

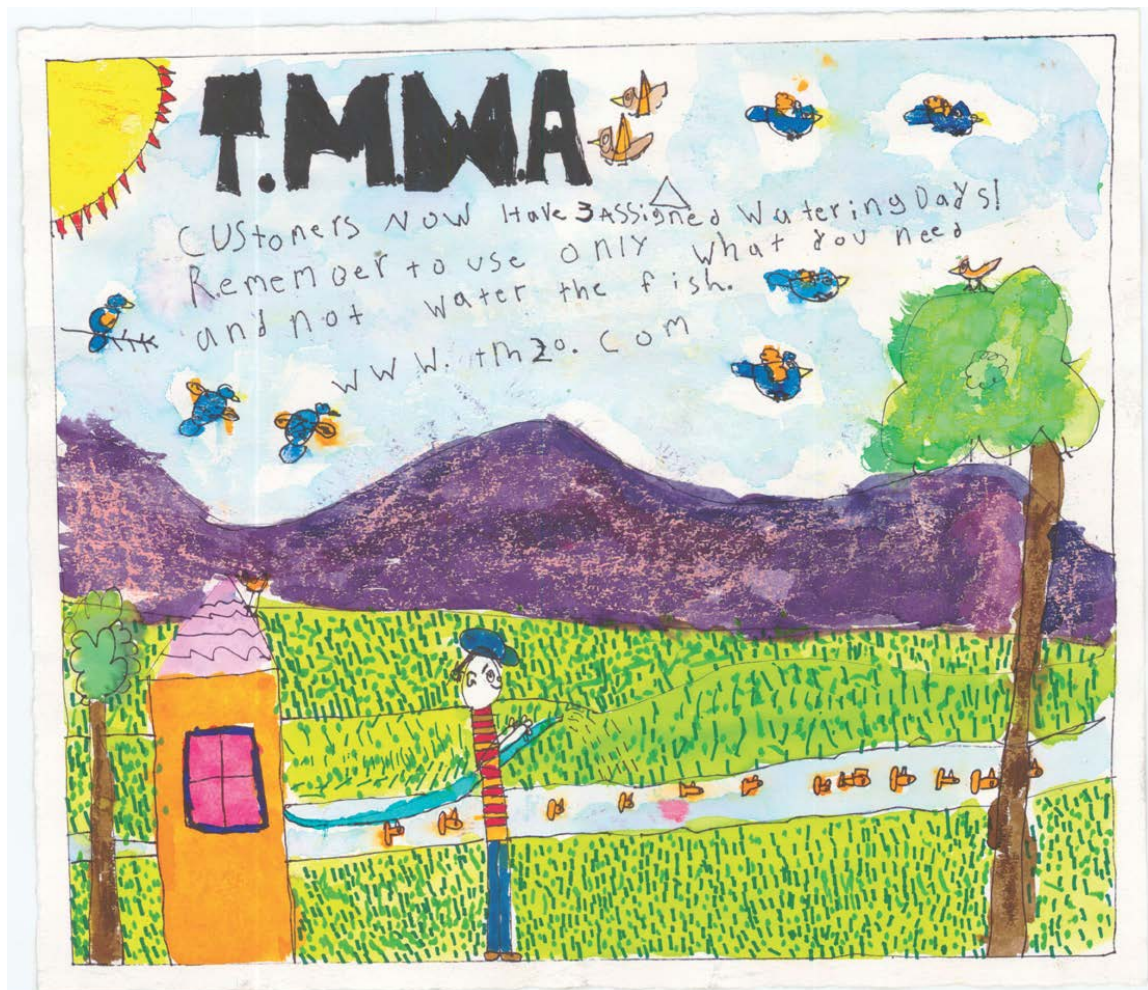


TMWA Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Press Clippings

July 5, 2011 – September 13, 2011



*Joshua & Sarah Burrows (Jessie Beck Elementary School)
2010 Poster Art Contest - Second Place, Grades K-3*



Truckee River hydroelectric plants set records



Written by

Jeff DeLong

6:43 PM, Sep. 12, 2011

Plentiful water draining from the mountains produced an added benefit -- lots of electricity.

The Truckee Meadows Water Authority produced more power at its Truckee River hydroelectric plants than at any other time in its decade-long history.

And for the first time, the utility generated more electricity than it used in its task to provide water to roughly 93,000 homes and businesses across the greater Reno-Sparks area.

"We actually had a surplus. It was a record year," said Pat Neilson, manager of distribution and generation for the utility.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, the water authority's three hydroelectric plants generated 45,863 megawatts. That's compared to an average of between 41,000 and 42,000 megawatts, Neilson said.

Electricity produced by the utility's plants is

sold for use on NV Energy's power grid. One megawatt is sufficient electricity to power about 750 homes for an hour.

The water system, including the hydroelectric plants, was sold by Sierra Pacific Power Co. to Washoe County and the cities of Reno and Sparks -- which jointly operate the utility -- in 2001.

It's likely that Sierra Pacific at some point produced more electricity than the water authority did last fiscal year but that would have occurred when the system's most powerful hydroelectric plant at Farad, Calif., was operating, Neilson said. That facility was destroyed during the Truckee River flood of January 1997.

A heavy winter snowpack set the stage for a big electricity year, Neilson said. The situation received another boost with cool June temperatures, which allowed for a steady, measured runoff on the Truckee. Often, a warm spring brings a quick and gushing runoff followed by a quickly dropping river that limits hydroelectric

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generation.

"We had a great winter with great runoff and for us, the runoff came perfectly," Neilson said. "It really kind of paced itself."

The 43,512 megawatts of electricity used by the water authority last fiscal year is a record low for the utility, Neilson said.

"We're trying to be as green as we can and this year we made great progress in that endeavor," he said.

The decrease in power use largely resulted from the 2010 completion of the \$19 million Mogul Bypass pipeline project.

That project allows Truckee River water to flow to the utility's primary water treatment plant at Chalk Bluff by gravity, saving what had been \$400,000 per year in pumping costs and significantly dropping power consumption.

"That definitely helped dramatically," Neilson said. ©

Truckee River hydroelectric plants

Fleish Plant, west of Gold Ranch. Built in 1905. Capacity of 2.5 megawatts per hour.

Verdi Plant, near Verdi Elementary School. Built in 1911. Capacity 2.3 megawatts per hour.

Washoe Plant, near Mogul. Built in 1904. Capacity of 1.9 megawatts per hour. Source: Truckee Meadows Water Authority.

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Editorial: New spirit of cooperation is welcome at Lake Tahoe

9:00 PM, Sep. 12, 2011|

Despite the Nevada Legislature's injudicious threat to withdraw from the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact -- or, perhaps, because of it -- there finally appears to be a commitment to a cooperative approach between Nevada and California to move ahead with the overdue update of the critical Tahoe regional plan.

There are no guarantees that the cooperation won't simply provide more of the same fodder for lawsuits that previous efforts have, of course. But we can hope.

• • •

That's the nature of the challenge at Lake Tahoe, where Tahoe Regional Planning Agency board members and staff must carefully bridge several deep and divisive chasms -- from the different philosophies of governing in Nevada and California, to balancing support for the economy with protection of the lake's famous beauty, to support of property rights vs. the rights of the public. Far too often, the solutions to those difficult and complex differences have eluded elected officials on both sides of the

lake and found their way into court. The result: For more than 40 years, every bit of progress at the lake has been hard-won, as the various factions felt that their backs were against the wall and they had no choice but to fight back. So, last month's promise by the bi-state agency to affirm its December 2012 goal for completing the regional plan update, due every 20 years and last accomplished in 1987, is a welcome development. On Aug. 24, the governing board chartered a committee to consider "items crucial" to the update. It will, in the words of Chairman Norma Santiago, "be able to delve deeply into the most contentious issues while keeping alive the spirit of compromise between the states." The importance of that can't be overstated. For many years, the California attitude was that all the problems at the lake were caused by Nevada and its casinos on the north and south shores. The Golden State concentrated on preventing any

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expansion of gaming at the lake. Under the leadership of Jerry Brown, former and current governor, California's representatives on the governing board opposed even Nevada's efforts to construct a "ring road" around the casinos to ease traffic congestion and the casinos' efforts to build parking garages. Nevada eventually agreed to ban any expansion of the casinos, and two planned hotel-casinos in Stateline were never built. When that wasn't enough to satisfy California, Nevada got a lot less cooperative. Still, much progress has been made during the past 20 years -- at least until the recent disagreement over the redevelopment of a casino on the north shore. It's to be hoped that the new spirit of cooperation marked by Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval and Brown at the recent Tahoe Summit will allow officials to concentrate on solving the most critical environmental problems at the lake, while local officials deal with the nuts and bolts in their communities. And, if it turns out that it took threats from the Nevada Legislature to finally get everyone's attention, good for Nevada.

SNAPSHOT

TOPIC: Overdue regional plan

OUR VIEW: Commitment to completing the plan is critical to the lake's future.

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TMWA announces Water-Efficient Landscape Awards winners

Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA), with the Reno News & Review, announce the winners of the 2011 Water-Efficient Landscape Awards. Five winners have been rewarded with hundreds of dollars in materials and services to jumpstart their landscape makeover projects. Entries were evaluated based on their plans to create a water-efficient landscape using the seven xeriscape principles in TMWA's Landscape Guide.

"We are very excited to reward these five homeowners on their hard work to create water-efficient landscapes in the Truckee Meadows," Lora Rose Richards, TMWA Administrator of Conservation & Community Outreach, said. "They put in the time to come up with thoughtful landscape plans that will help save water. The prizes provided by our generous sponsors will make a big difference in helping these homeowners get started with the projects they submitted."

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ENTERED! AND THE WINNERS ARE...

Gift certificates to local garden shops and landscapers were awarded to David Ingersoll and Kathleen Fern in Somerset; Liz Hemsley in Reno; Katie Eilers in Sparks; and Genie MontBlanc in Mogul. Tiffany Schweickert and Matt Albrecht in Reno won in the newly created edible garden category.

Judges included Marnie Brannon of Garden Shop Nursery, Steve Fine of Reno Lawn and Landscape, Scott Gescheider of Moana Nursery, Zack Kelley of Dayton Valley Turf, Jason Perry of Western and Tam Stille of the River School Farm.

THANK YOU SPONSORS!

Special thanks to all who participated in the seventh-annual Water-Efficient Landscape Awards, especially to our sponsors: Reno News & Review, All Seasons Lawn and Landscaping, Dayton Valley Turf, Dry Creek Garden Co., Garden Shop Nursery, Moana Nursery, Reno Lawn & Landscape, Truckee Meadows Community Forestry Coalition and Western Turf & Hardscapes.



Visit www.tmwalandscapguide.com for more information about water-efficient landscaping.

Presented by:



Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) is a not-for-profit water utility, overseen by elected officials from Reno, Sparks and Washoe County. TMWA employs a highly skilled team who assure the treatment, delivery and availability of high-quality drinking water around the clock for more than 330,000 residents of the Truckee Meadows.



Students to get environmental lesson at pilot wetland sign unveiling ceremony

August 26, 2011

By [ThisIsReno](#)

CITY OF RENO MEDIA ADVISORY

When: The unveiling ceremony is Tuesday, Aug. 30, 10:30 a.m.

Where: The Chalk Creek constructed wetland was built on the creek's east fork, downhill from Rainbow Ridge Park (Rainbow Ridge Drive off Mae Anne), just south of Simons Drive.

What: The city of Reno will unveil two interpretative signs, one at the site of a sulfate-reducing wetland in Northwest Reno. The Northwest Neighborhood Advisory Board provided a \$5,000 community pride grant to help design and build the sign.

Public Works staff secured a grant from the Truckee River Fund to build a pilot wetland in Chalk Creek to reduce pollution in the creek. The wetland was designed and built by JBR Environmental with monitoring provided by a graduate student of Civil Engineering at the University of Nevada, Reno. The sulfate-reducing wetland, completed in June 2010, was designed to remove some of the sulfates that flow down Chalk Creek and into the Truckee River. The local geology is high in salts, and soils transport fertilizers very well; then the irrigation water carries them into Chalk Creek. This project was intended to provide pollution reduction to the Truckee River and is being monitored for effectiveness.

Who: Students, including members of the Sarah Winnemucca Elementary School "Green Team," will be walking to the unveiling ceremony from the neighborhood school. Public Works Director John Flansberg will be dedicating the signs in thanks to the community for providing funds for this pilot-scale project. City Hydrologist Lynell Garfield-Qualls will give the students a lesson on how the wetland project works to lower the sulfate and other pollution in the water.

Why: The City of Reno Public Works Department is active in monitoring the effects of storm water pollution to the streams and Truckee River. As part of the Truckee Meadows Watershed Committee, the City has tested this cost effective measure for improving water quality in tributaries draining to the Truckee River.

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Wet winter boosts hydro production

John Seelmeyer, 8/29/2011

Heavy snow in the Sierra last winter is paying financial dividends for Truckee Meadows Water Authority customers this summer.

TMWA, which operates three small hydroelectric plants along the Truckee River west of Reno, has generated more than enough electricity to offset its power requirements.

A big factor was runoff from the Sierra snowpack, especially because the flow down the Truckee remained strong well into the summer, says Pat Nielson, manager of distribution maintenance and generation for TMWA.

"We had a banner year," he says. "The water was available at the right times this year."

The hydro plants delivered about 45.9 million kilowatt hours to the NV Energy system. That's roughly 2 million more kilowatt hours than the amount of electricity consumed by TMWA.

NV Energy, which uses the hydro power to offset a portion of a state requirement to rely on renewable sources for energy production, credits its purchases against TWMA's power bill.

Flows along the Truckee River were topping 600 cubic feet a second last week, well above the 500-cfs average this time of year. That's maintaining power production deeper into the season, Nielson says.

While the long runoff season was a major factor in TMWA's strong hydro production, Nielson says the water utility also is reaping the benefit of a years-long effort to modernize the three hydro plants.

The plants were built by Sierra Pacific Power Co. in 1904, 1905 and 1912. TMWA took them over when it purchased the water utility operations from Sierra Pacific in 2001.

At each of the hydro plants, water is diverted from the river into a flume to spin a generator and back into the river. (The water rights for the plants are among the oldest on the Truckee.)

TMWA also has benefited from operational improvements that have reduced its power consumption — meaning that hydro power can meet a larger portion of the utility's needs even in years without big snowpack.

A big reduction in pumping costs came with completion of improvements to the gravity-fed Highland Canal, which delivers as much as 95 million gallons of water a day to the Chalk Bluff treatment plant just west of McCarran Boulevard near Fourth Street

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TCID water rights owners approve bond question



Written by

Staff Report

11:07 AM, Aug. 23, 2011

FERNLEY--Truckee Carson Irrigation District water rights owners overwhelmingly approved a \$5 million bond question in a special election last Tuesday.

A total of 1,590 votes were cast in that election, and in Fernley, there were 91 votes in favor and only one opposed.

In Fallon, 1,158 votes were registered in favor of the bond and 210 against the question.

There were also 130 absentee voted casts, and all of those votes were in favor the bond question.

After the election, the irrigation district issued a press release which read, "We at TCID would like to thank the water users of the Newlands Project for participating in this very important Bond Election. Thank all of you that helped get the word out; we felt that the turnout was very good for the registered voters. One of the benefits of the election was that many people were

registered that did not realize that registration with TCID is in addition to registration for general elections. Thanks to everyone."

Irrigation district board members canvassed the votes at a special meeting on Monday.

Irrigation District Office Manager Kate Rutan said the TCID had passed one hurdle with the election, adding, "Now we need to cross another hurdle--finding someone to buy the bonds."

Rutan also said while there is more work to be done, she is grateful for the support from the community.

The \$5 million bond will be used to repair 33 conduits in the Fernley reach of the Truckee Canal, as well as to replace takeouts and stockwater lines and reinforce the banks of the Canal.

Other projected work includes reconstruction to the Lewis Spill in Churchill

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County, and also paying for past construction work at Donner Lake and reimbursing the Bureau of Reclamation \$1.2 million for geotechnical work done on the Canal following its 2008 breach.

Working to rally water rights owners were the Friends of the Historic Truckee Canal (FHTC), who sent out a letter to all water rights owners.

In a written statement, Rod Windle, FHTC Public Information Coordinator said, "FHTC is all about preserving our most valuable resource, the Truckee Canal and the water that flows to our community through that canal. Without it we surely couldn't prosper and the already devastated economies of Fernley and Fallon would be even more severely effected."

Work on the Truckee Canal is anticipated to begin on Nov. 1, after the irrigation district de-waters the canal. Rutan noted before construction can begin the canal but be completely dry. Construction should take between three or four months.

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LOCAL

Swimmers Ask 'Where's The Beach?' As Tahoe Water Level Near Record High

August 24, 2011 3:20 PM

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Lake Tahoe (Wikipedia)

SAN FRANCISCO (KCBS) – The water level in Lake Tahoe is the highest it's been in years. While this summer had many folks at Lake Tahoe searching for a dry beach to lay down a towel, this is great news for downstream water users in the coming year.

"I guess after four dry years in a row and a lot of shoreline, it just felt like the lake never fills, or rarely fills," said Bill Hauck, senior water supply coordinator for the Truckee Meadows Water Authority.

He said that, of course, the beaches were smaller this year because there was more water in the lake. In fact, the water level stops just shy of the top of the dam in Tahoe City. That six foot difference between the natural lake rim and the top of the dam creates a reservoir of sorts.

KCBS' Susan Leigh Taylor Reports:

"It's about 744,000 acre feet, and Lake Tahoe is the largest reservoir on the Truckee River system," said Hauck.

This is terrific news for the 300,000 plus customers served by the water authority, but Hauck said that people shouldn't get their hopes up too high for next year's beach scene.

"If history tells us anything, we can see by looking at historical hydrology for the last 110 years that we're due for another wet year next year," said Hauck. That means another full lake.

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Reporting Susan Leigh Taylor

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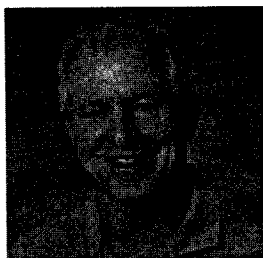
Opinion: Boat inspections are an inconvenience, but a must for water quality

Posted by admin in [Voices](#) on August 23rd, 2011 | [5 responses](#)

By Ron Penrose

Protecting our drinking water source is vital to our entire community. Truckee Meadows Water Authority has helped fund many different programs and projects designed to protect Lake Tahoe and the Truckee River. The Truckee River Fund, which was established in 2004 by TMWA's board of directors, was created for the purpose of protecting and enhancing water quality of the Truckee River and its watershed. Through matching grants, the TRF has been able to fund projects that achieve this mission.

Mandatory boat inspections, managed by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and partially funded by the TRF, is one program that is aimed at protecting our drinking water by preventing the introduction of quagga mussels into our water source. If you are a boater and have been enjoying Lake Tahoe this summer, you have no doubt noticed that boat inspections are mandatory, but you may not know why.



Ron Penrose

Lake Tahoe is known for its beauty, clarity and clean water. We are fortunate to have such a pristine source for this community's primary drinking water supply. Boat and watercraft inspections are our first line of defense against quagga mussels entering Lake Tahoe. Quagga mussels can wreak havoc on bodies of water. They are very harmful to a native ecosystem since they disrupt the natural food chain and once established, they are nearly impossible to eradicate.

The quagga mussel will clog water supply pipelines and can cause extensive damage to water system infrastructure that can cost millions to repair. They can leave formerly pristine beaches littered with dead shells. They could also disrupt our hydroelectric plants' intakes causing higher energy and maintenance costs. Because quagga mussels are extremely efficient breeders, they take hold in a water source very quickly and thrive in very deep bodies of water creating "dead zones" in lakes they occupy.

Our community is working diligently to keep mussels from entering Lake Tahoe and other upstream reservoirs. Let's keep it that way.

As a boater, you can help prevent quagga mussel infestation by abiding by the boat inspection regulations that are designed to protect the lake you are enjoying. We know that this invasive species hitches rides on watercraft and then spread to other bodies of water. The irreversible quagga and zebra mussel infestations of Lake Mead and the Great Lakes are thought to have been caused by this mechanism.

Some might find these mandatory boat inspections to be inconvenient, delaying their enjoyment of Lake Tahoe. However, to TMWA staff, who are dedicated to delivering to you great quality drinking water, this small delay helps preserve the pristine nature of Lake Tahoe which is so vitally important to our drinking water supply, recreational enjoyment and tourism based economy.

I hope you enjoy Lake Tahoe this summer.

Mandatory boat inspections to expand to Truckee area

Posted by admin in [Featured Articles](#), [News](#), [Outdoor & Sports](#) on August 23rd, 2011 | [no responses](#)

By **Katherine E. Hill**

TRUCKEE – Truckee-area waterways will implement a regional mandatory boat inspection program in summer 2012, with public meetings being conducted to gather input before the program is crafted by the Tahoe Resource Conservation District.

The next meeting will be Aug. 25 at the Truckee Donner Public Utility District office at 5:30pm. The final meeting will be on Sept. 29.

The first meeting on July 28 drew only about a dozen people, and the majority were local officials already invested in the boat inspection program. Tahoe RCD, which also manages the inspection program on Lake Tahoe and Echo and Fallen Leaf lakes for the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, is developing the Truckee regional program. The Truckee program will include Donner Lake, and Prosser Creek, Boca and Stampede reservoirs. The Tahoe RCD is conducting voluntary inspections at these waterways, but mandatory inspections are needed to keep invasive species, like the destructive quagga and zebra mussels, out of local lakes and reservoirs, officials say.



Quagga mussels like these on a boat prop leaving Lake Mead are what officials want to keep out of uncontaminated lakes.
Photo/TRPA

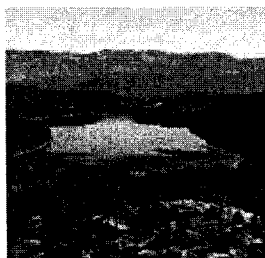
“The zebra and quagga mussels are the scariest of the invasive species,” said Kimberly Boyd, Tahoe RCD invasive species program manager, at the July 28 forum.

Zebra and quagga mussels would be the priority for the boat inspection program, but the program also would address other aquatic invasive species such as New Zealand mudsnails, Asian clams and Eurasian milfoil. While mussels have not been detected in local waterways, Eurasian milfoil is in Lake Tahoe, Martis Creek Reservoir and the Truckee River, and Asian clams have been found in Lake Tahoe and Donner Lake, said Dave Roberts, Tahoe RCD district manager.

Tahoe RCD officials said during the forum that the need to keep aquatic invasive species out of local waterways is broad reaching. AIS affect the food supply of native species and the health of local waterways, including Lake Tahoe’s famed clarity. For the Truckee region, AIS in local waterways also will affect the water supply for the Reno-Sparks area, which gets 80 percent of its drinking water from the Truckee River. While the river originates in Lake Tahoe, Donner, Boca, Prosser Creek, Stampede, Martis Creek and Independence Lake are all part of the river’s watershed. Any AIS in local waterways will mean infected drinking water supplies.

Locals will be the most affected by the mandatory program, as about 55 percent of boaters using the waters within the Truckee River watershed also live within it, according to a survey conducted by UNR, for the Tahoe RCD. Of those boaters, about 61 percent are anglers and 17 percent are water skiers and wake boarders.

No fees were discussed at the meeting. Fees will depend on how the program is crafted and any outside funding sources that could be used to offset the cost to boaters, Boyd said.



Mandatory boat inspections are coming to Donner Lake in 2012.
Photo/Katherine E. Hill

Boaters can now find inspectors at the Donner Lake boat launch, as well as roving the east side of Boca and Stampede Reservoirs educating boaters about AIS and conducting voluntary inspections through Sept. 30. Free decontaminations also are offered.

The challenge, once a mandatory inspection program is in place, will be where to have them. Unlike Donner Lake, which has only one public boat launch, boaters using local reservoirs can launch from the shore. Officials will be looking at where to conduct the inspections next summer to catch all boaters, with the Hirshdale exit off Interstate 80 cited as one possible location.

“The Truckee area has enormous shoreline launching with uncontrolled launch sites,” Boyd said.

The public forum, which lasted about 1½ hours, focused on educating the audience about AIS, the voluntary inspection program and boating in the Truckee region. What it did not do is outline a mandatory boat inspection program. Instead, officials want the public to tell them what a boat program should include and then the Tahoe RCD will craft a program around those needs.

The Tahoe RCD wants public input on the use of a banding and/or sticker program like the one being used at Lake Tahoe, where boaters receive a sticker after passing an inspection before launching and the boats are banded to the trailer when it comes out of the lake. The seal is required to remain intact before the next launch, or an inspection must be performed again.

Other topics open for discussion include possible locations for inspection stations, fines for non-compliance, restricting access to local waterways, decontamination of infected boats, inspections of fishing equipment, education and outreach, and fees.

Once the forums are finished, Boyd said the Tahoe RCD would form a plan and then seek funding to operate the mandatory inspection program. The district also would have to get approval from myriad public agencies that control the different waterways, like the Nevada County Board of Supervisors, Town of Truckee, California State Parks, U.S. Forest Service and others. This process could take months, she said, noting that it would be next summer before a mandatory program could be implemented.

The Truckee River Fund has been funding the voluntary boat inspection program, as well as efforts to establish a mandatory program. The fund was established by the Truckee Meadows Water Authority, which oversees the drinking water for the Reno-Sparks area.

A look at AIS

Quagga and zebra mussels are at the center of Lake Tahoe’s inspection program.

These mussels, which are hitching rides on boats and trailers and in ballast tanks, bladders and live wells, are spreading across the West. Quagga and zebra mussels will spread rapidly once they are introduced to a lake and will gorge on the food supply, kill fish and pollute the clarity of the lake. They will clog cooling system water intakes, causing motors to overheat. As well, they have been found in pipes in municipal water systems.

The mussels can also be found on kayaks, water toys, wetsuits and any equipment exposed to infected waters.

Young quagga mussels will feel like sandpaper to the touch, while adults usually have dark concentric rings on the shell. The mussels can grow up to 1.6 inches, making the young mussels hard to spot. Full grown mussels are usually smaller than a quarter.

Eurasian milfoil, a fast-growing invasive plant, is believed to have been intentionally introduced in the



Milfoil is throughout the Tahoe Keys.
Photo/TRPA

South Lake Tahoe area, where it has proliferated. The milfoil is commonly found in aquariums and researchers believe that someone dumped out a fish tank into Lake Tahoe, thereby setting off an environmental nightmare. Simply breaking off a plant fragment will cause it to spread and reproduce, and it is choking parts of Lake Tahoe, including the Tahoe Keys, where the milfoil has to be regularly removed to keep the waterway clear. The plants latch onto motor boats, causing it to spread across the lake, where it degrades water quality, decreases oxygen levels in the water, destroys native habitat and creates habitat for non-native species. Researchers are working on methods to eradicate the milfoil in Lake Tahoe.

Asian clams grow to only about 1½ inches, but rapidly reproduce and compete with native species for food. The clams also affect the clarity of Lake Tahoe. The clams likely arrived in Lake Tahoe on boat that came from infected waterways and from aquariums being dumped into Lake Tahoe. Researchers are working on methods to eradicate the clams in Lake Tahoe.

New Zealand mudsnails are about the size of a pencil lead when fully grown and are hard to spot. The mudsnails have been infesting rivers and streams across the Western United States, often found latching onto the gear and boots of fishermen; they can be hard to distinguish from boot laces. The mudsnails reduce the food supply for trout and have no natural predators in the United States.

Next meeting

Tahoe RCD will conduct the Aug. 25 public forum at the Truckee Donner Public Utility District office, 11570 Donner Pass Road, Truckee. For more information, go [online](#) or call (530) 587.4911.

\$43 million for Lake Tahoe restoration

by Tribune Staff

08.18.11 - 12:00 am

WASHINGTON D.C. — U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar recently announced that the department will commit more than \$43.1 million for a variety of conservation and recreation improvement projects throughout Nevada and Lake Tahoe.

The funding is a result of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA), which uses proceeds from sales of federal land in Clark County, Nevada, to fund environmental restoration, conservation and public recreational projects throughout the state.

“Nevada’s natural beauty and unique landscapes are economic engines for the state, and these funds will not only help restore and enhance these special areas for future generations, but the projects will create jobs and provide vital resources to hard hit communities for the benefit of all who live in and visit the state,” Salazar said.

“The BLM is committed to ensuring that the American people benefit from their public lands,” said Bureau of Land Management Director Bob Abbey, who oversees the public land sales. “The BLM values its strategic partnership with the State of Nevada and we are committed to ensuring that our public lands continue to play a central role in the economy of the state and in the lives of its citizens. The projects funded by this program are especially critical during these tough economic times.”

The Round 12 projects will generate more than 645 permanent full-time jobs over nine years, including 125 jobs by the end of 2012.

Funding approved in Round 12 expenditures under the act includes more than \$7.5 million for projects throughout Nevada in the following categories:

- Parks, Trails & Natural Areas - \$1,319,222
- Capital Improvements - \$1,109,275
- Conservation Initiatives - \$1,641,671
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This article was printed from the Green Guide section of the *Reno News & Review*, originally published August 18, 2011.

This article may be read online at:

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Printed on 2011-08-19.

Up a creek

A sleeping stream, rudely awakened

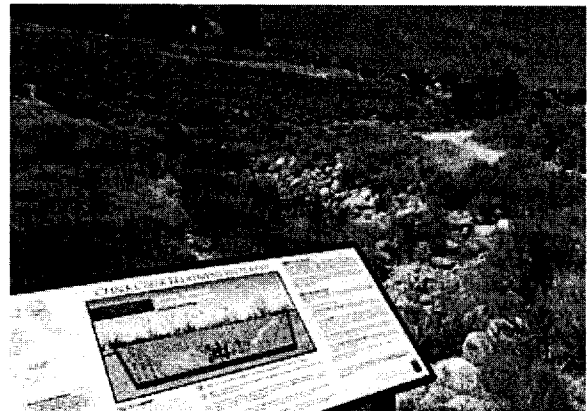
By Kat Kerlin

Before the houses came, water rarely flowed through Chalk Creek in Northwest Reno. Then, in the mid-2000s, new developments added lawns, a school, a golf course. People moved into the houses and began washing their cars, watering and fertilizing their grass, sweeping their leaves into storm drains. Chalk Creek began to flow year-round.

But the water flowing through it is brimming with nitrogen, phosphorous, sulfate-heavy salt—with year-round levels 10-100 times higher than that found in surrounding creeks. Those nutrients and salts enter the Truckee River, the region's main drinking water source.

"The nitrogen and phosphorous we put on our grass and trees and gardens—our over-watering carries those off the sidewalk, onto the curb and into the river," says city of Reno hydrologist Lynell Garfield-Qualls.

The city will hold its first Urban Watershed Awareness Day on Aug. 27. Volunteers will meet at the Purple Bean at 8 a.m. before going out into northwest Reno neighborhoods to stencil storm drains with "No Dumping" messages and to disperse information. Then on Aug. 30, the city and the Northwest Neighborhood Advisory Board (NAB) will unveil new interpretive signs for the Chalk Creek Sulfate-Reducing Wetland.



A wetland built along Chalk Creek treats sulfates and other pollutants in Northwest Reno.

Photo By Kat Kerlin

Urban Watershed Awareness Day will be Aug. 27. Volunteers meet at 8 a.m. at The Purple Bean before dispersing to stencil storm drains in Northwest Reno. 1315 W. Seventh St. Ends at 11 a.m. Learn more at the Facebook page of American Fisheries Society University of Nevada, Reno, or call 343-6876.

Garfield-Qualls says aerial photographs from 1986-2006 used bright pink to indicate areas of water. "In 1986, there was almost no pink at all in the photograph," she says. "There was no water in Chalk Creek to support vegetation. Then you look at 2006. ... Suddenly, you can trace the pink lines down the stream. Suddenly, the creek is running year-round."

That may not have been so bad, except that the soils of the Chalk Creek watershed contain Hunter Creek sandstone, which leaches salt when water runs through it. And it doesn't help that polluted water is flowing through it.

"So we have natural salts but artificial transport just through irrigation," says Garfield-Qualls. "It comes out super salty and super high in nutrients."

Just downhill from Rainbow Ridge Park, pockets of cattails and tall grasses attempt to counteract some of this with a wetland, funded by the Truckee River Fund and Northwest NAB. As water filters through the wetland, microorganisms in the soil eat the sulfates, producing hydrogen sulfide gas. The gas, which smells like rotten eggs, evaporates or is carried by the wind, removing sulfates from the system. Meanwhile, nearby cottonwoods and willow trees take up the nutrients the water is better off without.

"So nutrients are being taken up by the plants, and the salt is being taken out by the bugs," says Garfield-Qualls.

While the bugs are hard at work, residents can also minimize their impacts. First, understand that, unlike some cities, Reno doesn't have a separate storm drain system leading to a water treatment plant; if it goes in the storm drain, it finds its way to the Truckee. Also, reduce use of chemicals, like fertilizers and pesticides. Consider xeriscaping and using drip irrigation. Residents in the Chalk Creek watershed are encouraged to wash cars at a car wash rather than their homes. Reevaluate home watering times; try watering in short, frequent intervals, like for five minutes three times a day.

"Our crown jewel of the city is the Truckee River," says Garfield-Qualls. "It's smart in a lot of ways to think about what we're putting on the ground, in our drinking water, and what we're putting in our river."



Editorial: Vegas water officials must meet a high burden of proof

10:25 PM, Aug. 17, 2011|

In the dry, wide-open spaces of the Western United States, it's not unusual for people to look far afield for water. Dams, reservoirs, canals and sloughs are the norm throughout much of the West, not an anomaly.

Yet, even recognizing that reality, the plan by the Southern Nevada Water Authority to build a 300-mile pipeline far into the interior of Nevada to slake the thirst of the state's most populous city seems to many powerless rural Nevadans like bullying by the big city to the south.

It also has raised the specter of Los Angeles' raid on the water that once allowed the Owens Valley of Eastern California to blossom, turning it into a veritable dust bowl that Nevadans see every time they drive down U.S. 395 to Southern California.

That's why an estimated 80 percent of the more than 140 people who attended a U.S. Bureau of Land Management hearing in Henderson on Monday said they were opposed to the ambitious project.

And that's why it's likely that BLM officials

will hear even more opposition when they take public testimony on the project in Sparks today (3 p.m. in the large gym at Sparks High School).

The BLM will play a major role in the lengthy approval process for the project. It controls much of the land that the pipeline will cross from deep in White Pine County, through Lincoln County and finally ending in Clark County. It will have to approve the right-of-way before work can begin on 306 miles of pipeline, 323 miles of power line, five pumping stations, six regulating tanks, a 40-million-gallon buried storage reservoir, a 165-million-gallon-per-day treatment facility, seven electrical substations and associated roads.

But whether it makes sense to allow an urban area to dip deep into aquifers as far as 300 miles away is out of the BLM's purview. And that's the critical question. Eventually the Nevada state engineer will have to decide whether to allow the water authority to go ahead.

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The burden of proof must be on the water authority to demonstrate that it won't adversely affect the rural areas.

That's a high burden. The BLM says that a computer model shows that groundwater levels will decline under all alternatives for pumping water from the valleys, and many residents of the affected areas are rightly skeptical of the assurances that taking the water won't turn portions of White Pine County into Owens Valley. So are officials in neighboring Utah, who have protested the project despite claims that its western-most valleys won't be affected.

Those far-flung, lightly populated rural areas of Nevada already have suffered a lot for the state. The boom-and-bust of the mining industry has left Nevada dotted with ghost towns and near-ghost towns. Residents of the eastern counties (and Utah) lived with the fallout downwind of the Nevada Test Site, where early nuclear tests were conducted above ground. And now, they've been asked -- told -- to sacrifice their scarce water.

The desire of Clark County to continue growing is understandable and so is its importance to the statewide economy. But that is a lot to ask of those who only want to protect their Nevadan way of life.

SNAPSHOT

TOPIC: Pipeline to White Pine County

OUR VIEW: Rural residents are right to be concerned about its possible impact.

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Ron Penrose: Boat inspections are an inconvenience but a must for our water quality

7:08 PM, Aug. 16, 2011

Protecting our drinking water source is vital to our entire community.

The Truckee Meadows Water Authority has helped fund many different programs and projects designed to protect Lake Tahoe and the Truckee River. The Truckee River Fund, which was established in 2004 by TMWA's board of directors, was created for the purpose of protecting and enhancing water quality of the Truckee River and its watershed. Through matching grants, the TRF has been able to fund projects that achieve this mission.

Mandatory boat inspections, managed by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and partially funded by the TRF, is one program that is aimed at protecting our drinking water by preventing the introduction of quagga mussels into our water source. If you are a boater and have been enjoying Lake Tahoe this summer, you have no doubt noticed that boat inspections are mandatory, but you may not know why.

Lake Tahoe is known for its beauty, clarity

and clean water. We are fortunate to have such a pristine source for this community's primary drinking water supply. Boat and watercraft inspections are our first line of defense against quagga mussels entering Lake Tahoe.

Quagga mussels can wreak havoc on bodies of water. They are very harmful to a native ecosystem because they disrupt the natural food chain, and once established, they are nearly impossible to eradicate. The quagga mussel will clog water supply pipelines and can cause extensive damage to water system infrastructure that can cost millions to repair. They can leave formerly pristine beaches littered with dead shells.

They could also disrupt our hydroelectric plants' intakes, causing higher energy and maintenance costs. Because quagga mussels are extremely efficient breeders, they take hold in a water source very quickly and thrive in very deep bodies of water, creating "dead zones" in lakes they occupy.

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Our community is working diligently to keep mussels from entering Lake Tahoe and other upstream reservoirs. Let's keep it that way. As a boater, you can help prevent quagga mussel infestation by abiding by the boat inspection regulations, which are designed to protect the lake you are enjoying. We know that this invasive species hitches rides on watercraft and then spread to other bodies of water. The irreversible quagga and zebra mussel infestations of Lake Mead and the Great Lakes are thought to have been caused by this mechanism.

Some might find these mandatory boat inspections to be inconvenient, delaying their enjoyment of Lake Tahoe. However, to TMWA staff, who are dedicated to delivering to you great quality drinking water, this small delay helps preserve the pristine nature of Lake Tahoe, which is so vitally important to our drinking water supply, recreational enjoyment and tourism based economy.

I hope you enjoy Lake Tahoe this summer.

Ron Penrose is project manager from Truckee Meadows Water Authority.

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Tests raise mussel worries at 2 Nev. reservoirs

by Associated Press

07.26.11 - 06:12 pm

RENO (AP) — State wildlife officials said Tuesday new tests at two popular reservoirs in northern Nevada have heightened their concerns about the potential for an outbreak of invasive quagga mussels.

Multiple sampling techniques have confirmed microscopic juvenile quaggas are present in Lahontan Reservoir southeast of Fernley, said Rich Haskins, deputy director of the Nevada Department of Wildlife.

An initial positive test at Rye Patch Reservoir has not been confirmed but Haskins said they consider that man-made lake between Lovelock and Winnemucca “suspect” and are treating it as if the invader is present there as well.

Juvenile detections don’t always lead to established adult populations, and waterways are not formally deemed “infested” until adults are found, he explained.

But a finding of juvenile quagga mussels is “extremely serious,” Haskins said. “We absolutely cannot wait for that potential before we come up with programs and policies to keep any potential infestation from spreading.”

Department of Wildlife spokesman Ed Lyngar said that while both Lahontan and Rye Patch are being treated the same, the most urgent potential for harm is at Lahontan.

“Lahontan is positive for baby quaggas. The tests they took there were conclusive,” he said.

The mussels native to Eastern Europe can cover beaches with sharp shells, overwhelm a lake’s natural ecosystem and cause blooms of noxious algae. They pose a threat to native plants and animals and can cause millions of dollars in damage to water system infrastructure.

The first outbreak of quagga mussels in Nevada was at Lake Mead in 2007. The mussels most often are spread by trailers, boats and equipment that travel between waterways.

Boat inspections already are mandatory at Lake Mead as well as Lake Tahoe, although none have been confirmed yet in Tahoe.

Haskins noted that Gov. Brian Sandoval last month signed into law legislation granting the agency authority and tools to mitigate the spread of all invasive species. The new law also includes authority and funding to start a boat

inspection program for invasive species statewide, something Haskins said his agency is reviewing.

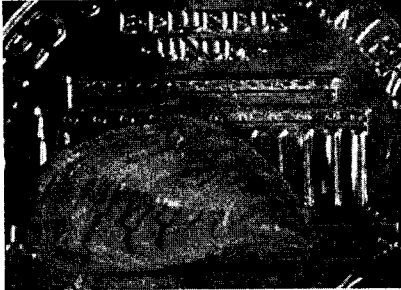
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Quagga mussel researcher praises boat inspections at Tahoe

August 10, 2011

By [ThisIsReno](#)

SUBMITTED NEWS RELEASE



The tiny quagga mussel can cause big problems in lakes and waterways. Photo courtesy of University of Nevada, Reno.

University of Nevada, Reno's Sudeep Chandra led milestone study that prompted controls, advocates for regional approach to protection

"It could be a sign of more things to come," Sudeep Chandra, quagga mussel researcher at the University of Nevada, Reno said about the boat found Sunday infested with dozens of quagga mussels. "It's fortunate that this boat was caught, and shows the importance of the boat inspections to protect Lake Tahoe. It also shows the ease with which this invasive species could enter any Nevada or California lake or waterway."

Chandra, an associate professor and limnologist and director of the University's Aquatic Ecosystems Laboratory, has been conducting invasive species studies at Tahoe for 13 years. In 2009, he completed a study that proved adult quagga mussels could survive in the short-term in Lake Tahoe. It was previously believed the pristine lake's waters were too cold and had too little nutrients to sustain the invasive mussel that has infested southern Nevada's Lake Mead.

"While we are still not 100 percent certain the quagga could take hold in Tahoe," he said. "This case shows the importance and diligence needed to protect the lake. It's these interagency, public private collaborations like the boat inspections that will continue to be important for Tahoe's future."

Tahoe had previously been categorized as "low risk" for establishment of the dreissenid mussel. If established, the mussels could forever alter the lake's sensitive ecology; they could clog water intakes, encrust boats and docks and cover now-pristine beaches with sharp and reeking shells.

"The major pathway for transfer of invasive mussels to inland lakes is from boats, Chandra said. "Boats can come either directly to Tahoe from an infected water body or be transferred to a neighboring water body such as Stampede or Boca reservoirs. From these water bodies, other boats might move an invasive to Tahoe."

The study recommended the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Coordination Committee put the mandatory boat inspections in place. Those inspections and washing stations have been in place for some time now and through interagency efforts have prevented other invasive species from entering the lake.

While Lake Tahoe has no known populations of quagga mussels, recent evidence suggesting they have been found in nearby Lahontan Reservoir, within a few-hours drive to Tahoe, has promoted greater concern. Given the proximity of the invasion, Chandra now suggests that a broader, regional approach to protecting lakes is needed.

"A few years ago at the Tahoe Summit, both governors from Nevada and California agreed to tackle the issue of invasive species," he said. "Now is the time for the states to come together to develop a Western, regional approach to protecting lakes through inspections and boat-washing programs."

The 2007 discovery of quagga mussels in Lake Havasu, Lake Mead and the Colorado River Basin prompted rapid cooperation and action by regional, bi-state, and federal agencies and non-governmental organizations in the Lake Tahoe region.

“We highly recommend continued monitoring and prevention efforts in Lake Tahoe for quagga mussel and other potential aquatic invasive species,” Chandra said. “The quagga has spread to other Western state lakes, so there’s a good likelihood it could invade Tahoe, and this is a prime example of the mechanism for its spread.”

The University of Nevada, Reno and the Desert Research Institute are initiating a follow-up study to determine the survival of adult and young quagga mussels in the lake. Preliminary findings from this study should be ready by next boating season.

Nevada's land-grant university founded in 1874, the University of Nevada, Reno has an enrollment of more than 17,000 students. The University is home to the state's medical school and one of the country's largest study-abroad programs, and offers outreach and education programs in all Nevada counties. For more information, visit www.unr.edu. The University of Nevada, Reno is part of the Nevada System of Higher Education.



Free boating returns to lake



Written by

Jeff DeLong
jdelong@rgj.com

9:00 PM, Jul. 24, 2011

Boaters and kayakers are taking to the waters of Independence Lake again, and after a change of mind by the area's new owner, they can do so free of charge.

The Nature Conservancy, which purchased the land around the scenic Sierra lake last year, began offering boating there over the Fourth of July weekend.

But due to what emerged as an "accounting nightmare," the conservancy abandoned plans to rent motorboats for as much as \$50 per day, said Chris Fichtel, the conservancy's Independence Lake project director.

"We're providing them for use -- first come, first serve," Fichtel said. Donations by boaters and kayakers are accepted.

The opportunity is being well received, with all three motorboats and most of the eight kayaks out on the water throughout the day last Saturday.

"People are really positive. People are

enjoying it and loving the place," Fichtel said.

Members of a citizens group formed after the conservancy's purchase of Independence reacted angrily to the organization's initial plans to ban all boating activity, a step it argued was needed to protect the lake from aquatic invaders.

The current setup is far more acceptable, said Kenny Osburn, an organizer of Friends of Independence Lake.

"It's a step in the right direction that the boats are free," he said. "It's a temporary compromise, so it's a good thing."

Osburn still objects to the fact the motorboats provided by the conservancy can only be used every other week. And he said the public should be given boating access all the time.

Initial plans to allow walk-in camping at Independence Lake are on hold as the

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conservancy deals with issues concerning a needed permit from Sierra County.

Osburn said his group supports camping access.

In May 2010, the conservancy purchased 2,325 acres of land around the lake owned by NV Energy for \$15 million in a deal called important to protect the area from potential development.

The lake bed remains the property of California while the Truckee Meadows Water Authority owns up to 17,000 acre-foot of the lake's waters as drought storage. The Lake is north of Truckee.

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WATER

Washoe County to help owners of drying wells

Depleted aquifer conceded

By Susan Voyles

svoyles@rgj.com

About 500 homeowners in the Mount Rose/Galena area will have Washoe County's help with deepening their wells or connecting to county water after county officials conceded that municipal wells have been a factor in drawing down the water table.

County commissioners this week gave initial approval to the new program, which was first unveiled last winter and expanded to cover homeowners who already have paid for deepening their wells. The policy will return to the commission in August as a proposed ordinance.

Homeowners who already have deepened their wells or paid connection fees to hook up to the county's municipal water system will be reimbursed two-thirds of the costs by the county. Future work is to be reimbursed at the same rate, said Rosemary Menard, county water resources director.

Homeowners close to

ON THE WEB

A detailed staff report, including a map of the affected area, can be found on the county commission's agenda at www.co.washoe.nv.us/citizens/boards.html.

existing water lines are required to hook up to municipal water when their wells fail. Those who live in sparsely settled areas where water lines are too expensive to build will be allowed to deepen their wells.

About 85 of 306 homes already have hooked up to county water and would be reimbursed during the first year of what Menard expects will be a 20-year program. Of the 203 homeowners who will be allowed to keep their wells, 75 have already deepened their wells and also would be reimbursed the first year.

The total program is expected to cost \$2.4 million and would be shared by ratepayers of the county's water utility. About \$940,000 would be spent the first year.

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New river diversion structure more efficient



Written by

Jeff DeLong

9:00 PM, Jul. 3, 2011

More of all that water rushing down the Truckee River can now be captured for use.

At a time when there's much more water in the river than normal for this time of year, a newly completed structure allows the area's primary water provider to divert nearly 10 million gallons per day more than it could previously.

And with the river's water the cleanest and cheapest available, that's clearly a good thing as summer's heat arrives and the demand for water spikes, said Mark Foree, general manager of the Truckee Meadows Water Authority.

"We always want to maximize use of Truckee River water," Foree said. "This project allows us to do that."

Foree refers to the new Glendale diversion structure on the river near the intersection of Glendale Avenue and Galletti Way.

The \$3.7 million structure, finished last winter and put into use in June, increased the amount of the river's water that can be diverted to the nearby Glendale water treatment plant from 28 million gallons per day to 37 million gallons per day.

That's extra water that can be used by downstream customers in Sparks and Spanish Springs.

Water treated at the Glendale plant supplements that produced at the utility's primary treatment plant upstream at Chalk Bluff. The utility also operates more than 30 groundwater wells, but prefers to keep that resource on reserve for times of drought. Five of the wells also require costly treatment due to solvent contamination.

Drought's no problem this year, with winter snowpack producing a "banner year for water supply," Foree said. The Truckee River's reservoirs are expected to fill or come close to it.

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The new diversion structure replaces an aged and problem-plagued wall of rubble used to divert water for public consumption since 1975. The old diversion leaked, was prone to flood damage, hindered fish movement upriver and posed hazards to rafters and other people using the river.

The new structure, Penrose said, should hold up to floods while a channel cut in the river's center during construction will make for easy and safe passage by fish and rafters alike.

"It's all come together," Penrose said.

After graffiti vandals tagged the diversion a few months ago, real artists are now at work.

Ray Valdez, a Native American artist from Reno who was painted murals on utility water tanks previously targeted by graffiti vandals, is now at work at a similar task on the diversion structure.

"They said, 'You need to come over and do your magic'" there as well, Valdez said.

His latest piece of art will attempt to capture the spirit of the Truckee River, which flows 116 miles from the mountains of Lake Tahoe to the desert of Pyramid Lake. The river is home to the threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout and used by the endangered cui-ui fish for spawning.

Once the mural is finished, Valdez and utility officials are hopeful taggers will stay away.

"There's no guarantee, but usually, when you put art on the wall, that deters it," Valdez said.

Water use in Reno-Sparks

Winter: About 30 million gallons per day.
 Late June: About 98 million gallons per day.
 Early July: Expected 100 to 110 million gallons per day.
 Peak water use: 120 million gallons per day or more in late July or early August.

Glendale diversion structure

Will boost water diverted to Glendale treatment plant by nearly 10 million gallons per day.

Improves water supply capabilities during drought.

Improves fish passage.

Makes rafting, other river use safer.

Replaces 35-year-old rock and rubble structure with modern diversion structure.
 Source: Truckee Meadows Water Authority.

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**Two weeks left
to enter
Landscape
Awards contest**

RENO — The Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) and the Reno News & Review remind customers working on creating or retrofitting a water-efficient landscape to enter the 2011 Water-Efficient Landscape Awards by Aug. 5. This year the awards will recognize customers who plan to install or retrofit their landscapes (or a portion of them) with water-efficient tools and techniques.

For more information, complete contest rules and to enter online, visit www.tmwandscapeguide.com or call 829-2810.

7/26/11



Deadline looms to apply for TMWA awards

7:06 PM, Jul. 27, 2011|

The deadline to enter the Truckee Meadows Water Authority's Water-Efficient Landscape Awards is Aug. 5.

If you want to prove your ability to retrofit and customize your lawn into the most efficient water saver in the region, apply before the deadline.

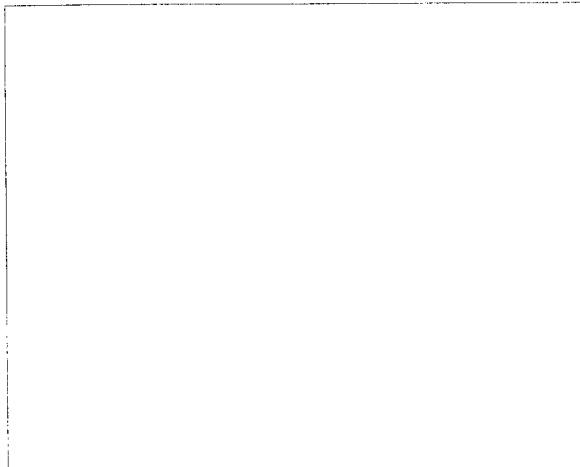
All TMWA members are eligible. All applications must address: proper planning, soil improvement, proper irrigation, selection of appropriate plants, use of mulch and maintenance.

Gift certificates to local garden shops, landscapers and nurseries will be awarded.

A special award for "Best Edible Garden Project" also will be awarded.

Details: 775-829-2810 or visit www.tmwlandscapeguide.com.

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Less than two weeks left to enter TMWA's Landscape Awards

July 28, 2011

By [ThisIsReno](#)

SUBMITTED NEWS RELEASE

Enter now to win gift prizes toward your water-efficient makeover!

[Truckee Meadows Water Authority \(TMWA\)](#) and the Reno News & Review remind customers working on creating or retrofitting a water-efficient landscape to enter the 2011 [Water-Efficient Landscape Awards](#) by **Friday, August 5**. This year the awards will recognize customers who plan to install or retrofit their landscapes (or a portion of them) with water-efficient tools and techniques.

All TMWA customers are eligible for entry. Entries should address the seven xeriscape principles, on which [TMWA's Water-Efficient Landscape Guide](#) is based:

1. Proper planning and design for water conservation, beauty and functionality
2. Soil improvement
3. Use turf sensibly with proper irrigation and practical shapes or sizes, considering other alternatives to turf
4. Water-efficiency through proper irrigation methods
5. Selection of appropriate plants and grouping of plants into zones with similar water needs
6. Use of mulch to reduce evaporationMaintenance

"These principles, and our Landscape Guide, are intended to show customers how they can have a yard that is both beautiful and water efficient," Lora Rose Richards, TMWA Conservation & Community Outreach Administrator, said. "We are excited to help homeowners get started with their landscape makeover projects with the Landscape Awards."

Gift certificates to local garden shops, landscapers and nurseries will be awarded to first-, second- and third-place winners to assist with implementing landscape plans. Also, for the first time this year, a prize will be awarded for the "best edible garden project." Gift certificates are generous donations from sponsors: All Seasons Lawn and Landscaping, Dayton Valley Turf, Dry Creek Garden Company, Garden Shop Nursery, Moana Nursery, Reno Lawn & Landscape, Truckee Meadows Community Forestry Coalition and Western Turf & Hardscapes.

The deadline to enter the Water-Efficient Landscape Awards is Friday, Aug. 5, 2011. For more information, complete contest rules and to enter online, visit www.tmwalandscapeguide.com or call (775) 829-2810.

Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) is a not-for-profit water utility, overseen by elected officials 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 330,000 residents of the Truckee Meadows.

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Submit your Water-Efficient Landscape Awards entry by *Friday, August 5* and you can win up to **\$1,000 in gift certificates** toward your project! Tell us about your makeover plans and enter online! Visit www.rnand.com/landscapeawards to view the seven xeriscape principles, complete contest rules and to enter!

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RESPONSIBLE WATER USE

Use Water, but use it wisely!

by Jerri Conrad

During the hottest months of summer, Memorial Day through Labor Day, when evaporation and afternoon winds are high, responsible water use is more important than ever. The water lovers at Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) want to remind you to use the water you need, but to do so efficiently and responsibly! Outdoor watering is the biggest reason for increased summer water use, and with TMWA's help, your lawn is sure to be watered in the most efficient way.

It starts with Assigned-Day watering - If the last number of your home or business address is:

- even (0, 2, 4, 6 or 8), water only on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.
- odd (1, 3, 5, 7 or 9), water only on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

No watering on Mondays. It gives our water system a chance to recharge. No watering between noon and 6 p.m. from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

It continues with more tips for your healthy, efficient lawn - Watering deeper and less often actually encourages your lawn to build a deep, strong root system. Use the "Water & Wait" method to ensure water soaks through all the way into your lawn, instead of letting it run off! On your watering days, water until puddles form, then stop and wait for the water to soak in, about one to two hours. Repeat until water reaches six to eight inches deep, which you can determine by easily pushing a screwdriver into the soil. The screwdriver will reach resistance when it hits hard, dry soil.

In addition, follow these tips for the most efficient watering - Please don't water when it's windy or raining. Windy days tend to make the sprinklers water everything but the grass. Turn those sprinklers off when it's windy, because that sidewalk won't grow no matter how much you water it. On rainy days let nature work

for you and don't water.

Don't set it and forget it. If you have an automatic irrigation timer, check and adjust it at least monthly to reflect changes in temperature and ensure that your lawn is getting enough water.

Check for cracks and leaks. At the beginning, end and a few points during the irrigation season, be sure to check your sprinkles and hoses for cracks or leaks.

TMWA.com is here to help the community use water responsibly!

TMWA encourages the community to visit www.tmwa.com and www.tmwalandscapeguide.com for free resources on all things lawn and landscaping, including when and how to winterize your irrigation system. TMWA also offers free workshops in October and November to help you safely winterize your sprinkler system to help avoid broken pipes!

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Restoration & Recreation at Independence Lake

by Lisa Wallace, Executive Director



Beth Christman, our Director of Restoration Programs, is working with our partner The Nature Conservancy on two restoration projects at Independence Lake. Both projects improve fish habitat for the native Lahontan cutthroat trout. For the first project, we will install a fish weir at the mouth of Independence Creek to block non-native fish from entering the spawning creek from the lake. At the same time, we will restore a severely eroding stream bank. The second project includes the installation of a fish barrier below the dam at Independence Lake to prevent non-native fish from entering the lake.

Recreation options at Independence Lake include hiking, fishing, motor boating, kayaking, picnicking, wildlife viewing, and more. All watercraft available to the public at no charge will be part of an "in-basin" fleet that The Nature Conservancy has purchased strictly for use on Independence Lake.

As watercraft are one of the primary ways aquatic invasive species are introduced into waterways, providing a strictly in-basin fleet gives the public watercraft recreation options while drastically reducing this risk. To learn more, see the VISIT page of the Independence Lake website.

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Inspectors find quagga mussels on Tahoe-bound boat

aquatic invaders since 2008. If they were to become established at Tahoe, mussels could profoundly damage the area's environment and cost its tourism economy tens of millions of dollars per year, experts say.



Written by

JEFF DELONG
jdelong@rgj.com

11:09 AM, Aug. 9, 2011|

Inspectors discovered a powerboat encrusted with quagga mussels during a routine roadside inspection Sunday, officials report.

Thirty seven quagga mussels were found on the boat, which was repeatedly decontaminated before being released from the inspection station at Spooner Summit, said Pete Brumis, public outreach specialist with the Tahoe Resource Conservation District.

It was determined the vessel had been recently operated in Lake Mead, which is heavily infested with mussels.

"It looked like the boat was probably completely encrusted with quaggas at some point," Brumis said.

The conservation district, working with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, had been inspecting vessels launching into Tahoe for the possible presence of mussels and other

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Boil water order dropped in Indian Hills NV

POSTED: AUG 27, 2011 3:17 PM PDT
UPDATED: AUG 27, 2011 3:22 PM PDT

GARDNERVILLE, Nev. (AP) - Douglas County residents in the Indian Hills area south of Carson City have been cleared to start drinking their water again without boiling it.

The Indian Hills General Improvement District issued the boil-water order on Wednesday after the water system went dry due to a problem with the computer that controls the pumps.

District manager John Lufrano says the boil order is standard procedure after a water system runs dry to make sure contaminants aren't drawn back into the system through leaky areas during the restart.

He says the order was dropped Friday night after a second test from a lab in Sparks came back clean.

Information from: Nevada Appeal, <http://www.nevadaappeal.com>

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Washoe County Sheriff's work crews pick weeds in verdi

9:00 PM, Aug. 30, 2011|

Sentenced defendants were picking weeds on Monday in Crystal Peak Park as part of the Washoe County Sheriff's Work Crew community service program.

Participants are low-risk offenders with no violent felony charges, no current violent misdemeanor charges, no record of escape and no open charges, according to a news release from the Washoe County Sheriff's office.

Crews will be out all week picking poison hemlock in the region.

Funding for the crews equipment and supervision is provided by a grant from the Community Foundation of Western Nevada's Truckee River Fund.

"Their support, and our ongoing partnership with the Sheriff's community work program are an important part of the County Parks Department's effort to keep public parks open, safe and clean," Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space South Region Superintendent Eric Crump said in the release.

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Ron Penrose is project manager for the Truckee Meadows Water Authority.

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5 Responses to “Opinion: Boat inspections are an inconvenience, but a must for water quality”

1. *Opinion: Boat inspections are an inconvenience, but a must for water quality | The Lake Tahoe 10 - Top Ten Lists of the Best Restaurants, Businesses, Services, and Everything Else You Can Imagine in Lake Tahoe, CA* says:
[August 23, 2011 at 4:59 am](#)

[...] [Read the original here: Opinion: Boat inspections are an inconvenience, but a must for water quality \[...\]](#)



2. *Where is the turnip truck* says:
[August 23, 2011 at 9:01 am](#)

Hey Ron,

Do you have any data that validates your statement that Lake Tahoe is known for its clarity or cleanliness. Beauty yes, clarity no.
Drinking water that fish rot in is not my idea of wholesomeness. If you don't believe me check out Taylor Creek at Salmon run time.



3. *Tahoehuskies* says:
[August 23, 2011 at 9:50 am](#)

Lake Tahoe is known for it's beauty, which directly relates to its famed clarity. Considering other bodies of water that support domestic water consumption, Lake Tahoe is relatively clean in terms of water quality. There is plenty of data to support that statement.

If you still don't agree, consider California's Clear Lake, it's not known for being a famously beautiful lake by any means (partly b/c it's not clear at all).



4. *the conservation robot* says:
[August 23, 2011 at 6:28 pm](#)

So now you want data...

'Do you have any data that validates your statement that Lake Tahoe is known for its clarity or cleanliness.'
Too bad that is a highly subjective statement. But, Tahoe is an oligotrophic lake. Which usually means clarity. Most lakes are not in that category. Oligotrophic lakes are known for their clarity. Tahoe is oligotrophic. Thus...



5. *the conservation robot* says:
[August 23, 2011 at 6:31 pm](#)

'If you don't believe me check out Taylor Creek at Salmon run time.'
Taylor creek is a creek.....



August brings lawn and garden changes



Written by

Susan Skorupa
sskorupa@rgj.com

5:17 PM, Aug. 19, 2011|

Although some gardeners will complain that Northern Nevada has scarcely experienced summer this year, the fact is, summer is fast winding down.

With warm temperatures still here but shorter days and cooler evenings approaching, lawns, gardens and landscaping can use some late-summer handling.

By late August, gardens, lawns and landscapes can be in need of changes in watering schedules and fertilizer use. It's also a good time to consider a planting late-flowering perennials for this year and bulbs to bloom next spring.

Be careful with fertilizer at this time of year because temperatures still can get hot, said Ed Bath of Garden Shop Nursery on Mayberry Avenue. Go for fertilizers rated 0-10-10, for instance, which indicates zero nitrogen, but some phosphorus and potash, to begin putting a lawn to bed. The lack of nitrogen cuts out greening and new leaf growth while the phosphorus and

potash promote root growth.

"It gives it a good shot to get through winter and be ready for spring," Bath said.

Think about giving turf grass a shot of fertilizer now, then one last time at the end of October with a fast-release mixture that's quickly watered in, said Bill Carlos, horticulturist at the Wilber May Arboretum at Rancho San Rafael.

Continue to cut lawns to the same length as all summer, Carlos said. In fact, keep lawns the same length all year at 2 to 2.5 inches in height.

For roses, stop even short-time release -- 10 to 14 day -- fertilizing by Aug. 20, Carlos said.

Monitor water use as the evenings cool off and the days begin to grow a little shorter.

But remember that daytime temperatures are hot, and that's stressful on plants, Bath said.

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"It's interesting to see the range of awareness of people, fine-tuning irrigation as to weather and the general season," said Lisa Braginton of Moana Nursery on Moana Lane. "Some are on top of it, some are not. ... Just tune in to what plants need."

As the end of August approaches, lawn watering needs will begin to decrease, Carlos said.

"It's a good time to go to the (irrigation) controller and turn it back a little -- and continue to turn it -- as we begin to move into the fall season," he said.

It's also a good time to plant, Bath said. The downside is that inventory at garden shops can fall off at this time of year, but new material is still coming in, such as chrysanthemums, hibiscus and later-flowering perennials. Asters will come in soon, he said.

"As long as you can supply water to plants in fall and winter, fall is a good time to plant or replace plants," Carlos said. "There's just less stress on them. During winter, research shows, that's when plants produce the most roots. It's pretty amazing the root growth they produce."

Plan for next year

Also start looking for places to put new spring flowering bulbs.

"This is bulb season coming up," Bath said. "If you want them in the spring, you have to

(plant) now."

Late summer also is a good time to plan for next year's garden or to change current landscaping.

"Identify where you might want to make changes," Braginton said. "A lot of people impulsively plant a lot of color, and then they might find at this time of year that they have not made the kind of statement or made the kind of structure they want. You might consider trees or shrubs to add structure.

"To the end of September, this is a great season to plant," she said. "This is a good time to plant trees. ... When plants enter dormancy, it's less stressful than if they were planted in spring where they're trying to get roots established. "

Look for holes in the landscaping layout that can be remedied and note plant arrangements that don't work out and beg to be corrected.

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"Gardening is all about editing," Braginton said. "This time of year, August to September, is a good time to make those evaluations."

Other late-summer tips:

» Pick up all fallen rotting fruit from fruit trees and other litter in the yard, Bath said. Rotten fruit and other yard litter can harbor pests, such as earwigs, which, Bath said, are a big problem in the area this year, along with aphids.

» It's early to begin pruning plants, but not too early to dead-head -- remove dead blossoms -- from flowering perennials, Carlos said. Don't prune lilacs now because you'll remove next spring's flowering buds. And if you want some plants to reseed, such as asters or daisies, leave those deadheads on until they produce seeds, he said.

» For other yard cleanup, "I usually start cleaning out things like day lilies," Carlos said. "The leaves will start turning brown. As soon as you can easily lift them from the ground, they're good to go. Also, daffodils -- that leaf debris can all be removed."

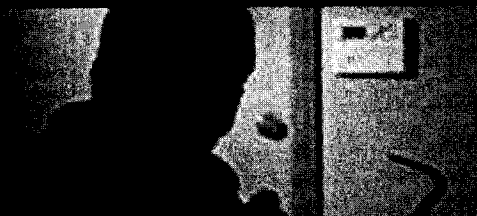
» Use this time to walk around the yard and make notes about any ongoing problems, Braginton said. The sooner you address an issue, such as an insect infestation, the sooner you can fix it. Keep an eye out for bug activity; if not addressed, it could manifest itself in following seasons.

» Expect the first frost of the season sometime between Sept. 10 to 15, or

earlier at higher elevations, Carlos said.

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Too wet? Too dry? Use just enough water on lawns, plants

Written by

Susan Donaldson
University of Nevada Cooperative Extension

2:38 PM, Aug. 5, 2011|

Every year at this time, gardens struggle with the heat and dry air; plants might wilt, turn yellow or look ragged.

Your first inclination might be to blame insects or diseases, but in fact, many of the plant problems we see are related to improper watering practices. Most often, this means that plants are watered erratically -- either too much water or gaps that allow plants to become too dry between watering cycles.

When the soil is too dry, walking across a lawn will leave footprints that don't quickly spring back. Dry soil beneath lawns can result in brown spots or premature dormancy. It's normal for cool season grasses to slow down during the hottest part of the summer. It's important to increase the amount of water you use seasonally to meet plant needs during the hottest part of summer.

When plants are overwatered, roots lose access to air and can suffocate and eventually rot. This might have happened

to your houseplants at some time. Once the roots die, the plant no longer has access to water and will wilt. You might think the wilting is because of drought stress rather than overwatering, but adding water would be the worst thing to do. Look for yellowing leaves at the bottom of the plant.

Diseases and pests can attack stressed plants. Not only are you hurting your plants when you overwater, you're hurting your pocketbook. The more water you use, the more you pay.

In an outdoor setting when too much water is applied, we see signs such as invasion by water-loving weeds including moss, rushes and sedges or water trickling out of a landscape bed. Water also can leach downward to the groundwater, increasing the chances of contamination by fertilizers and other products you might have applied.

How do you know how much water to apply? One easy way is to stick a 10-inch screwdriver into the soil. If you can insert it

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the full length, soil moisture is adequate. If you can't, it's too dry. Or, dig a hole with a shovel or trowel, and look for moisture down to the 6- to 8-inch level.

Recently planted vegetation needs to be watered more frequently until established. Trees rarely need to be watered more than once a week unless they are in turfgrass. They need to be watered more deeply than lawns, so supplement the irrigation to these trees.

What about lawns? They require regular irrigation during dry summer months. A simple tool can estimate how much water to apply to your lawn. The Washoe Evapotranspiration website, www.washoeet.dri.edu, uses data collected from two weather stations in the Truckee Meadows to determine how much water lawns have used since the last irrigation day. It's configured for Truckee Meadows Water Authority's three-day-a-week watering schedule.

Remember, just because you are allowed to water lawns three times a week does not mean you must water that often. Water needs vary by time of year, temperature, rainfall received, soil type, grass species and other factors.

Sandy soils drain more quickly and require more frequent irrigation. Soils higher in clay hold water better, allowing longer intervals between irrigation cycles. It's important to water deeply to encourage healthy, deep-root growth.

If your lawn has brown spots suggesting lack of water, consider doing a can test to see if your sprinkler system applies water uniformly.

Come to Cooperative Extension's free class on Tuesday to learn to use the Evapotranspiration website and the steps to follow in performing a can test, as well as lots of tips about wise water use.

Susan Donaldson is a water quality and weed specialist at the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension.

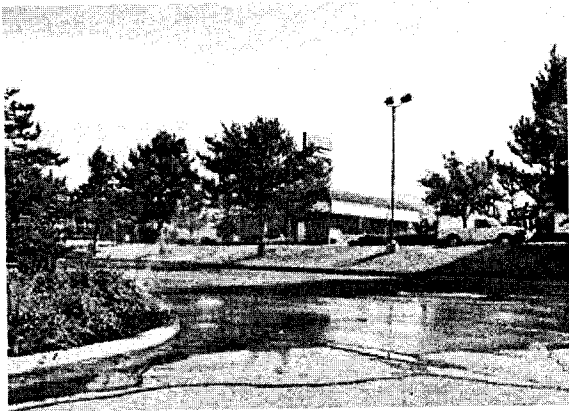
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New landscapes need to be carefully monitored after installation. Either the system has a leak, or too much water is being applied to this bed. / Provided to the Reno Gazette-Journal

Irrigation Class

Want to hear more tips for irrigating efficiently and how to save money on your water bill? Come to our free class, "How Much Irrigation Water Do I Need to Use," from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, taught by master gardener program coordinator Wendy Hanson Mazet at Cooperative Extension, 4955 Energy Way.

Tips for Efficient Irrigation

- » Group plants according to water needs. If you plant drought-tolerant plants together with those that need more water, you'll wind up overwatering some to meet the needs of others.
- » Use a drip system rather than sprinklers for shrubs, flowers or other non-turf areas. You'll lose less water to evaporation, and you'll apply water at the root zone where it's needed.
- » Update your drip system as plants grow. Add more emitters, and move them farther away from the center of the plant.
- » Use an irrigation controller, and reset it as needed to adjust to seasonal demand.
- » Install a smart controller. It uses data to change the irrigation periods to match water needs of the plants. Once properly installed, you won't have to reset it.
- » Measure the pressure in your system. If it's higher than it needs to be, add a pressure reducer. Sprinklers run well at 30 psi; drip systems tolerate lower pressures.
- » Add a rain sensor to turn off your system if it rains.
- » Inspect your irrigation system regularly. Look for leaks, damage, clogged or poorly directed heads or other problems. Then, fix them.
- » Apply just enough water to replace what your lawn has used since the last irrigation. See the Washoe Evapotranspiration website, www.washoet.dn.edu, for weather-based information.
- » Water in two to three short cycles with one hour between cycles. This allows time for water to soak into the ground, and decreases runoff.
- » Water deeply to encourage deep roots and healthy plants.
- » Especially when using sprinklers, water in the early morning when it's cool to decrease loss to evaporation.
- » Don't water when the wind is blowing. Much of the water will be lost.
- » Place mulch around plants to hold moisture in the soil.


Source: University of Nevada Cooperative Extension

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