



SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM - ANNUAL SUMMARY 2021

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

TMWA has a robust Source Water Protection Program (SWPP) to improve and maintain regional drinking-water quality. A new component of TMWA's SWPP is the *2020 Integrated Source Water and 319(h) Watershed Protection Plan for Public Water Systems and the Truckee River in the Truckee Meadows* (2020 Plan). The 2020 Plan revolves around an [online tool](#) developed by the community to identify and map source water protection areas (SWPAs). This mapping facilitates actions that preserve and improve the quality of the groundwater, lakes, rivers, springs, and streams that supply drinking water to the public.

The sections below describe elements implemented from the 2020 Plan and other key components of TMWA's SWPP.

IMPROVED NDEP SPILL REPORTS

TMWA is notified by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) when spills occur that could impact groundwater or surface water sources. TMWA has been working with NDEP and other agencies to improve the spill reporting process and ensure all entities are aware of SWPAs and response and notification protocols. Additionally, TMWA closely monitors ongoing and active spill release sites overseen by NDEP to prevent impacts to TMWA's water supply wells. TMWA reviewed 51 spill reports in 2021.

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS TO IMPROVE SURFACE WATER QUALITY

TMWA uses a range of strategies to protect the Truckee River watershed. Many of these programs were in place before the completion of the 2020 Plan and are now integrated into it. Firstly, TMWA is an active partner in the One Truckee River Partnership Council and a key implementation partner in the Truckee River Restroom Project. Secondly, TMWA works throughout the watershed by funding projects to maintain and improve water quality through the Truckee River Fund. Lastly, during 2021, TMWA increased collaboration with upstream stakeholders to improve forest management efforts and decrease the risk of wildfires that could impact source waters.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECT APPLICATION REVIEWS

TMWA is notified of projects that are being reviewed by Washoe County's Planning and Building Division, City of Reno's Planning Commission, and Sparks Planning & Community Services Department. In addition to other internal TMWA reviews, these projects are now also evaluated for source water protection concerns. If concerns are noted, then comments are provided to the applicants via the agencies. TMWA reviewed 92 agendas and projects, and a small number of projects of concern were addressed through this process in 2021. Projects submitted as New Business Applications to TMWA that are located within the SWPAs are also reviewed for source water protection concerns. 53 projects were reviewed in 2021.

CENTRAL TRUCKEE MEADOWS REMEDIATION DISTRICT

TMWA actively engages with the Central Truckee Meadows Remediation District to ensure groundwater remediation and PCE prevention activities continue to protect TMWA's water supply wells.



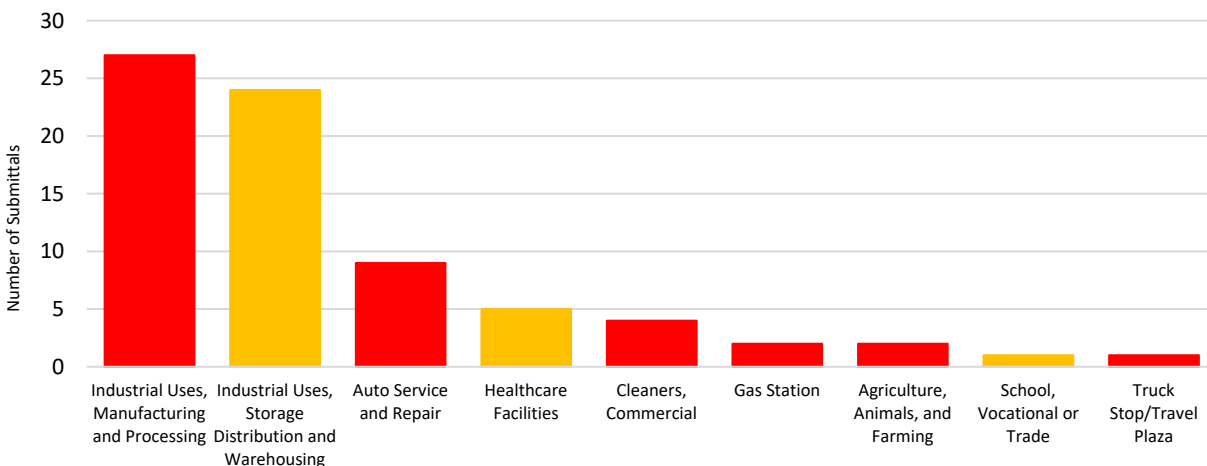
CITY OF RENO NEW BUSINESS LICENSE SUBMITTALS

One goal of the 2020 Plan was the implementation of development ordinances to protect source water. In 2020, the City of Reno amended their Title 18 Land Development Code to add a process for new businesses to notify TMWA if they fall within designated SWPAs. In March 2021, TMWA started receiving notifications through its online [portal](#).

TMWA is notified when new activities are planned within critical distances of sensitive water infrastructure (e.g., Truckee River, groundwater wells, etc.). This provides the opportunity for TMWA staff to educate those businesses about the location of drinking water sources and the SWPP. This cooperative process equips businesses with the information needed to take the measures required to help prevent future groundwater and surface water contamination.

TMWA received notifications from 75 business from mid-March 2021 through December 2021, and TMWA contacted 16 of those businesses. Businesses were contacted if they were located within a Critical SWPA and/or the business type was of particular concern for water quality. On the graph below, red indicates business types of the highest concern and yellow are of moderate concern. The attached maps show locations for projects submitted in 2021.

2021 SOURCE WATER PROTECTION SUBMITTALS BY BUSINESS TYPE



2022 PROGRAM GOALS

Key goals for TMWA's Source Water Protection Program in 2022 include the following:

- Engage with Sparks and Washoe County to get source water protection notifications integrated into their business license submittal processes.
- Finalize spill response, notification, and reporting flowchart with NDEP and other local jurisdictions.
- Notify existing industrial businesses within the 5-year capture zones of TMWA's production wells.
- Continue collaborating with upstream entities to increase the pace and scale of forest health management projects to decrease the likelihood of and impacts from large-scale wildfires in the headwaters.
- Install one additional public restroom as part of the Truckee River Restroom Project in collaboration with One Truckee River.
- Update Source Water Protection Areas with any changes (annually).

