

JANUARY 2019

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Rate Increase Deferred
- Time to Water Your Trees
- Water Quality is Our Highest Priority
- Smart About Water Quick Fact



## SMART ABOUT WATER QUICK FACT:

**80 PERCENT  
HYDROELECTRIC POWERED!**

TMWA's hydroelectric plants produce clean, renewable energy while keeping as much as 15,000 metric tons of carbon out of our atmosphere every year. (That's the total carbon produced from traditional energy — natural gas or coal.) And because the plants produce nearly all of the energy TMWA uses, they keep rates low while helping to keep pollutants out of the air we breathe. That's not bad for 100-year-old equipment!

## TMWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS DEFER RATE INCREASE

TMWA's Board of Directors has voted to defer a 2.5 percent rate increase that was scheduled to be implemented in May 2019. The deferral includes all customer classes. The vote took place at the Board of Directors meeting on Dec. 13, 2018.

“Given TMWA's positive financial position, the Board can deliver some good news to our customers,” said Vaughn Hartung, TMWA's chairman of the board. “Rate increases are necessary at times, but we are happy to announce that TMWA's forecasted financial conditions can accommodate this rate deferral.”

TMWA's financial factors that contributed to this deferral include unseasonably warm summers in the past three years, which resulted in increased water sales. Also, near-term flows in the Truckee River are projected to be enough to allow operation of our hydroelectric plants at near capacity levels. Last year, the three plants on the Truckee River generated an all-time high of \$3.7 million in hydroelectric power revenue which offset almost all of TMWA's power costs. Additionally, increases in interest returns on TMWA's bonds and higher than anticipated cash balances resulted in higher investment earnings.

Given the positive changes in TMWA's financial situation, TMWA staff and the Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) recommended that the Board defer the 2.5 percent rate increase scheduled for May 2019 and move it to May 2020. They also recommended that the Board reconsider the scheduled May 2021 and May 2022 increases at a later date. TMWA's funding plan will be updated again in the fall of 2019, and the Board and SAC will reexamine TMWA's financial position to decide if a rate increase is necessary in 2020.

## YOUR TREES NEED WATER IN THE WINTER

Winter watering is important to our region's community forest. When people turn off their sprinklers, most plants and lawns hibernate, but your trees still need care. Remember that winter in the Truckee Meadows usually means dry air, dry soil, and significant temperature swings — all of which can stress your trees. The need for winter watering may not be obvious, but trees need water during dry spells. To help keep your trees healthy, follow these winter watering tips:

**CONTINUED ON BACK**

## CONTINUED FROM FRONT:

- Water your trees every two to four weeks if there has been no significant rain or snow. A healthy, sufficiently watered tree can withstand strong winds and freezing temperatures far better than one that is dry and stressed.
- Apply water when temperatures are above 40 degrees and early enough in the day that the water will soak into the soil and not freeze overnight.
- Avoid spraying water on the trunks because it increases the risk of frost injuries.
- Be sure to disconnect and drain your hoses once you're done watering.

For more information on helping your trees stay healthy throughout the year, visit [www.tmwa.com/article/watering-trees/](http://www.tmwa.com/article/watering-trees/) (Information provided by Heidi Kratsch, Ph.D., C.H., University of Nevada Cooperative Extension).

## 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](https://twitter.com/tmwa)



[facebook.com/truckeemeadowswaterauthority](https://facebook.com/truckeemeadowswaterauthority)



[truckeemeadowswaterauthority](https://instagram.com/truckeemeadowswaterauthority)



[youtube.com/truckeemeadowswater](https://youtube.com/truckeemeadowswater)

## WATER QUALITY IS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY AT TMWA

TMWA's staff takes pride and care in the water we deliver to your tap. Every month, we take more than 1,000 testing samples from 180 locations throughout our distribution system. You can also look up specific water quality data by geographic location at [www.tmwa.com/water\\_quality](http://www.tmwa.com/water_quality). This water quality look-up page is regularly updated with the latest test results.

As your community-owned water purveyor, we are always ready to answer your inquiries and discuss the water quality at your home or business. If you have specific questions, please call our Water Quality Department at 775-834-8118. Overseeing and maintaining water quality for the safety of our customers is our No. 1 priority every day.

### 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

#### STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 5 AT 3 P.M.

#### PRESIDENTS DAY HOLIDAY (TMWA OFFICES CLOSED)

FEBRUARY 18

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

FEBRUARY 20 AT 10 A.M.

Find locations and details for all workshops and meetings here: [tmwa.com/meeting](http://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 400,000 residents of the Truckee Meadows.

