

Frequent Questions Asked by Our Customers...



How will we **SERVE WATER** to a **GROWING** Community?



Q: DO WE HAVE ENOUGH WATER SUPPLY TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF GROWTH?

A: Yes, TMWA customers currently use about 82,000 AF (acre feet) of water from the Truckee River and groundwater sources every year. Approximately 40,000 AF of Truckee River water rights remain available for conversion from agricultural to municipal use and an additional 8,000 AF of groundwater is accessible from Fish Springs Ranch. This is where the water will come from to serve a growing community—not from the water our community conserves or from what is stored as drought reserves.



Q: ARE PROTECTIONS IN PLACE TO ENSURE THAT GROWTH WON'T EXCEED WATER SUPPLY?

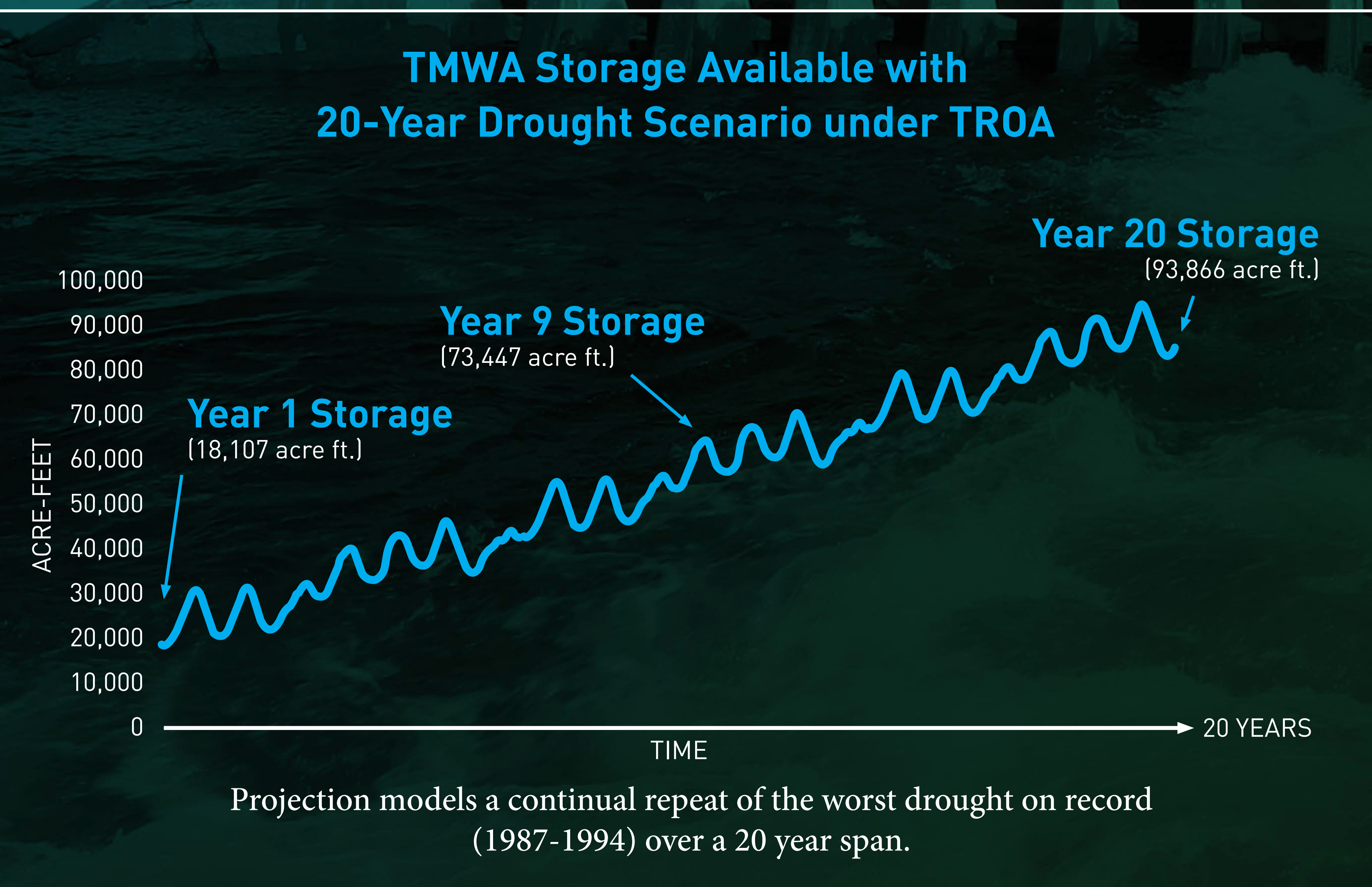
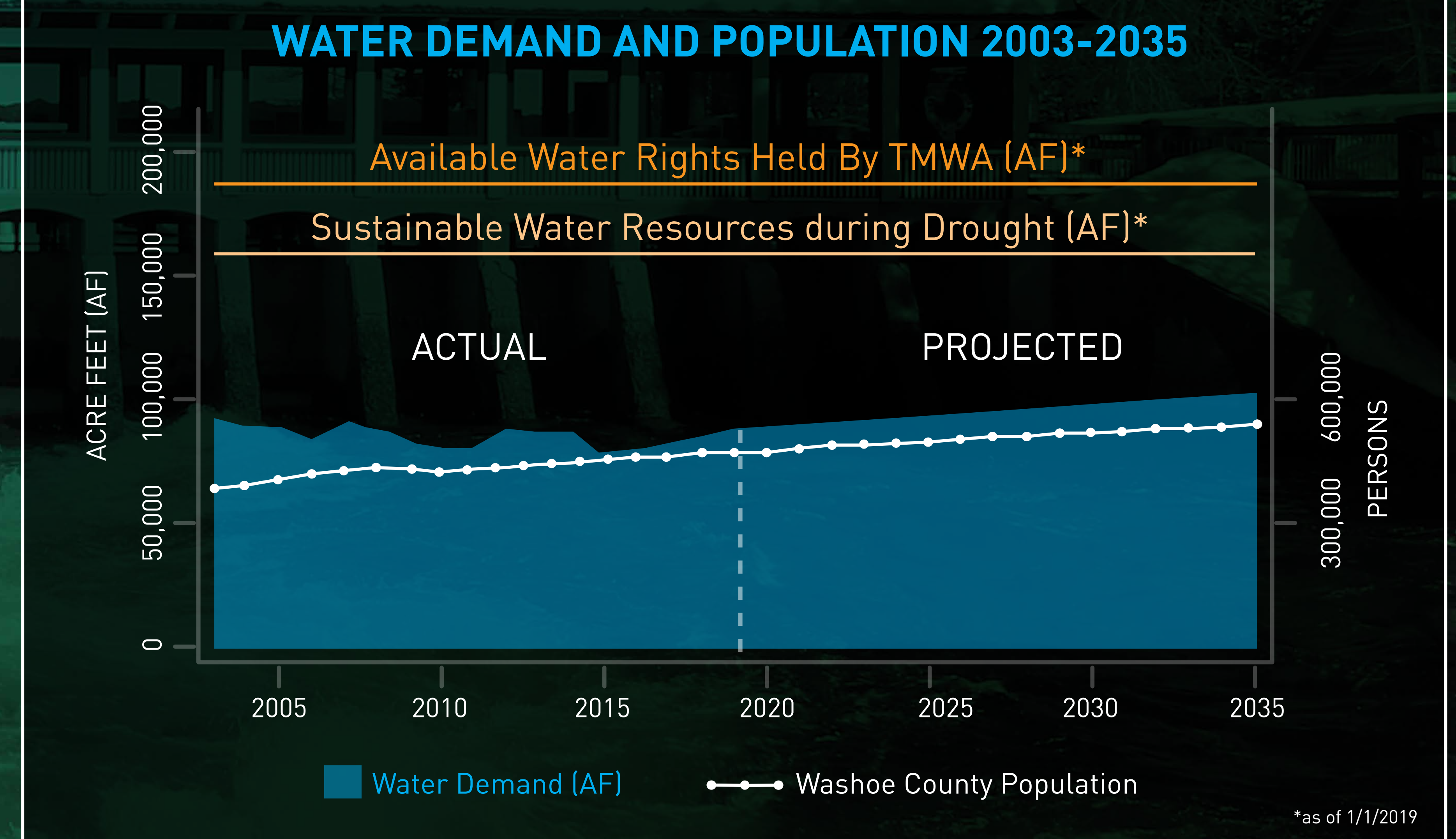
A: Yes, based on the following facts and practices:

- #1. Set by court decree in 1942, new water rights from the Truckee River cannot be created. Existing rights can be bought and sold, usually through converting use from agricultural to municipal.
- #2. New development is served only if enough water rights are dedicated to meet estimated water demands of the project. Dedicated rights are controlled by TMWA to divert, treat, and distribute water to the new project.
- #3. Water rights from outside sources can also be dedicated to TMWA. An example is groundwater from the Fish Springs Importation Project, which will serve future growth projected in the North Valleys.
- #4. For every acre foot of surface water rights needed for new development, building permit holders must dedicate an additional 11% acre feet of water rights to TMWA, which is dedicated to drought storage.



Q: AS THE COMMUNITY GROWS AND WE HAVE MORE WATER USERS, WHAT HAPPENS DURING DROUGHT YEARS?

A: The Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA) allows for added storage capacity in upstream reservoirs during drought years. Water that the community conserves during droughts can also add to the amount of storage available. With multi-year events, this capacity increases.



Q: WILL EXISTING TMWA CUSTOMERS HAVE TO PAY FOR THE INFRASTRUCTURE TO SERVE NEW DEVELOPMENTS?

A: No. Protections for existing customers are in place. When water system expansions are needed, TMWA charges developer fees to cover those costs (or the developer builds system expansions to meet TMWA system standards). In fact, in the 2018 fiscal year, development funds account for over \$8.1M in system expansions and another \$15M has been contributed to TMWA to pay for related infrastructure assets (pump stations, water mains, tanks, etc.).



Q: IS TMWA INVOLVED IN APPROVING NEW DEVELOPMENTS?

A: No. TMWA's role is to provide high-quality water for the community. TMWA does not approve residential or commercial development. TMWA enters into the process to ensure appropriate and sustainable water rights are dedicated and costs for new infrastructure are covered by developers. With water requirements met, permitting can be finalized by the cities or the county.

DID YOU KNOW?

Between 2003 and 2018, 32,000 new service connections have been added, yet total water demand is less today than it was in 2003. This is due to implementation of a three-day watering week, conversion of flat rate to metered billing and conservation habits becoming commonplace.