



Staying Current: Water When We Need It



Water Negotiation Milestones

1902

Bureau of Reclamation starts Newlands Project

Created a water supply for Nevada farmers.

1909

Federal control of the Lake Tahoe Dam begins

1913

US vs. Orr Ditch Water Company Court case begins.

1915

Truckee River General Electric Decree Established seasonal Floriston Rates.

1935

Truckee River Agreement signed Established Lake Tahoe levels and the construction of Boca Reservoir.

1944

US vs. Orr Ditch settled (The 'Orr Ditch Decree') Established all water rights on the Truckee River system.

1971

Interstate Compact Approved by both NV and CA Legislatures Compact fails to be ratified by Congress.

1990

Truckee-Carson-Pyramid Lake Water Rights Settlement Congressionally-ratified operating agreement between Sierra Pacific Power Co. and the Pyramid Lake Tribe.

2008

Truckee River Operating Agreement - Signed by all parties

2015

Truckee River Operating Agreement - Implemented After a 26-year negotiation, a comprehensive river and operations framework begins.

THE TRUCKEE RIVER OPERATING AGREEMENT

The Transformation of Water Supply Management for the Truckee Meadows

Simply stated, the Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA) modernizes how Truckee River water is managed and this has direct benefits for the residents of Reno, Sparks and Washoe County.

That Was Then:

The earliest diversions of water from the Truckee River can be traced to the Comstock mining boom of the 1860s. Flumes transported lumber for building, turbines provided hydropower, settlements expanded and agriculture developed. Since these early years, the consumptive and non-consumptive uses of the river have shifted greatly. As demonstrated by the timeline to the left, many of these shifts spurred a series of settlements among river users.

This Is Now:

After 26 years of mediation and compromise, the outcome of TROA allows for more dynamic management of the river to meet present-day needs of the region.

Specifically, for the Truckee Meadows this means:

1. TROA allows for more efficient use of available reservoir storage when it's needed most.
2. TMWA can retain stored water during drought cycles that is saved by conservation efforts, helping to bolster supply if dry conditions continue.
3. While minimum flow rates for the Truckee River still must be maintained, portions of TMWA-owned water can be held back for later use.

The primary signatories of TROA are the Truckee Meadow Water Authority, the State of Nevada, the State of California, the U.S. Department of the Interior and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe.

Normal Years vs. Dry Years Comparison:

How Usage of the Truckee River Adjusts



What About Our Extreme Weather Cycles?

While TMWA will always employ high standards in water resource management and promote responsible water use, the 20-year projection of Total Surface Water Storage shown below demonstrates how TROA protects our community from worst-case scenarios.

Repeating this 8-year weather cycle over a 20-year time span:

Modeling Worst Drought on Record (1987-1994)



YEAR 1

Continuous repeat of region's driest 8-year cycle over a 20-year period

YEAR 20



Grab Your Phone and Scan This Code See the total water stored across our reservoir system today.

