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WAYS TO SAVE 10% OUTSIDE

For those customers who have an automatic sprinkler system, please set your timer's seasonal water budget to 90%, if you have that option. If you have 10-minute cycles, simply reducing them to nine minutes will do the trick. A little math might be involved for other water cycles. If you have a hose timer, the same approach will work. Please turn back the timer by a minute if you're running your hose in 10-minute cycles.

Other tips: Please, avoid any overspray by not watering sidewalks or driveways. It's best to water in the morning, as that is the coolest and calmest time of the day. A lot of water is lost when watering on hot and windy afternoons.

THE WATER YOU CONSERVE NOW CAN BE SAVED FOR LATER

Now is the time when you can help conserve and preserve our water supply for next year. TMWA is asking all of our customers to reduce their outdoor water use by 10%, and to not run their sprinklers between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Currently, most of the water in the Truckee River is our community's drought reserves. Because of the third consecutive dry winter and low levels in Lake Tahoe and Boca Reservoirs, the Federal Water Master can no longer release enough water to maintain mandated river flows. Fortunately, TMWA has planned for this situation, and we are now using our stored drought reserves to meet customer demand. The good news is that TMWA's drought storage reservoirs – Donner and Independence Lakes – are full. For a complete explanation on how the Truckee River system is operated, please see our Drought FAQ's, posted at www.tmwa.com/save.



Why focus on outdoor watering? TMWA customers are very conservation conscious and very efficient in using water indoors. The average customer's water use is approximately four times higher in the summer, mostly due to landscaping. Therefore, reducing outdoor water use is where we can get the biggest impact in water savings.

Why 10%? Our planning and projections show a 10% reduction in water use will allow TMWA to keep Independence Reservoir full for use next year, should the drought continue. This is good insurance to have for our community's future.

CONTINUED ON BACK

THE VALUE OF YOUR WATER

We are now using our drought reserves to meet customer demand. Save it today, so we have it tomorrow!

Why are we asking customers to not run their sprinklers from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.? The regular no-watering times have been expanded two hours, from the normal noon - 6 p.m. to 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., through Labor Day. It is the hottest and windiest time of day when a lot of water is lost to evaporation. Expanding the no-watering times is also one of the easiest, practical measures to be deployed when river flows are impacted before Labor Day (as required per TMWA's 2010-2030 Water Resource Plan).

We have been through these challenges before, as drought is a natural occurrence in the high desert. TMWA plans for worst-case drought situations and our water system is resilient enough to withstand many years of drought. Rest assured that TMWA is well prepared – with your help – to meet our customers' water demands through this summer and beyond.

HOW DO YOU REPORT WATER WASTE?

We live in the high desert and need to work together to eliminate as much water waste as possible. As you travel around the community and see water being wasted, please let us know by reporting it online at www.tmwa.com/waste or calling our conservation hotline at (775) 834-8005. We have personnel answering these inquiries seven days a week from early morning to late evening, and we will follow up.

LEARN ABOUT YOUR WATER:

TOUR TMWA'S CHALK BLUFF WATER TREATMENT PLANT AND VERDI HYDROELECTRIC POWER PLANT

Take a tour of TMWA's Chalk Bluff Water Treatment Plant at one of five tours: Tuesday, Sept. 9 at 1 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 16 at 3 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 23 at 1 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 27 at 10 a.m., or Tuesday, Sept. 30 at 1 p.m. Meet our team of highly skilled engineers, scientists and operators and find out how they work to provide you with high-quality drinking water. Our staff will explain the water treatment and distribution processes, how it gets to your home or business, and answer any of your questions.

Every Wednesday in September, customers can also tour our Verdi Hydroelectric Power Plant, which has been producing clean, renewable energy for nearly 100 years. The plant, which is located upstream of the Chalk Bluff Water Treatment Plant, harnesses the natural flow of the Truckee River to generate more than 2.3 megawatts of power annually. Five tours will take place at 2 p.m. on September 3, 10, 17 and 24, plus Oct 1.

All tours are free, open to all TMWA customers and last one hour. Participants must be at least 18 years of age. Each tour is limited to 20 people, so please be sure to RSVP to rsvp@tmwa.com or call 834-8290. Please note: these are lengthy walking tours and will involve climbing a significant number of stairs and walking on uneven surfaces.

WHERE TO CALL

- General Inquiries: . . . 834-8080 (option 2)
- Emergency Repair: 834-8090
- Water Conservation: 834-8005
- Water Quality: 834-8118
- Water Rights: 834-8029
- Ombudsman: 848-0813



HOLIDAYS & EVENTS

- Monday, September 1
Labor Day (TMWA Offices Closed)
- Tuesday, September 2
Standing Advisory Committee Meeting
- Wednesday, September 17
TMWA Board Meeting
- See www.tmwa.com/news/events-calandar for meeting details.

