

MARCH 2018

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SMART ABOUT WATER QUICK FACT:

How do new houses and developments get water service? In order to receive water service, every residence and business in the Truckee Meadows must have dedicated rights (about ½ acre-foot per year, per household).

The total number of water rights on the Truckee River was fixed with the Orr Dich Decree in 1944. That number of water rights has remained fixed since then. Water rights are obtained on the open market, and water rights for development in the Truckee Meadows are usually converted from agricultural/irrigation use to municipal use.

AN UPDATE ON OUR WATER SUPPLY:

For those who have lived in the Truckee Meadows for some time, we know that Mother Nature delivers an unpredictable mix of normal, dry and big snowpack years. So far this year, it has been a lackluster winter. The big winter storms needed for our snowpack just haven't materialized yet. As of this printing, preliminary streamflow runoff forecasts for this spring are significantly below normal in both the Lake Tahoe and Truckee River watersheds. (Springtime snowmelt runoff is captured and stored in upstream reservoirs and used to provide river flows throughout the year.)

The good news is that the Reno-Sparks area is still benefitting from last year's record snowpack and runoff. How does that help us this year? All Truckee River reservoirs on the system filled and spilled last year and are presently still at their maximum legal capacity. TMWA stores water in Lake Tahoe, Donner and Independence lakes, as well as in Boca, Stampede and Prosser reservoirs. Because of last year's historic runoff, normal Truckee River flows are expected for another two years, making the water supply outlook for the region excellent. While we only use approximately 3% of the Truckee River, the water we take makes up about 85 percent of our total supply in a typical year.

A recent, major accomplishment that profoundly improved the future of our water supply is the Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA). Finalized in December of 2015, TROA protects our area by providing additional operational flexibility of the Truckee River. For example, if drought conditions worsen TMWA is allowed to store additional amounts of water upstream each year to meet the demands of our water customers. Learn more at tmwa.com/troa. Also, keep up with the most current storage volume in our reservoirs by visiting TMWA's Upstream Reserves Tracker at www.tmwa.com/reserves.

What does this mean to your everyday water use? As always, TMWA encourages you to be smart about your water use and please don't waste it.

TMWA's Upstream Reserves Tracker

The storage in upstream reservoirs plays an important role in our sustainable water supply. TMWA's water supply is made up of the following: Truckee River flows, water stored in federally owned reservoirs, groundwater and TMWA's upstream drought reserves (below) when necessary. The data below shows current drought storage, current usage and historical use.

Upstream Reserves Stored as of Today (Acre-feet)

31,091

VIEW IN ACRE FEET*

VIEW IN GALLONS
(Shown in millions)

Upstream Reserves Used This Year (Acre-feet)

00,000

*One acre-foot = 325,851 gallons

Historical TMWA Upstream Reserves

■ STORED ■ USED

(Acre feet)
45,000
40,000
35,000

OMBUDSMAN SERVICES AVAILABLE TO ANY CUSTOMER

When customers need an extra level of help in working through customer service processes (that may go beyond our normal customer service offerings), an independent ombudsman is available to help expedite a resolution. The current ombudsman is Tami Fruhwirth who is an external contractor who reports directly to the TMWA Board of Directors. She can be contacted at (775) 834-8080.



DON'T DUMP YOUR PILLS DOWN THE DRAIN: PRESCRIPTION DRUG ROUND UP

Join Together Northern Nevada and its law enforcement partners will host the semi-annual Prescription Drug Round Up on Saturday, April 28 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at all locations listed below. Safely dispose of unused, unwanted prescription drugs and make sure they never make it into our water supply or have the potential of being abused. Your proper disposal of medications protects children, teens, pets and the environment.

- **RALEY'S** – 18144 Wedge Parkway
- **SAVEMART** – 10500 N. McCarran Blvd., Reno
- **SCOLARI'S** – 4788 Caughlin Parkway, Reno
- **SMITH'S** – 175 Lemmon Drive, Reno
- **UNR LAWLOR EVENT CENTER** – 15th St. and Virginia St.
- **CVS** – 680 N. McCarran Blvd., Sparks
- **WALGREENS** – 3000 Vista Blvd., Sparks

Visit www.jtnn.org for more information.



TMWA'S FREE WORKSHOP SERIES RETURNS THIS SPRING

TMWA offers a series of free workshops and tours to help residents prepare their yards for the summer season. Topics for the workshops include tree care, understanding your drinking water, and how to create biodiverse gardens and water-resilient landscapes (walking tours). The workshops for April are listed in the calendar below. For a complete list, visit www.tmwa.com/meeting. All workshops are free, but registration is required; call 775-834-8005.

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

HOLIDAYS & EVENTS

- IRRIGATION SYSTEM START-UP WORKSHOP**
MARCH 27 AT 5:30 P.M.
- STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
APRIL 3 AT 3 P.M.
- IRRIGATION SYSTEM START-UP WORKSHOP**
APRIL 4 AT 5:30 P.M.
- LANDSCAPE PLANNING & DESIGN WORKSHOP**
APRIL 7 AT 9 A.M.
- IRRIGATION SYSTEM START-UP WORKSHOP**
APRIL 10 AT 5:30
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**
APRIL 18 AT 10 A.M.

Find locations andw details for all workshops and meetings here: tmwa.com/meeting/



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. TMWA employs a highly skilled team who ensure the treatment, delivery and availability of high-quality drinking water around the clock for more than 385,000 residents of the Truckee Meadows.

