acres)
- 086-030-42 (14.23 Acres)
- 086-030-48 (1.62 Acres)
- 086-030-50 (8.92 Acres)
- 086-030-53 (5.82 Acres)

DATE: 06/13/17
 MAP BY: AD
 REQUESTED BY: JZ
 SCALE: 1 inch = 3,000 feet





TMWA Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

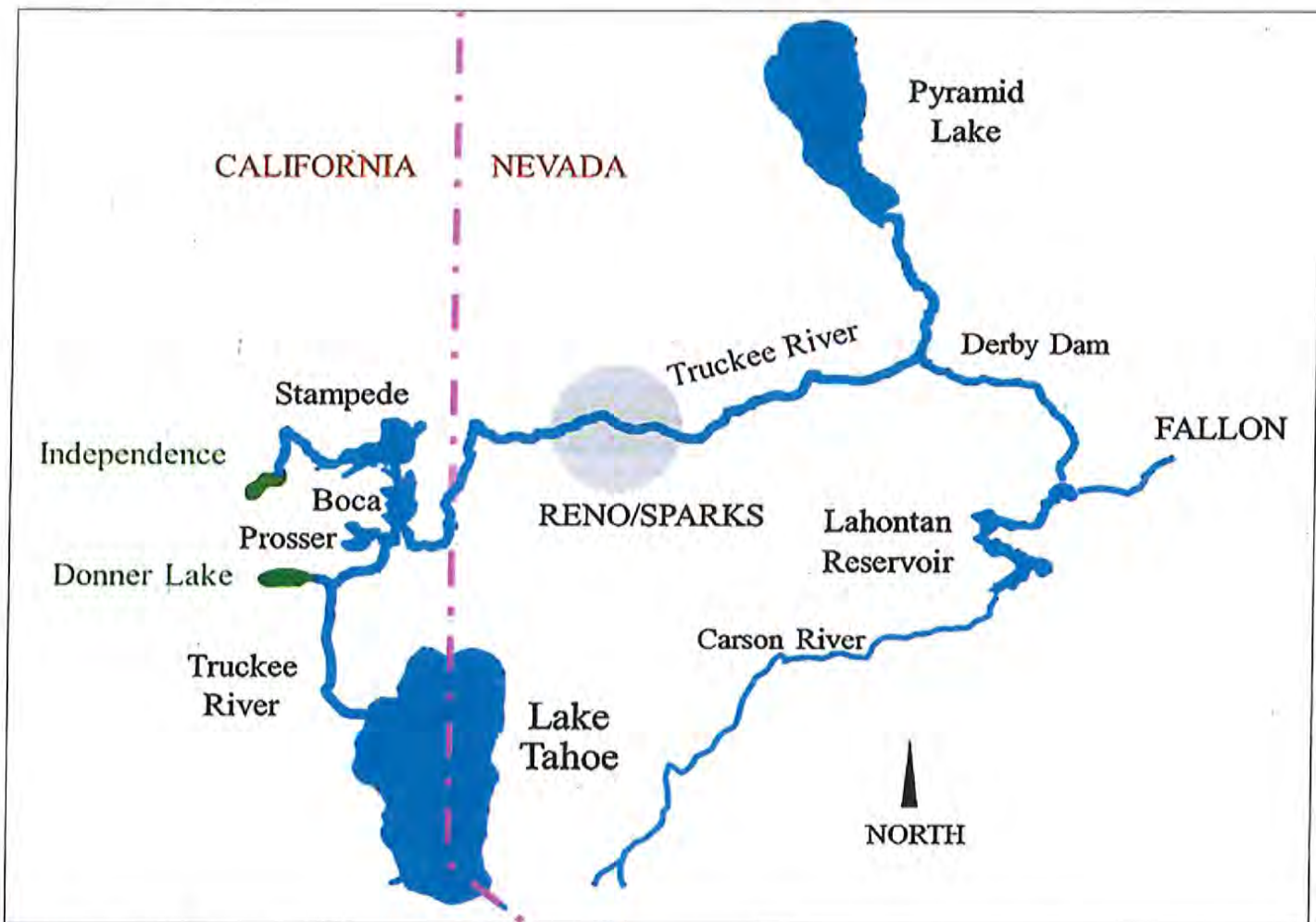
Press Clippings

May 11, 2017 – June 14, 2017



Truckee Meadows Water Authority Manages Conjunctive Use across Five Hydrogeologic Regions

By Christian Kropf



THE TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER Authority (TMWA) serves 400,000 residents in a 157-square-mile service area that includes the Reno-Sparks Metropolitan Area (RSMA) and small rural communities and irrigated acreages in northwestern Nevada. Although aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) has been used in the region for almost a quarter century, the 2014 consolidation of the Washoe County Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the South Truckee Meadows General Improvement District (STMGID) into TMWA facilitated

conjunctive use in areas that relied heavily on groundwater. Previously, those areas did not have the ability to rest wells or the flexibility to address water level declines associated with drought and population growth. Before consolidation, the three large water purveyors also had areas of duplicate transmission, storage, and treatment facilities.

Surface water from the Truckee River system, including water released to the river from Lake Tahoe, Boca, Prosser and Stampede reservoirs, Independence Lake, and Donner Lake, provides most of TMWA's

water supply. Groundwater is pumped from over 80 wells throughout the service territory and, depending on the location, either supplements surface water during the summer months or provides water supply year-round. Recharge water originates from the Truckee River and is treated at the Chalk Bluff Treatment Plant (90 million gallons a day (MGD)) or at the Glendale Water Treatment Plant (37 MGD) for distribution to customers. In the winter months, TMWA currently distributes up to 10 MGD of recharge water into 26 active recharge wells.

MANAGER'S CORNER

Planned expansions to the distribution system, a new surface water treatment plant, and additional recharge wells are projected to increase that amount to 15 MGD via 40 recharge wells. Because the recharge/production wells are integrated into the distribution system, treated water from the surface water treatment plants can easily make its way to the wells for recharge.

An Experiment That Worked

TMWA's groundwater recharge program began in 1993 as an experiment to determine the possibility of injecting water into production wells to enhance drought supply and improve water quality. The wells are located in five geographically and hydrogeologically unique regions with differences in natural recharge, water quality, and availability. A common saying about drilling in Nevada goes, "If you want a different well, move over five feet." That variability makes it difficult to locate wells in a sustainable and potable aquifer. Likewise, geologic controls, such as transmissivity, porosity,

fractures, and faulting constrain the ability to extract water. In the arid to semi-arid climate of the RSMA, precipitation falls as snow and rain from November through April, approximately six to ten inches a year on the valley floor and as much as 40 inches in the mountains, which provides most of the natural aquifer recharge.

Conjunctive-Use Tool Kit

Almost all recharge wells in the system are dual-purpose. Wells with vertical turbine pumps have been the easiest and most successful to recharge because they are not equipped with check valves and don't have the annular space crowding limitation common in wells with submersible pumps. When annular space is available, many wells with submersible pumps have been converted to recharge wells via a separate downhole recharge line. After a well is rehabilitated to increase its efficiency, well house and downhole piping are improved to convey the calculated volume of water based on aquifer storage parameters (specific

yield, hydraulic conductivity, and depth to water), and the well's specific capacity. All new production wells are designed and constructed to accommodate recharge with stainless-steel recharge lines that penetrate the casing below the static water line and can accommodate either vertical turbine or submersible pumps.

The Projects

Project Area 1: East Lemmon Valley. Topographically closed, typical basin fill aquifer; five production wells completed in unconsolidated sediments; approximately 1,400 domestic wells primarily in thin alluvial sediments or fractured granitic aquifers. No active recharge wells. Average perennial yield: 700 acre-feet a year (AFY); average groundwater production over the past five years: approximately 550 AFY.

In 2006, Washoe County DWR began an in-lieu (passive) recharge program to address decades of water level declines and elevated nitrate from septic system

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effluent. The project focused primarily on a 511-lot subdivision served by 475 domestic wells in a low-yield fractured granite aquifer. With funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, DWR extended municipal water service and converted 14 percent of the domestic wells to municipal service. With fewer domestic wells and new metered customers using water more carefully, the project reduced net groundwater pumping by 50 AFY. Between 2006 and 2014, DWR was able to reduce pumping from nearby municipal wells by over 40 percent. Within five years, water level decline stopped and began to stabilize. In 2015, TMWA reduced pumping to 20 percent of previous levels, facilitated by groundwater from the Fish Springs Ranch importation project. Recent data indicates that a water level rebound may be occurring.

Project Area 2: West Lemmon Valley. Topographically closed, typical basin fill aquifer adjacent to East Lemmon Valley where TMWA has been storing water for drought

supply since 2000; three production/recharge wells in unconsolidated sediments with approximately 730 domestic wells in a fault-separated aquifer; estimated average perennial yield: 600 AFY; 50-foot drop in water levels from domestic and municipal pumping. Since 2012, TMWA groundwater production has averaged about 250 AFY.

In 2000, to maximize groundwater storage, TMWA instituted a rotational peak demand only pumping protocol and active recharge while supporting base-level demands with imported surface water year-round. Three existing production wells were converted to dual purpose wells by constructing bypass piping above ground and rerouting water down the vertical turbine pump column. The project has successfully augmented groundwater reserves, averaging more than 300 AFY and totaling more than 5,000 AF of recharge since inception. This has resulted in water level stability across the basin and up to 20 feet of recovery near ASR wells. Active recharge water represents

almost 70 percent of the water produced from the valley, while passive recharge has allowed 385 AF (roughly 40 percent of what would have been pumped in a typical year) to remain in the aquifers in East and West Lemmon Valley combined.

Project Area 3: Spanish Springs Valley. Highly transmissive fractured volcanic rock aquifer on the east with four production wells produces up to 3,000 gallons per minute (gpm) at a single well, and a moderately transmissive alluvial aquifer on the west with four wells produces up to 750 gpm at a single well. A separate granitic aquifer also supports approximately 380 domestic wells. Average perennial yield is estimated at 1,300 AFY, with TMWA pumping averaging 1,100 AFY since consolidation.

Spanish Springs Valley has traditionally relied solely on groundwater and only recently began using surface water to meet base-level demands. In 2015, TMWA increased surface water deliveries to help reverse declining water levels and in 2016 reduced pumping to 800 AFY, a 65 percent

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decrease from the previous 15 year average. Recharge began on the east side of the valley in 2008. A new production/recharge well was designed and constructed with a three-inch recharge line affixed to the outside of the steel casing, penetrating the well just above the well screens. The line can accommodate approximately 600 gpm of recharge although the aquifer could handle much more.

In 2015, the well was retrofitted with bypass piping to allow up to 2,100 gpm to flow back down the vertical turbine pump column for a combined maximum recharge rate of 2,700 gpm. That well alone recharges up to 1,000 AFY, replacing all the municipal water pumped in the basin in 2016. Passive recharge kept 650 AFY of groundwater in the aquifer in 2016.

Septic system effluent from a high density area of more than 2,000 homes has resulted in nitrate concentrations in shallow groundwater, reaching in excess of 100 parts per million (ppm), compared with the maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 ppm. The contamination has shut down production at two municipal wells and threatened three more. In 2002, DWR began to reduce pumping on the west side and increased pumping on the east side where water quality has not been affected. In addition to supplying demand with surface water, DWR began a recharge pilot project in 2012 on the west side. One well was taken offline because of high nitrate and arsenic concentrations and converted to a 200 gpm recharge-only well to help reduce nitrate concentrations in the area below the MCL. Since pilot recharge activities began in 2012, nitrate concentrations have decreased by as much as 70 ppm in nearby shallow groundwater.

Project Areas 4 and 5: North and South Truckee Meadows (Reno and Sparks). North Truckee Meadows (NTM) is a basin-fill aquifer dominated by coarse unconsolidated material deposited by the Truckee River; South Truckee Meadows (STM) is an alluvial fan and fractured volcanic rock aquifer dominated by the Mt. Rose/Galena Fan and its perennial streams originating in the Sierra Nevada. Estimated combined perennial yield: approximately 27,000 AFY; groundwater production: approximately 7,500 AFY in NTM and 4,200 AFY in STM.

In the NTM, dual-purpose production/recharge wells force contaminants away from production wells and dilute contamination at the edges of the fresh water recharge bubble in the aquifer. The Washoe County Central Truckee Meadows Remediation District (CTMRD) has identified eight tetrachloroethylene (PCE) contamination plumes in the NTM, the result of commercial/industrial use of PCE as a solvent since the 1930s. CTMRD's program has successfully contained plumes by implementing a prescriptive pumping schedule for five TMWA wells fitted with PCE removal equipment and prevented contamination at other TMWA wells through recharge. The result is that the PCE plumes do not appear to be migrating or expanding.

Recharge has also helped reduce arsenic concentrations and saved TMWA customers more than \$9 million in contaminant treatment at two well sites. Before recharge, water levels in areas under southwest Reno were declining by two to five feet per a year. Once recharge began in 1993, within a few years water levels rebounded by 50 feet and have remained mostly stable, with only modest year-to-year declines of less than a foot per year, even under the influence of drought.

The consolidated and/or fractured rock aquifers in the alluvial fans in the STM have experienced more than 20 years of ground-

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water level declines, up to 75 feet in some areas since 2001. Numerous faults criss-cross the alluvial fans, serving as barriers to natural recharge from the mountains. This aquifer system, which is thin and/or lacks sufficient transmissivity, provided almost 100 percent of municipal demand before consolidation while supporting more than 1,200 domestic wells.


A \$7.8 million three-phase Mt. Rose Fan Conjunctive-Use Facilities plan will deliver treated surface water from the Truckee River, allowing the wells to rest and the aquifer to recover. The \$2.8 million Phase 1 of the plan (three booster pump stations and approximately 3,600 feet of 10-inch pipe) became operational in early 2016 and is delivering up to 1,500 gpm of surface water, primarily during the winter months to recharge and rest wells until needed to meet peak summer demand. TMWA has also expanded ASR in this area and has completed retrofit modifications and tested recharge at five wells.

In Phase 2, \$1.2 million in improvements will deliver surface water into the upper portions of the Mt. Rose fan water system to recharge additional wells. Construction is scheduled for 2017. Phase 3, the \$3.8 million conjunctive-use facilities, will use a new booster pump station and approximately 8,100 feet of 10-inch pipe to deliver about 1,000 gpm primarily during the winter months. Phase 3 facilities will be constructed in 2017/2018. A fourth project will include a \$10 million surface water treatment plant. The plant will treat water from eastern Sierra Nevada creeks, serve water to customers high on the fan and recharge treated creek water into stressed aquifers during the winter when surplus is available. Completion is scheduled for 2018. Once fully operational, the STM active recharge system could contribute up to 3,000 AFY to the fan aquifer. In 2016, pumping was reduced by half, resulting in approximately 2,200 AFY of passive recharge. Water levels in several municipal and domestic wells have responded favorably, with water level declines stabilizing and some municipal wells recovering by approximately 15 feet since 2015.

All conjunctive-use projects are financed as capital improvement projects. The total annual costs to treat and deliver water to individual ASR wells ranges from \$250,000 to \$350,000. 💧


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Housing crunch: White picket fence dreams in Reno's nightmare housing market

Reno feels squeeze from rising home prices, rents as growth and influx of companies shrink housing supply

[Jason Hidalgo](#), jhidalgo@rgj.com

House of pain

Whether it be new houses, existing homes or apartment units, a lack of inventory in Reno is making it increasingly tough for people to find a place to call home.



After going through the toughest recession in its history, Northern Nevada has seen its fair share of economic development victories. Here's a list of some of the major developments for the region in recent years. Wochit

Three years ago, one Reno couple decided it was time to grab their personal slice of the American Dream.

As first-time homebuyers, Bob Whitefield admits that he and wife Weston Spann had a romanticized view of the process when they decided to take the plunge into Reno's real estate market.

"We always wanted to live in a house in Old Southwest Reno when my wife moved back to town after graduating from law school," Whitefield said. "It was that whole white picket fence sort of ideal."

After throwing their hats into the real estate market, the couple motivated themselves further by marathoning episodes of "Property Brothers." As they watched the Scott twins turn fixer-uppers into dream homes, Whitefield and Spann pictured themselves settling in a corner of Reno's iconic neighborhood. Both imagined a yard shaded by decades-old trees. They thought about renovation projects to transform the house into one they could truly call their own.

"We thought we could look at any house and have our pick of the litter," Whitefield said.



Bob Whitefield and wife Weston Spann celebrate the purchase of their home in Reno's old southwest neighborhood.
(Photo: Bob Whitefield)

And look, the couple did. Again and again. And then some more.

Whitefield and Spann found themselves getting emotionally attached to house after house, only to lose it to another buyer. Their initial excitement gradually turned into quiet despair. Brick by brick, their American Dream was crumbling against the cold, harsh reality of Reno's housing market.

"There were houses that would go on the market in the morning and we thought we would be the first to look and, lo and behold, it was just on the market for show and had already gone to an investor," Whitefield said. "Our agent showed us so many houses — we looked at over 50."

It took about half a year for the couple to finally buy their house, which, as luck would have it, had a white picket fence. Although it was a happy occasion, there was one feeling that trumped all others once the papers were signed and the purchase was official.

"Relief," Whitefield said. "We were just glad it was done."

After the purchase, Whitefield and Spann did not even want to think about buying a house again. But with their home gaining significant equity in recent years, their 90-pound golden retriever Ruby digging holes in their small yard, and thoughts of starting a family filling their minds, the couple started entertaining the prospects of moving to a bigger house. Fast forward to the present and both are ready to jump into Reno's real estate waters once more.

If they thought buying their house three years ago was tough, however, today's market is proving to be even more of a challenge.

Their biggest obstacle is one many Reno homebuyers face today, affecting everything from rising home prices to skyrocketing rents.

"There's less inventory," Whitefield said. "It's definitely more of a seller's market."

A home in Reno's old southwest neighborhood.

(Photo: Bob Whitefield)

Biggest little housing shortage

'It's painful out there'

The Reno area is in the midst of a housing crunch.

Whether it be new homes, existing houses or even apartment units, finding a place to live in the Biggest Little City can be a tough gamble with unfavorable odds.

“It’s painful out there,” says Nancy Fennell, president of Reno-based Dickson Realty. “This is something I worry about every day.”

Available listings, for example, are down 13.3 percent year-over-year, Fennell said. New listings entering the market, meanwhile, are down 17 percent from March of last year, according to the Reno/Sparks Association of Realtors. The competition is so stiff in the existing home market that Fennell recently saw one buyer pay \$75,000 above a house’s list price.

Chalk it up to simple economics.

At its most basic level, Reno’s tight housing situation boils down to the age-old tug of war between supply and demand. So far, demand is winning, and it’s winning big. As the first quarter of 2017 came to a close, the Reno-Sparks market for existing single-family homes found itself behind the proverbial eight-ball as it entered its traditional busy season.

“The active inventory in the Reno market is about half of what it should be,” said John Graham, president of the Reno/Sparks Association of Realtors. “Buyers have a lot less choice.”

Supply of existing homes in Reno-Sparks is down to 1.7 months, according to Graham. The National Association of Realtors considers a balanced market to have a six-month supply based on the rate of sales activity.

Supply gets even worse when looking at the lower end of the market, where demand is strongest. The market for homes priced between \$600,000 to \$900,000, for example, is at 5.2 months, Fennell said. Supply drops to less than two months in the \$300,000 to \$600,000 range, where inventory is down to just 56 days. For existing homes priced \$300,000 and below, supply gets even tighter at just 24 days — just a little over three weeks.

The feeding frenzy at the lower end of existing homes is especially bad news for first-time homebuyers, who make up a key chunk of the entry-level market.

“That market is on fire,” Graham said. “That’s the one that’s just killing it.”

Part of the reason can be traced back to the housing crash, which led to a glut of bargain-price distressed homes. A disproportionate number of those homes ended up in the hands of investors instead of new homeowners due to various factors. Higher unemployment and more underwater mortgages, for example, meant there were fewer prospective buyers of homes due to lower incomes, job concerns and lack of equity.

Even as the economy started to recover in 2013, a previous [investigation by the Reno Gazette-Journal](#) found that questionable short sale practices allowed select investors to snap up properties way below market value. This was done through prearranged deals that prevented regular home buyers from bidding on the property in the open market.

“Our affordable inventory got snatched up by investors a couple of years ago,” Graham said. “They’re seeing great returns on those properties now.”

Housing construction in the Damonte Ranch area on March 24, 2017.

(Photo: Andy Barron/RGJ)

Not keeping pace

'It's nowhere near enough to keep up with demand'

On a clear spring day in late March, construction workers use yellow paint to color the drab gray exterior of a new house at Lennar’s Sage Meadow and Dry Creek development in Damonte Ranch.

The Great Recession and the housing bubble’s collapse brought new home construction to a near standstill in Northern Nevada. Today, new lots that were left to languish during the downturn are humming with activity once more.

Although Graham deals primarily in existing homes, he considers new houses an important part of solving Reno’s housing shortage. The increased construction activity is good news, Graham said. There’s just one problem.

“The home builders are starting to build more but it’s nowhere near enough to keep up with demand,” Graham said.

After seeing fellow homebuilders lose their business during the downturn, many developers spent the last few years being gun-shy on new developments. Last year, however, was a turning point.

More than 2,000 permits were pulled for new single-family homes in 2017, according to the Builders Association of Northern Nevada. About 1,200 permits were also pulled for multifamily or apartment projects.

The activity is a huge improvement from the recession years, said Don Tatro, BANN executive director. In 2010, only 471 single-family and 134 multifamily permits were pulled for new developments, Tatro said.

Tatro, however, echoed Graham’s concerns.

“There’s obviously significantly more activity than the recession,” Tatro said. “But it’s still well short of the boom years.”

More than 5,300 single-family and 1,172 multifamily permits were pulled in the greater Reno-Sparks area in 2005. Although the market 10 years ago was overheated, last year’s numbers still pale to the kind of activity that’s traditionally seen in the area, according to Tatro.

In 1985, for example, the area saw 4,000 permits pulled for new single-family homes. BANN did not track multifamily permits back then.

Tatro points to several challenges when explaining why new home building is unable to keep up with demand. One is manpower.

Back in June 2006, construction was one of the leading employers in Nevada, hitting a peak of about 148,300 workers. By May 2012, the sector shed 99,100 jobs, falling by nearly 67 percent to just 49,200 workers.

Since hitting its lowest point about four years ago, construction has started to bounce back. Activity especially started to pick up in December 2014, with the sector posting the state's highest percentage growth in jobs each month since then. By March, construction employment in the state reached 80,800. The number, however, still falls short of the total number of construction jobs lost during the recession.

Getting all those workers back continues to be difficult. One reason is that many transitioned to other fields during the recession. There's also a lot of competition for workers from areas that are experiencing a construction boom, including San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Chicago and New York City. Los Angeles, for example, is seeing its busiest construction since the 1920s, according to real estate research company CoStar.

"So you've got a labor shortage," Tatro said. "There's also a myriad of things that are working against the supply."

Construction equipment just before sunset at the Summit Club Apartments site near The Summit Reno mall.

(Photo: Jason Hidalgo)

Construction speed bump

'All the easy lots have been developed'

Labor is just one piece of the new housing puzzle, Tatro said.

Even if Northern Nevada manages to regain all the construction workers it lost after the recession, building new homes still won't be easy.

"All the easy lots have been developed," Tatro said. "You also have a process that's growing in complexity and price when it comes to developing new houses."

Building costs are already skyrocketing as the increased demand for homes puts pressure on several of its components. In addition to increasing land costs, builders are seeing "huge spikes in lumber costs and materials," Tatro said.

Permits and fees, meanwhile, are impacting not just costs but project timing as well. The problem is especially pronounced in Washoe County, according to builders and developers. In Carson City, permitting and fees cost about \$12,000 for a new single-family home, Tatro said. In Washoe County, however, the cost can range between \$30,000 to \$40,000.

Add several regulatory hurdles and you're looking at significant delays just to get something built, according to Tatro.

"If you have a project of any real significance, you're looking at a minimum of 24 months before you can even start, so there's a significant lag to meet demand," Tatro said. "You have increasing regulatory cost, increasing regulatory expansion of codes and increasing regulatory expansion of jurisdictions, which is making it very complex and difficult to deliver new projects."

The increased costs and project complexities combined with the unpredictability of the permitting process also make financing a new project a tougher proposition, Tatro added.

Chip Bowlby, a managing partner for developer Reno Land Inc., agreed that the process could be more streamlined. Bowlby also has experience developing properties in California and is involved in several projects in the area, including Rancharra, Park Lane and [the Summit Apartments](#) near The Summit Reno mall. Bowlby says the city and state have "bent over backward" to help him with his various developments. At the same time, he admits that the process could be better.

"Is it fast enough? I don't think so," Bowlby said. "But it's still a lot quicker than California."

Bowlby cited the recession for some of the issues between developers and the cities and county. More specifically, the lack of activity during the downturn has adversely affected communication between the various parties, including the utility, **water authority** and planning agencies, Bowlby said.

"We went almost 10 years not needing to talk to anybody because nothing was going on," Bowlby said. "Now my line is always busy and everybody else is very, very busy right now."

"We just all need to sit down together, have a conversation and figure out how to get this ball rolling so we can provide people with housing."

To address the concerns raised by Tatro and Bowlby, Reno Mayor Hillary Schieve says that she formed a housing and development task force that works directly with developers. BANN's Tatro was recently named the group's chairman and the city has been working hard to play catch up and get on top of the situation, Schieve said. The mayor is also considering visiting other cities with the task force to see what works in those areas and learn from them.

Part of the challenge involves the need to work with various entities through the development process, which can take time, Schieve said. One of the responsibilities of the task force, which meets every Monday morning, is to find ways to streamline the fee and permitting process.

“There’s a disconnect involving the different entities and where to go next — the health department is a different entity, Truckee Meadows Water Authority is a different entity,” Schieve said. “What we found and think is a great solution is to bring in a liaison from the county to work in conjunction with the city of Reno so now you have a one stop shop to handle all of the duties.”

A new apartment complex is under construction at the Damonte Ranch area on March 24, 2017.

(Photo: Andy Barron/RGJ)

But can you afford it?

'We lucked out'

After seeing his house appreciate by \$120,000 in the last couple of years, Bob Whitefield joined the ranks of what was considered a rare breed during the recession: the move-up buyer.

“We lucked out,” Whitefield said.

As more homeowners gain equity in their property, the pool of prospective buyers in Reno-Sparks starts to widen. For those dreaming about getting their first house, however, buying a new abode is easier said than done.

In addition to the challenge of finding a house in a market with limited options, buyers also have to deal with another side effect of low supply and high demand — rising prices.

Just four years ago in January 2012, the median price for an existing single-family home in Reno-Sparks was \$135,000. By April of this year, the median price has climbed nearly 140 percent to \$323,695. It’s the highest figure that the area has seen since the recession. Median price peaked at \$365,000 in January 2006 at the height of the real estate boom.

With wages failing to keep pace with rising home values, affordability is a big concern in the Reno area. Based on current valuations, the median income in Reno can no longer afford the median home.

In order to afford a \$319,000 house, for example, a household must have a salary of \$70,000 per year — and that’s with a 10 percent down payment, according to the Reno/Sparks Association of Realtors. According to the latest numbers from the U.S. Census Bureau, the median household income in Reno in 2015 was \$50,451. The number is slightly below the median household income in 2008.

Apartments typically provide an affordable alternative. With Reno posting the [third-fastest](#) and [sixth-fastest](#) increase in rents nationwide in the last two years, however, apartments aren’t providing much respite for residents who are feeling the squeeze from the housing crunch.

Key takeaways: The average U.S. apartment rent increased by \$6 in March, reaching \$1,312 according to Yardi Matrix. Again the California cities make up the bulk of the rent-growth list, with twelve of the top 20 cities located within the state’s borders. This time Lancaster and Stockton took the No. 1 and No. 2 spots. New York has the nation’s highest rents, and San Francisco, with the second highest rent, saw the biggest y-o-y rent drop in the nation for March, decreasing 4.3% over the year. Wochit

After staying within the \$800 range from 2006 to 2014, average rents in Reno-Sparks hit \$1,066 by the end of 2016, according to real estate consulting group Johnson Perkins Griffin. Although the average apartment vacancy rate at the end of last year was 2.93 percent, areas such as Northeast Reno, West Reno and the neighborhood around Reno-Tahoe International airport saw vacancy rates fall below 2 percent. Vacancies for rental properties managed by RE/MAX Premiere Properties in Reno are running at 1.2 percent.

Add Nevada's lack of rent control to the mix and some tenants are seeing constant increases in rent, sometimes on a monthly basis. It's an issue that is on the city of Reno's radar, Schieve said.

"Apartments raising rents is something that we're keeping a close eye on," Schieve said. "One of the things this council is working hard on is to make sure that people can stay in their homes without their rents being raised (unreasonably)."

As part of efforts to increase available housing, the city of Reno is looking at selling land it owns so they can be used for developing projects such as workforce or affordable housing. In April, for example, the [Reno Housing Authority sold \\$1 million worth of its land](#) to Jacobs Entertainment as part of a project that the casino operator is working on that involves several downtown blocks. A side effect from the project is the displacement of tenants who had to leave the low-cost units they were renting. Schieve says the city is working with the housing authority to find housing for displaced renters. The city will also recognize landlords who do a good job as a way to incentivize them to keep rents fair and stable.

One encouraging trend amid Reno's housing crunch is a moderation of price increases for housing in places such as Reno's new southeast and new southwest neighborhoods, according to Fennell. The common thread in both areas? New housing construction. Given the challenges involved with building new projects, however, it could take a while before such trends become more widespread. Tatro is hopeful that the new housing task force will help speed things up.

"There's a significant lag to meet demand," Tatro said. "Anything along the way that can improve the process and bring predictability to development would help improve getting more projects through."

The Tesla Gigafactory is seen east of Reno on March 18, 2016.

(Photo: Jason Bean)

An economic drag

'When you're bringing jobs into town and even dual-income households have no way of buying a house, then you become San Francisco'

The lack of housing is seen as a potential drag to Reno's economic development prospects, which have celebrated the arrival of big names such as [Apple](#), [Tesla](#), Panasonic, [Switch](#) and [Google](#). The University of Nevada, Reno recently made arrangements to house Tesla and Panasonic employees at its dorms in the summer. Other companies also expressed concerns about adequate and affordable housing for their workers.

"I've talked to Tesla, I've talked to Switch, I've talked to everybody and the No. 1 concern they have is housing," Bowlby said.

With new jobs running the gamut from warehouse positions to advanced manufacturing, the area needs to have a comprehensive selection of housing options, said Mike Kazmierski, president and CEO of the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada.

Some companies have responded to the area's more competitive job market by raising wages, Kazmierski said. Wages, however, still won't be able to keep pace if housing continues to skyrocket at its current rate, Kazmierski warned. The average pay for advanced manufacturing, for example, typically ranges between \$40,000 to \$60,000, he said.

"When you're bringing jobs into town and even dual-income households have no way of buying a house, then you become San Francisco," Kazmierski said. "We've got a long way to go before we get to that point but we are creeping up beyond the affordability factor."

The housing crunch could lead to something considered unfathomable in an economy that continues to add big names: population loss. At least, that's what state demographer Jeff Hardcastle is forecasting for 2018 — a 0.9 percent drop to 444,478 for Washoe County — citing the housing situation as one key factor.

“That's because housing prices are so much higher relative to the nation and our wages are lower than relative wage rate,” Hardcastle said. “The migration of people is based on opportunity ... so as housing prices go up, that may serve as a drag to attracting people to the region.”

On the positive side, a slight loss in population could lead to a decrease in housing prices, which could make the area more attractive to retaining people, Hardcastle said.

Kazmierski and the builder's association's Tatro, however, consider the failure to address the housing issue as tantamount to a lost opportunity.

“We don't want to be the city that had a chance,” Tatro said. “We want to be the city that made the most of its opportunity.”

Meanwhile, prospective homebuyers such as Whitefield and Spann continue to take their chances in a tight real estate market. For the couple, the search for a new home is all about the opportunity to experience a lifestyle that they continue to dream about.

Whether it be running around a bigger yard with their golden retriever Ruby or having more space to raise a family, fulfilling those dreams makes it worth going through the grief of falling in love with property after property once more, only to face rejection repeatedly.

“We probably eat at places like La Vecchia and Hiroba more than we should, but that's part of the appeal of living in Old Southwest Reno,” Whitefield said. “You get these mature landscapes and the trees are just so beautiful.

“Our hope is to be able to raise a family in this same neighborhood, but in a bigger house with a bigger yard.”

Preferably, with a white picket fence

Political ambition, hidden costs, faulty materials led to Oroville Dam crisis

The California Department of Water Resources posted aerial footage of the damaged spillway at the Oroville Dam. Wochit



FILE - This Nov. 5, 1958 file photo shows Governor-elect Edmund G. "Pat" Brown holding up a newspaper proclaiming his victory in the race for California governor in San Francisco. Historical records reveal the late Brown misled voters about the cost of building the nation's tallest dam, ignored recommendations to delay construction and dismissed allegations that substandard materials were used to build the Oroville Dam project. (AP Photo, File)(Photo: AP)

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Historical records reveal the late Gov. Pat Brown misled voters about the cost of building the nation's tallest dam, ignored recommendations to delay construction and dismissed allegations that substandard materials were used to build the ambitious project.

Sixty years before a damaged spillway at the Oroville Dam forced thousands of people to evacuate, Brown's administration overcame labor strikes, worker deaths and other scandals to get Oroville built on time, The Sacramento Bee reports.

Oroville Dam is one of the anchors of the state's water supply system. In February, two spillways at the 770-foot-tall dam began ripping away under unusually heavy rain and snowmelt, threatening to flood towns downstream. Nearly 200,000 people were given only an hour's notice to escape.

The state got a handle on the crisis, and it is rushing to carry out hundreds of millions of dollars in repairs before the next rainy season.

The Bee said it didn't find anything in the historical records that directly foreshadowed the spillway troubles. But experts believe the mess was caused at least in part by design and construction problems decades ago.

"It may come back to engineering hubris, and engineering hubris inevitably comes back to bite us in the butt in California," said Jeffrey Mount, a geologist and water expert at the Public Policy Institute of California.

More: From February: Authorities stop releasing water at Oroville Dam.



Fast paced in-depth look at the current work underway to repair the Oroville Spillway damage. See the current progress up close and from the air. David Johnson

Brown was bent on building a dam and the accompanying State Water Project to expand water deliveries to the parched southern half of California, state archives, oral history interviews and other documents reveal. He campaigned relentlessly and convinced the Legislature and then the voters to approve a \$1.75 billion bond measure when the federal government couldn't help with funding.

He later acknowledged in an interview for an oral history project at the University of California, Berkeley that he and his advisers realized the project's true cost was probably around \$2.5 billion, but they weren't sure voters could handle such a number.

He believed cost didn't really matter given what was at stake. When advisers urged him to postpone construction because of cost issues, he reasoned that delay would only lead to higher costs.

"You need water. Whatever it costs, you have to have it," he told the Berkeley interviewers.

The dam's construction took five years and was rife with problems. Local historians say 34 men died building the dam and the surrounding infrastructure, workers went on numerous strikes, and in 1964 at least three state workers were fired for buying land near the dam site knowing they'd profit when the state bought it.

The biggest controversy came in 1964 when an Oroville newspaper published allegations that substandard materials were being used at the construction site. Brown called the story "irresponsible and erroneous." State officials later wrote a report that said there was no evidence that the dam "was designed or is being built in an unsafe manner."

J. David Rogers, an engineering expert and dam historian at the Missouri University of Science & Technology, said the main spillway apparently didn't get the same level of attention as the main dam. Top engineers and consultants were brought in from all over the world to ensure the bedrock was strong enough to support the dam. The spillways, however, were built on much more weathered rock that easily crumbled this winter, Rogers said.

After construction was completed in 1968, the dam and Lake Oroville played a critical role in California's booming economic and population growth.

"No other state ever attempted anything like this," Rogers said. "It was larger than any federal dam when it was built. . It was the largest nonfederal public works project in world history. Nothing else out there was as big and as ambitious as the California Water Project."

For his part, Brown saw the Oroville Dam and the water project as chances to leave his personal legacy. "I think it's a monument to me, and I'm very proud of it," he said

TMWA Board Debates Wastewater To Tahoe Reno Industrial Center

May 17, 2017 Carla O'Day



The Tesla Gigafactory under construction. Image: Bob Conrad.

By Carla O'Day

The Truckee Meadows Water Authority board voted Wednesday to move forward with an agreement to allow an industrial facility in Storey County to use effluent from a reclamation plant, which utility officials say will keep undesirable water out of the river.

Effluent is liquid wastewater that flows from a treatment plant. Tahoe Reno Industrial General Improvement District plans to use treated liquid waste from the Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility for industrial purposes.

The Reno City Council also agreed last week to negotiations with the industrial center. Also involved is Sparks, the state, and other entities.



Washoe County Commissioner Vaughn Hartung.

The industrial center using effluent is advantageous because it'll keep the stuff out of the Truckee River, said John Enloe, TMWA director of natural resources.

TMWA board member and Washoe County Commissioner Vaughn Hartung said the county remained neutral on the matter.

"What's it worth in 20 years? I'd caution the negotiating team to look at value of the commodity over time," Hartung said. "Perhaps there are benefits along the way. Maybe things can be renegotiated over time."

TMWA board member and Reno City Councilwoman Jenny Brekhuis said Washoe County has invested in its urban infrastructure, unlike Storey County. She said once attorneys start negotiations, the rest of the public is locked out of the process.

"When tax packages for abatements were put together out there, nothing was done for Reno and supporting communities," Brekhus said. "What's next? Apple is about to make a big play on the other side of the canyon."



Councilwoman Jenny Brekhus

TMWA board member and Sparks City Councilman Ron Smith tried to calm the board.

"Put faith in the negotiators," Smith said. "They're going to bring it forward to us for approval anyway."

Enloe said TMWA rate payers wouldn't be affected and the utility would ask for reimbursement if it accrues cost.

The general improvement district is responsible for planning, permitting, engineering, and construction of all improvements in Storey and Washoe counties, including right-of-way acquisition and system improvements. Each municipality will grant an easement for the pipeline on its property at no charge, according to proposed plans.

Cost estimates for the project include \$31 million in Tahoe Reno Industrial Center upgrades, \$20 million for the pipeline, and \$5 million for right-of-way.

Lake Tahoe nears maximum capacity; here's what it means to you

Truckee River's strong flows, cold water eliminates
summer rafting for now



Updated: 8:21 AM PDT May 18, 2017



Lake Tahoe development plan upheld in appeals court

SOURCE: Sarah Heise/KCRA

PLACER COUNTY, Calif. (KCRA) —

Lake Tahoe, the largest alpine lake in North America, has filled well above its natural rim and is inching closer to reaching its maximum legal capacity, thanks to record precipitation and snowpack over the winter.

John McEldowney, emergency manager for the Placer County Office of Emergency Services, said the dam that releases water from the lake into the Truckee River is fully open to allow for as much water release as possible.

The Lake Tahoe Dam is managed by the Bureau of Reclamation, and the U.S. water master, based out of Reno, is a key decision-maker as to how full the lake is and how much water is released.

HOW MUCH CAN LAKE TAHOE HOLD?

Lake Tahoe's natural rim sits at 6,223 feet, but lake maximum capacity, set by a legal decree in 1915 is 6,229.1 feet, which gives the water master the ability to control the lake's level between those six feet, McEldowney said.

The lake is projected to go higher than what it is legally allowed to hold, so the water master has to manage it and be as safe and proactive as possible in order to get Lake Tahoe's water level down over the next several months, according to McEldowney.

HOW MUCH MORE IS LAKE TAHOE EXPECTED TO RISE?

Managing the lake's level can often be a difficult task, since there are 63 streams flowing into Lake Tahoe, but only one place for outflow via the Truckee River

Snowmelt between May and August is expected to cause the lake to rise by 2.7 feet, which would be more than the 1.4 feet of available space left in the lake.

Therefore, the water master needs to release 1.3 feet over the next several months in order to keep Lake Tahoe below the legal limit.

The Truckee River is expected to remain flowing heavier and stronger than normal with 2,600 cubic feet per second (cfs) being released from the Lake Tahoe Dam.

More: [Truckee River is changing; here are 3 reasons why](#)

"Think of a basketball -- one cubic foot is equivalent, approximately, to one basketball," McEldowney said. "The maximum release out of the Tahoe dam is 2,600 cubic feet. To give you an idea, the dam at Folsom Lake has a maximum release of approximately 300,000 cubic feet."

For another comparison, 600 cfs of release equates to one foot of lake level drop over 100 days, McEldowney said.

"So it's important to get ahead of it now to avoid a potentially worse situation down the road," McEldowney said. "The flows (on the Truckee River) over the next couple weeks and perhaps months will be much higher than normal and especially higher than what we seen over the last five to six years of drought conditions. People can expect much higher flows, much swifter current and it will also be running much colder."

WHAT ABOUT RECREATING ON THE TRUCKEE RIVER?

There are several bridges along the river that are impassable by raft, and McEldowney warns people that now is not the time to be rafting because there is no clearance under those bridges.

"With the current flow rate on the Truckee River, it is not only dangerous, it's also illegal to be entering the river, whether swimming or rafting," McEldowney said.

Rafting companies share the safety concerns along the river and will remain closed until it is safe for them to open over the summer. McEldowney anticipates that it will be a great rafting season on the Truckee River by July and August.

Drinking with dogs: Lake Tahoe bars that welcome pets



Getty Images/iStockphoto | iStockphoto

Dogs are welcome at a handful of bars on both North and South Shore.

Summer is just around the corner, which means it's time to once again adventure on the lake and find new biking and hiking trails — and who's going to be there for it all? Your dog, which also deserves to join you for those post-exploration drinks. As the craft brew scene continues to boom, bars are popping up around the lake: Here are the spots you can count on to welcome your pet.

Make sure your dog is on a leash before entering the following businesses — it's common courtesy and we don't want lost dogs (or any butt-sniffing).

SOUTH SHORE

Two South Shore breweries allow dogs inside their taprooms — Sidellis Lake Tahoe and South Lake Brewing Company. Both establishments feature picnic-style tables that contribute to the family-friendly settings and encourage both community and the opportunity to meet new people.

Play corn hole, settle in with board games and relax in the ambiance of two beer garden-type settings as your pooch makes new friends and doesn't get FOMO from being left in the car while you indulge.

South Lake Tahoe also offers part-bar, part-restaurants where you can relax with your dog on an outdoor patio. Brother's Bar & Grill is a great spot for those who want to catch the game, grab a beer and spend quality time with their dogs. The patio features picnic tables, a fire pit and an outdoor projector — and you can enjoy it all with your furry friend by your side.

McP's Taphouse, located in Stateline, has over 40 beers on tap (along with wine and spirits) and welcomes dogs in the outdoor courtyard. Enjoy people-watching in one of the busiest areas of South Shore with a cold one and your dog at your feet.

Looking for less of a bar-type scene where you can take man's best friend? Many restaurants near Heavenly Village welcome dogs on their outdoor patios, and Revive Coffee & Wine, a coffee house-turned-wine bar (that also has a small variety of beer) also invites your animals to hang out in the outdoor area with corn hole, a slackline and more.

NORTH SHORE

One of the most well-known Tahoe breweries is found in Incline Village: Alibi Ale Works. This taproom opens its doors to patrons over the age of 21 — and their well-behaved dogs. Enjoy the establishment's rotating craft brews at the bar, an indoor table or outdoors and let your dog socialize in this community-centered taproom.

All pups are allowed outside at Mellow Fellow, an all-ages restaurant and bar located in Truckee. The spot offers games, daily events and 40 on-tap brews, in addition to hard ciders, a selection of wines and both sandwiches and snacks. Bonus: If your dog is well-trained, it's welcome inside the taproom.

Tahoe Mountain Brewing Co. has two locations: a pub in Tahoe City and a taproom in Truckee. And dogs are welcome at both. The brewpub features a dog-friendly outdoor patio and serves up American dishes in an atmosphere that's fun for the whole family. The taproom allows well-trained dogs indoors and is arguably the best spot to find the widest selection of the company's drinks.

Places to grab a beer with your dog, and that have a more restaurant-type feel, include Moe's Original Bar B Que (Tahoe City) and Austin's Restaurant (Incline Village). Moe's serves Alabama-style barbecue and has a dog-friendly patio complete with scenic views of the lake. At Austin's you'll find southern comfort food and a brand-new bar that features 10 beers on tap and more, in addition to an outdoor patio where your dog is welcome.

Learn more about each joint on its respective website

Water conservation will be 'business as usual,' despite record water year

by Meteorologist Jaclyn Shearer
Wednesday, May 24th 2017

Photo: Jenn Durfey / Flickr / CC BY-SA 3.0 DE

AA

RENO, Nev. (News 4 & Fox 11) — TMWA officials say water conservation plans will be in full-force this summer, despite a record breaking amount of precipitation.

Current reserves have enough water to sustain the region for 2 or 3 years, but water conservation consultants (informally referred to as 'water cops'), and restricted water usage days will still be in effect.

Precautionary Boil Water Order in Spanish Springs and Bridle Path Area

Posted: May 23, 2017 9:05 PM PDT <em class="wnDate">Wednesday, May 24, 2017 12:05 AM EDT Updated: May 24, 2017 8:55 AM PDT <em class="wnDate">Wednesday, May 24, 2017 11:55 AM



A precautionary boil order is in effect for Spanish Spring residents who are customers of the Great Basin Water Co.

To be on the safe side they say people living in the Bridle Path and Sky Ranch areas should boil their water after leftover sediment was found after pumping water.

The company says the water quality has improved to a normal appearance since testing, and its awaiting test results from a second set of samples.

Viewers tell us they were informed by a phone call and complained about water discoloration

The order does not affect customers with the Truckee Meadows Water Authority.

The company plans to hold a public meeting at 6 p.m. Wednesday at the Lazy 5 Regional Park.

A forest of poison hemlock is growing along the Truckee River

By [Amy Graff](#), SFGATE

Published 2:56 pm, Wednesday, May 24, 2017



Photo: Julie Ryan Brooks

Poison hemlock growing six-to-seven-feet tall in Dorostkar Park, Reno, Nev., May 23, 2017.

A forest of poison hemlock is growing around the Truckee River in Reno, Nev., and Washoe County officials are working to manage the plant that's best known for killing **Socrates**.

The hardy, aggressive plant that thrives in moist conditions has grown over some trails in Dorostkar Park, a popular hiking spot along the river, and park employees have been cutting it down in recent days.

"Because we received so much precipitation this year, it's growing really tall," said **Colleen Barnum**, Washoe County's park operations superintendent. "We have some patches that are just thick. It's so thick in one area that you have to push it away to get over the trail."

Poison hemlock (*Conium macuiatum*) is a common weed found throughout the United States, and patches pop up every spring along river, but Barnum says this is the most hemlock she has seen in the 10 years she's been in the area.

The plant is poisonous and can cause respiratory failure and death if ingested.

"You can't die from its fumes or from touching it," says Barnum.

The amount of plant that's lethal is dependent on the poison concentration, and this can vary greatly, explains **Amy Stewart**, the author of "Wicked Plants: **The Weed That Killed Lincoln's Mother & Other Botanical Atrocities.**"

"The poison moves around in a plant like hemlock," says Stewart, who lives in Eureka, Calif., where she tends to a garden of poisonous plants. "**Young** shoots are especially highly toxic because the poison protects the new plants. In fact, the amount of poison in a plant can vary throughout the day. Moisture in the soil and other factors like that play into it. You could eat the plant and be fine, but I've also known people to have pretty severe hemlock poisoning and are fighting for their life."

Barnum says the concern in the park is mostly for children and dogs who like to munch on plants.

Truckee resident **Julie Ryan** hiked around Dorostkar Park on Tuesday. "The stalks are six to seven feet tall," she said. "They are trying to cut it all down- but it's a forest of the stuff."

Down the river in Truckee, Calif., Town Manager **Tony Lashbrook** says some patches of poison hemlock are being monitored but they're not seeing more than they normally do at this time of year.

"Because of our elevation it doesn't get the kind of foothold that it gets in Reno," Lashbrook said. "From an environmental standpoint we have invasive species of greater concern."

Nevada lawmakers on path to limit some PERS data from public scrutiny

[Seth A. Richardson](#), srichardson@rgj.com Published 5:35 p.m. PT May 25, 2017 | Updated 15 hours ago



In this June 1, 2015, photo, members of the Nevada Assembly work late into the night voting on a number of bills before they close the 78th session of the Legislature in Carson City. One of the bills passed was one making lawmaker communications secret except for final votes.(Photo: Lance Iversen/AP)

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Assembly Democrats on Thursday voted to pass a modified version of a bill that would have prevented government employee pensions from public scrutiny.

Senate Democrats originally passed a version of Senate Bill 384 that would have tied public records of retirees in the Public Employee Retirement System to an identification number. However, the name tied to that identification number would have been confidential.

Democrats in the Assembly passed an amended version on Thursday that makes some information from the Public Employee Retirement System available as public records, including the names of retirees, pension amounts and previous employers. Years of service, retirement date and whether it is a disability or retirement pension would remain confidential.

RGJ EDITORIAL: PERS secrecy bill based on unfounded fears

Public employee pensions are a matter of public record because they are, by definition, public spending. Open records can also prevent the employment of certain accounting techniques to bump pensions in the final stages of a person's career before retirement or resignation, swelling state funding.

Barry Smith, executive director of the Nevada Press Association, said the bill is still a blow to public records and government transparency, but was a better version than what the Senate passed.

"It's not perfect, but it's better than it was," he said. "Having the years of service helps evaluate that pension amount because there's a big difference between being in the system 20 years against being in it for five."

The Assembly version is mostly in line with what state Sen. Julia Ratti, D-Sparks, originally introduced. She said she carried the bill because of concerns about identity theft of retirees and because her predecessor Debbie Smith originally introduced similar legislation.

Ratti said she was pleased with the amendment and expected the Senate to concur.

"I said from the very beginning that we could either release the name and have a very narrow dataset or have more data available and not release the name," Ratti said. "The preference was to go the other way and it was amended in that direction."

Senate Democrats voted 11-10 in favor of its passage, with state Sen. Nicole Cannizzaro, D-Las Vegas, joining Republicans in the final decision.

The Senate version made it through the Assembly Government Affairs Committee on May 11 without changes, but wasn't acted on the floor until Thursday when it was amended to switch the portion tying pensions to an identification number with a name – essentially Ratti's original version.

After the Assembly amended SB 384, it passed by a 25-14 party-line vote with two Democrats and one Republican excused from voting.

The bill now moves to the Senate for concurrence. Republican Gov. Brian Sandoval's office did not respond to a request for comment on if he would sign the bill.

TRFMA seeks additional funding for flood projects, Washoe voters may be asked to fund projects in 2018



Photo by David Calvert, Calvert Photography |

An aerial shot of the January 2017 flooding.

Many businesses and residents were affected by the severe rain and flooding in the early months of 2017. The [Truckee River Flood Management Authority](#) (TRFMA) is working to help minimize future flooding in the Truckee Meadows.

Jay Aldean, executive director of TRFMA, said that while 2017 has been a big water year, it was not like the mega floods that northern Nevada has had in the past.

"We did not have a big flood this year," Aldean said in a phone interview with NNBW. "We had 10 rain events that all combined to a huge water year."

It was a very unusual year, he said. The area typically does not get as much flooding in the outlying areas, such as the major flooding experienced by residents of North Valleys. Yet, the flooding region wide was not as bad compared to past flood years in Washoe County.

"If you look at the historic record of flood events in the region, we have had a number of just hellacious storm events," he said.

According to the TRFMA website, the [1997 New Year's Flood](#) caused more than \$1 billion in damages in northern Nevada and about \$700 million in damages in Washoe County.

In order to mitigate economic impacts from future flood events, TRFMA is working on the oversight and implementation of the [Truckee River Flood Management Project](#) (Flood Project). The goal of the project is to reduce damages of future floods in the Truckee Meadows. The agency was created in 2011 in an agreement with Washoe County, the City of Reno and the City of Sparks.

"Our charge as an organization is to plan, engineer and then construct the Flood Project," Aldean said.

He said that while the organization has a simple mission, it is not a simple task. There are many players including the federal and local government, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and more.

"It is an extremely complicated issue and there are many moving pieces," he said.

In 2014, the organization got congressional authorization to build the Flood Project. The project is estimated to cost \$446 million and TRFMA is now exploring how to fund it.

"We have been since then trying to figure out how we were going to come up with that portion of that federal project," Aldean said.

TRFMA is currently funded by a one-eighth-cent infrastructure sales tax which helped provide some of the funding for projects such as the new Virginia Street Bridge. However, Aldean said that additional funds are needed to construct Flood Project.

"We are now pursuing state legislation to form a committee."

[Assembly Bill 375](#) was introduced in the [2017 Session of the Nevada Legislature Session](#). The bill "allows the imposition of certain taxes in a county to fund flood management projects of a flood management authority based on the recommendations of a flood control project needs committee and voter approval," according to the bill summary.

Aldean explained that the committee would recommend a question that will go on the ballot in 2018 and provide a report to elective officials of the northern Nevada on how to move forward with drainage. "The voters of Washoe County can vote in 2018 if they want to build the project or not," he said.

It will be similar to the Public Schools Overcrowding and Repair Needs Committee formed by the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees. This committee was formed after the passing of Senate Bill 411 in the 2015 Nevada State Legislative session.

"It will be exactly like the school district's 411 committee that was formed in order to form a ballot question for 2016," Aldean said.

AB 375 passed in the Nevada Assembly on April 25 and is currently in the Senate. If passed, individuals will be appointed to the committee by various subsidiaries and by government officials such as The Chamber, Economic Development of Western Nevada (EDAWN), mayors of Sparks and Reno, county commission, the governor and more.

For more information on TRFMA, visit <http://trfma.org/> or call 775-850-7460. For more information on the AB 375, visit <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/>.

Reno firefighters rescue three from Truckee River

[Marcella Corona](#), mcorona@rgj.com Published 7:58 p.m. PT May 28, 2017 | Updated 3 hours ago

Watch: Truckee River raging through Reno

CLOSE X



The Truckee River flowed at about three times the normal rate over Memorial Day weekend 2017. Officials warned people to stay away unless they're skilled and wearing proper safety gear. Wochit

Reno firefighters rescued three people from the Truckee River after they fell from their raft into the water.

Crews responded at about 5:30 p.m. Sunday to a report of two men and a woman in their late teens to early 20s in the water. Two of the individuals were walked back to the shore near the Chalk Bluff area, according to Reno Battalion Chief John McNamara.

The third person was rescued by members of the water rescue team who were on their kayaks. The individual was pulled out of the water near Crissie Caughlin Park, McNamara said.

No other injuries were reported.

"We've been trying to get the message out that the river is still very dangerous because of the run off," he said.

The three individuals were caught in a low head dam and were tossed out of the rafts, McNamara said, adding the dam "sucked" them into the water.

Sierra storms kick start Truckee River 'drowning machine'

Benjamin Spillman , bspillman@rgj.com , TEGNA 11:07 AM. MDT May 29, 2017



(Photo: Doug Pensinger, 2007 Getty Images)

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A huge Sierra Nevada snowpack means 2017 will likely be exciting for kayakers and others who like to play in the Truckee River.

It could also be deadly for the unprepared.

That's because the surging Truckee is creating and exposing types of hazards that are less frequent in lower-flow seasons.

One glaring example is a potentially deadly reverse flow hazard in Reno that could trap boaters or tubers in a spot that's incredibly difficult for rescuers to reach.

"There is no way of escaping," said kayaker of Charles Albright of Reno. "It is going to be really dangerous."

It appears flows associated with the stormy winter rearranged the rocks at the Glendale Diversion to create the hazard, which Albright referred to as a “drowning machine.”

The diversion is an earth and stone structure the Truckee Meadows Water Authority created in 2011 to divert water into the Glendale Water Treatment Facility.

The problem is the flows appear to have carved a submerged bowl downstream from the diversion. The bowl alters the flow and creates a reversal back toward the diversion.

Truckee River drowning machine: Sierra storms are sending lots of water down the Truckee River, creating hazards we don't see in drier years. Outdoors writer Ben Spillman is here to explain: More here: <http://www.rgj.com/story/life/outdoors/recreation/2017/02/23/sierra-storms-kick-start-truckee-river-drowning-machine/98262936/>

Posted by [RGJ Reno Gazette-Journal](#) on Thursday, February 23, 2017

That reversal, which goes across much of the entire channel, is enough to trap objects or people who float into it.

“You can’t fight the current,” Albright said. “It is like a sloped hole feeding back into itself.”

The effect is similar to reversals that develop at low-head dams across the country and has potential to be equally deadly.

Since the 1960s there have been nearly 400 deaths due to people being caught in such reversals, according to research [published in the Journal of Dam Safety](#).

Andy Gebhardt, director of operations and water quality for the water authority, said the authority is aware of the problem at Glendale.

“The flood just washed some rock away, we were not anticipating that,” Gebhardt said. “We want to get back in there and take a look and make sure it is not doing any more damage and repair it.”

Gebhardt said the authority will install signs upstream to warn people to get out of the river and walk around the structure.

But until repairs are made it will remain a hazard.

The rocky river bottom at the location adds to the entrapment risk because a person trying to stand could get his or her foot lodged between rocks.

“You can’t get your foot loose,” Albright said. “Your head and body are under water and you drown.”

Even if a person managed to stay afloat within the reverse flow zone rescue would be difficult.

That’s because the jagged, uneven rocks installed on the river bed extend below the hazard for several hundred feet and up the steep riverbanks.

That makes it difficult for rescuers to reach the spot where people would likely be trapped.

“We couldn’t get into it from downstream and to get into it from upstream would put the rescuer at extreme risk,” said Kevin Joell, director of the Reno Fire Department Water Entry Team.

Joell said there’s a chance rescuers could use a fixed, highline rope system to reach the spot. But that’s not ideal, either.

“That is not a quick, immediate rescue,” Joell said. “Realistically it may end up being a body recovery at that point.”

It’s also important for people to realize Glendale likely isn’t the only fresh hazard on the Truckee River.

There’s a similar reversal at Chalk Bluff in west Reno and high flows fueled by cold snowmelt are likely to increase risk on the river deep into spring.

People should expect faster, colder water in the Truckee and prepare accordingly.

“This is completely different than what we have had the last six to eight years,” Albright said. “It is going to change a lot and it is going to be a lot more hazardous.”

Truckee River safety tips

- Always wear a personal floatation device (PFD) and helmet when in or around the river.
- Wear sturdy shoes, consider thermal protection from cold water.
- Do not drink alcohol or use drugs when boating or tubing.
- Never go into the river alone.
- Have a plan and rendezvous point in case you become separated.
- Let a friend or family member know where you are going and when you plan to return.

Source: Reno Fire Department Water Entry Team

KTVN:

Road Closures in Sparks for Utility Work

Posted: Jun 01, 2017 7:12 PM PDT Updated: Jun 01, 2017 7:12 PM PDT

The Regional Transportation Commission says that several roads will be closed in the next few weeks for construction and improvements for the 4th Street/Prater Way Bus Rapid Transit Project.

RTC says that El Rancho Drive will be closed to all traffic between Prater Way and Victorian Avenue on June 2 with two detours on View Street to D Street or on 21st Street. They say it is for utility exploration work.

Starting June 5, 21st Street will be closed at Prater Way for three days. A detour will be available via C Street.

El Rancho Drive will again be closed starting June 12 to all traffic from Prater Way to Victorian Avenue. This closure is expected to last several weeks. This closure is for **Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA)** and other utility work. There will again be the two detours on View Street to D Street or on 21st Street.

RTC says there will be access to businesses during these closures and they encourage people to continue to visit local businesses during the construction.

To sign up for weekly updates on the 4th Street/Prater Way Bus RAPID Transit Project, go to: <http://4thprater.com> or text "4prater" to the number: 797979



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

June 1, 2017

'Monster' Lahontan cutthroat making a comeback



A 26-inch adult Lahontan cutthroat trout, caught by an angler in mid-meal from a boat at Pyramid Lake. The lake-form trout can grow up to 40 pounds feeding primarily on tui chub, which are abundant in the lake. Credit: Dan Hottle/USFWS

Using unusually high water flows from snow melt, the fish are migrating farther up native Nevada waters into territory they haven't been seen since the 1930s

By Dan Hottle
June 1, 2017

Thanks to more than 700 inches of Sierra Nevada snow this winter and record-high water flows, the prehistoric "monster" Pilot Peak strain of Lahontan cutthroat trout is migrating farther into native Nevada waters than it has in more than 80 years.

Drought-breaking precipitation combined with two decades of conservation actions by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Lahontan National Fish Hatchery Complex and Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe have helped the fish, once thought to be extinct, to successfully migrate from Pyramid Lake into the lower Truckee River for spawning.



Roger Peka, a Lahontan National Fish Hatchery Complex fish biologist, surveys the Numana Dam fish ladder on the Truckee River inside the Pyramid Lake Paiute tribal land boundary. Credit: Dan Hottle/USFWS

“Last year was the first time we observed the cutthroat moving out of the lake and spawning naturally in the lower reaches of river since the hatchery first began raising them from our brood stock in 1995 and stocking them in the lake with the help of the tribe in 2006,” said **Lisa Heki**, project leader for the hatchery complex. “This year they’re using the high water flows to run even further up into territory they haven’t been documented in since the late 1930s.”

Historical records describe an era when native trout migrated more than 120 miles from Pyramid Lake to Lake Tahoe unhindered by man-made barriers or introduced predators. Angling stories by Gold Rush settlers in the late 1800s told of 60-pound “monster salmon trout” that were abundant in the river.

By 1940, the fish had vanished from the system. Now, federal, state and tribal partners are building on the recovery and unique genetic preservation work by the hatchery to boost the Truckee’s world-class sport fishery with the return of the state fish of Nevada.

“To see these fish we’ve raised from eggs in the hatchery growing to massive sizes in the lake over the past few years and now watching them run up the river has been the most rewarding experience in fish conservation I’ve ever had,” said **Roger Peka**, a Lahontan National Fish Hatchery fish biologist. “To get them all the way up into the full span of their range one day will be an amazing accomplishment for our hatchery, and something we can all be proud of.”



Amanda George, a Lahontan National Fish Hatchery fish biologist, feeds Lahontan cutthroat trout fry at the hatchery’s aquatic habitat. Credit: Dan Hottle/USFWS

The Nevada Department of Wildlife recently closed angling within 1,000 feet of Derby Dam, located about 30 miles upstream from the lake, just outside the Pyramid Lake Paiute tribal boundary. Derby dam is the furthest point hatchery biologists are allowing the fish to migrate this year as they work quickly in the raging, 5,000-plus cubic-feet-per-second water flows to gather new information on the trout’s behavior in the river.

The dam is the first of a series of [four man-made Truckee River barriers](#) the fish will encounter when they pass upstream from the reservation that will be remediated by the Service and its partners with improved, natural fish passageways over the next few years.

“**Now that we’ve seen these big trout of up to 20 pounds** or more being able to migrate out of the lake, their presence will become an important part of re-establishing them in the river, and will one day give anglers the opportunity to catch a native fish that’s found nowhere else in the world right in their own backyard,” said **Jon Sjoberg**, chief of fisheries for NDOW. “Our agreements with the Service and the tribe to protect this species will help ensure this trout has a home as it moves further up into the Truckee.”



Pyramid Lake angler Rutilio Sterling Lara holds a freshly-landed 26-inch Lahontan cutthroat trout. Credit: Dan Hottle/USFWS

“After all the incredible work the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the tribe have done bringing this trout back from the brink of extinction, it’s a great next step that the state is taking to put regulations into place to further protect these fish,” said angling guide **Doug Ouellette**, who has fly-fished the Truckee’s waters for the past 45 years. “You can fish for brown and rainbow trout anywhere in the country, but these are a dream-of-a-lifetime trophy native fish that belong here and deserve the chance to return to their home. You’re going to start seeing anglers coming from all over the world for the opportunity to land one.”

Collecting new data amidst a record water year has proven both challenging and highly beneficial to the partnering biologists, who are eager to see how the fish are adapting to their first-ever river experience. Their goal is to document when and where the fish are spawning, how they’re using the habitat and how fast they’re moving upstream.



An acoustic tracking device like the one shown is implanted in Lahontan cutthroat trout to track their migration from Pyramid Lake into the Truckee River. Credit: Erik Horgen/USFWS

To help track migration, the Service’s hatchery biologists have enlisted sophisticated tracking technology provided through a two-year National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant that involves surgically implanting select fish with a transponder when they leave Pyramid Lake. The implant sends out an acoustic signal from the fish in a 600-yard radius that biologists can track with a hand-held receiver as they float stretches of river aboard a raft. Traditional Passive Integrated Transponder receiver stations along the river also record the passage of fish tagged with the technology.

This year’s run of the Pilot Peak cutthroat is also being measured in conjunction with the similar-timed spawn of rainbow trout, which provides an opportunity for biologists to see if hybridization with the river’s introduced species will be a factor in the future.



David Miller (left) and Roger Peka, Lahontan National Fish Hatchery biologists, download trout migration data from a receiver along the banks of the Truckee River. Credit: Dan Hottle/USFWS

Noting how the fish are using the new environment is crucial, as development of natural variable instream flow and habitat improvement programs along the Truckee have been a vital part of the Service's conservation strategy since restoration of the species was first envisioned in 1992.



Biologist Amanda George transfers a female Lahontan cutthroat trout into one of the hatchery's broodstock tanks. Credit: Dan Hottle/USFWS

The high water is not only facilitating the advancement of spawning cutthroat, but its extreme hydrologic forces are also creating ever-changing new eddy pools and side channels that will be optimal places for juvenile cutthroat to hide, feed and grow and get acquainted with their new river life.

The rise and fall of the water levels from the nearby mountain range's runoff is also helping cottonwood trees that provide shade and nutrients for the fish along the banks establish deeper, healthier root systems.

The Service and its partners will continue to evaluate the success of the Lahontan cutthroat in the Truckee River over the next several years, eventually allowing them to migrate above Derby Dam once fish screen, river temperature and flow conditions allow, and as fish passage improvement work continues to clear their historic path.

"I hope to one day see a family looking down over the Virginia Street Bridge in downtown Reno or as far up as Lake Tahoe watching these fish spawn in the place where they truly belong," Peka said.



Doug Ouellette, a Truckee River fishing guide, casts a fly out into the Truckee River. Lahontan cutthroat trout are "a dream-of-a-lifetime trophy native fish that belong here and deserve the chance to return to their home. You're going to start seeing anglers coming from all over the world for the opportunity to land one," he says. Credit: Dan Hottle/USFWS

For more on the work to help Lahontan cutthroat trout, see ["Truckee River fish passage to help Lahontan cutthroat."](#)

Dan Hottle is a public affairs specialist with the Reno fish and Wildlife Office. He writes frequently about the western sagebrush ecosystem.

Ask Joe: Truckee River is full, so why isn't more water flowing into Virginia Lake?

by Joe Hart
Friday, June 2nd 2017



virginia lake.jpg

From the Ask Joe file, a question Friday about a popular recreation spot in town and that is Virginia Lake.

Jerry Kirk wrote in asking what's happening with the water levels in Virginia Lake. He's noticed they've been a little low lately. He says he's surprised by that since there is so much water flowing through the Truckee River.

Here's what I found out:

I checked into this. The lake looks pretty good, but some people have commented, like Jerry, that it looks a little low.

Lauren Ball with the city of Reno says the question has come up at City Hall. She says the ditch that feeds Virginia Lake from the Truckee River got clogged up with debris during the recent flood.

The debris needs to be removed before the ditch can be opened fully. For now, there is a gate that was opened about 3 inches to allow more water to reach the lake, but that's as much as they can open it.

Removing that debris is going to cost about \$15,000. The city is hoping FEMA will pick up the tab as part of Reno's flood recovery effort, but at this point they are still waiting to hear from them.

The situation will get resolved soon one way or another.

Ball says if the city doesn't get an answer soon they will go ahead and do the work and pick up the tab

Preparing for Future Droughts

Posted: Jun 02, 2017 4:42 PM PDT Updated: Jun 02, 2017 5:14 PM PDT
By Angela Schilling

CONNECT



After the winter we've had, it's difficult to think about a drought right now but it's something climatologists in our area are always studying. A group of climatologists met at Sierra Nevada College in Incline Village Friday morning to discuss drought research. It's something we're not immune to in our area.

"We tend to go into a drought pretty slowly but tend to go out of it pretty quickly with a really wet winter," said Deputy State Climatologist for Nevada, Stephanie McAfee.

The transition from drought to flooding has happened before.

"We've seen extremes like this in the past sure. 77 was one of the driest years and 78 was a really strong wet year with flooding in January so it's been seen before," said California State Climatologist Mike Anderson.

So despite having such a strong winter, climatologist are still planning for our next drought.

"These punctuated wet years are helpful but not too long before another dry year comes along," said Anderson.

So drought is always on our mind. Our water supply will last us for the next three or so years which is great news, but it will take a while for our ground water to catch up.

"Even here in the mountains where as water moves into the ground and into the streams sometimes you have a one year lag where water you see may have been from last years snow pack," added Anderson.

There isn't an exact prediction for how our ground water levels will look a year from now, but as long as we don't fall back into drought this year, our reservoirs and ground water supplies could do really well. One thing meteorologists and climatologists would like to improve upon is long term forecasting. Why did 2017 turn out to be so much more active than 2015-2016?



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Pacific Southwest Region
California, Nevada and Klamath Basin

Truckee River fish passage to help Lahontan cutthroat

By Dan Hottle
June 2, 2017

June 2, 2017



The Lahontan National Fish Hatchery Complex is working alongside the Truckee Meadows Water Authority to rebuild or restructure four dams on the Truckee River as part of the Truckee River Fish Passage Improvement Project. Tim Loux (left), Lahontan National Fish Hatchery Complex's regional fish passage program coordinator, and Pat Nielsen, Truckee Meadows Water Authority's director of distribution maintenance and generation, discuss dam remediation project details at Verdi Power Dam on the Truckee River. Credit: Dan Hottle/USFWS

If Lahontan cutthroat trout are to one day migrate barrier-free along the full length of its historic 120-mile range between Nevada's Pyramid Lake and Lake Tahoe, California, fish passage must first be improved. Four 100-year-old dams on the Truckee River stand in the way.

The Lahontan National Fish Hatchery Complex is working alongside the Truckee Meadows Water Authority to remediate structures managed or co-managed by the water company as part of the Truckee River Fish Passage Improvement Project, with the first phase of construction slated to begin in the fall of 2018.

Funding is being provided by the Service's National Fish Passage Program through its National Aquatic Connectivity Initiative, a grant program that supports fish passage improvement projects that have a national impact.

"The Truckee Meadows Water Authority is proud to help the Service make the Truckee River more conducive for the Lahontan cutthroat trout to be able to spawn the full length of the river," said **Pat Nielson**, the water agency's director of distribution, maintenance and generation.

The Steamboat Ditch Diversion, just west of Verdi, Nevada, will be the first of the four diversions to be remediated with a "nature-like fishway," a passage structure that will be built over the existing dam.



Staff from the Lahontan National Fish Hatchery Complex work to gather data from Lahontan cutthroat trout spawning in the lower Truckee River near Pyramid Lake. Credit: USFWS

This design uses roller compacted concrete and natural rock boulders that are deposited into the river in a tiered-level rise from the bottom of the riverbed up and over the top of the dam. It allows the main river channel to remain the passageway so that fish can swim right over the diversion, rather than a traditional fish ladder system that is built next to or around a dam that fish need to be channeled into in order to pass upstream.

“The natural rock weir design is safer and less taxing on the spawning fish because they aren’t using all their body’s energy continuously bumping headfirst into a barrier trying to looking for an opening like they do with many fish ladder designs,” said **Tim Loux**, the Service’s regional fish passage program coordinator. “It also takes up less real estate than it would to add a secondary passage around a dam.”

“Not only will the new passage be more accommodating to fish, it will also benefit recreational river users,” said Nielson. “Currently, kayakers on the river must portage around the existing diversions to be safe. The improved structure will eventually allow them to navigate right through the diversion just as the fish do.”

The partners hope to use Steamboat as a test project before further construction begins on the remaining dams. Slated next are the Verdi Power Dam in the fall of 2019, the Washoe Highlands Dam in 2021 and the Fleisch Diversion Dam in 2022.

Since 2007, the Lahontan National Fish Hatchery complex and National Fish Passage Program have reconnected 78 miles of fish passage and removed or remediated 14 fish passage barriers in the state of Nevada.

For more information about Lahontan cutthroat trout and the Lahontan National Fish Hatchery, visit www.fws.gov/lahontannfhc.

For more information on the National Fish Passage Program, visit www.fws.gov/fisheries/whatwedo/nfpp/nfpp.html

KTVN

Lahontan Trout Making a Comeback in Nevada Waters

Posted: Jun 06, 2017 12:28 PM PDT Updated: Jun 06, 2017 12:29 PM PDT

By Shelbi Jay

CONNECT



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says that in part due to this year's snowpack and record water levels, the prehistoric "monster" Lahontan cutthroat trout is migrating farther into Nevada than it has in over 80 years.

Dan Hottle with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that the fish was once thought to be extinct but two decades of work, combined with this drought busting winter have brought the Pilot Peak strain of the Lahontan cutthroat back into native Nevada waters.

Hottle writes that this conservation work was a joint effort between local agencies. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, the Nevada Department of Wildlife, and the Truckee Meadows Water Authority have all done their part.

To read more on this history of Nevada's state fish and it's recent success, you can read the full story, [here](#). There is also a short video that shows follows researchers as they track and study the fish and their migration this year.

Swan Lake Concerns Continue in Lemmon Valley

Posted: Jun 08, 2017 7:39 PM PDT Updated: Jun 08, 2017 7:39 PM PDT
By Ryan Canaday

CONNECT



Months later, and residents of Lemmon Valley are still feeling the effects of winter flooding. On Thursday, a group of people living in Lemmon Valley met with their neighbors to talk about what's improved and problems they still face.

Tammy Holt-Still is a resident whose home won't be impacted by Swan Lake's waters, but this good neighbor has taken it upon herself to create a committee for those hit the hardest.

"We started with the flood-affected residents first and tried getting them the help they needed," says Holt-Still.

She's helped residents remove water from their properties and has also been vocal with the county and state about finding a solution to problems surrounding Swan Lake.

"This has not gone away, you may not live out here, you may not care about it, but it's still there and it's not going away."

David Solaro with Washoe County says Tammy is right that the problem has not completely gone away. There is still a barrier in place keeping water from homes, daily pumping efforts continue and part of Lemmon Drive is still closed. But Solaro says progress has been made.

"Swan Lake's actually gone down about six inches since April," says Solaro.

In fact, Solaro says the most immediate needs in Lemmon Valley have been taken care of, so much so that the state of emergency was lifted in mid-May.

"It gets us back to normal government business; I think it's good and transparent for the community so that we're not out there doing something that we shouldn't be doing."

Many Lemmon Valley residents will disagree. Holt-Still says too many residents in Lemmon Valley still need help now and in the future.

"People need to get back in their homes, people need help getting back into their homes," says Holt-Still.

"There are still some residents that are surrounded by water, they were outside the barrier system, they're sandbagged," says Solaro. "We're trying to work with the state to see if there's any kind of a program that we can come up with to help those residents out."

Northern Nevada veterans home, UNR engineering building top long list of capital improvement projects approved by Legislature

By Megan Messerly and Riley Snyder

For the first time in Gov. Brian Sandoval's six and a half years as the state's chief executive, Nevada state agencies are preparing to repair many state-owned buildings and embarking on flashy new construction projects.

While much of the oxygen in the discussion has been sucked up by high-profile projects such as a \$38 million Northern Nevada veterans home and an \$84 million engineering building at UNR, much of the state's \$346 million construction budget — approved in the form of [SB546](#) — contains delayed maintenance and repairs that were postponed because of the lingering recession effects on the state budget.

Some of the less glamorous but necessary projects the state will pay for over the next two years include \$6.8 million for upgrades, repairs and installations of heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, \$11.7 million in electrical upgrades and \$12.8 for various roofing projects across the state. Other major costs come from a variety of infrastructure upgrades at several state-owned prisons and correctional facilities, including nearly \$28 million in various upgrades and retrofits of the Northern Nevada Correctional Center in Carson City.

Legislators are also taking the beginning steps toward several other major construction projects down the road, including \$1.75 million in advance planning costs for an engineering building at UNLV, \$3.5 million for planning a new academic building at Nevada State College and \$4.4 million to plan for a new health sciences building at the College of Southern Nevada.

Here's a list of the largest capital improvement projects in the state listed by the department they fall under:

ADMINISTRATION:

- \$9.3 million to the statewide roofing program
- \$3.4 million in renovations to the Grant Sawyer Building in Las Vegas, including \$1.8 million in bonds and \$1.6 million transferred from other projects
- \$3.3 million for improvements to the DMV in Carson City
- \$2.4 million to the statewide ADA program
- \$1.9 million to renovate the central plant at the Supreme Court Building
- \$1.9 million to renovate the exterior of the Capitol and annex building
- \$1.7 million to demolish the condemned Kinkead Building in Carson City
- \$1.6 million for the statewide advance planning program
- \$1 million in upgrades to Nevada Highway Patrol Headquarters and other DMV facilities

CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES:

- \$1.9 million to renovate the HVAC system for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resource's dispatch centers in Minden and Elko, including \$1.3 million in bonds and \$600,000 transferred from other projects

CORRECTIONS:

Northern Nevada Correctional Center:

- \$11 million for ADA retrofitting, including \$6 million in bonds and \$5 million transferred from other projects
- \$9.9 million to upgrade and replace heating, water and electrical distribution
- \$3 million to replace locks, control panels, distress buttons and wing gates
- \$2 million on a HVAC renovation at the regional medical facility
- \$2 million to renovate plumbing and water control renovations in several units

Southern Desert Correctional Center:

- \$6.6 million for building finishes and renovations for a housing unit, including \$6.2 million in bonds and \$400,000 transferred from other projects
- \$3.8 million to install a water storage tank and connect a well
- \$1.6 million to renovate plumbing fixtures and water controls at four units
- \$1.5 million for advance planning project for a housing unit

Other Department of Corrections spending:

- \$6.7 million for upgrading door controls and other structural improvements at the High Desert State Prison
- \$6.6 million for various infrastructure and replacement costs at Ely State Prison
- \$5.3 million for various upgrades including intercoms, door controls and security cameras at the Florence McClure Women's Correctional Center
- \$3.2 million for various upgrades and renovations including replacing air handling units at Lovelock Correctional Center
- \$3 million to remodel showers and restrooms at the Stewart Conservation Camp
- \$1.2 million for water supply nitrate treatment at the Humboldt Conservation Camp.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES:

- \$2.1 million for a communications system upgrade at the Caliente Youth Center
- \$2.0 million for a security system installation at Desert Regional Center
- \$1.6 million for an upgrade to access door controls at Rawson Neal Psychiatric Hospital
- \$1.5 million for HVAC system renovation at the Nevada Youth Training Center's gym building, including \$1.2 million in bonds and \$300,000 transferred from other projects
- \$1.3 million for an air handling unit replacement and direct digital control system upgrade at the Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services Administration Building 1.
- \$1.0 million for an air handling unit replacement at Lake's Crossing

NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION:

- \$43 million for the construction of a new engineering building at the University of Nevada, Reno
- \$11.5 million for deferred maintenance, including \$7.7 million from the general fund and \$3.8 million in bonds
- \$7.7 million for deferred maintenance out of the general fund
- \$3.5 million for advance planning of an academic building at Nevada State College
- \$4.4 million for advanced planning of the health sciences building at the College of Southern Nevada
- \$26.8 million to construct a new hotel college at UNLV, including \$2.8 million for furniture, fixtures and equipment.

OTHER:

- \$1.2 million for renovations and building remodels at the Carlin Readiness Center, including \$480,000 in bonds, \$480,000 transferred from other projects and \$200,000 in other funds.
- \$7.2 million for various renovations to the Stewart Indian School, including \$6.8 million from the general fund and \$445,000 transferred from other projects
- \$4.6 million to build cultural and welcome centers at the Stewart Indian School, including \$4.3 million in bonds and \$188,200 transferred from other projects and \$147,000 in other funds
- \$38 million to build the Northern Nevada Veterans Home, including \$33 million paid for from General Fund, \$3 million in bonds and \$2 million transferred from funds allocated in 2014.
- \$35.5 million for advance planning and other purposes for the Nevada National Guard Readiness Center
- \$8.7 million for the construction of a facility maintenance shop at the Washoe County Armory
- \$2 million to the Statewide Building Official Program

LAST MINUTE APPROPRIATIONS:

Outside the budget bill itself, lawmakers approved a bevy of last-minute appropriations for a variety of construction projects in southern Nevada, including:

- [SB553](#) – \$1.75 million for advance planning for an engineering building at UNLV, and \$25 million for construction of the UNLV medical school.
- [AB520](#) – \$500,000 for a butterfly-themed playground at the Springs Preserve
- [SB187](#) — \$1 million for a nonprofit charged with securing funding for constructing a fine arts museum in Las Vegas

Caption: The UNLV campus is seen on Wednesday, March 15, 2017. Photo by Jeff Scheid.

Update at 9:12 a.m. to include the \$25 million appropriated to the UNLV medical school in SB553.

Media Contact: Louis Moore, 916-978-5100, wmoore@usbr.gov

For Immediate Release: June 13, 2017

Reclamation Releases Environmental Document for Municipal Well Aquifer Storage and Recovery Retrofit Project

SACRAMENTO, Calif. - The Bureau of Reclamation has prepared an Environmental Assessment on the effects associated with granting the Truckee Meadows Water Authority \$300,000 for the Municipal Well Aquifer Storage and Recovery Retrofit Project for Drought Resiliency through a CALFED Water Use Efficiency Grant.

The Proposed Action involves retrofitting three existing groundwater production wells to be capable of Aquifer Storage and Recovery. ASR is an effective method to increase reliability and flexibility of water supply delivery by allowing for conjunctive use of both surface water and groundwater. A groundwater production well with ASR allows for surface water to be injected into the aquifer and saved for use during drought periods.

The EA was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and is available at https://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa_projdetails.cfm?Project_ID=28861. If you encounter problems accessing the document, please call 916-978-5100 (TTY 800-877-8339) or email mppublicaffairs@usbr.gov.

Written comments on the EA must be received by close of business Tuesday, June 27, 2017. Please send comments to Nathaniel Martin, Bureau of Reclamation MP-152, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825 or nmartin@usbr.gov. For questions on the project or to request a copy of the EA, please contact Martin at 916-978-6153 (TTY 800-877-8339) or nmartin@usbr.gov.

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