

TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER AUTHORITY Board of Directors

AGENDA

Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

*NEW VENUE: County Commission Chambers, 1001 E. Ninth Street, Bldg. A Reno, NV

Board Members

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

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), and at <u>http://www.tmwa.com.</u>

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 December 21, 2016 meeting of the TMWA Board of Directors (For Possible Action)

^{1.} The Board may adjourn from the public meeting at any time during the agenda to receive information from legal counsel regarding potential or existing litigation and to deliberate toward a decision on such matters.

- 6. Water Supply Update Bill Hauck*
- 7. Presentation on the State of Nevada's Integrated Source Water Protection Program, discussion and possible action, approval of staff recommendation to submit letter requesting to participate in the State of Nevada's Integrated Source Water Protection Program with concurrent update and development of a Truckee River Watershed Management Plan — John Enloe, TMWA, and Kim Borgzinner and Birgit Henson, NDEP (**For Possible Action**)
- 8. Presentation on proposed bills for the 2017 Legislative Session and discussion and possible action on TMWA legislative position recommendations John Zimmerman and Michael Pagni, TMWA, and Steve Walker, Walker & Associates (For Possible Action)
- 9. Discussion and possible action, approval of staff recommendation for an interim Ombudsman and direction to staff to send out a request for quote (RFQ) to recruit a new Ombudsman— Andy Gebhardt (**For Possible Action**)
- Presentation of public open house schedule for proposed rate adjustment and discussion and possible direction to staff on open house and public notifications of proposed rate adjustment
 Andy Gebhardt & Marlene Olsen (For Possible Action)
- 11. Presentation of Truckee River Fund Activities for Calendar Year 2016 John Enloe*
- 12. General Manager's Report*
- 13. Public comment limited to no more than three minutes per speaker*
- 14. Board comments and requests for future agenda items*
- 15. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER AUTHORITY DRAFT MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 21, 2016 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors met on Wednesday, December 21, 2016, at Sparks Council Chambers, 745 4th Street, Sparks, Nevada. Chair Martini called the meeting to order at 10:00 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.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Member Brekhus.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Nathan Tusing, a resident in the North Valleys, reported there has been a distinct issue with the taste and odor in their water. Mr. Tusing noted that he has been in contact with Craig Moyle, TMWA Senior Chemist, who has explained that staff has conducted an investigation and the results indicate the water is safe and the issue is related to algae growth. He asked the Board to have staff look further into this matter.

Caleb Harris commented on the same problem and mentioned how helpful Mr. Moyle has been. He asked how often the water is tested and what regulations does TMWA have to adhere to.

Andy Gebhardt, TMWA Director of Customer Relations, agreed to speak with Mr. Tusing and Mr. Harris about the issue.

Patrick Waite, International Brotherhood of Electric Workers (IBEW) 1245 representative, represents approximately 110 bargaining unit employees at TMWA and informed the Board that they could contact him if they had any questions.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Upon motion by Member Hartung, second by Member Jardon, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the members present, the Board approved the agenda.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 2016 MINUTES

Upon motion by Member Hartung, second by Member Duerr, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the members present, the Board approved the November 16, 2016 minutes.

6. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 246, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016

Michele Sullivan, TMWA Chief Financial Officer, reported there were minimal changes to the unaudited financial report which was presented at the October Board meeting. Ms. Sullivan provided a brief overview of the report and the audit letter provided by Eide Bailly.

Kristen Chinvarasopak, Partner at Eide Bailly, reported briefly on the adjustments to the footnote disclosures and financial statements. Ms. Chinvarasopak stated that TMWA was subjected to a single audit given the federal awards program distributed through the State Revolving Fund Program, for the North Valleys Integration project, and there were no findings.

Member Brekhus inquired if the liquidity reclassification for the \$17 million was related to commercial paper. Ms. Sullivan replied no, it was part of TMWA's investment pool.

Upon motion by Member Duerr, second by Chair Martini, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the members present, the Board adopted Resolution No. 246, a resolution to approve the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2016.

7. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 247, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE SECOND BUDGET AUGMENTATION AND BUDGET REVISIONS FOR FY 2017

Ms. Sullivan reported the proposed second budget augmentation and budget revisions for FY 2017 will not change the final budget, but reflects changes in capital spending; indicating some projects have been pushed out beyond FY 2017, or have had their budgets increased, and due to the recent flooding, a couple of flumes need to be replaced.

Member Hartung inquired about the increase in estimated project costs and asked how much contingency is added above construction estimates. Scott Estes, TMWA Director of Engineering, explained construction and labor costs have increased, and how much contingency is added to the construction estimates depends on the size of the project, but is generally 5-20 percent. Ms. Sullivan added that most projects are running within budget.

Member Jardon conveyed that the Builders Association of Northern Nevada (BANN) report construction costs have increased 35% in materials and labor.

Discussion followed regarding the delay on the projects in Mogul and Verdi (bidding and construction phase to occur in FY 2018), whether there are any issues with serving West Meadows or the Boomtown system (staff identified no issues), the progress on the Boomtown system negotiations and whether they have submitted applications to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), and if any protests have been filed against the Mt. Rose-Galena Fan Water Treatment Plant project. Mark Foree, TMWA General Manager, added that Boomtown has not submitted their applications to the PUC to expand their territory, but it's in progress. TMWA has provided Boomtown with a term sheet; but staff has yet to hear back. As for the Mt. Rose-Galena Fan Water Treatment Plant project, Mr. Estes replied the design phase is continuing, but legal issues have slowed the anticipated start of construction of the project, moving it into FY 2018. Michael Pagni, TMWA General Counsel, replied no one has appealed any of the entitlement approvals, but a complaint has been filed with the Nevada Real Estate Division seeking mediation on the applicability of covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs) and it is pending.

Mr. Foree added staff has filed with the State Engineer's to change point of diversion for the Mt. Rose Water Treatment Plant, and the application has been completed without protest.

Upon motion by Member Hartung, second by Member Brekhus, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the members present, the Board adopted Resolution No. 247, a resolution to approve the second budget augmentation and budget revisions for FY 2017.

8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION TO STAFF ON PARAMETERS OF POTENTIAL RATE ADJUSTMENT PROPOSAL AND FUTURE PUBLIC INPUT AND HEARING PROCESS

Mr. Foree stated staff has provided answers in response to the questions raised at the December 21 meeting regarding the proposed rate adjustments. Staff is recommending, which was endorsed by the TMWA Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) at their November 1 meeting, the proposed rate adjustments of 3% for years 1 and 2 and up to 2.5% for years 3, 4, and 5; allowing the Board flexibility to review the financial situation before implementing an adjustment in years 3, 4, and 5.

Member Duerr asked staff to briefly explain the rationale of why it is not good practice to mix fees/costs, as well as how TMWA determines the cost of water rights, how many areas TMWA has, and if connection fees are similar in each area or unique for each customer. Mr. Estes referred to Table 2 in the Rule 5 staff report and replied that developer fees vary significantly each year and cannot be relied upon as a revenue source and TMWA has 15 connection fee areas, but not all areas in the TMWA system have connection fees. Mr. Foree added that facility charges (also referred to as connection fees), which pays for growth, are only applied to three categories: treatment, storage and area fees, and the cost charged for water rights are averaged by what TMWA paid and the connection fee is calculated based on gallons per minute of peak day demand.

Member Duerr remarked that the Board is being asked to set rates, and would like to ensure they have all the facts and understand the impact of their decision. Mr. Foree noted that the examples provided is typical

of what a developer would pay and that developer fees and facility charges are not paid by existing customers.

Member Hartung clarified the rate increase would affect all customer classes equally, expressed his concern with the South Truckee Meadows General Improvement District (STMGID) rate tiers, and asked if staff had any recommendations. Mr. Foree replied, yes and one of the reasons staff is proposing across the board rate increase is partly due to the agreement with STMGID; they can only increase at the same rate as TMWA. Mr. Foree added that the Las Vegas Valley Water District is going through a similar process and their Customer Committee recommended a 3% increase for the first two years and consumer price index (CPI) for future years, and that is the proposal that is going forward in their pubic process.

Member Hartung confirmed the 2.5% rate adjustment in years 3, 4, and 5 can be revisited. Mr. Foree replied yes, that is in the proposal, which also gives the Board flexibility to revisit at that time and to lessen or defer implementing a rate adjustment for any of the three years.

Member Brekhus asked if the rate tiers analysis was for both residential and non-residential increases, and how commercial properties are tiered and if they are metered differently. Ms. Sullivan replied yes, the comparison was of both customer classes and some analysis was seasonal. Mr. Foree and Ms. Sullivan replied the commercial customer class has 3-tiers, but not the irrigation customer class, and no they are not metered differently. Mr. Foree added commercial tiers are more complicated because they have different thresholds to enter the next tier, which is based on the pipe (service) size.

Member Brekhus inquired if the attorney-client memo regarding the tiers the Board received was confidential and how it can be made public, if TMWA has an institutional rate, and expressed her concern in using the CPI for years 3 - 5, preferring a percentage. Mr. Pagni replied that the memo was written as confidential, but the Board can decide to make it public, and he will look into the process of waiving the attorney-client privilege for the memo, should the board desire. Mr. Foree replied no, such customers (churches and schools) are in the general metered water services (gmws) commercial class.

Member Jardon appreciated Mr. Pagni's legal memo and observed the point made regarding different rate increases on tiers and increases in hook-up fees in one industry (but not all) is an unstable practice to adopt, and believes there is value in considering the CPI in year 3 if there is a base.

Member Duerr asked if staff will be using the CPI in years 3, 4, and 5. Mr. Foree replied, no, staff's recommendation proposes to use up to a 2.5% increase in years 3, 4, and 5 and not using CPI.

Member Brekhus noted that the Board's decision today is to establish the intent for the rate adjustment, which remains subject to the public review process.

Member Brekhus requested a meeting invitation for the rate adjustment public open houses. Mr. Foree replied it will be provided at the January Board meeting.

Upon motion by Member Duerr, second by Member Jardon, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the members present, the Board approved the parameters of potential rate adjustment proposal for purposes of proceeding with future public input and hearing processes; the proposed rate increase of 3% for years 1 and 2, and up to a 2.5% rate increase for years 3, 4, and 5 allowing the Board to consider whether or not to lessen or defer the rate increases in years 3, 4, and 5.

9. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON APPOINTMENTS TO THE STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) TO FILL THE TWO NEW AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVE POSITIONS, THE IRRIGATION CUSTOMER REPRESENTATIVE ALTERNATE, AND ALTERNATE MEMBERS AND OTHER POSSIBLE VACANCIES FOR TERMS BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2017 TO DECEMBER 31, 2018 FROM THE FOLLOWING POOL OF CANDIDATES LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER: FRED ARNDT, KENNETH BECKER, CHRIS BRUCH, VICTOR BUICK, PETRA GONSALVES, BOB HAMMOND, JORDAN HASTINGS, STEVE JAFFE, JOHN KADLIC, RAY MASON, KEN MCNEIL, SCOT MUNNS, MICHAEL PIDLYPCHAK, BOB POHL, DALE SANDERSON, ED TILZEY AND GERRY TOMAC

Sonia Folsom, TMWA Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) Liaison, presented the SAC recommendation of new appointments from the pool of candidates, and requested the Board re-open the recruitment process for the alternate irrigation position due to there being only one applicant.

Upon motion by Member Hartung, second by Member Herman, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the members present, the Board approved the TMWA Standing Advisory Committee recommendation to appoint in alphabetical order: Fred Arndt, Kenneth Becker, Jordan Hastings, Ken McNeil, Scot Munns, Michael Pidlypchak, and Dale Sanderson per the Standing Advisory Committee recommendation, and to re-open the recruitment process to fill the alternate irrigation customer representative.

ACTION, AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION TO STAFF 10. DISCUSSION AND **REGARDING APPOINTMENTS TO THE STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE** TO FILL VACANCIES IN EXISTING POSITIONS WHOSE TERMS EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2016, SUCH APPOINTMENTS TO BE MADE FOR NEW TERMS FROM JANUARY 1, 2017 TO DECEMBER 31, 2018 FROM THE FOLLOWING LIST OF CANDIDATES: (1) NEIL MCGUIRE, PRIMARY REPRESENTATIVE, IRRIGATION CUSTOMER; (2) MIKE HEFFNER, ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE, IRRIGATION CUSTOMER; (3) MIKE SCHULEWITCH, ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE, MULTI-FAMILY CUSTOMER; (4) KEVIN HADDOCK, ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE, COMMERCIAL CUSTOMER; (5) ROBERT CHAMBERS, PRIMARY REPRESENTATIVE, SENIOR CITIZEN CUSTOMER; (6) KARL KATT, ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE, SENIOR CITIZEN CUSTOMER; (7) CAROL LITSTER, PRIMARY REPRESENTATIVE, 01-18-17 BOARD Agenda Item 5 <u>RESIDENTIAL 1 CUSTOMER; (8) HARRY CULBERT, PRIMARY</u> <u>REPRESENTATIVE, RESIDENTIAL 2 CUSTOMER; (9) JERRY WAGER,</u> <u>PRIMARY REPRESENTATIVE, RESIDENTIAL 3 CUSTOMER; (10) KEN</u> <u>MCNEIL, PRIMARY REPRESENTATIVE, AT-LARGE 1 CUSTOMER; (11) MIKE</u> <u>PIDLYPCHAK, PRIMARY REPRESENTATIVE, AT-LARGE 2 CUSTOMER</u>

Ms. Folsom presented the list of candidates whose terms were expiring on December 31, 2016 and confirmed all, except one, are willing to continue serving for another two years. Mike Heffner, alternate irrigation customer class representative, has resigned.

Upon motion by Member Duerr, second by Member Hartung, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the members present, the Board reappointed: (1) Neil McGuire, primary representative, irrigation customer; (2) Mike Schulewitch, alternate representative, multi-family customer; (3) Kevin Haddock, alternate representative, commercial customer; (4) Robert Chambers, primary representative, senior citizen customer; (5) Karl Katt, alternate representative, senior citizen customer; (6) Carol Litster, primary representative, residential 1 customer; (7) Harry Culbert, primary representative, residential 2 customer; (8) Jerry Wager, primary representative, residential 3 customer; (9) Ken McNeil, primary representative, at-large 1 customer; (10) Mike Pidlypchak, primary representative, at-large 2 customer.

11.DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON ESTABLISHING A LEGISLATIVESUBCOMMITTEE, APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBERS TO SUBCOMMITTEEAND ESTABLISHING THE PROCESS TO REVIEW LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

John Zimmerman, TMWA Water Rights Manager, presented the staff report. Mr. Zimmerman recommended the legislative subcommittee meet in January prior to the January 18 Board meeting to review the 2017 Legislative bills and provide a position ahead of the beginning of the legislative session.

Mr. Pagni added it would be helpful, going into the session, if the TMWA Board already has positions on the bills already introduced.

Upon motion by Member Duerr, second by Member Hartung, which motion duly carried by unanimous consent of the members present, the Board approved establishing a Legislative Subcommittee for the 2017 legislative session, and appointed the Chairman, Vice Chair and Member Brekhus to the Legislative Subcommittee and established the process to review legislative activities.

12. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Foree reported that Lake Tahoe has risen about 7.7 inches, or 77,000 acre feet (AF) in the last two weeks, which is more than what TMWA diverts from the river in a year.

Member Jardon requested the general manager report include an update on the taste and odor issue in the water. Andy Gebhardt, TMWA Director of Customer Relations, reported the issue with the taste and odor in the water has to do with algae blooms, which is an anomaly; the water has been tested and the algae that was prevalent was the geosmin algae, but the water is safe to drink.

Member Brekhus inquired about the legal postings by the Public Utility Commission (PUC) regarding TMWA. Mr. Foree replied that there were a couple of incidents where staff dug into a gas service line or the area surrounding a gas line, resulting in a PUC violation. The PUC procedure is to meet with TMWA staff, issue a \$1,000 fine, and require training of staff, which has already occurred.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Harris informed the Board that the taste and odor issues are related to a different water source than they typically receive (surface water vs. groundwater).

14. BOARD COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There was no Board comment.

15. ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, Chair Martini adjourned the meeting at 11:14 a.m.

Approved by the TMWA Board of Directors in session on _____

Sonia Folsom, Recording Secretary



2017 Water Supply Outlook

Bill Hauck, Senior Hydrologist

TMWA Board of Directors Meeting

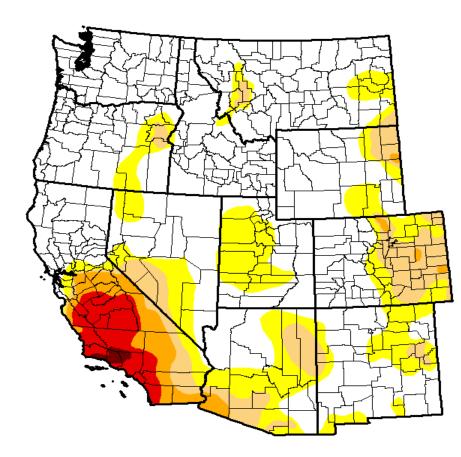
January 18, 2017

U.S. Drought Monitor West

January 10, 2017

(Released Thursday, Jan. 12, 2017) Valid 7 a.m. EST

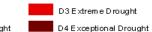
Drought Conditions (Percent Area)



	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	64.95	35.05	16.11	7.19	3.71	0.28
Last Week 1/3/2017	54.19	45.81	21.51	8.53	5.11	2.44
3 Month s Ago 10/11/2016	37.98	62.02	27.14	12.09	5.73	2.81
Start of Calend ar Year 1/3/2017	54.19	45.81	21.51	8.53	5. 11	2.44
Start of Water Year 9/27/2016	27.78	72.22	30.95	13.45	5.77	2.81
One Year Ago 1/12/2016	36.54	63.46	42.40	25.31	13.09	6.56

Intensity:







D2 Severe Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

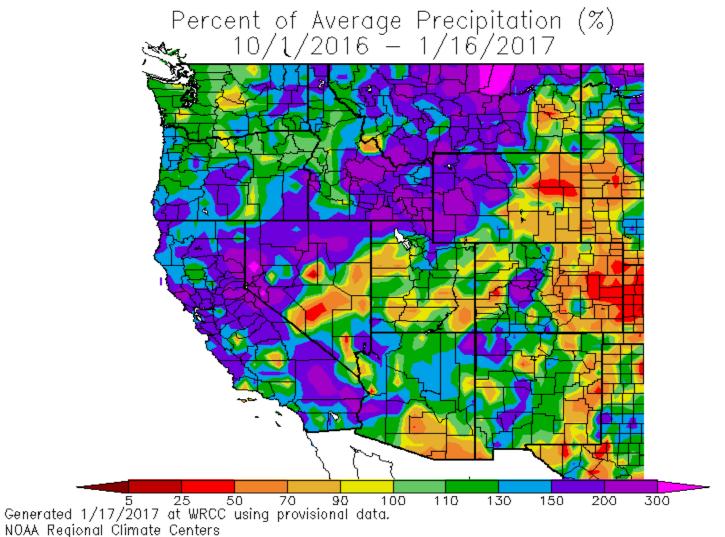
Author:

David Miskus NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



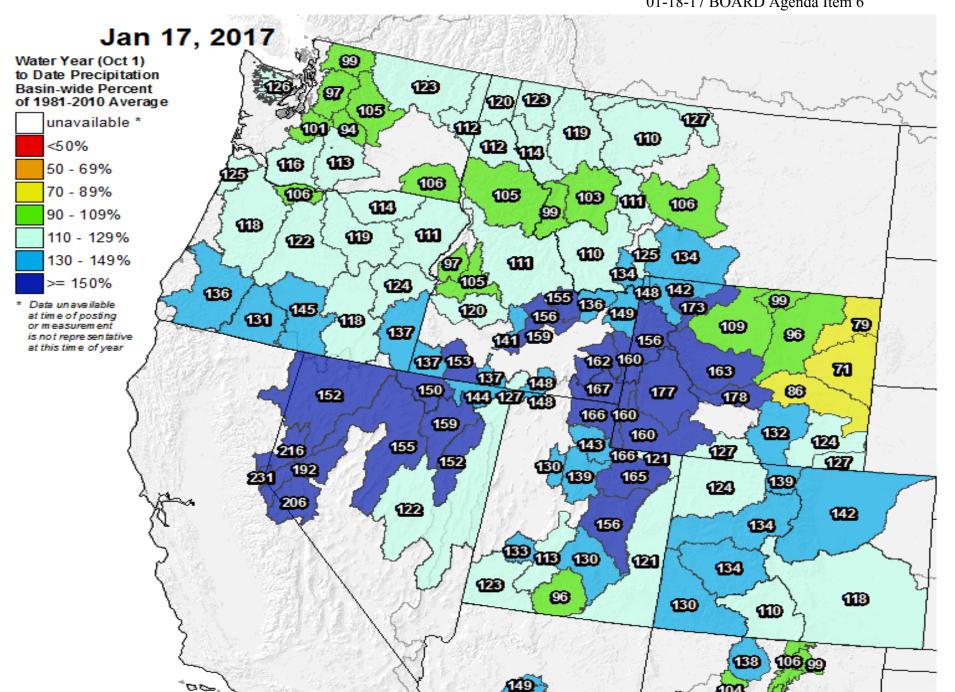
http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/



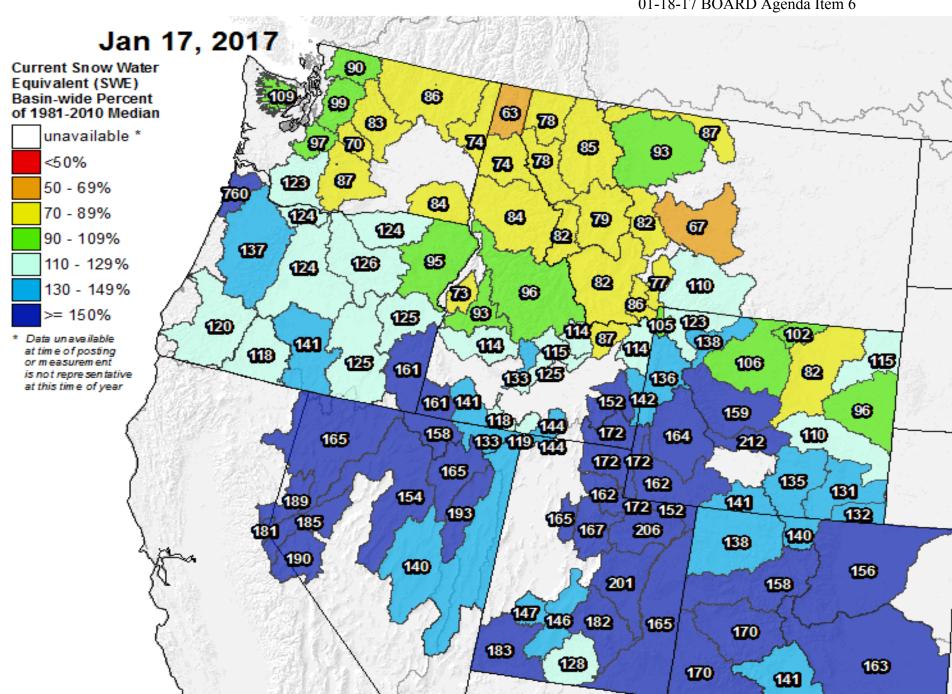


TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER P U T H O R I T Y Quality. Delivered.

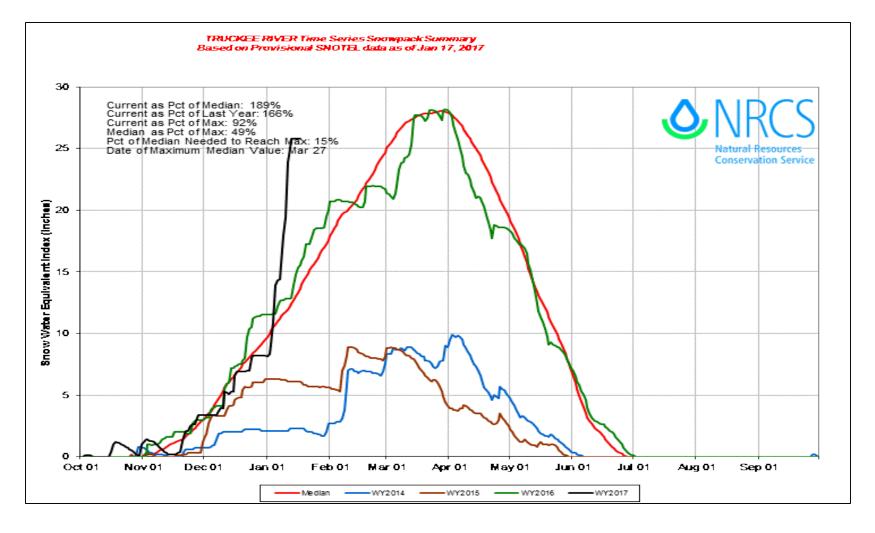
Westwide SNOTEL Water Year (Oct 1) to Date Precipitation % of Normal 01-18-17 BOARD Agenda Item 6



Westwide SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal 01-18-17 BOARD Agenda Item 6

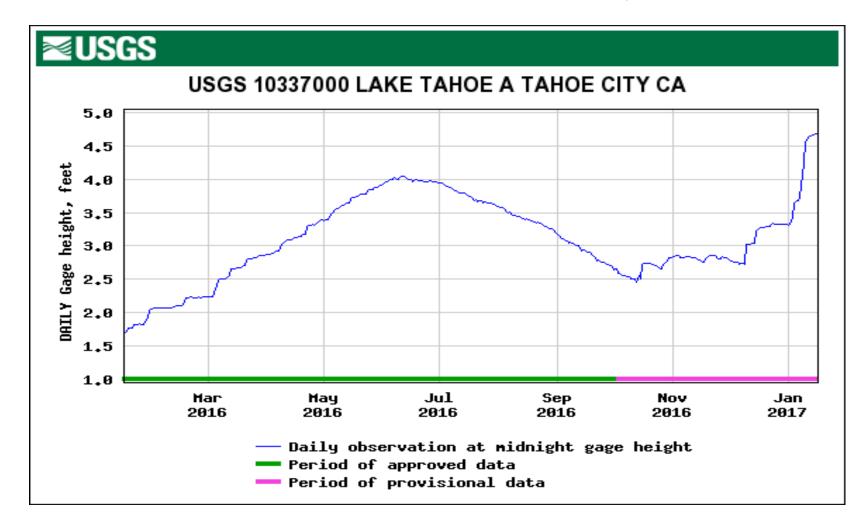


01-18-17 BOARD Agenda Item 6 Truckee Basin NRCS Snotel Statistics



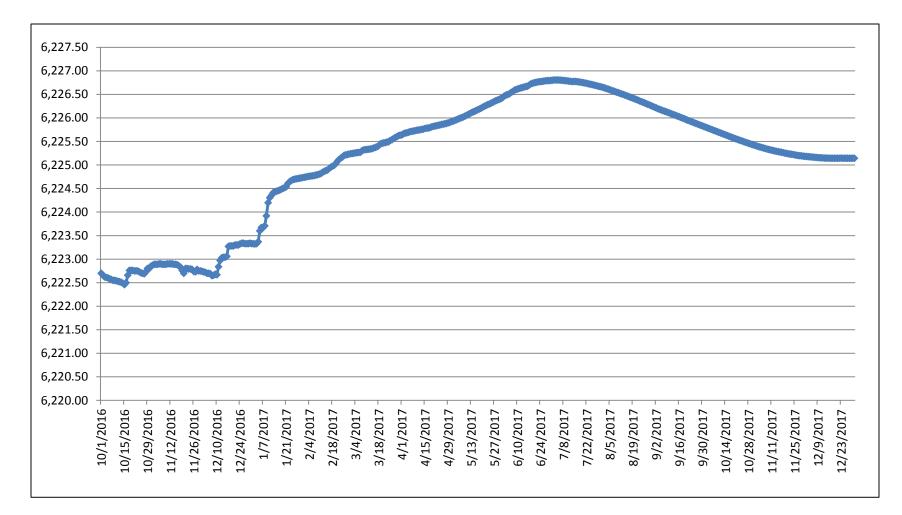


Lake Tahoe Elevation Since January 1, 2016



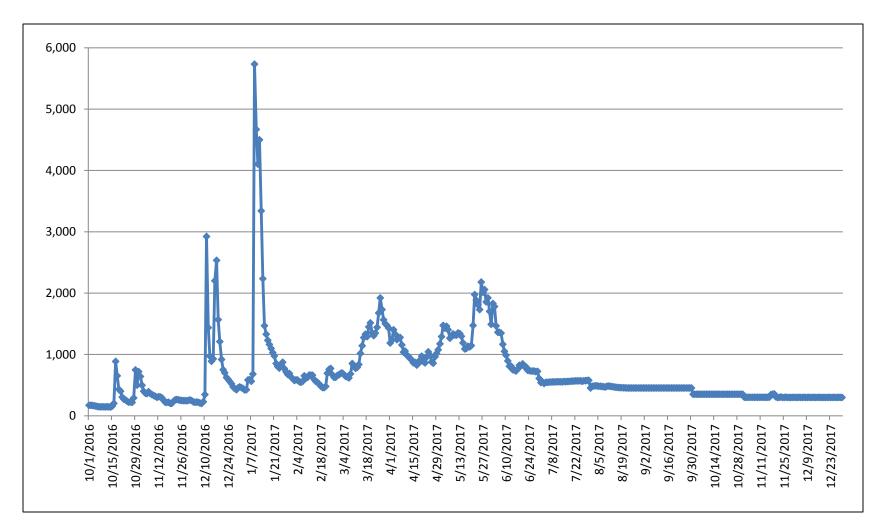


Actual and Projected Lake Tahoe Elevation Since 10/1/16



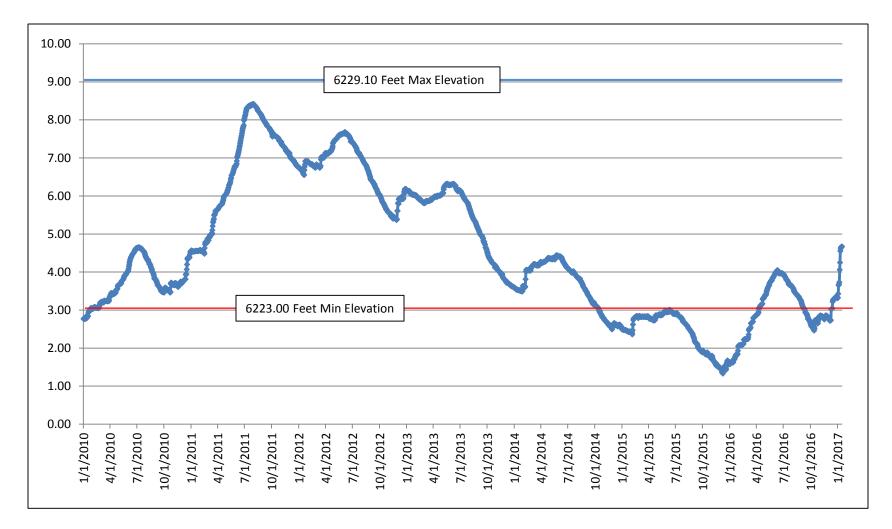


Actual and Projected Truckee River Flows (NV State Line)

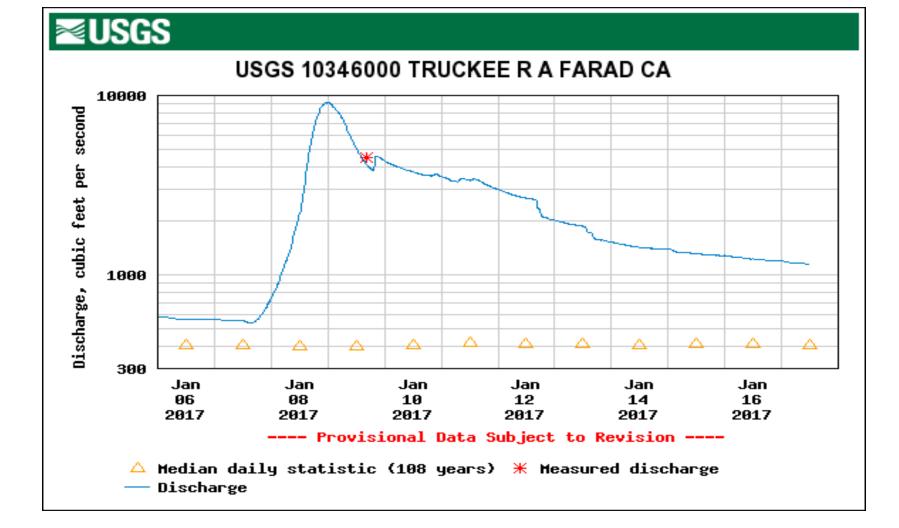




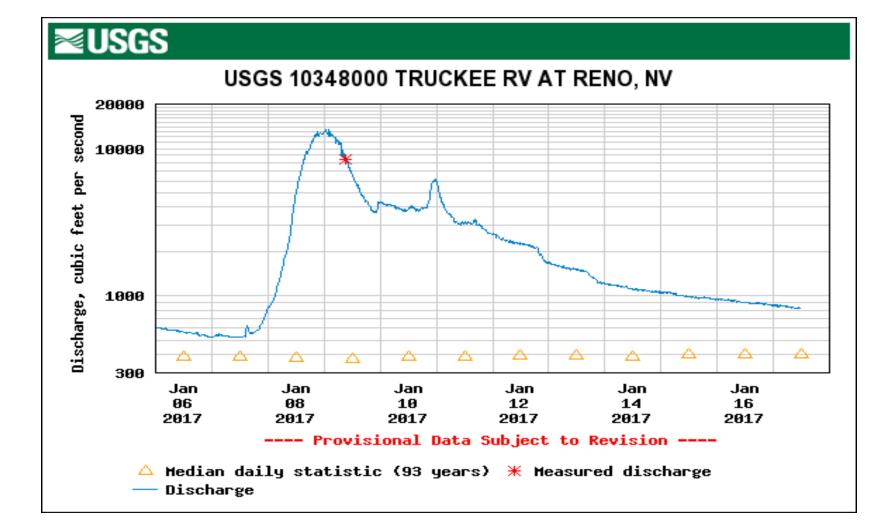
Lake Tahoe Elevation Hydrograph 2010-Present





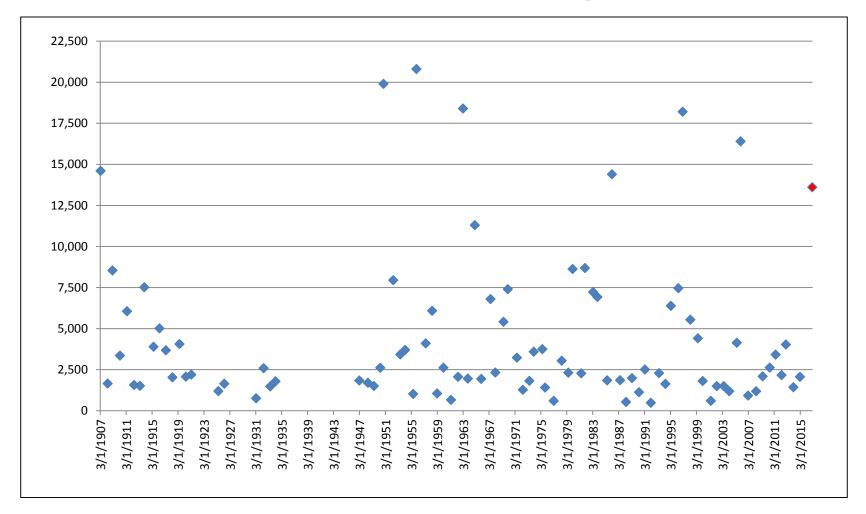


TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER PUTHORITY Quality. Delivered.

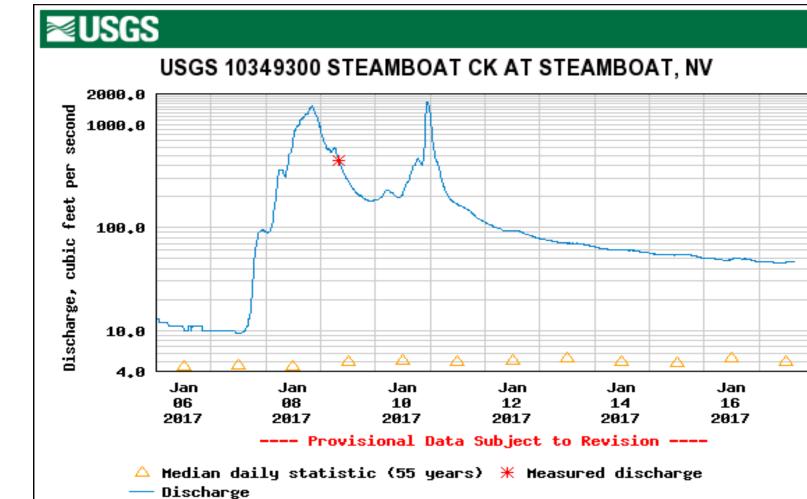




Peak Truckee River Flow at Reno Gage 1907-Present









2017 Water Supply Outlook Summary

- One of the best starts to the WY in recent memory
- Precipitation currently > 200% average in both basins
- Snowpack close to two times average
- Lake Tahoe currently 1.68 ' above outlet elevation (2.04' rise since October 2016)
- Preliminary forecast(s) showing well above average streamflow runoff this year
- Tahoe elevation projected to peak near 6227.20' (4.20' above rim)
- All other reservoirs on Truckee River system expected to fill and spill
- "Normal" Truckee River flows projected for remainder of 2017 and through 2018 as well
- TMWA has more drought reserves than ever currently in storage, despite use in September 2016
- Another series of storms forecasted over the next five (5) days likely to improve outlook





STAFF REPORT

TO:	Board of Directors		
THRU:	Mark Foree, General Manager		
FROM:	John Enloe, Director, Natural Resources		
DATE:	January 9, 2017		
SUBJECT:	Presentation on the State of Nevada's Integrated Source Water Protection		
	Program, discussion and possible action, approval of staff recommendation		
	to submit letter requesting to participate in the State of Nevada's Integrated		
	Source Water Protection Program with concurrent update and development		
	of a Truckee River Watershed Management Plan.		

Recommendation

Staff recommends Board authorization to submit the attached letter requesting to participate in the State of Nevada's Integrated Source Water Protection Program together with the concurrent development of an updated Truckee River Watershed Management Plan.

Summary

The quality of both surface water and ground water is a critical consideration for the Truckee Meadows and throughout Washoe County. Presenters Kim Borgzinner and Birgit Henson from the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) will discuss the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water administration of the Integrated Source Water Protection Program (ISWPP) and the Bureau of Water Quality Planning administration of the 319 Nonpoint Source Management Program. Both are voluntary programs providing assistance to public water systems and communities throughout the State of Nevada for water quality protection and preservation.

TMWA proposes to designate appropriate staff to participate with NDEP and community representatives to work towards completion of this planning effort. This effort will support and help effectuate TMWA's Source Water Protection Program, Water Quality Assurance Program and Well Head Protection Plan.



January 18, 2017

NDEP Bureau of Safe Drinking Water 901 Stewart Street, Suite 4001 Carson City, Nevada 89701

Attention: Kim Borgzinner, Coordinator

Re: Truckee Meadows Water Authority Participation in the Integrated Source Water Protection Program

Dear Ms. Borgzinner:

Pursuant to the motion made during the regular Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) meeting on January 18, 2017, TMWA hereby requests participation in the State of Nevada's Integrated Source Water Protection Program (ISWPP) with concurrent update and development of a Truckee River Watershed Management Plan.

TMWA considers the quality of both surface water and ground water a critical consideration for communities in the Truckee Meadows and throughout Washoe County. We understand that the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) Bureau of Safe Drinking Water administers the ISWPP, and the Bureau of Water Quality Planning administers the 319 Nonpoint Source Management Program which are both voluntary programs providing assistance to public water systems and communities throughout the State of Nevada for water quality protection and preservation.

Therefore, TMWA will designate appropriate staff to participate with NDEP and community representatives toward completion of this planning effort. This will support and help effectuate TMWA's Source Water Protection Program, Water Quality Assurance Program, and Well Head Protection Plan.

Sincerely,

p. P. Take

John P. Enloe, P.E. Director, Natural Resources



http://ndep.nv.gov/bwpc/sourcewater.htm

http://ndep.nv.gov/bwpc/wellhead.htm

Kim Borgzinner

Bureau of Safe Drinking Water

775.687.9503 kborgzinner@ndep.nv.gov



ISWPP is a comprehensive, **voluntary** approach empowering communities to develop and implement a plan to protect their drinking water supplies.

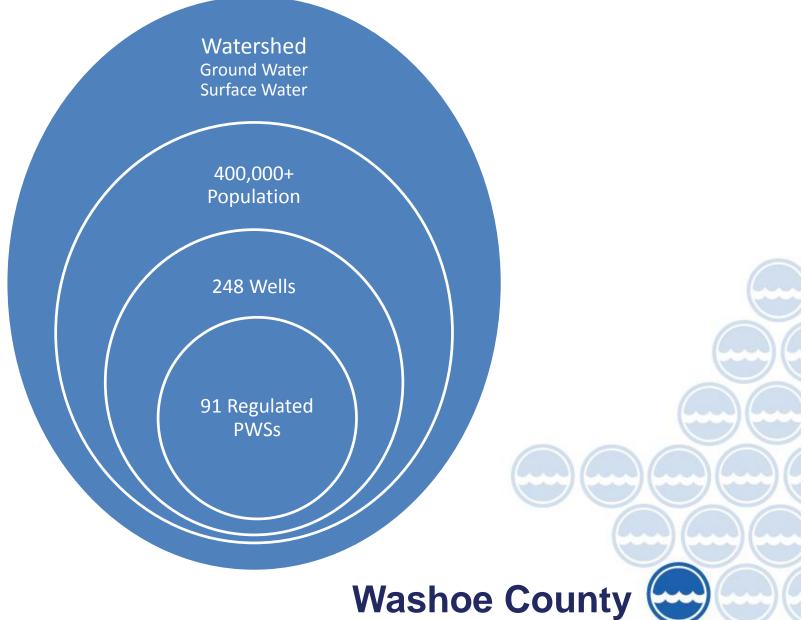
We help your community protect your drinking water.



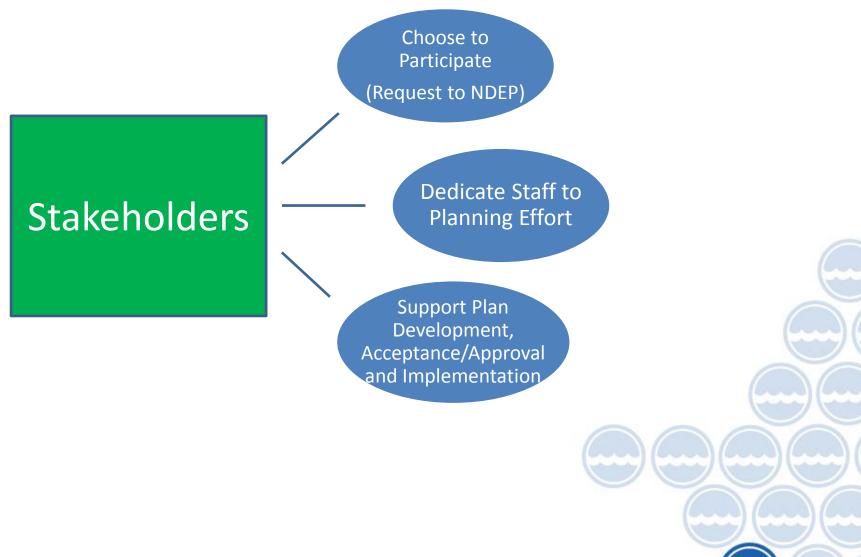
What is the Integrated Source Water Protection Program (ISWPP)?

Page 1 of 11





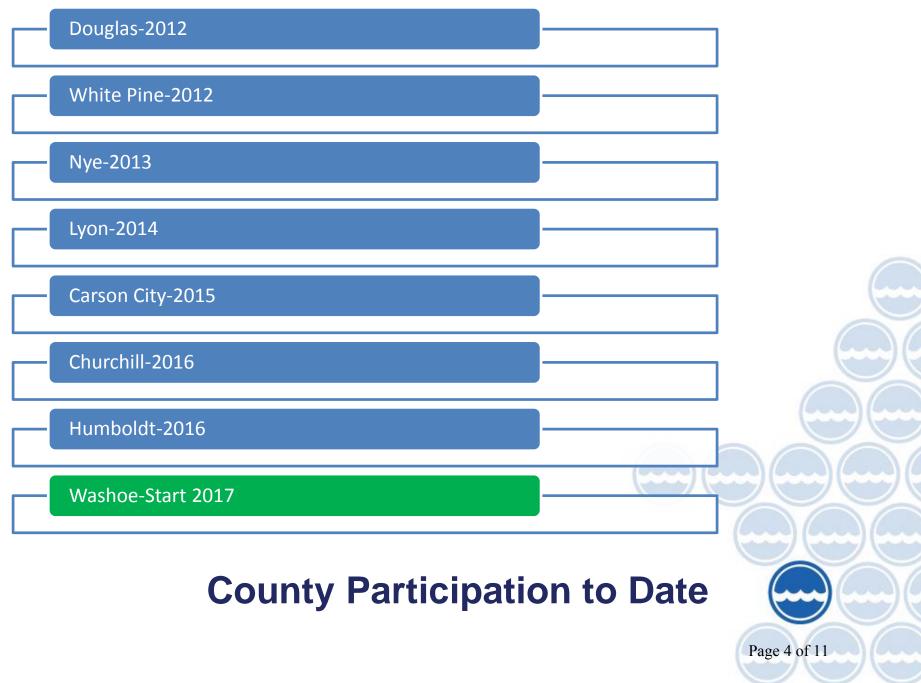
Page 2 of 11

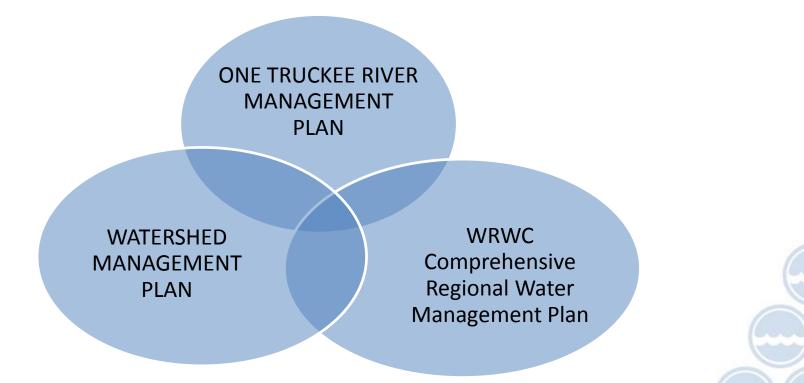


Community Commitment

Page 3 of 11







Stakeholder Driven

Significant overlap for these planning efforts

Local Planning Momentum

Page 5 of 11

Nevada Department of Conservation & Natural Resources Division of Environmental Protection





Birgit Henson

Nonpoint Source (NPS) Branch Supervisor Bureau of Water Quality Planning 775-687-9550

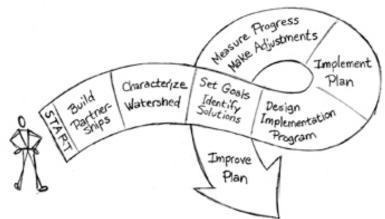
bhenson@ndep.nv.gov

Page 6 of 11

Nevada's NPS Program funds projects to mitigate or reduce NPS pollution



Including funding regional groups & coordinating with them to develop Watershed Plans





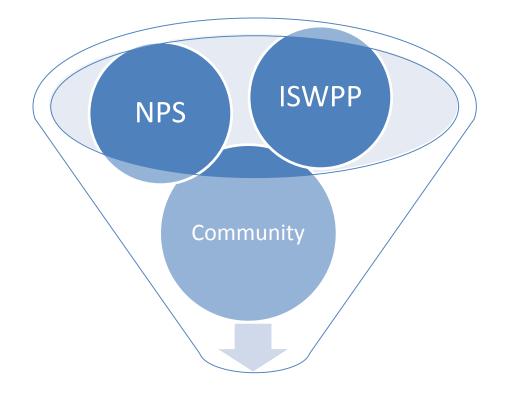
Truckee Meadows Why Now?

Coordination Opportunity ISWPP/NPS-EPA Supported **ISWPP Moving into Washoe County TMSWPCC** Watershed Management Plan Update WRWC Comprehensive Regional Water Management Plan One Truckee River Plan Action Item **NDEP NPS Program Priority**

Instant opportunity to leverage resources and ensure collaboration

Page 8 of 11

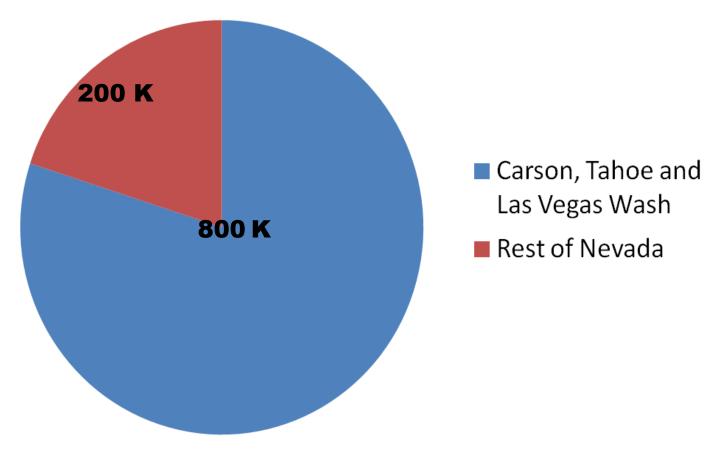
The Nexus between ISWPP and NPS: Create WMP Stakeholder Group



Stakeholders work together to scope work for the development of a coordinated Watershed Management Plan and procure necessary funding.

Benefits of coordinating with the NDEP Watershed Planning Process?

2016 319 (h) Funding



Page 10 of 11

Contact Information





Birgit Henson Nonpoint Source Branch Supervisor Bureau of Water Quality Planning Nevada Division of Environmental Protection 775-687-9550 bhenson@ndep.nv.gov www.ndep.nv.gov/bwqp

Content	Description	Sponsors	Tags	Board/Committee Position	Status/Location	Most Recent History Actions
AB3	Makes various changes relating to the administration of workers' compensation claims. (BDR 53-161)	Committee on Commerce and Labor	Human Resources	1/4 WATCH, NEUTRAL	First Reading	11/21/2016 From printer.
AB5	Provides for the creation of certain local improvement districts. (BDR 22-233)	Committee on Government Affairs	Energy; Governance	1/3 WATCH, NEUTRAL	First Reading	11/21/2016 From printer.
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	First Reading	11/21/2016 From printer.
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	First Reading	11/21/2016 From printer.
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, Probation, and Parole	Human Resources	1/4 WATCH, NEUTRAL	First Reading	11/21/2016 From printer.
AB30	Establishes a committee to review the current tax structure in this State. (BDR S-432)	Committee on Taxation	Financial, Risk Management	1/10 WATCH, NEUTRAL	First Reading	11/21/2016 From printer.
AB32	Revises provisions governing pest control. (BDR 49-176)	Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining	Governance	1/9 WATCH, NEUTRAL	First Reading	11/21/2016 From printer.
AB34	Revises provisions relating to state lands. (BDR 26-179)	Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining	Property	12/20 WATCH, NEUTRAL	First Reading	11/21/2016 From printer.
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	First Reading	11/21/2016 From printer.
AB39	Revises provisions governing the appointment of representatives to a governing board for regional planning in certain counties. (BDR 22-433)	Committee on Government Affairs	Governance; Open Meeting, Records, Boards and Elections	11/21 WATCH, NEUTRAL	First Reading	11/21/2016 From printer.
AB42	Revises various provisions relating to public records. (BDR 19- 389)	Committee on Government Affairs	Open Meeting, Records, Boards and Elections	11/21 WATCH, NEUTRAL	First Reading	11/21/2016 From printer.
AB48	Makes various changes relating to local government. (BDR 21- 435)	Committee on Government Affairs	Financial, Risk Management	11/21 OPPOSE, NEUTRAL WITH AMENDMENT	First Reading	11/21/2016 From printer.
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	First Reading	11/21/2016 From printer.
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	First Reading	11/21/2016 From printer.

Content	Description	Sponsors	Tags	Board/Committee Position	Status/Location	Most Recent History Actions
AB71	Revises provisions governing public employees' retirement. (BDR 23-429)	Committee on Government Affairs	PERS, PEBS	14 WATCH, NEUTRAL	First Reading	11/21/2016 From printer.
AB72	Revises provisions relating to the Uniform Plumbing Code. (BDR 40-237)	Committee on Health and Human Services	Public Works	1/13 WATCH; Staff Recommendation: WATCH, OPPOSE	First Reading	11/21/2016 From printer.
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	First Reading	11/21/2016 From printer.
AB83	Makes various changes relating to insurance. (BDR 57-159)	Committee on Commerce and Labor	Financial, Risk Management	1/6 WATCH, NEUTRAL	First Reading	11/21/2016 From printer.
SB10	Revises provisions governing the publication of information concerning unclaimed and abandoned property. (BDR 10-407)	Committee on Judiciary	Property	11/21 WATCH, NEUTRAL	First Reading	11/23/2016 From printer.
SB21	Abolishes the Nye County Water District. (BDR S-478)	Committee on Government Affairs	Water Rights (Resources, Conservation)	11/21 WATCH	First Reading	11/23/2016 From printer.
	Clarifies requirements relating to a petition for judicial review of a final administrative decision in a contested case. (BDR 18- 374)	Committee on Government Affairs	Governance	11/21 WATCH	First Reading	11/23/2016 From printer.
SB24	Authorizes cities to enact ordinances requiring the registration of vacant properties. (BDR 21-421)	Committee on Government Affairs	Governance; Property	11/21 WATCH	First Reading	11/23/2016 From printer.
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	First Reading	11/23/2016 From printer.
SB27	Revises the definition of the term "mental illness" for purposes of provisions relating to criminal procedure, mental health and intellectual disabilities. (BDR 39-133)	Committee on Health and Human Services	Human Resources	11/21 NEUTRAL	First Reading	11/23/2016 From printer.
SB36	Revises provisions relating to ethics in government. (BDR 23- 230)	Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections	Governance	11/21 WATCH, NEUTRAL	First Reading	11/23/2016 From printer.
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	First Reading	11/23/2016 From printer.
SB48	Revises provisions relating to relations between local governments and their employees. (BDR 23-428)	Committee on Government Affairs	Human Resources	1/4 WATCH, NEUTRAL	First Reading	11/23/2016 From printer.
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	First Reading	11/23/2016 From printer.
SB52	Revises provisions relating to unemployment compensation. (BDR 53-226)	Committee on Commerce, Labor and Energy	Human Resources	1/4 WATCH, NEUTRAL	First Reading	11/23/2016 From printer.
SB53	Revises provisions relating to the installation, operation and maintenance of telecommunications facilities. (BDR 18-234)	Committee on Transportation	Information Tech	1/6 WATCH	First Reading	11/23/2016 From printer.

Content	Description	Sponsors	Tags	Board/Committee Position	Status/Location	Most Recent History Actions
SB63	Revises provisions which govern responsibility for the costs of maintenance and repair of certain county roads. (BDR 20-324)	Committee on Revenue and Economic Development	Governance; Property	1/6 WATCH, NEUTRAL	First Reading	11/23/2016 From printer.
SB67	Revises provisions relating to fire safety requirements for multi- story buildings occupied by people. (BDR 42-412)	Committee on Government Affairs	Emergency Mgmt, Safety, Motor Vehicles	1/6 WATCH, NEUTRAL	First Reading	11/23/2016 From printer.
SB69	Revises provisions governing state agencies, boards and commissions that regulate occupations and professions. (BDR 54- 229)	Committee on Commerce Labor and Energy	Governance; Human Resources; Open Meeting, Records, Boards and Elections	1/5 WATCH, NEUTRAL	First Reading	11/23/2016 From printer.
SB73	Revises provisions relating to water. (BDR 48-177)	Commiffee on Natural Resources	Property; Water Rights (Resources, Conservation)	1/6 WATCH, NEUTRAL	First Reading	11/23/2016 From printer.
SB74	Revises provisions relating to water. (BDR 48-178)	Committee on Natural Resources	Water Rights (Resources, Conservation)	12/29 WATCH	First Reading	11/23/2016 From printer.
SB78	Revises provisions relating to local government financial administration. (BDR 31-403)	Committee on Government Affairs	Financial, Risk Management	1/9 WATCH, NEUTRAL	First Reading	11/23/2016 From printer.
SB80	Makes various changes relating to the Public Employees' Benefits Program and the Deferred Compensation Program. (BDR 18-243)	Committee on Government Affairs	PERS, PEBS	1/5 WATCH, NEUTRAL	First Reading	11/23/2016 From printer.
SB82	Revises provisions relating to employment and trade secrets. (BDR 53-419)	Committee on Commerce, Labor and Energy	Human Resources	1/5 WATCH, NEUTRAL	First Reading	11/23/2016 From printer.
SB84	Makes various changes relating to ethics in government. (BDR 23-250)	Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections	Governance	1/6 WATCH	First Reading	11/23/2016 From printer.



STAFF REPORT

TO: Chairman and Board Members
THRU: Mark Foree, General Manager
FROM: Andy Gebhardt, Director Customer Relations
DATE: January 9, 2017
SUBJECT: Discussion and possible action, approval of staff recommendation for an interim Ombudsman and direction to staff to send out a request for quote (RFQ) to recruit a new Ombudsman

Summary

As all of you are aware, our Ombudsman, Joanne Stralla, passed away last November. As such, we are seeking direction from the Board in relation to sending out an RFP to search for a replacement Ombudsman. In addition, we would like to request the Board approve staff's recommendation of Tami Fruhwirth as an interim Ombudsman to fill the role as we perform the search.

Background and Discussion

On November 1, 2005, pursuant to Board direction, Truckee Meadows Water Authority entered into a Professional Services Agreement with Don Rhoden to provide Ombudsman services for TMWA customers. The contract was renewed annually, until Mr. Rhoden's resignation in late 2008. In December of 2008, TMWA entered into a contract with Joanne Stralla, and the contract was renewed each year thereafter including most recently at TMWA's November, 2016 Board meeting. Shortly after the Board renewed her contract for calendar year 2017, Ms. Stralla sadly lost a battle to cancer.

In reviewing our options on how to replace the Ombudsman, at least on an interim basis, we thought of Tami Fruhwirth. Ms. Fruhwirth has extensive customer service experience, particularly in the Utility arena, and is known to many of us at TMWA. Attached you will find her resume. Should the Board provide direction to staff to permanently fill the Ombudsman role, Ms. Fruhwirth has agreed to fill the Ombudsman role on an interim basis while we develop an RFQ to formally search for a permanent Ombudsman replacement.

Tami Fruhwirth

Reno, NV 89521

Employment Objective: To partner with a team that is creating strategic business results by promoting team participation and performance while working towards common successful outcomes.

Professional Experience

Ms. Fruhwirth has over 20 years of professional experience in the utility industry, including roles in leadership, project management, human resources and customer service management and field services. She has lead diverse teams to the successful completion of complex multi-faceted projects. Ms. Fruhwirth has managed multimillion dollar budgets for projects and programs and has held critical roles in business processes such as revenue collections and customer service. She has demonstrated talents in driving technological change by combining her analytical skills with her practical communication and ability to compromise.

- Examples of Leadership
 - Leading diverse teams including engineers, technicians, journeymen crafts, contract labor and general labor; effectively providing leadership to remote work locations.
 - Delivering strong business metrics and reporting including metric development and process improvements to achieve business needs.
 - Evaluating employee performance, providing employee development, establishing goals and standards for work product and holding employees accountable for results.
 - Delivering customer service and reliability to both internal and external customers with gas, water, and electric customers.
- Examples of Project Work
 - Leading diverse teams regarding projects in Smart Grid Meter Infrastructure, Customer Service, Human Resources, Water and Telecommunications arenas. Projects include:
 - o Telecommunication systems for wind generation- Spring Valley Project
 - o Tower Gateway Radio System for Smart Grid
 - Substation to grid interconnection projects
 - Security Systems Upgrades
 - Networking Infrastructure Improvements
 - System Protection Relaying
 - Customer Information System Upgrades and Testing Requirements & Metering System Implementation
 - Demand side water projects
 - Water Meter Retrofit Project
 - Water Conservation Watcher Program
 - Water Heater Wrap Project
- > Examples of Regulatory Projects-
 - Directing teams for testing and documentation of system protection in system control/telecom for nerc/ferc requirements.
 - Participating in regulatory documentation for proceedings as necessary in support of utility operations and projects.
 - Coordinating program funding and reporting with the liaison to the Public Utility Commission of the Water Meter Project.
 - Audit Projects regarding Metering, Employee record and Training audits, Billing audits, OSHA
- > Examples of Human Resources/ Workforce Development
 - Developing and facilitating "break through" training sessions for all leadership levels; Trained teams on various leadership models, teambuilding and mentoring models for teams.
 - Coordinating/Managing from the HR side- the Joint Apprentice Training programs including program development and State approvals; Liaison to the State Labor Commission.
 - Committee member for Safety Incident Prevention Board; served on the team to revise the corporate safety rules and handbook-engaged Behavior Based model.
 - Delivering workforce diversity training and recruiting

Education

- BS Business Management
- PHR in Human Resources
- PC in Human Resource Management- UNR

Positions Held

Tried & True Patriotic Project Management-May 2014 to present

Owner-Principal Consultant-contract with Liberty Utilities as Customer Service Senior Manager Delivering user software upgrades requirement document-providing testing services and documented results

Delivering Performance Management tools for leadership and metrics development Providing documentation for compliance testing Developing and delivering training programs

Providing on site leadership for Customer Experience Team

Liberty Utilities- February 2013 to May 2014

Billing /Field Services Manager/Process and Project Consultant

NV Energy – April 1993 to December 2012

- Team Leader Telecommunications, IT (June 2010 to December 2012)
- HR Workforce Strategist, Organizational Development-August 2008 to August 2010
- Merger Restructure work with Customer Service Team
- Team Leader Meter Reading/Field Service/Meter Ops-October 1999 to August 2008
- Program Coordinator, Water Conservation & Meter Project-September 1995 to Oct 1999

Additional Certification and Training

- Leadership Training R+, Leadership in Action, Vistar Leadership I and II
- Certified Trainer in OC Tanner Recognition Training-2009
- Certified Trainer in Covey-Guardian Quest Valuing Diversity-2008
- Certified Trainer in RAC Consultants-Personal Leadership Model-2008
- TIP Training Trauma Intervention Program Certification-2010
- TPM Telecom Project Management Certification-BICSI-2010
- Fundamentals of Information Technology Systems Networking Certificate-2012
- Poverty Institute-Certificate 2013 PSU
- Washoe County Substitute License for Teaching-2015

Community Activities/ Memberships

2015-SHRM Company Membership

2015-WBEC Company Membership

2015-NAPBS Membership

2012 NV Energy Corporate Chairperson (executive sponsor) – United Way Campaign 2012

2009 NV Energy Leadership Community Project, Reno Police Department, Victim Services 2009-2010 Trauma Intervention Project team member-City of Reno

2008 – 2010 Assistant Facilitator, Domestic Violence Education Class, Washoe County Family Court 2010-Board of Directors, UTC (Utilities Telecom Council) Smart Grid Council Member, Blue Star Moms



STAFF REPORT

TO:	Board of Directors
THRU:	Mark Foree, General Manager
FROM:	Andy Gebhardt, Director, Customer Relations
	Marlene Olsen, GoodStanding
DATE:	January 9, 2017
SUBJECT:	Presentation of public open house schedule for proposed rate adjustment and discussion and possible direction to staff on open house and public notifications of proposed rate adjustment

Recommendation

Staff recommends Board approval of the public open house schedule for the proposed rate adjustment.

<u>Summary</u>

At the December 21, 2016 meeting, the Board approved staff to begin the public process for the proposed rate adjustment and requested notification of the public open house schedule. The following information, as highlighted below, was included in all customer's January bills and also will be included in customer's February bills:

Several customer open houses and public meetings have been scheduled to collect customer feedback regarding potential rate adjustments.

TMWA is proposing a series of single-digit rate adjustments over the next five years, the first of which would be effective in May, 2017. It would be the first increase in over three years and is needed to meet the cost of providing water service to our customers. The average residential customer's water bill is expected to increase by \$1.42 (3%) per month starting May 2017 with an additional monthly increase of \$1.47 (3%) in May 2018.

The TMWA Board of Directors will also have the option of implementing 2.5% increases in 2019, 2020 and 2021, if necessary. TMWA continues to monitor the effectiveness of our rate structures, and, as necessary, makes adjustments that better reflect the costs associated with treating, delivering, and maintaining the high-quality water that our customers expect.

Customers are encouraged to attended the following meetings for more information and provide feedback, which will be presented to the TMWA Board of Directors.

Customer Open Houses:

Tuesday, February 21 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Sparks Police Department—Training Room 1701 E. Prater Way, Sparks

Thursday, February 23 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Spanish Springs Library 7100 Pyramid Way, Sparks Please note that this is a corrected address from the January newsletter

Wednesday March 1 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. *California Building in Idlewild Park* 75 Cowan Drive, Reno

Thursday, March 2 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. South Valley Library 15650 Wedge Pkwy., Reno

Board of Directors Meetings:

Wednesday, March 15 (first public hearing) 10:00 a.m. 745 Fourth St., Sparks

Wednesday, April 19 (final public hearing) 10:00 a.m. 745 Fourth St., Sparks

Standing Advisory Committee Meetings (SAC):

Tuesday, March 7 3:00 p.m. *1355 Capital Blvd.. Reno*

Customers who cannot attend a meeting but would like to comment can do so by sending an e-mail to <u>tmwaboard@tmwa.com</u>. For the most current information about the proposed rate adjustment, visit **www.tmwa.com/rates2017**, or contact us with your questions at 834-8080.



STAFF REPORT

TO:Chairman and Board MembersTHRU:Mark Foree, General ManagerFROM:John Enloe, TMWA Director of Natural ResourcesDATE:January 9, 2017SUBJECT:Presentation of Truckee River Fund Activities for Calendar Year 2016

Summary

- Since Fund inception, 138 Projects Approved by TMWA Board for Funding (By Resolution) -- Total Resolution Amount to Date: \$11.4 million
- Total Match from Grantees: \$20.3 million
- Project Status and Tracking: See attached TRF Project Spreadsheet Attachment 1
- TRF Request for Proposal Criteria: Attachment 2
- Project Status Summary Report: Attachment 3

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the TMWA Board of Directors a summary of Truckee River Fund program (TRF) activities from its 2005 inception, including a detailed summary of 2016 activities. This report will also be helpful to new Board members in getting familiar with the purpose and workings of the Truckee River Fund.

TMWA and the Board should be proud of this program and the outstanding contributions the Fund has made for the community, region, and the Truckee River watershed. Over the years, the Truckee River Fund Advisory Committee has developed a prudent and rigorous approach to the evaluation of proposals, to ensure that those recommended for approval by the TMWA Board have tangible and measurable outcomes and meet the objectives of the Fund. Through the able assistance of the Community Foundation of Western Nevada, all project proponents are required to account for funds dispersed and to provide reports on project status and completion.

Program Background

As the Board may recall, the Fund was conceived and established in 2005 with the intent of supporting water quality and watershed protection projects that TMWA could not pursue on its own. Since inception, the program has evolved into an important component of TMWA's overall water quality protection program, funding projects which have directly or indirectly improved water quality or the watershed of the Truckee River.

Financially, the TRF provides significant financial leverage for source water protection projects that TMWA could not ordinarily implement or afford. To date, the Fund has collaborated with other non-profit groups and governmental agencies to support 138 projects, with an \$11.4 million contribution from the Fund (via TMWA) being matched by \$20.3 million from its TRF partners.

The TRF, and thus TMWA, has also stepped to the forefront by proactively supporting fire restoration projects in the local Truckee River watershed, these being the Hawken Fire (2007), the Caughlin Fire (December 2011), and the Washoe Drive Fire (February 2012). In each instance the TRF provided immediate support and helped expedite recovery and restoration efforts, important in mitigating environmental damage and reducing erosion and sediment loading to the Truckee River. On a macro basis, the Fund has supported important water quality and watershed improvement projects in the following areas of concern:

- **Invasive Species**: The introduction and proliferation of invasive species, both landbased (terrestrial) and aquatic, is a major concern for TMWA. As such, TMWA has supported projects to mitigate terrestrial and aquatic invasive plants and has funded the development and implementation of watercraft inspection programs at Lake Tahoe and nearby reservoirs to prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species, including the quagga and zebra mussel into the waters of Lake Tahoe and nearby reservoirs, and control efforts to remove Eurasian watermilfoil from the Truckee River.
- Urbanization of the Local Watershed: Development in the foothill areas has led to degradation of local tributaries to the Truckee River via irrigation run-off and storm water discharges. Local tributaries upstream of TMWA's primary water treatment plants have been adversely impacted causing increased sediment, total dissolved solids (TDS) and turbidity loading. Because of this concern, the Fund has supported projects and programs that have helped to mitigate these problems.
- Wildfires and Forest Thinning: As discussed above, recent wildfires have taken their toll on the Truckee River watershed, thereby increasing the likelihood of additional sediment and turbidity loading to the river. In response to the fires and watershed damage, TMWA has provided grants towards recovery and rehabilitation efforts. TMWA, through the Fund, has supported forest thinning efforts designed to reduce potential of forest fires that, as a result of sediment run-off, impact pristine water storage resources.

- Erosion due to Past Logging Operations: Some areas of the bi-state Truckee River watershed have been impacted by past logging practices that neglected reforestation and erosion control. As a result, some of these areas have experienced incising of tributary creeks which have impacted the River with increased sediment, suspended solids, and TDS loading. TMWA, through the Fund, has supported projects designed and constructed to restore the watershed forest to its natural state.
- Impaired Sections of the Truckee River and its Tributaries: In conformance with the requirements of the Clean Water Act, both the State of Nevada and State of California have developed water quality standards for the River taking into account an analysis of beneficial uses. As an outgrowth of these standards, both States have identified impaired sections of the River through establishment of 303d lists. TMWA, again through the Fund, has supported improvement projects targeting impaired sections of the River.

2016 Grants

In 2016 the Fund, with Board approval, provided grants to 12 projects or programs. A few of these notable projects worth highlighting are listed below:

- A grant of \$33,041 to Sierra Nevada Journeys (SNJ) for the purpose of continuing with their Watershed Education Initiative (WEI) which has been implemented in Washoe County schools. The program continues to be successful in teaching not only the students, but parents as well about being better stewards of the Truckee River and protecting water resources and increasing watershed awareness. The grant was matched with \$7,250 of cash and \$10,440 of in-kind services.
- A grant of \$67,000 to the Truckee River Watershed Council (TRWC) for the purpose of improving drainage and sediment production, as well as eliminating erosion in Johnson Canyon. The grant was matched with \$79,000 in cash and \$6,000 of in-kind services.
- A grant of \$98,534 to the Nevada Land Trust (NLT) and Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (KTMB) organizations to support their continued leadership of the One Truckee River Initiative through the adoption of Phase I Action Plan, complete a comprehensive GIS inventory of the Truckee River corridor, complete a Community Watershed Survey, and complete a Community Watershed Education Plan. The grant was matched with \$14,604 of cash and \$12,000 of in-kind services.
- A grant of \$ 75,000 to the Truckee Donner Land Trust to launch a multi-year program on the Webber Lake property, which is located at the headwaters of the Little Truckee River, to address areas of disease and overstock, and aid in prevention of catastrophic wildfires which will aid in source water protection and reducing the amount of sediment entering waterways due to erosion which affects water quality. The grant was matched with \$18,750 in cash.

	A	В	С	D	E	F	J	М	N	R	S	T
1	Project #	Category	Project Complete?	Proposal Date	Grantee	Grant Description	Funded	solution nount	Gift Received to Fund	Match - Monetary	Match - Ir Kind	Match total
2	*Compl Proje		* Pro	ojects not a	pproved for funding							
3	1		Yes	Dec-05		Living River Flood Alternative Community Education and Outreach	1	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 1,007,684.00	\$ 7,200.0) \$ 12,000.00	\$19,200.00
4	2		Yes	Dec-05		Chalk Creek TDS Loading to Truckee River Study: Possible TDS mitigation and pollution trade for TMWRF on Truckee River TDS TMDL. (Weir)	2	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 100.00		\$ 8,216.00	\$8,216.00
5	3		n/a	Dec-05		Watershed Coordination and Education Outreach for Storm Water Permits program	no					
6	4		Yes	Dec-05	Environmental Leadership	Truckee River Clean-up Day	3	\$ 9,402.50		\$ 3,167.5) \$	- \$3,167.50
7	5		n/a	Dec-05	-	Truckee River Science to Policy and Forum Phases 1 & 2	no					
8	6		Yes	Dec-05	Rainshadow Community	Students Follow the River: Truckee River Restoration and Documentation Project	4	\$ 7,500.00		\$	- \$ 2,160.00	\$2,160.00
9	7		n/a	Dec-05	University of Nevada, Reno	Snapshot Day 2006	no					
10	8		n/a	Dec-05		The Intermountain Regional Research Facility Project	no					
11	9		n/a	Dec-05		Glendale Diversion Fish Passage Assessment - Phase 1 Project	no					
12	10		Yes	Jun-06		Watershed protection for the drinking water source of the Chalk Bluff Water Treatment Plant	5	\$ 211,000.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 35,000.0) \$ 26,500.00) \$61,500.00
13	11	В	Yes	Jun-06		Lower Steamboat Creek Restoration/Stabilization	6	\$ 86,000.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 80,000.0) \$ 35,000.0	\$115,000.00
14	12	d	n/a	Jun-06	City of Reno	Reach "Y" Tree Planting	no	\$ -				
15	13	b	Yes	Jun-06		Urban Storm Water Quality Improvements	7	\$ 66,000.00		\$ 150,000.0	\$	- \$150,000.00

	A	В	С	D	E	F	J		М	Ν		R		S	Т
1	Project #	Category	Project Complete?	Proposal Date	Grantee	Grant Description	Funded		solution nount	Gift Received to Fund		atch - netary		tch - In Kind	Match total
2	*Comp Proje		* Pr	ojects not a	pproved for funding										
16	14		n/a	Jun-06	Great Basin Institute/Nevada Conservation Corps	Truckee River Invasive Plant Mapping and Eradication Project	no								
17	15		Yes	Jun-06	Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful	Truckee River Clean-up Day	8	\$	13,175.00		\$	6,627.60	\$	24,367.50	\$30,995.10
18	16		n/a	Jun-06	Recreation Education Outdoors	Tahoe-Truckee Pyramid Regional Education Project	no								
19	17		n/a	Jun-06	Recreation Education Outdoors	Truckee River Recretional Access Project	no								
20	18		Yes	Jun-06		This Drains to the Truckee River Storm Drain Stenciling Pilot Project	9	\$	9,300.00		\$	-	\$	3,380.00	\$3,380.00
21	19		Yes	Jun-06	Truckee River Yacht Club as Fiscal Agent for Nevada Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources	Snapshot Day 2006	10	Ś	6,605.00		\$	4,100.00	\$	15,342.00	\$19,442.00
22	20		Yes	Jun-06		Assessment of Petroleum Impacts to the Truckee River from Direct Stormwater Discharges	11	Ś	30,840.00		Ś		Ş	14,750.48	\$14,750.48
23	21	C	Yes	Jun-06		Low Impact Development (LID) Demonstration and Storm Water Retention for the New Student Union at UNR	12	ć	34,483.00		\$		\$	15,517.00	\$15,517.00
23	22	0	n/a	Jun-06		McCarran Ranch: Outdoor Education and Interpretive Signage Site Planning	no	Ŷ	54,405.00		Ŷ		Ŷ	13,317.00	\$13,517.00
25	23		n/a	Jul-06	Ecosystem Sciences Foundation	Truckee River Education and Ourreach Program	no								
26	24		n/a	Jul-06	Placer County Department of	Interstate Storm Water Flow Mitigation Project at Brockway/Crystal Bay	no								

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2	*Comp Proje		* Pro	ojects not a	pproved for funding							
27	25	С	Yes	Jul-06		Bioavailability of dissolved organic nitrogen originating from natural sources and wastewater in effluent in the Truckee River	13	\$ 81,093.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 20,334.00	\$-	\$20,334.00
28	26		Yes	Nov-06	Great Basin Institute/Nevada	Truckee River White Top Eradication Project at Mogul and Steamboat Creeks	14	\$ 13,692.70		\$ 5,428.80	\$ 325.00	\$5,753.80
29	27		Yes	Nov-06	Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful	Truckee River Clean-Up Day 2007	15	\$ 24,730.00		\$ 8,248.70	\$ 24,405.00	\$32,653.70
30	28	а	Yes	Nov-06		Restoration of Riparian Vegetation in a Channel at Sapphire Ridge in the Chalk Creek Sub Watershed	16	\$ 18,375.00			\$ 6,125.00	\$6,125.00
31	29	d	Yes	Feb-07		Chalk Creek Watershed Management for Water Quality to minimize Non- Point Source Pollution from Reaching the Truckee River	17	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00		\$ 62,500.00	\$62,500.00
32	30	b	Yes	Feb-07	City of Reno Public Works	Downtown Eco-Channel Construction	18	\$ 370,000.00		\$ -	\$-	\$0.00
33	31		n/a	Feb-07	Truckee River Yacht Club as fiscal sponsor for Wallace-Kuhl & Associates	Chalk Creek NPS Abatement	no					
34	32		Yes	Jun-07		Truckee River Flood Management Project - Living River EIS Review	19	\$ 35,850.00	\$ 2,289.00			
35	33	а	Yes	Jun-07	Great Basin Institute/Nevada	Rancho San Rafael Wetland Enhancement and Water Quality Enhancement	20	\$ 15,963.45		\$ 8,373.60	\$ 279.40	\$8,653.00
36	34		n/a	Jun-07	Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe	Truckee River Noxious Weed Control Program	21	\$ 11,600.00	\$ 1,871.26			
37	35		Yes	Jun-07	,	The Rainshadow Effect: Water Issues - Local to Global	22	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 5,418.85	\$6,418.85

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2	*Comp Proje		* Pro	ojects not a	pproved for funding							
38	36	f	Yes	Jun-07	Tahoe Regional Planning Agency	Invasive Aquatic Species Integrated Management Strategy	23	\$ 50,000.00			\$ 12,500.00	\$12,500.00
39	37	d	Yes		Washoe County Department of	Truckee River Water Quality Protection and Enhancement Project through connection of the River Oaks Subdivision to the Lawton-Verdi Wastewater Interceptor	24	\$ 292,495.00		\$ 589,600.00		\$589,600.00
40	38	f	Yes		Nevada Land Conservancy	Hawken Fire Restoration Effort	25	\$ 100,000.00			\$ 7,508.00	\$92,508.00
41	39	f	Yes		Nevada Land Conservancy	Hawken Fire Restoration Effort	26	\$ 189,989.00		\$ 135,111.00		\$142,619.00
42	40	e	Yes	Nov-07	Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful	Truckee River Cleanup Day 2008	27	\$25,604.85		\$4,244.15	\$32,205	\$36,449.15
43	41	d	Yes		Great Basin Institute/Nevada	Truckee River Invasive Plant Eradication & Restoration Demonstration Project	28	\$134,396			\$68,360	\$68,360.00
44	42	f	Yes	May-08	Nevada Land Conservancy	Hawken Fire Weed Monitoring, Treatment, and Reseeding	29	\$28,900		\$7,271		\$7,271.00
45	43	a	n/a	Jun-08		Washoe County Sheriff's Office Community Work Program Inmate and community service work crews cleaning, maintaining, and providing specified services within Washoe County on public property.	no		500	-	-	-
46	44	d	Yes		Washoe County Department of	Mayberry Ranch Estates River Water Quality Improvement Project Use grants acquired from TRF to encourage homeowners to connect to the existing sewer and abandon their septic systems.	30	\$229,500	100	\$895,163.91		\$895,163.91

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2	*Comp Proje		* Pro	ojects not a	pproved for funding							
47	45	f	Yes	Jun-08	City of Sparks	Pioneer Dam Modification City of Sparks as lead agency for modification of exisitng facility to mitigate negative impacts of Pioneer Dam diversion struction and enhance water resources of the Truckee River.	31	\$250,000		\$294,000	\$60,000	\$354,000.00
48	46	а	Yes	Jun-08	Nevada Land Conservancy	2008-09 Weed Treatments & Revegetation: Truckee River & Tributaries Facilitate weed control in Truckee Meadows as identified by Truckee Meadows Cooperative Weed Management Group's 2008 Action Plan; improving stabilization and decreasing erosion and sediment by protecting native habitat and restoring riparian areas.	32	\$112,500	1,050,000.00	\$30,000		\$30,000.00
49	47	e	Yes		Truckee Donner Land Trust	TDLT Truckee River Riparian Parcel Conservation Improvements and restoration specifically to riparian parcels held under a permanent conservaiton easementgeneral cleanup, debris removal, slope stabilization, signage.	33	\$7,500	1,050,000	-	\$16,100	\$16,100.00
50	48	d	Yes	Jun-08	City of Reno Public Works	Truckee River Watershed Map Web Tool Create inspired new Web-based watershed pages to compliment existing web efforts, in describing local watershed, and interconnectedness within and reliance upon the watershed.	34	\$80,000		_	\$20,000	\$20,000.00

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2	*Compl Proje		* Pro	ojects not a	pproved for funding							
51	49	a,c,d	cancelled			Crane Ditch Cleanup Demonstration ProjectCurti Ranch LID & PCSC Retrofit addresses known problems in and around the segment of Crane Ditch that travels through and around Curti Ranch Units 3-9 between Highway 342 and Steamboat Ditch.	35	\$50,000			\$27,375	\$27,375.00
52	50	а	Yes	Jun-08	The Nature Conservancy	Independence Lake Forest Management Planning Develop a forest management plansupports land management actions to protect lake quality against threat of catastrophic forest fires and resulting erosion.	36	\$39,668	1,080,000	_	\$14,760	\$14,760.00
53	51	C	Yes			Independence Lake Public Access Management Planning Develop compatible public access management plansupport land management actions that will protect Indepdence Lake quality against threat of incompatible public use and recreation of lake and lands.	37	\$45,510			\$26,445	
54	52	a	yes	Aug-08	City of Reno	Oxbow Park Bank Stabilization Pursue restoration and protection of the Truckee River within the City's Oxbow Park property	38	\$207,750		\$69,250		\$69,250.00
55	53		Yes		Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe	Aleck Streambank Restoration Improvements to streambank adjacent to agricultural lands. To protect banks from shearing from future flooding. Implementation: January 2009.	39	\$75,000		\$130,000		\$130,000.00

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2	*Comp Proje		* Pro	ojects not a	pproved for funding							
56	54		n/a		Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	9th Annual Snapshot Day (2009) Snapshot Day monitors 119 sites within the Tahoe Basin & Truckee River watersheds. Water quality samples are taken; site locations are selected to gain information on restoration projects.	no					
57	55		n/a		Truckee River Watershed Council	Adopt-A-Stream: Keeping an Eye on the Truckee River Continuation of existing Adopt-A-Stream program in 2009 by supporting program manager, equipment and supplies, lab analysis, and volunteer retention/recruitment/training.	no					
58	56	d	yes	Nov-08	Tahoe Regional Planning Agency	Invasive Aquatic Species Integrated Management Strategy Funding for approximately 8 boat inspectors to staff boat ramp facilities, and funding to install gates at three public boat ramps.	40	\$118,000		\$28,000	\$1,500	\$29,500.00
59	57		n/a	Nov-08	Board of Regents NSHE	Identifying Non-Point Sources of Nutrients to the Truckee River from Groundwater in the Verdi/Mogul Area Project seeks to identify potential non-point sources of nutrients in groundwater by evaluating a large spatial array of monitoring wells for nutrient concentrations. Data will be used to help delineate hydraulic connectedness and mixing of groundwater in the Verdi/Mogul area with Truckee River surface water.	no	-				

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	*Comp				envoyed for funding							
60	Proje		Yes			WCSO Community Work Program- Truckee River Restoration Projects- Weed Control Provide inmate and community service work crews 30-40 hours per week for 8 weeks in Sprin g2009 to The Nature Conservancy for revegetation and weed control.	41	\$12,280		-	\$3,600	\$3,600.00
61	59	b,d	yes	Nov-08		Chalk Creek Watershed TDS/Sulfate Reducing Wetland Pilot Project Pilot project to model, design, construct, and monitor a small-scale sulfate- reducing bioreactor wetland system. Project provides opportunity to evaluate efficiency at treating TDS, phosphorus, nitrogen, and selenium from Chalk Creek Watershed.	42	\$163,000			\$50,000	\$50,000.00
62	60	b,d	yes	Nov-08		McKinley Arts & Cultural Center LID Demonstration Project and Installation Training Retrofitting McKinley building with rain gutters to take water away from the building and solve current problems with moisture and irrigation spray; includes steps to protect the Truckee River watershed by providing key examples on stormwater treatment using natural systems.	43	\$115,500		\$300	\$55,009	\$55,309.00

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2	*Comp Proje		* Pr	ojects not a	pproved for funding							
63	61	е	Yes	Nov-08	Keep Truckee Meadows	Truckee River Cleanup Day 2009 Scheduled for Sept. 26, 2009; designed to raise awareness about the importance of a clean, healthy river while engaging residents in keeping the River clean.	44	\$26,975		-	\$47,599	\$47,599.00
64	62	f	Yes	Nov-08		Construction of Pioneer Dam Modification Funding will go to costs associated with construction activities for improvements identified in the previous grant for this project.	45	\$500,000		\$608,000	\$50,000	\$658,000.00
65	63		Yes	Nov-08		Independence Lake - Forest and Wildfire Management Funding for forest and wildfire management at Independence Lake. Funding is for part of a \$2,371,108 endowment for perpetual management of the forest at Independence Lake.	46	\$237,110		-	\$153,052	\$153,052.00

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2	*Comp Proje				pproved for funding							
66	64		n/a	Nov-08		Best Management Practices Education & Outreach for the Truckee River Watershed in Washoe & Storey Counties Project will demonstrate that programs such as the successfully implemented Backyard Conservation Program could assist landowners with implementing conservation strategies within urban residential communities; also propose to develop a "Living in the Truckee River Watershed" publicatiion that will provide references for the community to manage their property in ways that benefit the human and natural resources of the watershed.	no					
67	65		n/a	Nov-08		Double Diamonds Wetland 5 & 6: LID & Engineered Wetland Rehabilitation Rehabilitation of a 404 permitted wetland, including site survey, updating and engineering the design for US Army Corps of Engineers approval, permitting and planning, design and construction of LID into the drainage plan, and construction/revegetation of wetland with a low flow channel.	no	_				
68	66		yes	Jun-09		Scope of Work for Truckee River Ecosystem Restoration Coordination: Creation of a 5-year Weed Control and Restoration Plan for the Truckee River	47	\$10,000			\$2,500	\$2,500.00

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2	*Comp Proje		* Pr	ojects not a	pproved for funding							
69	67		Yes	Sep-09		Cloud Seeding Project for Tahoe and Truckee Basins for WY2010	48	\$165,151	\$838,000	\$52,674		\$52,674.00
70	68	D	yes		AlpenGroup (proposal submitted by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Martis Creek	Eurasian milfoil removal from Martis Creek Lake. Eradicate Eurasian milfoil by using black cloth barrier method. Plan calls for treating approximately 80% of the lake area in 2010 season.	49	\$20,550		\$4,450	\$2,400	\$6,850.00
71	69	A,C,D	yes	Nov-09		WCSO Community Work Program- Truckee River Restoration Projects- Weed Control. Provide supervision of inmate and community service work crews 30-40 hours per week for 8 to 32 weeks in Winter/Spring 2010 to The Nature Conservancy for revegetation and weed control.	50	\$68,962.34			\$25,600	\$25,600.00
72		A,B,D	yes			2010 Weed Treatments & Revegetation: Trukee River & Tributaries. Facilitate weed control and restoration in Truckee Meadows as identified by Truckee Meadows Weed Coordinating Group's 2010 Action PlanVerdi and upstream in NV.	51	\$125,000		\$30,000	\$1,250	\$31,250.00
73	71		yes	Nov-09	Tahoe Resource Conservation	Watercraft Inspection Program for the Truckee River Watershed. Initiate a coordinated, multi-party planning effort specifically intended to accelerate regional prevention and control efforts of aquatic invasive species.	52	\$231,123		\$5,000	\$75,340	\$80,340.00
74	72	A,C,D	yes		Keep Truckee Meadows	Truckee River Cleanup 2010. Expanding the annual Cleanup Day to include a spring and fall cleanup.	53	\$42,050		\$14,185	\$52,830	\$67,015.00

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2	*Compl Proje		* Pro	ojects not a	pproved for funding							
75	73	B.C	Yes	Nov-09	City of Reno	Livestock Events Center Drainage Treatment System. Design and construction of a storm water structural control that will minimize pollutants by runoff before it enters the offsite public storm drainage system.	54	\$75,000		\$10,000	\$15,000	\$25,000.00
76	74		yes		The Nature Conservancy	Independence Lake Woody Fuels Reduction for Fire Resilience. Implementation of actions that reduce the risk of catastrophic fire and subsequent erosion of sediment into the lake.	55	\$50,000		\$91,492	\$10,000	\$91,492.00
77		a,b,c	yes		Truckee River Watershed Council	Truckee Wetlands Restoration Project- Phase 2. Develop a hydrologic analysis, restoration plan and design and phasing and obtain needed permits for restoration.		\$40,000		\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000.00
78	76	a,c	yes		Truckee River Watershed Council	Coldstream Canyon Floodplain Restoration Project. Creek and floodplain restoration in the lower reaches of Coldstream Canyon.	57	\$135,000	\$1,120,000	\$521,260		\$521,260.00
79	77	c,e	Yes	Oct-10	Board of Regents NSHE	BMP Installation and Maintenance Training. Provides field training for developers, planners, contractors, installers, inspectors, and government employees in correct selection, installation, maintenance, and inspection of construction site Best Management Practices and structural controls.	58	\$21,269		\$5,318		\$5,318.00

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2	*Comp Proje		* Pr	ojects not a	pproved for funding							
80	78	e	yes	Oct-10		Independence Lake Woody Fuels Reduction for Fire Resilience - Year 3. Forest thinning on 80 acres surrounding Independence Lake for reduction of woody fuels.	59	\$60,000		\$32,000		\$32,000.00
81	79	d	yes		Tahoe Resource Conservation	Truckee Regional Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program. Continuation of necessary development of a sustainable long- term Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Program serving at- risk water bodies in the headwaters of the Truckee River Watershed.	60	\$296,013		\$5,000	\$69,200	\$74,200.00
82	80	a,c,d	yes	Oct-10		Washoe County Sheriff's Office Community Work Program - Weed Control. Supplies to effectively meet the needs of the community and the various clean up efforts performed throughout the year.	61	\$12,695			\$3,600	\$3,600.00
83	81		yes			Cloud Seeding Project for Tahoe and Truckee Basins for WY2011	62	\$155,876		\$63,969		\$63,969.00
84	82	c,d	yes			Truckee River Cleanup 2011. litter prevention and removal and community education and removal of invasive weeds along Truckee River watersheds.	63	\$42,900		\$17,700	\$63,040	\$80,740.00
85	83	b,c	yes	Feb-11		Livestock Events Center Drainage Treatment System Phase 2. Design and construction of a second storm water structural control that will minimize pollutants by runoff before it enters the offsite public storm drainage system.	64	\$97,500		\$12,500	\$20,000	\$32,500.00

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2	*Compl Proje			ojects not a	pproved for funding							
86	84	e	Yes	Feb-11	Sierra Nevada Journeys	Watershed Education Initiative	65	\$10,000		\$6,000	\$560	\$6,560.00
87	85		n/a		North Tahoe Public Utility	Secline Sewer Pump Station Rehabiitation Project. Modify current condiitons of tfacility, extend useful life, ensure pump station meets standards.	no			\$209,723		
88	86	a,b	yes	Feb-11	River Partners	Restoration plan for UNR. Develop a habitat restoration plan for the 1,000 acre UNR Main Station Field Laboratory property.	66	\$23,990		\$6,001		\$6,001.00
89	87		yes	Jun-11	Desert Research Institute	Integrated Water Quality Monitoring on the Truckee River. four basic components: 1) review of historic river data collected on the mainstem Truckee; 2) monthly "grab" samples at 13 locations on the mainstem of the Truckee River; 3) maintenance of one continuous monitoring site at Marble Bluff Dam; and, 4) quarterly field collection of benthic macroinvertebrates at four sites on the mainstem.	67	\$318,012		\$80,000	\$75,062	\$155,062.00
90	88	d	Yes		The Nature Conservancy	Preventing Aquatic Invasive Species at Independence Lake. Primary measurable outcome will be the successful deterrence of future intoriductions of AIS into Independence Lake.	68	\$28,290	\$1,026,000			\$20,135.00

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2	*Comp Proje		* Pr	ojects not a	pproved for funding							
91	89		yes		Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful	Truckee River Cleanup 2012. Continue focus on litter prevention and removal and community education and removal of invasive weeds along the Truckee River.	69	\$44,950		\$17,350	\$75,500	\$92,850.00
92	90	a,b,d	yes	Sep-11	Nevada Land Conservancy	Weed Treatments & Revegetation: Truckee River & Tributaries: implement 1,125 acres and 10 trail miles of weed control and restoration as directed by the Truckee Meadows Cooperative Weed Group.	70	\$127,500		\$40,000	\$25,440	\$65,440.00
93	91	c,d,e	Yes	Sep-11	Washoe County Sheriff's Office	Community Work ProgramPollution & Weed Control: provide full time Inmate Work Program Leader to supervise inmate and community service work crews.	71	\$71,860			\$19,460	\$19,460.00
94	92		yes	Sep-11	Desert Research Institute	Cloud Seeding Project for Tahoe & Truckee Basins for WY2012: Enhance snowfall from winter storms and increase snowpack through wintertime cloud seeding technology.	72	\$154,815		\$115,691		\$115,691.00
95	93		n/a	Sep-11	Truckee Donner Land Trust	Webber Lake & Lacey Meadows Acquisition & Restoration: funding to maintain a healthy water system in the upper Truckee River watershed.	no			\$2,700,000		
96	94	c,e	yes	Sep-11	Board of Regents, NSHE	BMP Installation & Maintenance Field Training & Classes: offer free field training to develoopers, planners, contractors, installers, inspectors, and government employees in 2012.	73	\$19,375		\$4,844		\$4,844.00

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2	*Compl Proje		* Pro	ojects not a	pproved for funding							
97	95	d	Yes	Sep-11	Tahoe Resource Conservation District	Truckee Regional Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program: funding for further development of an mandatory AIS prevention program, increased public outreach and enhanced environmental monitoring.	74	\$267,627		\$5,000	\$66,200	\$71,200.00
98	96	e	yes	Sep-11	Sierra Nevada Journeys	Watershed Education Initiative: in- class lessons and after-school programs that tie directly to field- based experiences within the Truckee River watershed.	75	\$10,010		\$1,872	\$1,600	\$3,472.00
99	97		n/a		Washoe-Storey Conservation	Weed Abatement Program: Education, Training, Removal, & Maintenance: education & training for homeowners, developers, planners, contractors, district employees, and maintenance employees in proper identfification and removal of noxious and invasive weeds.	no			\$16,000	\$28,000	
100	98		n/a			Truckee River Instream Flow & Water Quality Enhancement: acquire roughly 900 acre-feet of Truckee River Claim 3 water rights and appurtenant lands.	no	withdrawn		\$5,300,000		
101	99	a,d	Yes	Dec-11		Caughlin Fire Emergency Watershed Stabilization & Restoration Effort	76	\$219,856			\$150,850	\$150,850.00
102	100	a,c	yes	Feb-12	Truckee River Watershed Council	Negro Canyon Restoration: Reduce Erosion to Donner Lake and the Truckee River by up to 175 tons annually.	77	\$25,000		\$253,868	\$6,000	\$259,868.00
103	101		n/a	Feb-12		Truckee River Restoration: small tracts of land along bank of TR managed by BLM.	no				\$85,810	

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2	*Compl Projec		* Pro	ojects not a	pproved for funding							
104	102		n/a	Feb-12	BOR NSHE for DRI	Watershed Based Planning Tool for the Truckee River Basin: develop a useful and efficient watershed based planning tool that will identify impaired sections of the TR and assist TRF advisors in prioritizing future projects.	no	withdrawn		\$67,155		
105	103		n/a	Feb-12	American Rivers, with Truckee River Watershed Council and Sierra Watch	Martis Solutions Initiative: to promote informed and sensible solutions to the threat of Martis Creek Dam.	no			\$52,400	\$4,800	
106	104		Yes	Feb-12	Nevada Land Conservancy	Washoe Drive Emergency Watershed Stabiization & Restoration Effort: erosion control and emergency watershed protection measure in three priority areas.	78	\$115,000			\$38,530	\$38,530.00
107	105	a,e	Yes	Feb-12	Truckee River Watershed Council	Lacey Creek and Meadow Assessment: recommend restoration projects and management practices in the headwaters of the Little Truckee River.	79	\$50,000		\$8,500,000		\$8,500,000.00
108	106		yes	Aug-12	The Nature Conservancy	Independence Lake Woody Fuels Reduction for Fire ResilienceYr 3 Supplemental Funding: implement forest thinning and woody fuels reduction on 80 acres surrounding Indepdences Lake Preserve.	80	\$30,000		\$43,740		\$43,740.00
109	107	a,c	yes	Aug-12	Truckee River Watershed Council	Phase 2 Coldstream Canyon Floodplain Restoration: reduce erosion to the Truckee River through restoring a stream reach of Coldstream Canyon	81	\$196,000		\$772,760		\$772,760.00

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2	*Compl Proje		* Pr	ojects not a	pproved for funding							
110	108		n/a			Negro Canyon Restoration: Reduce Erosion to Donner Lake and the Truckee River by up to 175 tons annually.	no			\$253,868	\$6,000	
111	109		n/a	Aug-12		Pipe Keepers/Storm Drain Monitoring & Marking Project: group of volunteers coordinated by Americorp members; will monitor water flowing out of storm drains unfiltered into Lake Tahoe.	no			\$32,646	\$40,000	
112	110	c,d,e	yes	Aug-12	Washoe County Sheriff's Office	Community Work ProgramPollution & Weed Control	82	\$68,250			\$21,600	\$21,600.00
113	111	d	yes	Aug-12		Mt Rose Noxious Weed Monitoring & Treatment: treat approximately 50 acres of noxious weeds on Humbolt- Toiyabe National Forest lands	83	\$13,225		\$7,020	\$4,250	\$11,270.00
114	112	e	yes	Aug-12		Watershed Education Initiative: deliver educational programs to youth in the Reno area to inspire students to learn about their local Watershed and emplower them to protect/enhance river quality.	84	\$12,690		\$3,422	\$600	\$4,022.00
115	113		n/a	Aug-12		Fellnagle Fish Passage Improvement Project: improve fish passage from Fellnagle dam and irrigation diversion by stabilizing streambank and decreasing erosion/pollution.	no			\$445,000	\$5,000	
116	114		n/a	Aug-12	Town of Truckee	Truckee Storm Water System Retrofit Project: install structural and/or LID improvements to treat storm water runoff in high priority drainages.	no			\$32,500	\$30,000	

	A	В	С	D	E	F	J	М	N	R	S	Т
1	Project #	Category	Project Complete?	Proposal Date	Grantee	Grant Description	Funded	Resolution Amount	Gift Received to Fund	Match - Monetary	Match - In Kind	Match total
2	*Comp Proje		* Pr	ojects not a	pproved for funding							
117	115	c,d	yes	Aug-12	Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful	Truckee River Cleanup Day 2013	85	\$46,450		\$16,250	\$77,450	\$93,770.00
118	116	d	yes	Aug-12	Tahoe Resource Conservation	Truckee Rgional Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention: support TRCD's efforts to prevent AIS infestation in Truckee Regional walters	86	\$179,455	\$ 851,000.00	\$70,000	\$54,200	\$124,200.00
119	117	E	Yes	Feb-13	The Nature Conservancy	Reduce woody fuel loading and reduce risk of severe wildfire around Independence Lake.	87	\$41,300		\$20,650		\$20,650.00
120	118	A,C	yes	Feb-13	Truckee River Watershed Council	Middle Martis Wetland Restoration- planning & design.	88	\$120,000		\$60,000	\$200,000	\$260,000.00
121	119	A,E	yes	Feb-13	City of Reno	Hazardous tree removal at Oxbow Park	89	\$32,250			\$16,531	\$16,531.00
122	120	A,E	Yes	Feb-13	City of Reno	Truckee River bank stabilization at Crooked Mile	90	\$30,615		\$18,175	\$2,988	\$21,163.00
123	121	D	n/a	Feb-13	BoR NSHE for UNR Cooperative Extension	Aquatic Invasive Species Education and Outreach for Nevada	no			\$23,581	\$3,000	
124	122	A,C	Yes	Feb-13	Truckee River Watershed Council	Truckee River Big Chief Corridor- Implementation	91	\$11,000		\$344,000		\$344,000.00
125	123	A,C,E	n/a	Feb-13	The Nature Conservancy	Truckee River Restoration Project- Hoss Property Acquisition	no			\$35,500		
126	124	D	n/a	Feb-13	Tahoe Resource Conservation District	Truckee River Eurasian Watermilfoil Removal	92	\$43,062		\$13,855	\$3,500	\$17,355.00
127	125	E	yes	Feb-13		Sierra Nevada Journeys' Watershed Education Initiative	93	\$16,050		\$4,594	\$1,000	\$5,594.00
128	126	C, D, E	yes		Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful	Truckee River Youth Education/Invasive Weed Pull/Cleanup 2014	94	\$57,050		\$47,330	\$77,210	\$124,540.00
129	127	C, D	n/a	Aug-13	Washoe County Sheriff's Office	Community Work Program - Pollution & Weed Control	no	withdrawn			\$13,440	
130	128			Aug-13		Truckee River Big Chief Corridor- Restoration	95	\$150,000		\$355,000	\$25,000	\$380,000.00

	A	В	С	D	E	F	J	М	Ν	R	S	Т
1	Project #	Category	Project Complete?	Proposal Date	Grantee	Grant Description	Funded	Resolution Amount	Gift Received to Fund	Match - Monetary	Match - In Kind	Match total
2	*Compl Proje		* Pro	ojects not a	pproved for funding							
131	129	A,D	yes	Aug-13		Weed Treatments & Revegetation: Truckee River & Tributaries:	96	\$65,050		\$20,000	\$5,000	\$25,000.00
132	130	D	yes	Aug-13		Mt. Rose Noxious Weed Monitoring & Treatment	97	\$10,896		\$6,600	\$4,250	\$10,850.00
133	131	E	yes	Aug-13		Sierra Nevada Journeys' Watershed Education Initiative	98	\$24,200		\$7,050	\$1,600	\$8,650.00
134	132	A	n/a	Aug-13	Town of Truckee	Trout Creek Restoration-Lower Reach 1	no			\$897,504		
135	133	D	yes	Aug-13		Truckee Regional Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program	99	\$115,000		\$16,546	\$55,780	\$72,326.00
136	134	E		Aug-13	City of Reno	Reducing non-point source pollution to the Highland Canal	100	\$400,000	845,000	\$243,000	\$20,000	\$263,000.00
137	135	D	yes	Aug-13	Nevada Department of Wildlife	New Zealand Mud Snail & Aquatic Invasive Species Outreach for the Truckee River	101	\$45,413			\$11,355	\$11,355.00
138	136	C,D	yes	Feb-14	Washoe County Sheriff's Office	Community Work Program - Pollution & Weed Control	102	\$62,885			\$20,400	\$20,400.00
139	137	с	yes	Feb-14	Nevada Land Trust	Alum Creek Water Quality Improvement	103	\$60,000		\$3,360	\$30,984	\$34,344.00
140	138	E	n/a	Feb-14	The Nature Conservancy	Truckee River Watershed Restoration - Forest Thinning at Independence Lake Preserve 2014	no			\$50,000		
141	139	D	Yes	Feb-14	Town of Truckee	Town of Truckee Watercraft Inspection Program	104	\$10,000		\$20,000		\$20,000.00
142	140	E		Feb-14		Sierra Nevada Journeys' Watershed Education Initiative	105	\$23,750		\$8,150	\$2,000	\$6,150.00
143	141	D		Feb-14		Truckee River Eurasian Watermilfoil Survey and Removal	106	\$59,860			\$44,635	\$44,635.00
144	142	A,B,C	yes	Feb-14		Truckee Wetlands Restoration Project- Phase 3,4&5 - Design	107	\$50,000			\$19,000	\$19,000.00

	А	В	С	D	E	F	J	М	Ν	R	S	Т
1	Project #	Category	Project Complete?	Proposal Date	Grantee	Grant Description	Funded	Resolution Amount	Gift Received to Fund	Match - Monetary	Match - In Kind	Match total
2	*Completed Projects				pproved for funding							
145	143	A,C,D	n/a		Washoe-Storey Conservation District	Tenaya Creek-Wetland Restoration and Enhancement: Weed Abatement; Flood Attenuation, Education, Training	no			\$25,000	\$86,941	
146	144	B,C		Aug-14	City of Reno	Reducing non-point source pollution to the Highland Canal	108	\$329,000	\$ 800,000.00	\$250,000	\$20,000	\$270,000.00
147	145	E	yes	Aug-14	Sierra Nevada Journeys	Sierra Nevada Journeys' Watershed Education Initiative	109	\$23,900		\$3,938	\$6,840	\$10,088.00
148	146	E	Yes	Aug-14	Tahoe Pyramid Bikeway	Graffiti and trash removal along Truckee River	110	\$ 4,660.00			\$ 1,570.00	\$1,570.00
149	147	E		Aug-14	The Nature Conservancy Truckee River Watershed	Optimizing Restoration Investments in the Truckee Watershed	111	\$ 50,000.00		\$ 58,075.00		\$58,075.00
150	148	B,C	yes	Aug-14	Council	Donner Basin Watershed Assessment Eyes on the Lake Truckee River	112	\$ 70,000.00		\$ 25,000.00		\$25,000.00
151	149	D		Aug-14	League to Save Lake Tahoe	Watershed Volunteer Invasive Species Monitoring	113	\$ 18,000.00		\$ 11,400.00	\$ 2,750.00	\$14,150.00
152	150	C,D		Aug-14	Tahoe Resource Conservation District	Truckee River Native and Non-native Aquatic Plant and Trash Survey	114	\$ 49,000.00			\$ 15,000.00	\$15,000.00
153	151	B,C,E		Aug-14	City of Reno	Virginia Lake Water Quality Improvement Project Monitoring and Public Education	115	\$ 18,820.00		\$ 32,000.00	\$ 48,301.00	\$78,301.00
154	152	A,C		Aug-14	National Forest Foundation	Alder Creek Trail Watershed Rehabilitation Project	no			\$ 50,000.00	\$ 154,800.00	
155	153	D	yes	Aug-14	Friends of Nevada Wilderness	Mount Rose Noxious Weed Monitoring and Treatment #3	116	\$ 15,807.00		\$ 12,800.00	\$ 3,700.00	\$16,500.00
156	154	C,D,E	yes		Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful	Watershed Youth Education, Invasive Weed Pull & River Cleanup 2015	117	\$ 46,000.00		\$ 23,800.00	\$ 92,740.00	\$116,540.00
157	155	D	n/a	Aug-14	Great Basin Institute	Nevada Conservation Corps Truckee River Eurasian Watermilfoil Removal	no				\$ 8,560.00	

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1	Project #	Category	Project Complete?	Proposal Date	Grantee	Grant Description	Funded	esolution Mount	Gift Received to Fund	Match - Ionetary	Ma	atch - In Kind	Match total
2	*Comp Proje		* Projects not approved for funding										
158	156	с			Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful	Truckee River Cooridor Management Plan	118	\$ 90,000.00		\$ 22,000.00	\$	1,500.00	\$23,500.00
159	157	с	yes	Feb-15	City of Reno	Truckee River Cleanup Crew	119	\$ 104,235.00			\$	38,094.00	\$38,094.00
160	158	E	yes	Aug-15	Sierra Nevada Journeys	Watershed Education Intiative	120	\$ 28,484.00	\$ 850,000.00	\$ 6,250.00	\$	7,200.00	\$13,450.00
161	159	A,C	n/a	Aug-15	National Forest Foundation	Alder Creek Trail Watershed Restoration Project	no				\$	210,400.00	
162	160	A,C		Aug-15	Truckee River Watershed Council	Johnson Canyon Westside Restoration	121	\$ 25,000.00		\$ 79,000.00	\$	6,000.00	\$85,000.00
163	161	с		Aug-15	TRI General Improvement District	Preliminary Design Report & Engineering-TMWRF at TRI	no						
164	162	D	yes		Nevada Tahoe Conservation District	Rosewood & Third Creeks Invasive Weed Removal	122	\$ 7,350.00		\$ 9,850.00	\$	2,500.00	\$12,350.00
165	163	D		Aug-15	Tahoe Resource Conservation District	Truckee River Watershed AIS Prevention & Control	123	\$ 112,000.00		\$ 50,000.00			\$50,000.00
166	164	A,B,C		Aug-15	City of Reno	Cemetery Drain Water Quality, Erosion Control/Drainage	124	\$ 77,500.00		\$ 37,971.00	\$	15,000.00	\$52,971.00
167	165	C,D	yes		Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful	Truckee River Cleanup/Invasive weeds 2016	125	\$ 48,325.00		\$ 40,500.00	\$	68,500.00	\$109,000.00
168	166	B,C	yes	Aug-15	City of Reno	Virginia Lake Water Quality Improvements	126	\$ 100,000.00		\$ 150,000.00	\$	47,420.00	\$197,420.00
169	167	E	yes	Feb-16	Sierra Nevada Journeys	Watershed Education Initiative	127	\$ 33,041.00		\$ 7,250.00	\$	10,440.00	\$17,690.00
170	168	D	yes	Feb-16	Friends of Nevada Wilderness	Mount Rose Noxious Weed Monitoring and Treatment #4	128	\$ 21,002.00		\$ 6,000.00	\$	8,640.00	\$14,640.00
171	169	с		Feb-16	City of Reno	Truckee River Cleanup Crew Yr. 2	129	\$ 47,787.00		\$ 46,187.00	\$	22,782.00	\$68,969.00
172	170	A,B,C	yes		Mountain Area Preservation Foundation	Trout Creek Pocket Park & Restoration Initiative	130	\$ 25,000.00		\$ 168,750.00	\$	5,500.00	\$168,750.00
173	171	A,C		Feb-16	Truckee River Watershed Council	Johnson Canyon Westside Restoration-Construction	131	\$ 67,000.00		\$ 79,000.00	\$	6,000.00	\$85,000.00
174	172			Feb-16	Truckee Donner Land Trust	Webber Lake Little Truckee Headwaters Timber Management	no			\$ 18,750.00			

	Α	В	С	D	E	F	J	М	N	R	S	Т
1	Project #	Category	Project Complete?	Proposal Date	Grantee	Grant Description	Funded	Resolution Amount	Gift Received to Fund	Match - Monetary	Match - In Kind	Match total
2	*Comp Proje		* Projects not approved for		pproved for funding							
175	173	C,E	yes	Feb-16	Tahoe Fund	Take Care-Truckee River	132	\$ 9,354.00			\$ 6,465.00	\$6,465.00
176	174			Feb-16	USDA Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest, Truckee Ranger District	Prosser WUI Fuels Reduction Project	no				\$ 67,700.00	
177	175	С		Aug-16	Desert Research Institute	Modeling, Monitoring, and Social Assessment of Water Quality in Upper Truckee River Basin	no				\$ 26,657.00	
178	176	C,D		Aug-16	Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful	2017 Spring Invasive Weed Pull & Fall Cleanup	133	\$ 60,625.00		\$ 15,000.00	\$ 104,300.00	\$119,300.00
179	177	A,B,C		Aug-16	Truckee River Watershed Council	Donner Creek Bank Stabilization Downstream of Railroad Culvert final design	134	\$ 90,000.00		\$ 260,000.00	\$ 600.00	\$260,600.00
180	178	A,B,C		Aug-16	Truckee River Watershed Council	Donner Creek Concept Design	135	\$ 40,000.00		\$ 640,000.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$649,000.00
181	179	E	Yes	Aug-16	Sierra Nevada Journeys	Watershed Education Initiative	136	\$ 28,446.00		\$ 6,250.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$15,250.00
182	180	A,D,E		Aug-16	Nevada Land Trust	One Truckee River Phase 1 Implementation	137	\$ 98,534.00		\$ 14,604.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$26,604.00
183	181	E		Aug-16	Truckee Donner Land Trust	Webber Lake Little Truckee Headwaters Management	138	\$ 75,000.00		\$ 18,750.00		\$18,750.00
184	182	A,D		Aug-16	Nevada Tahoe Conservation District	Rosewood & Third Creeks Invasive Weed Removal, phase 2	no			\$ 32,600.09	\$ 3,000.00	
185												
186						TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT:		\$ 11,369,982.83				\$20,266,430.49
187												

TRUCKEE RIVER FUND

Enhancing and protecting our water resources

Grant Priorities

Based upon the aforementioned discussion, TMWA recommends that the Advisors give preference to well-prepared and thought out grant requests for projects and programs that mitigate substantial threats to water quality and the watershed, particularly those threats upstream or nearby treatment and hydroelectric plant intakes:

- I. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS): Projects/Programs that support the prevention or control of aquatic invasive species in the main stream Truckee River, Lake Tahoe, other tributaries and water bodies in the Truckee River system.
- II. Watershed Improvements: Projects that reduce erosion or sediment, suspended solids, or TDS discharges to the River. Projects or programs that are located within 303d (impaired waters) sections of the River should be considered, both in California and Nevada. Innovative techniques should be encouraged.
- III. **Local Stormwater Improvements**: Projects that are well designed which mitigate storm water run-off due to urbanization of the local watershed. Priority should be given to those improvement projects in close proximity to TMWA's water supply intakes and canals and which will improve the reliability and protect the quality of the community's municipal water supply.
- IV. Re-Forestation and Re-Vegetation Projects: Projects to restore forest and upland areas damaged by fire and historical logging operations, and to improve resiliency in drought situations. Projects/programs in this category should be given a high priority due to urbanization of the watershed and increased susceptibility of the urban and suburban watershed to wildfire.
- V. **Support to Rehabilitation of Local Tributary Creeks and Drainage Courses**: Practical projects to support water quality improvement in Gray Creek, Bronco Creek, Mogul Creek, Chalk Creek, Steamboat Creek and the North Truckee Drain.
- VI. **Stewardship and Environmental Awareness**: Support to Clean-Up programs and the development and implementation of educational programs relative to water, water quality and watershed protection.
- VII. **Meet Multiple Objectives:** Projects/Programs should identify opportunities to meet multiple water quality and watershed objectives as outlined above with preference given to those achieving multiple benefits.
- VIII. Leverage Stakeholder Assets and Participation: Projects/Program selection should include an assessment of various stakeholder interests in all aspects of river water quality, watershed protection, source water protection and species enhancement thereby leveraging available funds and other assets.

Truckee River Fund Project Updates

Project #128: Big Chief Corridor Implementation

Organization: Truckee River Watershed Council (TRWC)

Funding Date: August 2013Grant Amount: \$150,000

Project Update: Project goal is to reduce erosion and excess sedimentation in order to improve water quality. Restoration construction started September 20, 2016 and is proceeding well. The stream bank is being rebuilt and was completed by October 31, 2016. Completed restoration of six river, wetland and meadow sites (three from the TRF grant, three from the match grant). The end result is improved habitat and water quality reduced river bank and instream erosion within the Truckee River watershed.

Project #134 & #144: Reducing Non-Point Source Pollution to the Highland Canal

Organization: City of Reno

Funding Date: August 2013/2014 Grant Amount: \$729,000

Project Update: This project will greatly reduce poor quality stormwater from entering the Highland Canal directly upstream of the Chalk Bluff Water Treatment Plant. Bid openings were advertised in the RGJ in November 2016, and following normal contracting processes, the project will begin construction approximately January 2017. The City of Reno will perform post project water quality monitoring of the storm drain system to compare against baseline data. Both the City of Reno and Washoe County have agreed to provide long-term maintenance of the improvements within the jurisdictional boundaries of each agency.

Project #147: Optimizing Restoration Investments in the Truckee Watershed

Organization: The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

Funding Date: August 2014 Grant Amount: \$50,000

Project Update: This project is targeted to develop a coordinated, science-based plan for prioritizing restoration efforts in the Truckee River watershed. TNC and partners have been reviewing the outputs of the final RIOS model runs, and have some notable findings and have quantified the benefits of restoration actions in relation to TMDLs. The model has revealed that back country roads are likely the single highest source contributing sediment to the river. Also of note, the model is indicating that a combination of restoration activities can technically help attain the sediment and nutrient percent reduction goals that have been established for some

portions of the watershed. Return on investment analyses have been completed to see if the work required to generate these reductions is actually feasible, and a final stakeholder meeting has been scheduled to share results with stakeholders.

Project #160: Johnson Canyon Westside Restoration

Organization: Truckee River Watershed Council (TRWC)

Funding Date: August 2015 Grant Amount: \$25,000

Project Update: The goal is to continue to improve bank and channel stabilization, improve water quality and habitat in Johnson Canyon, and decrease sedimentation reaching Donner Lake and the Truckee River. TRWC has hired a consultant to complete fact checking assessment – field surveys of land – and full results will be submitted next quarter. Final project design and permits will be completed after Fact Checking Assessment and pre-Project monitoring have been completed. The National Forest Foundation has committed funds to support construction of the restoration project. Project implementation is expected to begin in 2017.

Project #163: Truckee River Watershed AIS Prevention and Control

Organization: Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD)

Funding Date: August 2015 Grant Amount: \$112,000

Project Update: Tahoe RCD has finalized a Master Agreement with UC Davis which has conducted surveys, photo monitoring points in the river to track control efforts to remove Eurasian watermilfoil from the Truckee River over time. Post-effectiveness monitor is scheduled to occur after bottom barriers are removed in November 2016 and again in spring 2017. Tahoe RCD has received funds from the Department of Water Resources – Integrated Regional Watershed Management (IRWM) Grant Program which is dedicated to control aquatic invasive plants in the Truckee River in 2017 and 2018. Tahoe RCD is also working with the Town of Truckee to establish long-term watercraft inspection station infrastructure at Boca, Stampede, and Prosser Reservoirs.

Project #164: Cemetery Drain Water Quality, Erosion Control and Drainage Project

Organization: City of Reno

Funding Date: August 2015Grant Amount: \$77,500

Project Update: The project will consist of construction of bank stabilization, grade control and sediment retention features to reduce sediment and debris discharge; reducing sediment and debris discharged into the Truckee River – thereby improving water quality. Initially, the project concept was for a small erosion control project that the City of Reno Maintenance could construct. However, due to the economic recovery, the project costs increased. Hence, the original project limits had to be scaled back and modified to allow for easier access to the sediment basin for maintenance crews to remove sediment. Therefore, future projects for further stabilization of Cemetery Drain will be pursued. The current project is near completion.

Project #168: Mount Rose Noxious Weed Monitoring and Treatment

Organization: Friends of Nevada Wilderness

Funding Date: February 2016Grant Amount: \$21,002

Final Project Update: Friends of Nevada Wilderness completed eight volunteer weed pulling events as well as four weed monitoring projects in 2016. A total of 70 volunteers joined and pulled over 20,000 thistles and improved 75 acres of Reno's backyard wilderness area. They successfully monitored three locations as possible weed sites and led to the discovery of two new Musk Thistle locations. In collaboration with Forest Service staff, they learned the musk thistle plant must be cut down and seed heads removed to prevent the plant from adding to the seed bank; this will be their new strategy in spring 2017. This project has been completed.

Project #169: Truckee River Cleanup Crew (Year 2)

Organization: City of Reno

Funding Date: February 2016

Grant Amount: \$47,787

Project Update: The project is focused on providing a dedicated crew to remove trash and debris from the banks of the Truckee River and direct tributaries within City of Reno. More than 500 bags of trash/debris, plus shopping carts, needles, discarded furniture, bikes, etc. were removed; homeless campsites had increased because of lack of enforcement, which were reported to Reno Police Department.

Project #171: Johnson Canyon Westside Restoration

Organization: Truckee River Watershed Council (TRWC)

Funding Date: February 2016

Grant Amount: \$67,000

Project Update: The purpose of this project is to follow-up on the results of the fact checking assessment, Project #160 reported above, to coordinate with necessary stakeholder groups, develop bid package and select contractor(s) and implement bank and channel stabilization improvements to improve water quality and habitat in Johnson Canyon and decrease sedimentation reaching Donner Lake and the Truckee River. The project will be completed in three phases: 1) stakeholder coordination – began field work in fall 2016; 2) contractor selection – begin work in spring 2017; and 3) project construction – to be completed after priority sites are identified, contractor is selected and design of sites is finalized. The U.S. Forest Service and the Truckee Donner Land Trust, landowners and project partners, have agreed to maintain the restoration project(s).

Project #173: Take Care – Truckee River

Organization: The Tahoe Fund on behalf of the Lake Tahoe Outreach Committee

Funding Date: February 2016

Grant Amount: \$9,354

Final Project Update: Project goal is to produce and install Take Care signage along the Truckee River with messaging that will mitigate substantial threats to water quality and the watershed caused by users of the Truckee River and educate them to be responsible stewards of the river and host a volunteer clean-up day. Final art was approved by the stakeholders and sent to the printers (who printed the signs for less than expected), and delivered to Tahoe City PUD for installation at major ingress and egress points; one mile of river was cleaned on September 17, 2016, resulting in 132 gallons (or 64 pounds) of litter picked up by 9 volunteers. The low volunteer turn-out was due to last minute cancellation by the Ritz Carlton and they did not have enough time to recruit more volunteers. The Tahoe City PUD will replace any signs that may show signs of aging or wear and tear. Lake Tahoe Outreach Committee has met with the Nevada Land Trust and Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful to expand the campaign down the Truckee River, and delivered final files to the One Truckee River Initiative team.

Project #179: Watershed Education Initiative

Organization: Sierra Nevada Journeys

Funding Date: August 2016 Grant Amount: \$28,446

Final Project Update: SNJ delivered watershed-based outdoor science education to 675 K-8th grade students in the Truckee River Watershed; 100% of students who participated gained experience with their local watershed; 85% (goal was 80%) of students were able to define what happens to rain water, and associated non-point source pollutants, after they enter a storm drain; 85% (goal was 80%) of students were able to correctly identify, label and diagram the Truckee River Watershed; 1,690 parents (goal was 550 parents) received follow-up messages from SNJ about watershed-focused information and resources geared towards supporting parental involvement. Beyond the measurable outcomes obtained from our pre and post student assessments, we received the following quotes from teachers that participated with their classes in our watershed experiential program:

 \Box Pre and Post assessments are highly indicative of the high amount of learning that takes place over just a few days. Students feel accomplished when they turn in their post-assessment!

 \Box Students talk about this fieldtrip all the time! They have such a blast finding small living organisms in the river.



STAFF REPORT

TO:Board of DirectorsFROM:Mark Foree, General ManagerDATE:January 10, 2017SUBJECT: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*), the Web Usage and Social Media Report (*Attachment C*), and the Water Resource and the Annexation Activity Report (*Attachment D*).

Included in your agenda packet are press clippings from December 16, 2016 through January 11, 2017. Also, attached is one *Tell the Board* submission from a Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) applicant who expressed concerns that all new SAC members selected were male.

The Board requested a summary of TMWA's stipulated settlement with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) staff to resolve a contested regulatory matter for \$1,000. The settlement was published in the newspaper and must be approved by the PUC at a public meeting to become final. Under Board policy, the General Manager is authorized to settle legal actions of \$25,000 or less, but tries to keep the Board informed of all legal actions. The settlement stems from four instances where an NV Energy natural gas line was damaged while TMWA employees were excavating with machinery to find and repair a broken water line buried in the same trench. Approximately 90% of TMWA's water lines share a common trench with natural gas lines because of the prior common ownership of the water and gas systems by Sierra Pacific Power Company. PUC staff initially asserted that TMWA violated Nevada's One Call Law (i.e. "Call Before You Dig") in all four instances. TMWA disagreed with PUC's stance as to three of the instances because in each case the gas line was either not properly marked on the ground by the gas utility locator (one gas line was simply untraceable) or TMWA's excavation was not within the markings. Also, in each instance TMWA's employees were working to prevent and mitigate the loss of water service to customers (an emergency under PUC's laws and regulations). PUC staff eventually agreed to resolve the matter based on the above facts and because TMWA had no prior violations, TMWA sent all of its field personnel to safety training regarding the One Call Law, and was willing to accept a \$1,000 fine for one of the violations (PUC regulations allow a fine of up to \$2,500/incident). PUC does not require TMWA to attend the meeting at which the settlement will be reviewed and TMWA expects PUC to accept its staff's recommendation and approve the settlement. Even though TMWA has no history of such incidents and strictly follows the procedures required by the One Call Law, it has increased the

distance from which it will excavate near the on-the-ground markings because it takes these matters very seriously and wants to avoid any future incidents.



STAFF REPORT

TO:Board of DirectorsTHRU:Mark Foree, General ManagerFROM:Scott Estes, Director of EngineeringBY:Bill Hauck, Senior HydrologistDATE:January 11, 2017SUBJECT:Operations Report

<u>Summary</u>

- The current water supply outlook is the best we have seen in the last six years (2011)
- Lake Tahoe elevation is 1.64 feet above its natural outlet elevation (at this time)
- Normal river flows are expected through 2017 and beyond
- Credit storage operations continue as hydrological conditions allow
- More upstream reserves than ever are being held in storage (~40,841 AF)
- Customer demand for 2016 was 102.3% of 2015
- Hydro revenue was \$46K in December

(A) Water Supply

- **Snowpack** Snowpack in both the Truckee and Tahoe basins is roughly two times where it should be for this time of the year. Truckee River Basin snowpack is 205% of average and Lake Tahoe Basin snowpack is 196% of average, respectfully. And precipitation for the water year to-date is roughly 250% of average in the Lake Tahoe Basin.
- **River Flows** Truckee River flow at the CA/NV state line was 2,750 cubic feet per second (CFS) as of this morning due to significant rainfall and flooding that the Sierra Nevada region experienced this week.
- **Reservoir Storage** The elevation of Lake Tahoe is currently at 6224.64 feet (1.64' above the natural rim of 6223.00 feet). Current reservoir storage is as follows:

Reservoir	Current Storage (Acre-Feet)	% of Capacity (Percent)
Tahoe	199,200	27%
Donner	8,940	94%
Independence	15,200	87%
Prosser	10,700	36%
Stampede	129,500	57%

In addition to Donner and Independence lakes, TMWA has approximately 21,963 acrefeet of water stored between Boca and Stampede Reservoirs under the terms of TROA. TMWA has been and will continue credit storage operations as hydrological conditions permit. TMWA's total back-up reservoir storage between Donner and Independence lakes and TROA is 40,841 acre-feet as of this morning.

• **Outlook** - The 2017 water year started out strong and has kept on delivering with precipitation to-date now approaching 250% of average in the Lake Tahoe Basin. The last couple of weeks have been especially impressive. Snowpack is now 200% of average in both the Lake Tahoe and Truckee basins. Upstream reservoir storage at Lake Tahoe has seen a significant recovery as well. Lake Tahoe is now 1.64 feet above its natural outlet elevation, gaining 1.32 feet over the last twelve days alone, and just about two feet (1.97') since the start of the water year in October. NOAA is forecasting above average precipitation for our region over the next couple of weeks as well, so the water supply outlook for the region is the best it has been in the last six years (since 2011). By the start of summer Lake Tahoe should be at least ½ full which means the region will experience normal river flows and have ample surface water supplies for the rest of 2017 and beyond.

(B) Water Production

Demand - Customer demand has reached its wintertime low, averaging ~34 million gallons per day right now. This is typical for this time of year. Ninety one (91) percent of that was met with surface water from the Chalk Bluff water treatment plant, and the remaining nine (9) percent from groundwater production wells located throughout TMWA's service area. Customer demand for 2016 was 102.3% of the previous year (2015) throughout TMWA's consolidated system. Recharge is averaging approximately 7 MGD right now.

(C) Hydro Production

Generation - Average Truckee River flow at Farad (CA/NV state line) for the month of December was 777 cubic feet per second (CFS). This flow was above average due to a couple of flooding events the region experienced in December. All three of TMWA's hydro plants are now off-line. The Fleish and Washoe plants were already down for scheduled maintenance, and the Verdi plant was taken off-line later in the month for scheduled repair and maintenance as well.

Hydro Plant	Days On-Line	Generation (Megawatt hours)	Revenue (Dollars)	Revenue (Dollars/Day)
Fleish	0	0	0	0
Verdi	20	657	\$46,260	\$2,313
Washoe	0	0	0	0
Totals		657	\$46,260	\$2,313

The Verdi power plant is expected to be brought back into-service later this month, and both the Fleish and Washoe power plants are scheduled to come back into service sometime in mid-February.



STAFF REPORT

TO:Board of DirectorsTHRU:Mark Foree, General ManagerFROM:Andy Gebhardt, Director Customer RelationsDATE:January 18, 2017SUBJECT:December Customer Service Report

The following is a summary of Customer Service activity for December 2016.

Ombudsman

There weren't any calls to the Ombudsman in December:

Communications

Attached is the website / social media report.

Customer outreach in December included:

• Bill Hauck made a presentation to 100 students at UNR on water supply and TROA.

Conservation (January 1 – December 31)

- 7,850 Water Watcher Contacts
- 2,101 Water Usage Reviews

Customer Calls – December

- 7,571 phone calls handled
- Average handling time 4 minutes, 36 seconds per call
- Average speed of answer 22 seconds per call

Billing – December

- 124,436 bills issued
- 110 (<.1%) corrected bills
- 13,360 customers (11.0%) have signed up for paperless billing to date.

Service Orders – December (% is rounded)

- 7,420 service orders taken
- 3,346 (45%) move-ins / move-outs
- 894 (12%) cut-out-for-non-payment and cut-in after receiving payments, including deposits and checks for tamper
- 831 (11%) zero consumption meter checks
- 588 (8%) re-read meters
- 735 (10%) new meter sets and meter/register/ERT exchanges and equipment checks
- 464 (6%) problems / emergencies, including cut-out for customer repairs, dirty water, no water, leaks, pressure complaints, safety issues, installing water meter blankets, etc.
- 95 (1%) high-bill complaints / audit and water usage review requests
- 467 (6%) various other service orders

<u>Remittance – December</u>

- 31,193 mailed-in payments
- 26,671 electronic payments
- 25,274 payments via RapidPay (EFT)
- 15,674 one-time bank account payments
- 3,336 credit card payments
- 3,648 store payments
- 2,446 payments via drop box or at front desk

<u>Collections – December</u>

- 16,011 accounts received a late charge
- Mailed 7,766 10-day delinquent notices, 6.2% of accounts
- Mailed 1,514 48-hour delinquent notices, 1.2% of accounts
- 310 accounts eligible for disconnect
- 251 accounts actually disconnected (including accounts that had been disconnected-for-non-payment that presented NSF checks for their reconnection)
- 0.23% write-off to revenue

Meter Statistics – Fiscal Year to December 31

- 2 meter retrofits completed
- 600 meter exchanges completed
- 865 new business meter sets completed
- 122,099 meters currently installed



STAFF REPORT

TO:Chairman and Board MembersTHRU:Mark Foree, General ManagerFROM:Robert CharpentierDATE:January 10, 2017SUBJECT:Web & Social Media Overview for 2016

Web & Social Media Overview - 2016

<u>Highlights</u>

- <u>Website Overview 2016</u>: Visitor numbers have decreased 6% from 2015. Pageviews fell 10.4% from 758,446 to 679,718 for the year. An analysis of page traffic shows this was largely due to heightened interest in conservation and drought-related content in the spring and summer of 2015 as well as consolidation-related visits early in that same year.
- <u>Mobile Use Continues to Outpace Desktop</u>: Desktop use has declined from 69% to 65% of all users while mobile users now account for 35% of those visiting the site. With the rollout of our new, responsively-formatted website in November of 2016, it will be interesting to see if the number of mobile visitors increases in 2017.
- <u>Social Media Engagement Growth</u>: TMWA's Facebook and Twitter followers have increased by 25% and 10% respectively over 2015.

tmwa.com — Website Traffic Review - 2016

User traffic to the tmwa.com website in 2016 dropped 6.2%, from 471,014 visitors in 2015 to 441,686 in 2016. Despite the decline, traffic rebounded from April's -31% compared to 2015 to finish at only -3% for the second half of the year. The bulk of the year-over-year traffic decline is attributable to a drop in consolidation-related traffic and a diminished sense of attention on the topics of drought and water supply.

Year	Sessions	New	Returning	Pages/Visit	Avg. Visit Duration	n Bounce Rate
2016	441,686	45.1%	54.9%	1.54	1:12 min	
2015	471,014	48.2%	51.8%	1.61	1:23 min	
2014	377,618	47.4%	52.6%	1.65	1:36 min	

Top Content (2016)

The most visited pages on tmwa.com (listed below) are similar to what we have seen in the past. After the homepage—our most visited page—traffic went mostly to our employment, residential payment, and "contact us" pages.

Rank	Page	Pageviews	Change
1	Homepage	333,983	4%
2	Residential/Payment Options	40,009	11.87%
3	Employment	37,046	26%
4	Contact Us	23,412	2%
5	Assigned-Day Watering	12,149	6.1%

Growth by Platform 2016 vs. 2015:

Desktop Users	-12%
Mobile Phone	+14%
Tablet Use	-13%

Traffic to tmwa.com is coming from the following sources (2016):

		441,686 % of Total: 100.00% (441,686)
1.	(direct) / (none)	194,917 (44.13%)
2.	google / organic	165,188 (37.40%)
3.	bing / organic	22,878 (5.18%)
4.	yahoo / organic	16,457 (3.73%)
5.	tmwa.com / referral	9,399 (2.13%)
6.	reno.gov / referral	8,844 (2.00%)
7.	myaccount.tmwa.com / referral	1,603 (0.36%)
8.	rank-checker.online / referral	1,468 (0.33%)
9.	site-auditor.online / referral	1,463 (0.33%)
10.	tmwastorage.com / referral	1,370 (0.31%)

TMWA Social Media



Currently TMWA has **1,395 Twitter followers** and **1,622 Facebook fans**. There is a current Twitter feed on the *tmwa.com* homepage that is updated daily to reflect current topics.

TMWA's YouTube Channel: http://www.youtube.com/user/truckeemeadowswater



TMWA videos are intended to provide tips for addressing issues customers may face with their water supply, as well as give customers a window into TMWA's everyday operations, showing everything from infrastructure improvements to water-main repairs. It's a great way to

understand both the scope and complexity of the many processes and projects we manage here at TMWA

"About TMWA" Videos:

- A Day in the Life of a Water Conservation Consultant
- <u>TMWA Takes it Personally</u>

"TMWA How-to" videos:

- How to Perform a Home, Self Water Audit (NEW!)
- Household Winterization Get Ready for the Cold
- <u>How to Reduce Your Water Use 10%</u>
- <u>Spring Sprinkler System Start-Up</u>
- How to Shut off Your Home's Water in an Emergency
- How to Use Your Water Meter to Determine if you have a Leak
- How to Test for and Fix a Leaky Toilet Flapper
- How to Make an Online Bill Payment from Your Checking Account

"TMWA at Work" videos:

- <u>Stead Water Tank Rehabilitation</u>
- Partnership For Safe Water Award
- Idlewild Pump Station Improvements
- <u>Steamboat Spillway, Flume Repair</u>
- <u>Fleish 'Railcar Bridge</u>
- Water Main Repair on Haskell St.
- Highland Canal Improvement Project
- Ice Fighting

TMWA also manages the following informational websites:

- <u>www.communityforestry.org:</u>
- <u>www.tmwastorage.com:</u>
- <u>www.tmwalandscapeguide.com:</u>
- <u>www.truckeeriverfund.org:</u>



STAFF REPORT

TO: Chairman and Board Members
THRU: Mark Foree, General Manager
FROM: John Zimmerman, Manager, Water Resources
DATE: January 10, 2017
SUBJECT: Report Water Resources and Annexation Activity

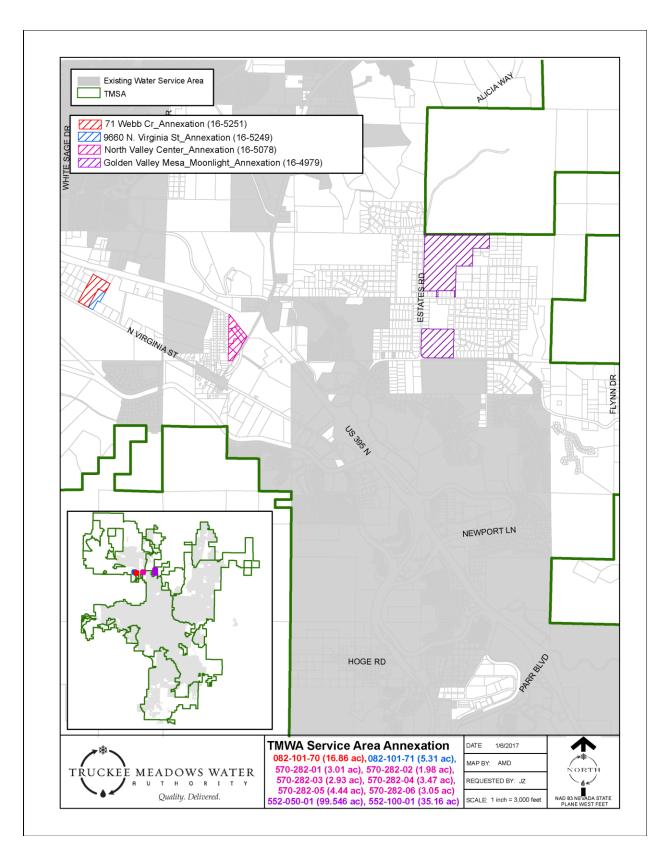
<u>RULE 7</u>

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

Beginning Balance	6,495.68 AF
Purchases of water rights	0.00 AF
Refunds	0.00 AF
Sales	-1.18 AF
Adjustments	0.02 AF
Ending Balance	6,494.52 AF
Price per acre foot at report date:	\$7,500

WATER SERVICE AREA ANNEXATIONS

Three mixed-use developments and a 134-acre single-family residential development. (See attached map).



01-18-17 BOARD Agenda Item 12.E



TMWA Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

Press Clippings

December 16, 2016 – January 11, 2017



Obama signs bill securing \$415 million for Lake Tahoe



Courtesy / Rachid Dahnoun | rachidphoto

With the passage of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, the Tahoe Basin will benefit from \$415 million for projects such as forest restoration efforts, fire mitigation and more.

Funding for Lake Tahoe

\$150 million for fire risk reduction and forest management programs.

\$113 million for storm water management and watershed restoration projects.

\$80 million for environmental restoration projects.

\$45 million for lake-wide aquatic invasive species control and a watercraft inspection program.

\$20 million to recover the Lahontan cutthroat trout, a federally threatened species.

\$5 million for project monitoring and assessment.

\$2 million for the cost of land exchanges and sales on both the California and Nevada sides of the Tahoe Basin.

With the stroke of a pen Friday President Barack Obama solidified \$415 million in federal funding for projects in and around Lake Tahoe, along with providing funding for drought relief in California and other water projects.

In signing the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act Friday, Obama did not mention Lake Tahoe in his statement. Rather, the president mentioned the complexity of the drought provisions, which had threatened to derail the overall bill.

Democratic lawmakers in both the House and Senate — where outgoing members Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., and Se. Harry Reid, D-Nev., voted "no" on the act — voiced reservations about the bill, citing the drought provisions as favoring farmers while assaulting the Endangered Species Act head-on. It gives operational instructions on how to move water in my state away from the salmon fisheries and to big agribusiness, regardless of what the science says," Boxer said on the Senate floor prior to passage of the bill Dec. 9.

In his statement, Obama said his administration has worked closely with stakeholders to address California's complex drought problem, and in doing so striking a balance regarding the "concerns of California water users and the important species that depend on that same water."

Under his interpretation of the bill, Obama said the Endangered Species Act would continue to be implemented.

"This reading of the short-term operational provisions carries out the letter and spirit of the law and is essential for continuing the cooperation and commitment to accommodating the full range of complex and important interests in matters related to California water," Obama said.

Environmental advocates in the Tahoe region had cheered the passage of the bill in the House and Senate and eagerly awaited the president's signature.

"Once signed by President Obama, this legislation will allow essential actions to protect Lake Tahoe to move ahead, increasing the likelihood that we'll be able to Keep Tahoe Blue now and for future generations," Darcie Goodman Collins, executive director of The League to Save Lake Tahoe, said in a statement after the Senate approved the bill and sent it to the president.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Corpus Christi names chemical that may have contaminated water supply

By Mark LeBien, CNN

Updated 1:14 AM ET, Fri December 16, 2016



JUST WATCHED

Corpus Christi water testing delayed

Corpus Christi water testing delayed 00:51 Story highlights

- Texas Attorney General: "We're monitoring the situation closely"
- Residents advised to avoid tap water until further notice
- Incident in city's industrial district may have contaminated water supply

(CNN)Officials in Corpus Christi, Texas, on Thursday said a chemical used in asphalt may have contaminated the city's water supply, prompting an advisory against using tap water for everything from drinking to bathing.

A news release from the city stated the chemical is Indulin AA-86, an asphalt emulsifier. Three to 24 gallons of the chemical possibly entered the city's water after an incident in the Corpus Christi industrial district.

The release said city officials had met with the industrial district property owner and property user to gather more information.

The city of more than 300,000 on the Gulf of Mexico sent residents an advisory late Wednesday urging them to avoid tap water in "an abundance of caution and until results can confirm water safety."

The release said a "recent back-flow incident" in the industrial district possibly caused the contamination, but it did not name the industry. The city stated it is working with local industry, state regulators and consultants to deal with the problem.

The city is still gathering information and had encountered delays because the chemical in the water is proprietary and has a patent, said city of Corpus Christi spokeswoman Kim Womack. The city had to sign a confidentiality agreement with the patent holder in order to get the specific makeup of the chemical.

"So far, city testing has been clear," she said. "We're still awaiting additional results. When those results come back, we'll notify you as soon as possible."

Womack said the response from private and public donors had been amazing, with about 100,000 cases of water on its way.

"With that being said, none of it is in the city yet," she said. Once the water arrives, the city will release a time for distribution to residents.

Corpus Christi advised residents to use only bottled water for normal activities including drinking, cooking, bathing and brushing teeth. The city warned that boiling, freezing, filtering or taking other actions would not make the water safe.

People reacted to the advisory on social media, with one person urging the city to provide bottled water to citizens, and another posting a photo of a bottle of water and dubbing it a "Corpus Christi shower."

Here we go again #CorpusChristi! #ErinBrockovich please come and tell us the #truth. No more water at HEBPLUS. #cctxwater 🗇 🏫 pic.twitter.com/b5spuHZc1Z

- Liza Mucheru Wisner (@lizawisner) December 15, 2016

"They're hoping to get it resolved within 24 hours," said Zach Kastelic, who moved from Kansas City, Missouri, to Corpus Christi in September and is the partnership activation coordinator for the Corpus Christi Hooks baseball team, the Double-A affiliate of the Houston Astros. "A lot of schools and businesses are closed today," Kastelic told CNN Thursday morning.

"Many grocery stores sold out of water last night and early this morning but emergency shipments of water just arrived at some local H-E-B locations," he added, referring to a Texas chain of grocery stores. "People (are) waiting in aisles with their grocery carts ready for them to put out the new water shipments."

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton said in a statement released Thursday that his office was on the lookout for anyone trying to benefit financially from the situation.

"Every resource of my office will be made available to help regarding the water supply incident in Corpus Christi. We're monitoring the situation closely. Price gouging on bottled water will not be tolerated," the statement said.

Madison Park contributed to this report.

UC Davis' Lake Tahoe research boat gets facelift



Courtesy Brant Allen / UC Davis TERC |

After receiving some needed improvement, the R/V John Le Conte is ready to hit the waters of Lake Tahoe.

Visit http://terc.ucdavis.edu to learn more about the Tahoe Environmental Research Center, the main branch of which is on the campus of Sierra Nevada College, 291 Country Club Drive, Incline Village.

INCLINE VILLAGE, Nev. — In 1976, Dr. Charles Goldman received a grant from the National Science Foundation to build a scientific laboratory for the limnological research at Lake Tahoe.

Appropriate land for the building site had been donated, plans had been prepared, but approval for the construction could not be obtained.

With a limited time remaining to spend the grant money, Dr. Goldman received approval to redirect the funds to Freeman Marine in Gold Beach, Oregon, for the construction of a "floating laboratory." The result of this quick thinking became the Research Vessel John Le Conte.

Fittingly, the new vessel was named after the first president of the University of California who made some of the earliest clarity measurements at the lake.

Since its arrival, the R/V John Le Conte has plied the waters of the lake carrying scientific sampling equipment and the researchers who deploy them. The iconic profile of the Le Conte has become synonymous with understanding how the lake functions and the measures needed to preserve its famed clarity.

The large back deck has served as a classroom for thousands of school children, resource agency staff and politicians at the highest level of government.

Inevitably with this much activity, the vessel began to show its age.

The R/V John Le Conte is now running on its third engine, a clean emission Cummins diesel, purchased with a supporting grant from the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District and support from community donors. With the mechanical aspects of the vessel taken care of, it time to improve the vessel's overall aesthetic.

This past summer TERC staff stripped and painted the old deck, polished the aluminum, and applied new decals.

California ups water allocations as drought eases

Posted: Dec 21, 2016 3:24 PM PSTUpdated: Dec 21, 2016 3:24 PM PST

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) - Water agencies that serve nearly two-thirds of Californians will get more water, thanks to rain that's helping ease a six-year drought.

California's Department of Water Resources said Wednesday it expected to give 29 water agencies 45 percent of their requested water allotments in 2017.

That compares to just 5 percent of their allocations in 2014, one of the driest years of the drought.

This year has brought twice the normal rainfall to parts of Northern California, leading the state to ease many water restrictions.

The 29 water agencies are served by California's State Water Project. Those water districts also help supply water to 750,000 acres of farmland.

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Four More OfficialsCharged Over Flint, Michigan, Water Crisis

BY ELIZABETH CHUCK

Four more officials were charged Tuesday in connection with the Flint, Michigan, water crisis that resulted in a surge of lead poisoning among children.

Two former Michigan state emergency managers, Darnell Earley and Gerald Ambrose, face multiple 20-year felonies for failing to protect Flint citizens from health hazards caused by the contaminated drinking water, Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette announced. Former city of Flint executives Howard Croft and Daugherty Johnson also face felony charges.

Prior Coverage: Six More Officials Charged in Flint Water Crisis for Alleged Cover-Up

"The people of Flint are not expendable," Schuette said in a press conference Tuesday. "People who broke the law must be held accountable."



Volunteers distribute bottled water to help combat the effects of the crisis when the city's drinking water became contaminated with dangerously high levels of lead in Flint, Michigan, March 5, 2016. JIM YOUNG / Reuters file

The allegations stem from a stunning spike in lead among Flint's children after the bankrupt city switched its water supply from the Detroit Water Authority to the Flint Water System, which pulls water from the corrosive Flint River.

Related: CDC Confirms Lead Levels Shot Up in Flint Kids After Water Switch

Tuesday's charges bring to 13 the number of former state and local officials who face criminal counts in the investigation. This is the third round of charges; Schuette has also filed civil lawsuits against water supply engineering firms.

Flint Mayor Karen Weaver said she was glad more people were being held accountable for this "man-made water disaster."

"The leaders in charge at the time could have prevented this disaster, but they didn't. They did not protect the health and well-being of the citizens of this city and that's wrong," she said in a statement. "They didn't even listen when residents spoke up saying there was a problem. That is how we got here and everyone who had a role in allowing this tragedy to happen must face the consequences of their actions."

Water Rate Increases Scheduled For May

DECEMBER 21, 2016 BY CARLA O'DAY LEAVE A COMMENT

By Carla O'Day



to take effect in May to close a funding gap between recurring revenue and cost of services, which is expected to reach \$13 million in the next five years.

Truckee Meadows Water Authority rate increases approved Wednesday by the board will be three percent each for the first and second years and up to 2.5 percent in each of the third through fifth years. After implementation of year one and two rate adjustments, increases in years three through five should be subject to an annual review of the utility's financial performance to determine if rate increases can be lowered or deferred.

(Clarification: The board approved the rate-adjustment structure, recommended by both TMWA staff and its Standing Advisory Committee. It will be moved forward into the public process for review and discussion by customers before votes on rate changes occur.) note: added 12/23

There was prior discussion about adjusting rates based on the Consumer Price Index, and TMWA indicated it would consider using that for standardized rate increases in the future to maintain more level rate adjustments. However, TMWA isn't doing that now to try and close a funding gap.

Plans account for water revenue increases of three percent over last year's drought levels from residential customers, along with estimated benefits from the refunding of 2007 bonds in 2017. The last rate increase was in early 2014.

All commodity tier charges will be increased by the same amount, as will residential and commercial customers.

Hookup fees will not change.

"Hookup fees fall under a different rule and what we're talking about is customer charges and not commercial development charges," said Michele Sullivan, TMWA chief financial officer. "Customer charges are recurring revenue."

Open houses for the public are planned in February and TMWA is planning to send out notices in bills prior to then.

New California report backs Gov. Jerry Brown's tunnels

Posted: Dec 22, 2016 11:50 AM PSTUpdated: Dec 22, 2016 11:50 AM PST

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - California has released a key environmental report supporting Gov. Jerry Brown's plans for two giant north-south water tunnels.

Brown's administration environmental-impact report Thursday for the project clears another regulatory hurdle for the proposed tunnels.

Brown wants the \$15.7 billion water tunnels to more reliably deliver water from Northern California's Sacramento River to rural and urban water districts in Central and Southern California.

Thursday's assessment contends the project would have little or no impact on dwindling fish species and overall is the best option to modernize the state's current half-century-old network of pumps, pipes and conduits.

Brown in a statement calls the tunnels essential. Opponents say the project would worsen conditions for farmers and native species that depend on the Sacramento River.

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Crews respond to water main break in Lemmon Valley

by News 4-Fox 11 Digital Staff

Sunday, December 25th 2016



Water floods in Lemmon Valley after a water main broke on Oregon Boulevard on Sunday, Dec. 25, 2016 (Photo courtesy Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District)

AA

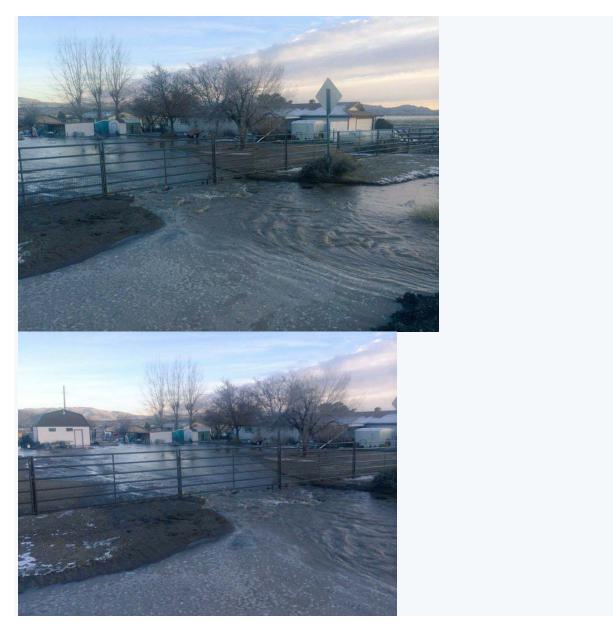
RENO, Nev. (News 4 & Fox 11) — A water main break has flooded a road in Reno's North Valley's late Christmas afternoon.

The break is on Oregon Boulevard, according to the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District.

The initial response was for a leak at Bennett Elementary School in Sun Valley, the agency reported.

It's not immediately clear if the two issues are directly related.

ON FACEBOOK: TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE



Follow

Truckee Meadows Fire @TMFPD

Crews on scene of a broken water main on Oregon Blvd in Lemmon Valley, after responding to a leak at Bennett Elementary in Sun Valley.

01-18-17 BOARD Agenda Item 12.E

US Water Projects Aimed at Easing Drought to Get \$225M

• BY SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN, ASSOCIATED PRESS ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. - Dec 21, 2016, 2:39 PM ET

The federal government will spend nearly a quarter-billion dollars to finance several dozen projects aimed at easing the effects of drought

provide drinking water to communities around the nation, officials announced Wednesday. The \$225 million in funding will be shared among 88 projects, from California's Central Valley to centuries-old irrigation systems in northern New Mexico and thousands of square miles of fragmented streams in Maine. More than half of the projects specifically address drought and water quality.

Jason Weller, head of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, said the federal funding will also generate \$500 million more in spending for the projects that will be provided by state, local and private partners.

"That's important for us because no one organization has the boots on the ground, the financial resources, the technical expertise needed to deal with drought, invasive species, invasive weeds, be more energy efficient and improve the health of their forests," he said. "It's really incumbent upon us all to work smarter and more effectively together."

Weller pointed to the tens of millions of trees that have died in California due to the epic drought there and other challenges faced by communities bordering public and private forests that are overgrown and unhealthy. He said the dry conditions are putting pressure on watersheds and their ability to provide abundant and clean water.

The funding also is aimed at tackling flooding problems in places such as Merced County, California, where storm runoff in recent years has forced road closures and damaged prime agricultural land.

Officials say \$10 million will go toward the design and construction of a system that will better capture and use snowmelt and precipitation from foothills while protecting infrastructure in the county.

Local partners are expected to triple the federal investment in the project.

Nearly \$18 million is dedicated to projects in New Mexico, where Hispanic families have been using acequias, or earthen canals, for centuries to water their crops.

Acequias are located in 12 of the most impoverished counties in New Mexico and many need repairs. Supporters say revitalization of the historic irrigation systems are a matter of social and environmental justice because of their cultural and spiritual importance for the region.

In Maine, \$6 million is being invested in a restoration project that spans 25,000 square miles. The goal is to reconnect some of the state's high-value aquatic networks that have been damaged by roads and vehicles. The Nature Conservancy group and 18 other partners will be working on that project.

In all, the regional conservation program has invested \$825 million in nearly 300 projects around the country over the last three years. The program was created by the 2014 Farm Bill.

ThisisReno: UPDATED: City Manager Investigations Show City Hall Rife With Dysfunction

DECEMBER 28, 2016 BY BOB CONRAD LEAVE A COMMENT



City Manager Andrew Clinger and Reno Mayor Hillary Schieve.

The City of Reno's investigations into alleged sexual harassment and misconduct by former City Manager Andrew Clinger show — despite being heavily redacted — a culture of dysfunction that involved city staff, leadership, council members and Reno Mayor Hillary Schieve.

While two investigations, totaling \$225,000, showed no strong evidence of sexual harassment by Clinger, the environment at City Hall was cited as being plagued with petty agendas, backstabbing, political jockeying and in-fighting among multiple people.

Independent Findings

Findings by former judge David Wall include:

- Clinger having staff download messaging apps that deleted messages after being received so that texts would be hidden from public discovery
- Three women likely acting in concert to attempt to oust Clinger after he received a
 positive evaluation by the City Council
- Three councilmembers (McKenzie, Duerr and Brekhus) lining up to give Clinger a negative performance evaluation, but ultimately approving a contract extension and raise because they knew they didn't have the votes to oust him
- City Councilwoman Naomi Duerr supporting complaints of sexual harassment against Clinger
- Duerr claiming that Councilman Oscar Delgado would not believe complaints against Clinger "based on cultural reasons" (**UPDATE**: Delgado and Duerr have issued statements about this comment, below)
- One staff member allegedly sending to Clinger a "provocative, 'semi-clothed" photo in an attempt to get his attention
- Clinger engaging in "flirtatious" and "suggestive" banter via text that was allegedly initiated by a staff member
- Conflicting opinions of Clinger's performance as manager
- Clinger allegedly seeking to get "revenge" on those who made complaints against him
- City Attorney Karl Hall giving Clinger the name of one complainant, the nature of her complaint — against the wishes of the Human Resources Director Kelly Leerman — and allegedly saying that the investigation against Clinger "was 'likely a witch hunt by disgruntled employees."

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AC: I'll be your coach	
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I am imagining it now. I could learn from u.

(Appendix, Exhibit 3)

Text exchange allegedly initiated by a staff member to City Manager Andrew Clinger.

Coordinated Complaints

The investigations also show that staff who complained against Clinger attempted to work with the news media, including possibly leaking documents to the *Reno Gazette-Journal* in an attempt to drum up public support against Clinger.

"It is impossible not to conclude that the complaints were coordinated in time and similar enough in substance to reflect that the complainants communicated with one another (and/or others) before they filed with Human Resources," wrote Wall. "However ... some of the primary complaints were not false claims."

On June 20, 2016, the night before the performance review, Mayor Schieve sent the following text to Councilwoman Duerr:

"As for Andrew's contract I am not going with a temporary contract. Jenny again trying to make this council completely unsettled and you mark my words this will backfire on her. Again Jenny is out of line. Andrew doesn't deserve this treatment and I am not going down any witch hunt path with her."

Mayor Hillary Schieve's text to Councilwoman Naomi Duerr, complaining about Councilwoman Jenny Brekhus, prior to City Manager Andrew Clinger's public evaluation. Wall said that one of the women was made uncomfortable with the work environment and that (REDACTED) feared retaliation.

Further, in an interview with Duerr, Wall wrote:

"Duerr said Clinger could be 'caustic.' Duerr told Clinger (at a meeting in July) that she was aware of the claims and hoped the investigation would go well so that everyone could move forward. Duerr said at that point Clinger 'goes ballistic,' proclaiming his innocence in an angry outburst that lasted nearly an hour. Duerr described him as 'furious.' No complainants' names were mentioned, but Clinger threatened vengeance against them, saying things like, 'they're evil,' and 'they'll pay.'"

"Whether either of these complainants was justified in their feelings is open to some interpretation, but the existence of their concerns is not," Wall continued. "The primary claims of (REDACTED) and (REDACTED) are ... legitimate claims to make. However, the complaints add less reliable and sometimes more sensational secondary accusations (not supported by available evidence)."

The three women were not interviewed as part of the investigation. Wall said his final report contained their comments from the initial investigation completed by another attorney, an investigation in which the complainants were interviewed.

Clinger Alleges Conspiracy

Clinger has repeatedly denied allegations against him, and according to Wall, "he has alleged a conspiracy to remove him as City Manager. Clinger believes that the three complainants (REDACTED) conspired to make complaints against him. Further, he alleges that (REDACTED) and Councilwoman Naomi Duerr were also part of concerted effort to remove him.

"It appears that (REDACTED) was canvassing the Council with negative information about Clinger, although she didn't tell Council members (other than Duerr) about any acts of potential harassment," Wall added. "Clinger's claim that the complaints are evidence of a conspiracy to file entirely false claims is not consistent with the totality of the evidence, although some secondary claims have little or no basis in fact."

"This email documents what I have been experiencing in the wake of notifying your office of my workplace environment conditions:

1. The office atmosphere has become unbearably hostile and tense. I am being ostracized and avoided. The isolation is so unpleasant that I am developing headaches, have difficulty sleeping, and am having a hard time doing my work. I no longer feel comfortable coming in on weekends or staying late at night – which I formerly did regularly and is necessary because of my heavy workload.



Staff email describing the climate at City Hall.

At one point in the investigation, a staff member alleged documents related to the case were stolen from an office. The case was referred to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO).

WCSO spokesperson Bob Harmon said today that there was no evidence of a crime.

"We just turned the case over to the City Attorney yesterday," he said. "Basically the investigation concluded that there was not enough evidence to support that a crime had occurred."

No Comment as City Moves Forward

The city is bracing for litigation by the three women, and Mayor Hillary Schieve said she would not comment.

"We are relieved that the investigations are complete," Schieve said in a statement to the news media. "In addition, we believe the reports will provide all parties and the general public with a better understanding of the events surrounding Mr. Clinger's departure from the City.

"This concludes my statement. Given the fact that this matter has been turned over to the City Attorney's Office in anticipation of future litigation, please understand and respect the fact that I cannot offer further comment or answer any questions about the reports."

UPDATE: Statement Submitted by Councilman Oscar Delgado

"As many of you are now aware, Judge Wall's investigative report was released yesterday afternoon. Since the release of Judge Wall's report, I have been contacted by several constituents regarding comments Councilwoman Naomi Duerr purportedly made about me during the course of Judge Wall's investigation. I feel it is appropriate for me to address Councilwoman Duerr's remarks.

Per the report, Councilwoman Duerr told Judge Wall that I did not believe the veracity of certain claims for "cultural reasons."

First, I am deeply disappointed that Councilwoman Duerr chose to reference my ethnicity in her discussions with Judge Wall. I have served with Councilwoman Duerr for more than two years now, and I had hoped that she saw me as a valued colleague and not just the "Latino Councilman." While I am certainly proud of my heritage, I have gone out of my way to demonstrate that I represent all people, regardless of race, creed, or national origin.

Second, I am highly offended that Councilwoman Duerr suggested that I am unable to make an informed decision based on available facts. Instead, it appears that she chose to lump me into outdated stereotypes regarding Latino men. Such stereotypes are hurtful, demeaning and completely inaccurate. Councilwoman Duerr has spoken at great lengths about equality, and, frankly, I expected much more from her.

Third, it is unfortunate that Councilwoman Duerr apparently believes that Latino men are reflexively dismissive of sexual harassment complaints for cultural reasons. Once again, such a view is demeaning and hurtful, especially coming from one of our City's elected officials.

Councilwoman Duerr is a leader of our diverse and growing City. I encourage Councilwoman Duerr to reassess her views about my culture and others like me. As her colleague, I hope to help her learn how degrading her comments were, not just to me, but also to the nearly 55,000 Latinos who call Reno home."

UPDATE: Councilwoman Naomi Duerr posted the following statement on her Facebook account

We (Oscar and I) need to use this incident to develop a better understand of how miscommunication happens easily an offense can be taken where none is intended and how easy it is to get off track.

#AnApology to Councilman Oscar Delgado, Family and Friends

I recently learned that a statement I made in the recent City Investigation report may have been taken out of context by Mr. Oscar Delgado and others. I do not blame them and accept responsibility for my comments.

I mentioned the word "cultural" in connection with commenting on why Councilman Delgado may not have believed the allegations of the complainants. I myself saw the comment yesterday when reading the report and understood that it could be taken out of context. To that end, I called Mr. Delgado several times yesterday and today. When I was unable to get through, I texted him.

My intent, which was very poorly worded in hindsight, was in fact made in reference to the culture of the city which up to now how has been very informal and casual, based on friend relationships. Several others commented on this same culture at the city in the investigative report.

I had been impressed with the relationship that Mr. Delgado had been able to develop with our City Manager, as it was something I had not been able to achieve and wished to.

I truly understand how the comment came across in the report and am sincerely sorry for the pain it may have caused Mr. Delgado or others that read it.

I, too, have been the recipient of comments about my national origin and background and know how hurtful they can be.

I have always been a big supporter of human rights and the rights for all people and have been one of Mr. Delgado's biggest supporters in championing minority hiring and advancement.

I hope that Mr. Delgado considers my past two years of support for all people of all cultures and takes that into consideration going forward.

Finally, I do not believe I should have speculated at all in connection with Mr. Delgado's thoughts about the complainants and regret it. I hope he and others will recognize the totality of who I am when interpreting the comment. I hope he will accept my sincere apology."

LINK HERE TO RGJ STORY ABOUT ALL OF THE PLAYERS:

http://www.rgj.com/story/news/2016/12/28/anatomy-city-hall-scandal-look-cast-characters-clinger-saga/95937198/

Water main break in Sparks could lead to icy roads, authorities warn

by News 4-Fox 11 Digital Staff Wednesday, December 28th 2016

Water floods a Sparks street on Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2016 (Sinclair Broadcast Group)

Authorities are warning drivers to avoid an area of Sparks following a water main break Wednesday night.

The break has been reported at Probasco Way and O Street. Crews on scene have said they found the source.

Probasco is closed at Greenbrae Drive, and dispatchers say drivers should

avoid roads around that area as cold weather could freeze the water.

The Truckee Meadows Water Authority is working to shut off the water.

Letter: Headline on national story may have misled locals

Reno Gazette-Journal



Letter to the Editor(Photo: RGJ)Buy Photo

As a former citizen member of the TMWA Advisory Committee I am familiar with TMWA's water quality program and its performance. So I was disappointed that the top of the RGJ front page of the Dec. 14 edition featured the alarming line "Lead in your water," followed by the tagline "Regulators often give small utilities a pass when it comes to lead in water." The implication drawn by many readers was undoubtedly that TMWA might be one of those utilities given a "pass" and that lead might be a problem in the Truckee Meadows. The <u>USA Today</u> article on page B1 was about a national problem, with no reference to our local situation. Nonetheless, I'm sure the front page caused many readers unnecessary alarm. This is not quality journalism and is a disservice to the public.

I think, at a minimum, the RGJ should have prepared a sidebar highlighting the fact that water quality in our area continues to be excellent and that lead levels, in particular, are well below the established standards. A simple check on the TMWA website would have given you all the information needed.

Michael Heffner, Reno

Our 10 most important outdoors stories of 2016

Benjamin Spillman, bspillman@rgj.com 11:04 a.m. PST December 28, 2016

A man and his dog walk on the shore of the lake at South Lake Tahoe.(Photo: Jason Bean/RGJ, Jason Bean/RGJ,)Buy Photo

It's time for a quick trip down memory lane during which we look at the most important outdoors stories of the past year.

Admittedly, "important" is a subjective measure.

In this case it means the story generally has implications for Reno, Lake Tahoe, the Sierra Nevada, the Great Basin and beyond. And others are just here because they were fun. The stories are presented in no particular order. In other words, this is a list not a ranking. Without further ado:

Lake Tahoe got warmer

The biggest alpine lake in North America is warming faster than ever thanks in large part to a changing global climate.

That's according to scientists who study Lake Tahoe to produce reports on everything from water temperature to clarity to invasive species.

The latest data in the State of the Lake report shows average water temperature in the lake increased nearly half a degree in one year, that's 15 times the long term rate of warming. The average surface temperature reached 53.3 degrees. The overall average water temperature is a little over 43 degrees.

Geoffrey Schladow of the University of California-Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center said the changes at Lake Tahoe highlight the magnitude of human-caused global climate change. "That is a huge amount of water," Schladlow said of Lake Tahoe, which reaches more than 1,600 feet in depth. If the water were spread out over an area the size of California it would still be 15 inches deep, he said.

"It takes a lot of energy to raise that a half degree," Schladow said.

Lake Tahoe will get \$415 million

Congress approved and President Barack Obama signed the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act. It was part of the broader Water Resources Development Act and it directs \$415 million in spending toward Lake Tahoe in myriad categories such as: \$150 million for fire risk reduction and forest management, \$113 million for stormwater runoff pollution reduction, \$80 million for environmental improvement projects that can range from bike trails to creek restoration, \$45 million for invasive species management, \$20 million for Lahontan cutthroat trout recovery, \$5 million for accountability and oversight of programs, \$2 million for costs associated with land exchanges on the California and Nevada side that will improve management efficiency.

Mt. Rose Ski Tahoe went up for sale

The longtime owners of Reno's nearest local ski area put the property up for sale. Fritz Buser, 95 at the time of the announcement, has been majority owner since 1971 and is looking to retire. Mt. Rose includes about 1,200 "skiable acres," with a mix of private property and land leased from the U.S. Forest Service. Also, some of the private property along Highway 431 is zoned for commercial use which could make it more valuable on the market.

A guy on a mountain bike crashed into a bear

Neither rider nor bear was injured so we can look back without regret on this clash between man and beast. Basically what happened was a guy was hauling down the Mills Peak Trail near Graeagle when a bear wandered out of the woods and directly into his path. Collision ensued. "I'm pretty freaked out to go fast right now," rider Davis Souza said. "Everyone tells me I can't do it twice, I hope that is the case."

Tiny Nevada town barely survives wildfire

With fire racing toward the edge of Midas in early July firefighters used everything from bulldozers to 20 aircraft, including 15 air tankers, to stop the flames.

"I've watched wildfires my whole life in Nevada and the speed this thing was moving it was astonishing," said Shannon Jackson, a part time Midas resident.

Jackson said he caught his first glimpse of the fire on Saturday during a UTV ride in the Snowstorm Mountains, more than 20 miles from the fire's starting point near Battle Mountain, the result of a lightning strike.

Within 24 hours Jackson and other Midas homeowners were being told to evacuate.

"It is like a fire starting in Carson City and all of a sudden it is on your doorstep the next morning and you are in Reno," Jackson said. "If it would have gotten to the bottom of the canyon it could have taken Midas out."

It turns out illegal drug production is devastating to wildlife

A drug bust in the Lassen National Forest highlighted the overlooked danger of illegal marijuana cultivation on public land.

Rat poison is often spread around the sites in copious amounts to kill everything from rodents to deer that might damage the plants.

The poison is particularly destructive because it often has a pleasant taste to attract animals, which encourages them to eat it.

When other animals, such as owls, mountain lions or bears, scavenge the contaminated carcasses, they can become sick as well.

"A deer is not going to eat a mouse, but if you have 90 pounds of peanut-butter-flavored rodenticide out there, (the deer) just walks in and starts eating the pellets," said Mourad Gabriel, executive director and senior ecologist at Integral Ecology Research Center and one of the few researchers dedicated to studying ecological impact of illicit grow sites. "It is mimicking the potential legacy effects that other chemicals like DDT have done with wildlife."

Backers of plan to unload federal land in Nevada are regrouping for 2017

Backers of a plan to force the federal government to cede control of millions of acres of land in Nevada are refreshing their proposal.

And they're starting with an effort to convince a skeptical public it's possible to take nearly 7.3 million acres from the Bureau of Land Management without disrupting hunting, off-highway riding or sticking Nevada taxpayers with bigger bills for fighting massive rangeland wildfires. The plan has a better shot at survival if it manages to make it to the desk of incoming Republican President Donald Trump than it would have under a Democratic president.

But first it has to make it through Congress where members, including many Republicans, are aware of polling that shows most western voters oppose shifting control of federal land to state governments.

If they put this on the ballot today it would fail," Nevada state Sen. Pete Goicoechea, R-Eureka, said during a recent discussion of the proposal.

We suggested trying the objectively bad idea of backpacking

We offered a beginners' guide to a sport for masochists.

Yet you still want advice about backpacking even though I just told you it's dirty, exhausting, can cost a fortune and even be dangerous.

In fact, the very essence of backpacking is getting into an unsustainable living situation on the hope you will eventually extricate yourself.

Does that sound fun to you?

Sure, you're probably seduced by the romance. Some of America's most stunning landscapes are only accessible by hiking for days.

And by putting in the effort to get there you can join the tiny slice of the population who has actually laid eyes on some of these sights.

Don't say we didn't warn you.

Non-white hikers sought a more welcoming trail community

This was one of our most hotly debated stories of the year. In short, some non-white hikers said the trail community isn't always as welcoming as it could be for them.

Some members of the trail community reacted by (virtually) shouting at them in comments sections.

"When I read those comments they were hurtful," hiker Jenna Yokoyama said. "They were also not surprising."

The reaction reminded Yokoyama, and anyone following the posts, of uncomfortable moments non-white people sometimes endure on and off the trail. Although demographic data shows nonwhite people are a growing segment of the population, particularly within the Millennial generation, they're still greatly outnumbered by white people in the outdoors community. And while it's easy to find friendly people of all races on the trail, the hiking and outdoors community as a whole still struggles to integrate non-white people into the lifestyle and culture. "The hiking community is not just about the idealized Thoreau idea of what it is to be in the wilderness," Yokoyama said. "The negative things of real life still happen and I think we need to acknowledge that. And the negative thing for people of color is that racism still follows them."

El Nino roared, but not as loud as climate change

The Sierra Nevada saw it's snowiest winter in several years thanks to a strong El Nino. Alexander Gershunov, a climate and meteorology researcher at Scripps Institute of Oceanography, presented two models that showed the 2015-16 version of El Niño shaping up to be similar to conditions in 1982-83 and 1997-98, and maybe a little stronger.

"According to this, this particular El Niño is unprecedented on that record," he said of the stronger of the two models. "These three are in the same ballpark."

The snow helped replenish reservoirs and delivered a much-needed surge to the Truckee River. But the long-term problem of climate change diminishing Sierra snowpacks remains.

Is there lead in your school's drinking water?

Trevon Milliard , tmilliard@rgj.com1:44 p.m. PST December 30, 2016



(Photo: Photo courtesy of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection)

Washoe County's public schools could soon be tested for lead in the drinking water.

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection is offering lead testing at no charge to all 408 public schools in the state with kindergarten or pre-school programs.

Officials for the Washoe County School District said on Friday they'll likely participate in the lead tests, but the state hasn't yet contacted them about the program. The district has 71 elementary schools in Washoe.

The state will contact all school districts in the coming months seeking participation in the lead tests, according to a statement released by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection on Friday.

Lead is harmful to everyone, but even more so for children. Low levels of lead exposure in children has been linked to damaged nervous systems, learning disabilities, shorter stature, impaired hearing and impaired formation and function of blood cells, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The EPA is funding Nevada's drinking water tests through a \$90,000 grant. About \$30,000 is available for the tests with \$60,000 set aside to replace old drinking fountains and fixtures found to be contaminating water with lead, according to state officials.

Nevada's naturally hard water helps prevent a lead problem in many areas, but old plumbing and fixtures can potentially add lead and copper to drinking water, according to Jennifer Carr, deputy administrator of the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection.

Californians' water use up despite drought

Posted: Jan 04, 2017 10:28 AM PST <em class="wnDate">Wednesday, January 4, 2017 1:28 PM ESTUpdated: Jan 04, 2017 10:28 AM PST <em class="wnDate">Wednesday, January 4, 2017 1:28 PM EST

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) - The latest figures show Californians' water use is still on the rise since the state lifted mandatory conservation for the drought.

California's Water Resources Control Board released figures Wednesday showing urban Californians used an average of 77 gallons a day in November. That's one gallon a day more than in November of last year, when urban Californians were under a mandatory conservation order because of the drought.

Southern and central California remain in a six-year drought despite heavy rains this winter. State water officials say they will discuss Jan. 18 whether the state needs to return to mandatory conservation measures as Californians' water use edges back up.

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California snowpack surveyed as indicator of drought

Posted: Jan 02, 2017 10:59 PM PST <em class="wnDate">Tuesday, January 3, 2017 1:59 AM ESTUpdated: Jan 02, 2017 10:59 PM PST <em class="wnDate">Tuesday, January 3, 2017 1:59 AM EST

By SCOTT SMITH Associated Press

FRESNO, Calif. (AP) - California surveyors are plunging poles into the Sierra Nevada snowpack, taking the season's first measurement by hand as the state flirts with a sixth year of drought.

They will do the survey Tuesday near Lake Tahoe.

Electronic monitors in late December showed the snow's water content at just 72 percent of normal. That dipped even lower during the holiday weekend.

Since October, ample rain has fallen swelling reservoirs, but the snowpack has lagged. The mountain snowpack is vital because it provides roughly a third of California's water.

Doug Carlson of the state's Department of Water Resources cautions that the drought clearly hasn't ended.

He says groundwater supplies are depleted, and some residents with dry wells in Tulare County still live on bottled drinking water.

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California snowpack measures low, but big storms coming

Posted: Jan 03, 2017 1:58 PM PST <em class="wnDate">Tuesday, January 3, 2017 4:58 PM ESTUpdated: Jan 03, 2017 4:08 PM PST <em class="wnDate">Tuesday, January 3, 2017 7:08 PM EST



(AP Photo/Rich Pedroncelli). Frank Gehrke, chief of the California Cooperative Snow Surveys Program for the Department of Water Resources, plunges the survey tube into the snowpack as he conducts the first snow survey of the season at Phillips Station ...

By RICH PEDRONCELLI and SCOTT SMITH Associated Press

PHILLIPS STATION, Calif. (AP) - The first manual survey this year of California's snowpack revealed Tuesday that it holds about half as much water as normal, casting a shadow on the state that's hoping to dodge a sixth straight year of drought, officials said.

Surveyors, however, took the reading at 6,000 feet near Lake Tahoe in the Sierra Nevada as major cold and windy storms were expected to dump four to five feet of snow through Thursday in areas above 4,500 feet in Northern and Central California, while mountain areas below that could get two to three feet, forecasters said.

The storms should boost the snowpack that provides roughly a third of California's water in normal years for drinking, farming and wildlife when it melts in warm, dry months.

What surveyors find between now and April 1 will guide state water officials in managing the water supply of the nation's most populous, agriculture-rich state.

Electronic monitors at elevations throughout the Sierra in late December showed the overall snowpack had a water content of 72 percent.

At Tuesday's reading at Phillips Station, the water content measured at 53 percent of normal, said Frank Gehrke, chief snow surveyor at the state Department of Water Resources.

Gehrke said the level "seems a little gloomy" as the state tries to avoid another year of drought. But he also called it a good start because higher elevations were showing a deeper snowpack.

Gehrke also pointed out that the survey was taken at an elevation below the snowline for December's storms.

A year ago, the snowpack was slightly above normal levels, but Gehrke recalled that the rain and snow essentially stopped in February and March, leaving the state at a nearly average year for precipitation on April 1.

"This year, it looks like (storms are) lined up off the coast and will continue to increase the snowpack," he said as he stood on about three feet of snow.

Elsewhere, rain was falling Tuesday in the San Francisco Bay Area. Winter storm advisories will go into effect from 4 a.m. Wednesday until 4 a.m. Thursday, said Bob Benjamin, a National Weather Service forecaster.

Avalanche alerts were issued for high elevations and flooding was possible in the foothills.

A second, stronger storm system was expected to hit the region over the weekend, bringing the possibility of as much as five additional feet of snow in the Sierra Nevada.

"It looks like it's going to be wet all week, and possibly into next week," Benjamin said.

Southern California, which has remained relatively dry in recent months, was expected to see light showers this week, forecasters said.

At the height of the drought in 2015, snowpack surveyors stood on a dirt patch for the April 1 measurement at Phillips Station, finding the least snow since records had been taken in more than 50 years.

Gov. Jerry Brown responded by ordering residents statewide to use 25 percent less water, letting lawns turn brown - or tearing them out - and flushing toilets less often.

The drought eased last year and so did regulations.

In February, the state water board will again consider the conditions and decide whether the state needs to take a stronger stand on conservation.

"If the skies dry up, we'll be looking at something different," board chair Felicia Marcus said. "We're playing this one moment to moment."

This winter started strong. More rain fell in October than in the same month over the past three decades, raising the state's major reservoirs in Northern California along with hopes that the drought would soon end.

Doug Carlson, a spokesman for the state's Department of Water Resources, said it is too early to predict if the wet weather will end the drought.

"It could change immediately and stop snowing and raining," he said

Letter: How will Northern Nevada handle so much development?

Reno Gazette-Journal1:03 a.m. PST January 3, 2017



(Photo: RGJ)

For all this development in Reno: Where is the water coming from? Additional population means many more toilets flushing, showers/baths, washing machines/dishwashers, car washes, landscaping and what about our agriculture?

Besides the water situation, we need more police (Mayor Shieve says our police are at a 1991 level) and fire protection. There will definitely be more crime. What about our hospitals and enough doctors and nurses? What about our Reno children attending classes in trailers in parking lots?

Our roads and highways are already congested and in awful shape. Traffic at Virginia and McCarran at Christmas time will be how it will be all year. And what about the crowds and waiting in long lines when checking out of stores?

Are you looking forward to this growth?

Anna Williams, Reno

Obama administration pushes giant California water project

Posted: Jan 04, 2017 12:00 PM PST <em class="wnDate">Wednesday, January 4, 2017 3:00 PM ESTUpdated: Jan 04, 2017 12:00 PM PST <em class="wnDate">Wednesday, January 4, 2017 3:00 PM EST

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - The Obama administration is pushing for progress on a California water project before it leaves office.

U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell issued an executive order Wednesday directing federal wildlife officials to release a preliminary environmental opinion on Gov. Jerry Brown's proposed water tunnels by Jan. 17.

Brown wants California to build 35-mile-long water tunnels to pipe Northern California's water to central and Southern California. The newly issued federal order seeks to speed up federal permitting for the \$15.7 billion project.

The order means the project could clears one preliminary hurdle before Obama leaves office Jan. 20.

Brown says the tunnels would ensure a more reliable water supply for central and Southern California farms and cities. Environmental groups disagree with Brown over whether the giant tunnels would hurt endangered state species.

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City of Reno hitting 'reset button,' moving on from Clinger investigation

by Kim Burrows

Wednesday, January 4th 2017

Reno saw a rough year in 2016.

Mayor Hillary Schieve said the new year has marked a new start for the city to move forward in the aftermath of the investigation into former city manager Andrew Clinger.

"It gives us that reset button for 2017 to change the culture inside and out. I'm not one of those who likes to dwell on the past. I want to continue to look forward to 2017," said Schieve.

Andrew Clinger resigned amid allegations of discrimination and harassment by three female employees. The case rattled city hall and its 1,200 full-time employees.

"For everyone, it was difficult for everyone; it was a very unfortunate situation," Schieve said.

The allegations and the investigation lasted for months and cost taxpayers more than a quarter of \$1 million. City employees tells News 4 that morale has been low at the city.

"It was tough. It was very tough. The investigation drug on for 6 months and I think that was the hardest part," said Neoma Jardon, the vice mayor and Reno city councilwoman.

The mayor said the long investigation instilled confidence in employees and residents that the city will take allegations like Clinger's seriously.

"I think the investigation was a very long and arduous process, clearly. But I think it was important to send that message to our employees that we take it extremely serious," Schieve said.

The council, with the help of an executive search firm, will pick the next Reno city manager. The city is taking applications now. But new this year -- the public will be able to tell the city what it wants in its next city manager. Candidates will be interviewed publicly in front of the city council. The council hopes to name a new manager by April.

"It was hard on everyone. The biggest message for 2017: Everyone's really ready to put that behind them and move forward because there's a lot of great things going to happen in 2017," Schieve said.

The mayor said her top focus for the new year will be affordable housing, revitalizing downtown and continuing to work on public safety, which includes the walking police team. The city will also be updating its Master Plan for the first time in 20 years.

"The Master Plan is the guiding principal document the kind of lays out the frame work for everything we do in the city... what developments are appropriate where, what are we seeing with growth, what do we want to see where," Jardon said.

Councilwoman Jardon didn't say if the council would do anything different in choosing the next city manager, who will be in charge of a \$450 million budget.

Schieve said the Clinger investigation revealed some weaknesses in city policies and they're now strengthening procedures, adding that some good has come from the Clinger case.

"I think it's made us stronger," Schieve said.

A survey is available online for residents to share their thoughts on the skills needed in the next city manager. Click here to take the survey.

FOUR NEW PROJECTS THAT MIGHT PROTECT RENO FROM CATASTROPHIC FLOODING by Ben Spillman

Several flood management projects have been completed since the last major Reno-Sparks floods in 1997 and 2005. Nonetheless, the National Weather Service still expects moderate flooding of some areas along the Truckee River, particularly in Sparks.

"I don't know if I can tell you what the extent of the flooding will be, but I believe there will be flooding," said Jay Aldean, executive director of the Truckee River Flood Management Authority, <u>in a previous interview with the RGJ</u>. "I was here in 1997. We are seeing very similar patterns out in the Pacific Ocean. We are seeing similar patterns through the atmospheric river. Will it happen like that? I don't know."

The Truckee River Flood Management Authority combines plans, designs and infrastructure construction from the US Army Corps of Engineers, Sparks, Reno and Washoe County to protect the region from flood damage. The agency created the Truckee River Flood Management Project. The project is funded by an eighth of a cent from sales tax and federal grants when they apply to particular projects.

Some of the biggest areas of concern, including downtown Reno, the Grand Sierra Resort area and industrial Sparks, have new flood-abatement infrastructure that might protect against or mitigate catastrophic flooding, Aldean said.

Of 41 project proposals, nine have been started or completed, including:

The Virginia Street Bridge

The bridge completed last year should make a huge difference on downtown Reno flooding. The original bridge's design captured debris, creating a dam that pushed water onto the streets. The new bridge no longer sits in the water, allowing debris to pass under it instead of stacking against it.

Aldean said the Arlington Avenue bridge is a similar design to the old Virginia Street Bridge and may cause similar debris problems. He said construction equipment may be used to pull debris out of the water during the weekend.

In the long term, Aldean said Arlington Avenue, Sierra, Center and Lake street bridges all need to be replaced with similar designs to the Virginia Street Bridge.

"Lake Street is the next one they want but it would be the most expensive," he said.

Indian Colony flood wall and levee

The second largest abatement project is the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony flood wall protecting the Glendale Avenue and Interstate 580 area. In 1997, flood waters encroached on the Grand Sierra Resort property and down into the airport, Aldean said, but the new wall should push waters downstream. "The water would go under the Glendale bridge now and go toward the east and water would exit the banks downstream of Glendale," he said. "That protects a significant portion of the GSR. It doesn't eliminate but it does protect it. The east portion of the GSR parking lot could still possibly get wet." In the future, more flood walls are planned continuing toward Greg Street with a levee from Greg Street to Rock Boulevard.

A link has been posted to your Facebook feed.



The Truckee River as it looked on Jan. 1, 2006 the day after the flood. RGJ file

North Truckee drain relocation

Two phases of three have been completed on a project to relocate drains that would push water toward Steamboat Creek. This project should reduce flooding in the Sparks industrial area.

The third, incomplete phase, would have considerably relieved flooding potential in this area, said city of Sparks spokesperson Adam Mayberry. Without that phase, the city of Sparks is looking at dangerous flooding in the east.

River redirection and restoration

Four projects restored wildlife habitat and river bends to mitigate flooding near Lockwood, Mustang Ranch, Tracy Power Plant and 102 Ranch east of Reno-Sparks.

Restoring natural vegetation helps slow down erosion of the river bank Aldean said. Restoring river bends also slows the pace of water flowing downstream. A straight path increases the speed of the water, which contributes to debris dams on the bridges and river bank erosion.

19 CONNECT<u>TWEET 1 LINKEDIN</u>COMMENTEMAILMORE Read or Share this story: http://on.rgj.com/2i1IFH9

FLOOD: Storey County Updates; boil water order in Lockwood



By Staff | Posted: Sun 3:09 PM, Jan 08, 2017 | Updated: Mon 6:47 PM, Jan 09, 2017



VIRGINIA CITY, Nev. (KOLO) - Storey County schools are on a two-hour delay on Tuesday.

Road Situation:

- USA Parkway, open
- Six Mile Canyon Rd., severe damage, impassable and closed
- Painted Rock bridge, open but debris on bridge, use caution
- Cercle de la Cerese bridge in Lockwood, damaged and closed
- Canyon Way south of LCC in Lockwood, closed for cleanup

• State Route 342 Gold Hill, closed for several days except to local residents southbound from Virginia City

• Sam Clemens in Mark Twain, closed until water recedes

Lockwood water line should be repaired and online by Tuesday at 9 a.m. Portable restrooms are available at Lockwood Fire Station. Showers available at Rainbow Bend Clubhouse for Rainbow Bend and LCC residents without water. Boil water warning continues to be in effect tonight in Lockwood

GID and county Public Works are assessing all matters in Lockwood and beginning remedies. National Guard is also activated and coordinating with GID and Storey County.

Emergency Coordinating Center now in semi-activated status and will reconvene Tuesday at 8 a.m. to determine next steps. Contact NVFlood17@storeycounty.org and 775-847-INFO (4636) for updates

Washoe Updates On Bridges, Roads, Weather And More

By KUNR STAFF · 22 HOURS AGO TweetShareGoogle+Email



Andrea Landis

Monday, 6:20 p.m. update:

The following information has been compiled by KUNR from local press releases:

WEATHER:

The National Weather Service in Reno is predicting snow and increased winds through Wednesday. The flood risk is decreasing. However, officials urge residents to avoid the Truckee River and flooded areas. First responders are still urging the public to stay away from the Truckee River. The water is very cold and very fast and hypothermia can set in quickly. In addition, there is a continuing risk of falling trees due to high winds and saturated ground. Trees could fall without warning.

WATER ISSUES:

Residents of the River Belle Mobile Home Park in Verdi are asked to boil water for at least 10 minutes until further notice.

Areas serviced by Truckee Meadows Water Authority are not affected by this warning. Water in the Autumn Hills area is safe to drink and the sewage system is fully functional.

SHELTERS:

Sparks High and Wooster High evacuation shelters closed Monday night as the Washoe County School District prepares to return to class Tuesday.

Those shelters are transitioning into a standby state, which means they could reopen if the weather dictates. They are also assessing damages in the region and offering cleaning supplies

and food as residents return home. If you would like to donate or are in need of services, please call the Red Cross at 775-856-1000.

If you need food, clothing or furniture, please contact the Salvation Army at 775-688-4555. **EVACUATIONS:**

All voluntary evacuations announced by Washoe County have been lifted at this time. People can return home.

If you are returning to your home after evacuating, please look for exposed gas pipes in the yard or a rotten-egg smell. If you suspect a gas leak, call 911 and evacuate your home.

ROADS:

Current road closure information is listed on Washoe County's website at Washoecounty.us. Lake Street Bridge, Arlington Street Bridge and Sierra Street Bridge in downtown Reno will likely be closed for several days. Officials are waiting for river waters to recede so the bridges can be inspected for damages before they can reopen. Please plan to take an alternate route. The Washoe County Sheriff's Office continues to warn the public to pay attention to road signs that advise of impassable conditions over the Donner Pass area. Multiple vehicles have been stuck on Henness Pass Road above Dog Valley. This is not a safe I-80 alternate route, despite some GPS directions.

If you see debris in the road, or clogged storm drains, please call 775-337-5800 on Tuesday between 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

To report flood damage, please call 775-337-5800, beginning 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on Tuesday.

CITY OF SPARKS:

City of Sparks officials will begin an assessment of the structures in those areas that were inundated by the flood tomorrow morning, or as flood waters recede. Approximately 10 structures in the industrial area will be inspected by Sparks building inspectors. The Sparks Flood Hotline, 775-353-5555 is closed for the night but will be back in operation at 8:00 a.m. Tuesday. The public can dial Nevada 211 for regional flood information. Residents are asked to keep sandbags through the upcoming weather events for the next couple of days, and then return the bags to the location that they were obtained from. For more information from the City of Sparks, please visit cityofsparks.us/floodinfo.

WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOLS:

All WCSD Schools including Incline Village Schools will be on a two-hour delayed start on Tuesday to properly prepare schools for welcoming back students and to ensure that all students and staff arrive safely at school. In addition, there will be no Early Release on Wednesday, January 11 at all WCSD schools. All schools will release at the normally scheduled time on Wednesday.

Monday, 10:00 a.m. update:

Officials say the Truckee River reached its peak, cresting at 19.5 feet at 6:00 a.m. That's nearly a foot lower than its peak during the 2005 flood, and more than four feet lower than the peak in 1997.

Washoe County Manager John Slaughter says that while the Truckee River is expected to lower as the day moves on, the county is still in an active flood event, meaning situations can change quickly and without warning.

Reno Public Radio's Noah Glick chatted with Slaughter this morning to discuss the next steps for the county, today and in the coming week.

Listen Listening...

5:13 Listen to this interview.

Interview highlights:

- Slaughter says there have been no reported flood-related injuries throughout the region, but some rescues have occurred, including one elderly woman in Red Rocks.
- The Emergency Operations Center, which houses all the various agencies together to plan and coordinate efforts, was in response to the flood of 1997.
- Slaughter encourages all residents who need shelter to go to Sparks High School. The other emergency shelter at Wooster High has been at capacity since yesterday.
- The new Virginia Street bridge was designed to have no structures in the river and was raised from its original position, which Slaughter believes has helped efforts this year.

Jan. 9, 2017, 7:16 p.m.

Storms have added 33.6 billion gallons of water to Lake Tahoe since Jan. 1



The series of storms over the last few weeks in the Sierra Nevada have been very good to Lake Tahoe.

According to the <u>National Weather Service</u>, the lake has gained about 33.6 billion gallons of water since Jan. 1 -- and the lake has risen about one foot.

It's a big turn around from just a few years ago, when the drought had Lake Tahoe water levels reaching record lows.

After a lull Monday, more snow is on the way for the Sierra through Thursday.

Latest updates

Jan. 9, 2017, 7:07 p.m.

Wind gusts from California storms hit 159 mph; woman killed by falling tree

There was a lot of snow and rain during the last storm that moved through Northern California.

But the heavy winds were also a destructive factor.

In the East Bay, a woman was killed on a golf course in San Ramon when a tree fell on her.

And in Squaw Valley in the Sierra Nevada, wind gusts on Sunday hit 159 mph.

The storms over the weekend were relatively warm, meaning snows levels stay high. Some of the snow that did fall melted fairly quickly, creating raging rivers — and flooding — across the region.

But the next rounds of storms will be colder, meaning more of the snow will stick. That's good news for the state's water collection systems, which rely on snow remaining in the Sierra Nevada into the spring.

The colder storms bring with them the threat of blizzard and white-out conditions, as well as avalanches.

"It's not over yet," said Alex Hoon, a meteorologist in the National Weather Service's Reno station.

The storm is expected to last until Thursday and will bring several feet of snow to lower altitudes, such as Lake Tahoe and Mammoth Mountain in Northern California, as well as cities in western Nevada and southern Oregon.

Jan. 9, 2017, 3:16 p.m.

Yosemite Valley to reopen Tuesday

Joseph Serna



If conditions permit, Yosemite Valley will reopen to visitors at Yosemite National Park Tuesday morning following a weekend storm that saw the Merced River flood, park officials said.

The tourist-popular Yosemite Valley was closed Friday evening before a massive storm that dumped feet of snow in the Sierra Nevada and inches of rain in mountain and foothill communities Saturday and Sunday.

Other sections of the park remained open throughout the storm, park officials said.

The Merced River reached flood stage Sunday but was lowering Monday as rains statewide tapered off. Another storm, this one colder, is expected to sweep across the region Tuesday through Thursday.

Jan. 9, 2017, 2:29 p.m.

Here's what flooding conditions look like in California

Los Angeles Flooding forecast Source: California River Forecast Center @latimesgraphics California flooding The most powerful in a series of winter storms caused flooding in Northern California. The water level forecast along the Russian River in Guerneville is similar to other areas in Northern and Central California. Water levels nearing flood conditions Flood conditions Note: Each dot represents a measurement of water level at a specific point along a river as of Mudslide partially closed the I-80 at Truckee. Some Guerneville residents advised to evacuate. 32 ft. 29 ft. 9 ft. Jan 8 29.2 ft. Jan 10 28.9 ft. Jan 12 28.8 ft . Forecast Jan 9 30 ft. Jan 11 32.2 ft. Jan 11 34.9 ft. Flood conditions W W T T T F F S S S M Jan 9 Nearing flood conditions Water level in feet

Jan. 9, 2017, 10:44 a.m.

12-year-old girl rescued from submerged car in Placer County

Jan. 9, 2017, 10:41 a.m.

Rivers swell across the state

Jan. 9, 2017, 9:50 a.m. Reporting from Truckee

Westbound I-80 still closed to drivers: 'We have a river on the interstate'

Interstate 80 reopened Monday morning heading east, but westbound drivers attempting to enter California were stopped at the border. Those who could show they had business in Truckee were allowed through, but for the rest, the remnants of a giant mudslide from Sunday evening kept the road closed.

Heavy machinery operators had made progress overnight, said California Highway Patrol Officer Peter Mann, but water cascading off the Donner Summit slope was the next problem.

"We have a river on the interstate," Mann said. The state seeks to reopen the road, the main artery for truckers bringing goods to the San Francisco Bay area, by afternoon.

As the tropical weather system, dubbed the Pineapple Express, leaves the Sierra Nevada, temperatures have begun to plummet and snowflakes returned to the sky.

A new winter storm warning has been issued for Tuesday through Thursday. The storm could bring up to 7 feet of snow at the higher mountain passes and 3 feet of fresh snow in the mountain valleys.

Jan. 9, 2017, 8:32 a.m. Reporting from Truckee, Calif.

Sacramento River floodgates to open for first time in a decade

Rising floodwaters have triggered actions to protect the city of Sacramento.

For the first time in a decade, the floodgates of the Sacramento River will be opened Monday morning, releasing a wall of water downstream into the Yolo Bypass.

The National Weather Service warned farmers in the river valley region to have livestock and farm equipment moved out of the way. The California Department of Water Resources last opened the gates of the manually operated weir, built in 1916, in 2005.

The low-level Yolo Bypass is one of several drainage areas designed to catch floodwaters in such situations, but is used for farming in dry years.

Jan. 9, 2017, 8:14 a.m.

Eastbound I-80 reopens after major mudslide prompted overnight closure

The eastbound Interstate 80 in the Sierra Nevada reopened Monday morning after a major mudslide at Donner Summit closed the route and cut off the main transportation path between Reno and San Francisco.

The road was reopened from Colfax to the state line, according to Caltrans.

Authorities said the flow of mud and rock extended across the westbound lanes of the road for about the length of a football field and was 7 feet deep in places.

Downed power lines forced the closure and complicated cleanup efforts.

Jan. 9, 2017, 8:11 a.m.

Washoe Updates On Bridges, Roads, Weather And More

By KUNR STAFF • JAN 9, 2017 TweetShareGoogle+Email



Andrea Landis

Monday, 6:20 p.m. update:

The following information has been compiled by KUNR from local press releases:

WEATHER:

The National Weather Service in Reno is predicting snow and increased winds through Wednesday. The flood risk is decreasing. However, officials urge residents to avoid the Truckee River and flooded areas. First responders are still urging the public to stay away from the Truckee River. The water is very cold and very fast and hypothermia can set in quickly. In addition, there is a continuing risk of falling trees due to high winds and saturated ground. Trees could fall without warning.

WATER ISSUES:

Residents of the River Belle Mobile Home Park in Verdi are asked to boil water for at least 10 minutes until further notice.

Areas serviced by Truckee Meadows Water Authority are not affected by this warning. Water in the Autumn Hills area is safe to drink and the sewage system is fully functional.

Storms deliver big boost in water supply with more to come

Benjamin Spillman, bspillman@rgj.com Published 3:29 p.m. PT Jan. 9, 2017 | Updated 22 hours ago



Buy Photo

The Truckee River on the left crested on Monday Jan. 9, 2017(Photo: Andy Barron/RGJ)Buy Photo

The amount of water flowing into Lake Tahoe and critical western Nevada river basins is surging thanks to a parade of rain and snowstorms.

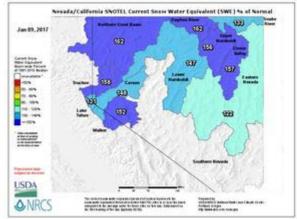
And the amount of water in storage for the Truckee Meadows is at an all-time high, although that has as much to do with deal-making among players on the Truckee River as it does with recent storms.

Still, the mix of snowmelt and rainfall that flooded the Truckee and Carson rivers in the past 48 hours is part of an ongoing series of storms that have pushed the region well above average for this time of year in terms of precipitation.

"It is pretty incredible really how much that storm added," said Jeff Anderson, hydrologist for the Nevada Natural Resources Conservation Service, which tracks snow and water in the mountains.

For example, the amount of water stored in snow in the Tahoe Basin was 62 percent of normal on Jan. 1. In the Truckee River basin it was 84 percent of normal.

On Monday the readings showed the Tahoe Basin surged to 131 percent of normal and the Truckee River basin to 158 percent of normal. The Carson River basin jumped from 80 to 148 percent of normal.





Also, since the beginning of the water year in October, Lake Tahoe has risen about 18 inches. That's well ahead of the rate of rise the lake typically sees between October and the traditional peak in late spring or early summer.

During the winter of 2010-11 the lake rose more than five feet, Anderson said.

"That is the kind of rise that can happen in a big year," he said.

As far as water storage goes much of the water from recent storms surged down the Truckee River on its way to Pyramid Lake so it wasn't captured for drinking water.

But the availability of water in general as well as the recently signed Truckee River Operating Agreement has helped the Truckee Meadows Water Authority increase the <u>amount in storage to</u> nearly 40,000 acre feet, the most it's had on hand since 1985, the earliest date for which online records are available.

It's not just water storage that's affected. The increase in the amount of water volume locked in the snow changes the characteristics of the snowpack from powder to a denser pack often referred to as Sierra cement.

That type of snow tends to melt slower which means there could be skiing in the mountains well into the latter days of spring.

"What it is going to do is ensure a longer ski season," Anderson said.

Meteorologist Scott McGuire of the National Weather Service said there's nothing unusual about rain and snow hammering the Sierra Nevada during winter months.

But the most recent storm is the strongest in more than a decade.

"We haven't seen that set up in 11 years," McGuire said.

And there's more to come.

The forecast for Reno calls for rain and light snow through Thursday.

At higher elevations, such as Slide Mountain where Mt. Rose Ski Tahoe is located, there is the potential for more than four feet of snow by the end of this week. An additional than three feet of snow is possible at Incline Village.

Top of Form Bottom of Form

"There is an abundance of energy out in the Pacific and the jet stream is lined up perfectly," McGuire said.

Even an incredible week of moisture, however, guarantees nothing.

If the storm door closes and the skies go dry the moisture deficit that's marked the past several years in the Sierra Nevada could continue.

"Just like that it could dry out," Anderson said

TMWA Says Water is Safe to Drink

Posted: Jan 10, 2017 11:12 AM PST <em class="wnDate">Tuesday, January 10, 2017 2:12 PM ESTUpdated: Jan 10, 2017 11:12 AM PST <em class="wnDate">Tuesday, January 10, 2017 2:12 PM EST



From Truckee Meadows Water Authority:

Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) says it wants to assure all TMWA customers that at no time during the flood event was the water system ever compromised. The water from TMWA is, and has been, safe to drink. Despite flood conditions throughout the Truckee Meadows this last weekend, the TMWA delivery system suffered no significant damage.

"Without a doubt we watch things very closely during a flood event," said Will Raymond, Water Operations Supervisor. "We were definitely in an all-hands-on-deck mode throughout the weekend. I'm happy to say we got through it in one piece and our customers can rest assured their water is safe to drink."

Once again, TMWA wants to emphasize that all customers within their service area should feel comfortable and confident that their water was never compromised and the water is safe to drink.

If there are any questions from TMWA customers regarding water quality, please feel free to contact TMWA's Water Quality department at 834-8118 or **waterquality@tmwa.com**.

From Truckee Meadows Water Authority

Link to video report here: http://www.ktvn.com/story/34227827/tmwa-says-water-is-safe-to-drink

Truckee Meadows Water Authority says drinking water is safe



Posted: Tue 12:40 PM, Jan 10, 2017 | Updated: Tue 2:11 PM, Jan 10, 2017

RENO, Nev. (KOLO) - TMWA STATEMENT:

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Storms deliver big boost in water supply with more to come

Benjamin Spillman, bspillman@rgj.com Published 3:29 p.m. PT Jan. 9, 2017 | Updated 3 hours ago



A view from Sparks Blvd of the Truckee River, which crested Monday morning as a result of the weekend storm.(Photo: Andy Baron/RGJ video still)Buy Photo

The amount of water flowing into Lake Tahoe and critical western Nevada river basins is surging thanks to a parade of rain and snowstorms.

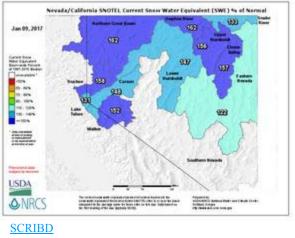
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Tahoe area snowpack

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Top of Form Bottom of Form

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"Just like that it could dry out," Anderson said

Recovery and Clean-Up Face Parts of Northern Nevada After Flooding

JANUARY 9, 2017 BY BOB CONRAD 1 COMMENT



Image: Washoe County.

The region is cleaning up and recovering from flooding that occurred yesterday and today. Officials continued to ask the public to stay away from the Truckee River.

"Teams are working around the clock to assess and document damage," according to Washoe County. "This includes reopening roads, when safe, and turning traffic signals back on. The Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) will be offering free rides through tonight at midnight."

Officials are urging citizens to avoid travel unless it is necessary. Drivers should be extra cautious of standing water and debris on roads.

Residents of Verdi's River Belle Mobile Home Park are asked to boil water for at least 10 minutes until further notice.

"Areas serviced by Truckee Meadows Water Authority are not affected by this warning. Water in the Autumn Hills area is safe to drink and the sewage system is fully functional," officials said.

Road Closures

The Washoe County Sheriff's Office is warning the public to pay attention to road signs that advise of impassable conditions over Donner Pass.

Road closure information is posted here: Washoe County's website.

Multiple vehicles have gotten stuck on Henness Pass Road above Dog Valley.

"This is not a safe I-80 alternate route, despite some GPS directions. WCSO advises people to stay in Reno until the road has been cleared," officials said.

Southeast Connector

The Southeast Connector Project saw some flood damage, but according to the RTC, it was to be expected.

"Once the creek water entered the construction site, the water did come into contact with stockpiles of soil containing mercury, however those stockpiles were surrounded with berms of soil without mercury," said the RTC's Michael Moreno. "A total of 12 stockpiles of soil containing mercury are located between South Meadows Parkway and Mira Loma Drive. ...It appears 11 of the 12 stockpiles are undamaged.

"One stockpile appears to have had a partial failure of the clean soil berm. However, we are unable to ascertain the degree of contact, if any, of the actual stockpile of soil containing mercury which may have experienced erosion. Once the floodwater recedes, the project team will be able to more closely inspect and assess the situation," Moreno added.

He stressed that mercury concentrations are likely to be lower that what occurs naturally in Steamboat Creek.

"We do not expect there to be a risk to the public health and the environment," he explained

From: WEBSITE: Comments to the Board [<u>mailto:info@waterforms.net</u>] Sent: Thursday, December 22, 2016 8:59 PM To: Marlene Olsen Subject: New submission from Comments to the Board

Name
Petra Gobsalves
Email
Account Number
N/A
Comments
Interesting that the proposed new members of the committee are all men. Reno does have qualified women who can make a contribution with a unique viewpoint!
Dr Petra Gonsalves
 Don Kowitz, Commercial Representative, Primary Ken McNeil, At-Large 1 Representative, Primary Mike Pidlypchak, At-Large 2 Representative, Primary Ken Becker, At-Large 1, Alternate Jordan Hastings, At-Large 2, Alternate Dale Sanderson, Residential 1 Representative, Alternate Fred Arndt, Residential 2 Representative, Alternate Scot Munns, Residential 3 Representative, Alternate

TMWA Response:

Thank you for your submission and concern that all positions for the vacancies on the Standing Advisory Committee were filled with males. Yes, the TMWA SAC currently has female representation who will continue to serve and we agree women provide a valuable point of view. However, there was a lot of competition for the vacant positions and the current SAC members had many qualified applicants who met the skill-set and experience requirements to serve on the SAC. The SAC members discussed in detail all applicants before making their decision to recommend the candidates to the Board for approval. I hope this suffices and does not discourage you from applying for future vacancies. Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Regards,

Marlene Olsen GoodStanding