

#### SEPTEMBER 2018

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# SMART ABOUT WATER QUICK FACT: You Have a Voice at TMWA

TMWA's Standing Advisory
Committee (SAC) is your direct link
to the TMWA Board of Directors.
The committee is composed of
representatives from every customer
class at TMWA, from homeowners
to big businesses. They review
rate proposals, budgets, and other
items related to your water service
and report their findings and
recommendations to the Board.
The SAC typically meets on the first
Tuesday of every month at 3 p.m.

Want your voice heard? Attend a meeting. All meetings are open to our customers.

Visit www.tmwa.com/SAC for more information and visit www.tmwa.com/meeting for their next meeting.

## TMWA ACHIEVES HYDROELECTRIC RECORD: PLANTS GENERATE \$3.7 MILLION IN REVENUE

TMWA has just finished a record-breaking year for clean power generation. From July 2017 through June 2018, TMWA's three 100-year-old hydroelectric plants produced an all-time high of \$3.7 million in revenue due to high river flows. TMWA owns and operates the Washoe, Verdi, and Fleish plants on the Truckee River for the benefit of customers. The power generated was sold to NV Energy and significantly offsets the power costs of the water system.

The total kilowatt hours produced by the three hydroelectric plants reached 52,367,487 KWh, breaking the former record set in 2012–2013 by more than 200,000 KWh. The revenue produced from the hydro power sold to NV Energy was \$3,757.043.

"Hydroelectric power has consistently been a key asset to help limit costs for our customers over the years, helping to keep water rates lower," said Pat Nielson, director of distribution maintenance and generation.

The hydroelectric power generated by TMWA is not dependent on the release of stored water from a dam; rather, it uses a "run-of-the-river" configuration where water is diverted from the river to drive generation turbines. The same amount of water that flows into the plant is returned to the river unchanged. Technological upgrades over the years have made management of the plants more efficient, but the core process of green-energy generation has remained the same for more than a century.

Beyond financial benefit, TMWA's hydroelectric plants factor into the overall quality of life in the Truckee Meadows. When all three plants run at capacity, more than 90,500 pounds of CO2 emissions are eliminated daily from the atmosphere. In one year, this is roughly 15,000 metric tons of CO2 that would be released if TMWA relied exclusively on fuel-based power generation. Dry years and maintenance issues can prevent the plants from running at capacity all the time, but the fact remains that TMWA's hydroelectric plants make a major contribution to northern Nevada's green-energy portfolio.

"These plants have always been important to this region," said Nielson. "In the early 1900s, the plants provided power to the Virginia City mining industry; now hydroelectric power helps us keep TMWA's operational costs very low in the delivery of water to over 400,000 residents in our service area. They are as relevant today as they have always been."

Free tours of TMWA's historic hydroelectric plants take place throughout September. Visit www.tmwa.com/events for the tour schedule and to RSVP.

### TMWA OFFERS FREE WINTERIZATION WORKSHOPS:

PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR THE COLD WEATHER

It's not too early to start planning for winter. TMWA offers several winterization workshops in October to help you prepare your home for the cold weather and freezing temperatures ahead. Homeowners can avoid the expense and inconvenience of frozen water pipes by attending one of these free workshops. Learn how to protect your pipes at home—inside and out—from freezing temperatures this winter.

Join TMWA's conservation staff for one of four free workshops scheduled for Wednesday, October 10; Tuesday, October 16; Tuesday, October 23, and Tuesday, October 30. The hour-long workshops start at 5:30 p.m. and will be at TMWA's main office, located at 1355 Capital Blvd. in Reno.

TMWA's workshops are free, but reservations are required. To RSVP, please e-mail rsvp@tmwa.com or call 834-8290. Visit www.tmwa.com/events for more information.

#### PRESCRIPTION DRUG ROUND UP:

#### DON'T DUMP YOUR PILLS DOWN THE DRAIN

Protect our waterways by properly disposing of all medications. Join Together Northern Nevada and law enforcement partners will host the semi-annual Prescription Drug Round Up on Saturday, October 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event offers the safe disposal of expired or unwanted prescription drugs. Take your unwanted prescription medications in their original bottles (with names blacked out) to any of the following sites:

- CVS: 680 N. McCarran Blvd., Sparks
- CVS: 55 Damonte Ranch Parkway, Reno
- SaveMart: 10500 N. McCarran Blvd., Reno
- Scolari's: 4788 Caughlin Parkway, Reno
- Smith's: 175 Lemmon Drive, Reno
- Walgreens: 3000 Vista Blvd., Sparks

#### **GET SOCIAL!** FOLLOW US ON TWITTER AND FACEBOOK

How do you make your social media experience more interesting? Just add water! Follow TMWA on Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram, or become a fan on Facebook. We regularly post water-related news, information, and tips as well as tour and workshop schedules. Here's how to find us:



twitter.com/tmwa



facebook.com/truckeemeadowswaterauthority



truckeemeadowswaterauthority



youtube.com/truckeemeadowswater

#### WHERE TO CALL

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. TMWA employs a highly skilled team who ensure the treatment, delivery and availability of high-quality drinking water around the clock for more than 400,000 residents of the Truckee Meadows.

#### **HOLIDAYS & EVENTS**

WINTERIZATION WORKSHOPS SEE DATES AND TIMES ABOVE

STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE OCTOBER 2 AT 3 P.M.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: STRATEGIC** PLANNING WORKSHOP OCTOBER 17 AT 10 A.M.

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







