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TMWA'S FREE WORKSHOP SERIES RETURNS IN APRIL


As spring draws near, TMWA offers a series of free workshops to help residents prepare their irrigation system and yard for the season. For April, the following workshops are scheduled: Irrigation System Start-Up Workshop on **April 1, 8 and 22 at 5:30 p.m.** and Landscape Planning & Design on **April 11 at 9 a.m.** All workshops are free and held at TMWA offices. Please call to reserve your spot at **834-8005**.

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER AND FACEBOOK

Follow TMWA on Twitter and YouTube, or become a fan on Facebook for updates, information, tips and giveaways!

 twitter.com/tmwa

 facebook.com/truckeemeadowswaterauthority

 youtube.com/truckeemeadowswater

CONSOLIDATION UPDATE:

AQUIFER IS BEING RECHARGED WHILE WELLS REST

TMWA actively manages our water resources. During the wintertime when customers are using less water, TMWA takes advantage of available river water and stores it underground in the aquifer. This storage is in addition to the upstream drought reserves in reservoirs. Both surface and groundwater resources can be tapped when the area is in a drought.

Treated surface water is injected into some of TMWA's existing wells throughout the service area commonly referred to as Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR). The process occurs during fall and winter when water use in the community drops to one-fourth of the peak summer average usage and surface water is available. The stored water can then be accessed during drought periods. **"We let ground water wells rest this time of the year and maximize the use of surface water, or that water coming from the Truckee River,"** explained Paul Miller, TMWA's manager of operations and water quality.

Since the start of winter TMWA has been reviewing all possible well sites in the TMWA system, which includes wells acquired through consolidation. Miller explained that TMWA has currently identified over a dozen additional well sites that can be set up for recharge; working as quickly as possible to test, design, construct and implement to start injecting water over the next few months. **"The more water we can store this time of year, the better. It's like money in the bank,"** Miller concluded.

ASR was established by TMWA to improve water quality and augment water resources. The program is also one of the main goals of consolidation: to improve the management of the area's water resources through conjunctive use - minimizing groundwater pumping and maximizing use of surface water when it is available. Many other efforts are under way to improve infrastructure and service to customers which will be outlined in the months ahead.

DRINKING WATER

THE VALUE OF YOUR WATER

A portion of our customers' water bills goes to investing in infrastructure and maintenance of the TMWA water system. This helps ensure the around-the-clock treatment, delivery and availability of high-quality drinking water for more than 385,000 residents of the Truckee Meadows.

THE 2014 CONSERVATION EFFORT – HOW DID WE ALL DO?

At the beginning of August 2014, we asked our customers to reduce their outdoor water use by 10% because of the continuing drought. That was when TMWA started releasing drought reserves - the period when we could save the water our customers conserved in upstream reservoirs. We found that most people pitched in by turning down their sprinkler timers by 10%, shaving minutes off their watering times. Customers also implemented other water-saving efforts which included turning sprinklers off when it was raining and not watering between 11am - 7pm, when the most evaporative loss occurs.

The combined community effort resulted in a savings of nearly 350 million gallons of water compared to 2013, or enough water to serve 2,800 average households for a year. It also meant that TMWA only used 18% of our upstream drought reserves, which is an amount that we anticipate will be replenished with the spring runoff, even if we have another below average winter. This means we'll have more groundwater available and our drought reserves in Independence and Donner Lakes will be full, should we need them this summer. As high-desert residents, we know that is good insurance to have.

Conservation continues to work in our community. A big thank you goes out to everyone who responded to our messages in the media and in their bills. As you know, TMWA staff continually monitors weather and snowpack conditions and plans for drought cycles. For a deeper look at TMWA's resource and drought planning, the 2010-2030 Water Resource Plan is located on our website at: www.tmwa.com/water_system/resources/2030wrp.

WATER USAGE: HOW DO YOU COMPARE – AND HOW DO YOU KNOW WHEN YOU HAVE A COSTLY LEAK?

We encourage responsible water use at all times, but spring is a great time to track down and eliminate water leaks in your home before you turn on your sprinklers. The best way to manage water use at your home or business is to study how much water is being used on your site and where. To do this, check the graph on your water bill to review a history of your usage.

How would you know if you have a leak? It's likely that a family of four may have a leak problem if their winter indoor water use significantly exceeds 5,000 gallons per month. The average water bill for March should be about thirty dollars. If you feel your usage is higher than it should be, many resources are available at www.tmwa.com. To find and fix leaks, use the Conservation section of the website and check out TMWA's video on our YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/truckeemeadowswater. You can also visit www.epa.gov/watersense where you can find activities for kids and families.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, fixing easily corrected household water leaks can save homeowners about 10 percent on their water bills.

THE STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPRESENTS YOU – OUR CUSTOMER

The Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) is an oversight committee made up of individuals representing all customer classes including residential, commercial, wholesale and irrigation. Also represented are newly consolidated customer classes of Washoe County and South Truckee Meadows General Improvement District. The members completed an application process and were selected by a subcommittee of the TMWA Board of Directors. The SAC reviews all rate proposals, budgets and other items as requested by TMWA's Board. The SAC generally meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 3 p.m. at the TMWA offices. There is more information on this committee and meeting agendas in the Meeting Center section at www.tmwa.com.

WHERE TO CALL

General Inquiries: 834-8080
Emergency Repair: 834-8090
Water Conservation: 834-8005
Water Quality: 834-8118
Water Rights: 834-8029
Ombudsman: 848-0813



Truckee Meadows Water Authority is a not-for-profit, community-owned water utility, overseen by elected officials and citizen appointees from Reno, Sparks and Washoe County.

HOLIDAYS & EVENTS

Irrigation System Start-Up Workshop
April 1, 8 and 22 at 5:30 p.m.

Standing Advisory Committee
April 7 at 3 p.m.

Landscape Planning & Design Workshop
April 11 at 9 a.m.

Board of Directors Meeting
April 15 at 10 a.m.



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