

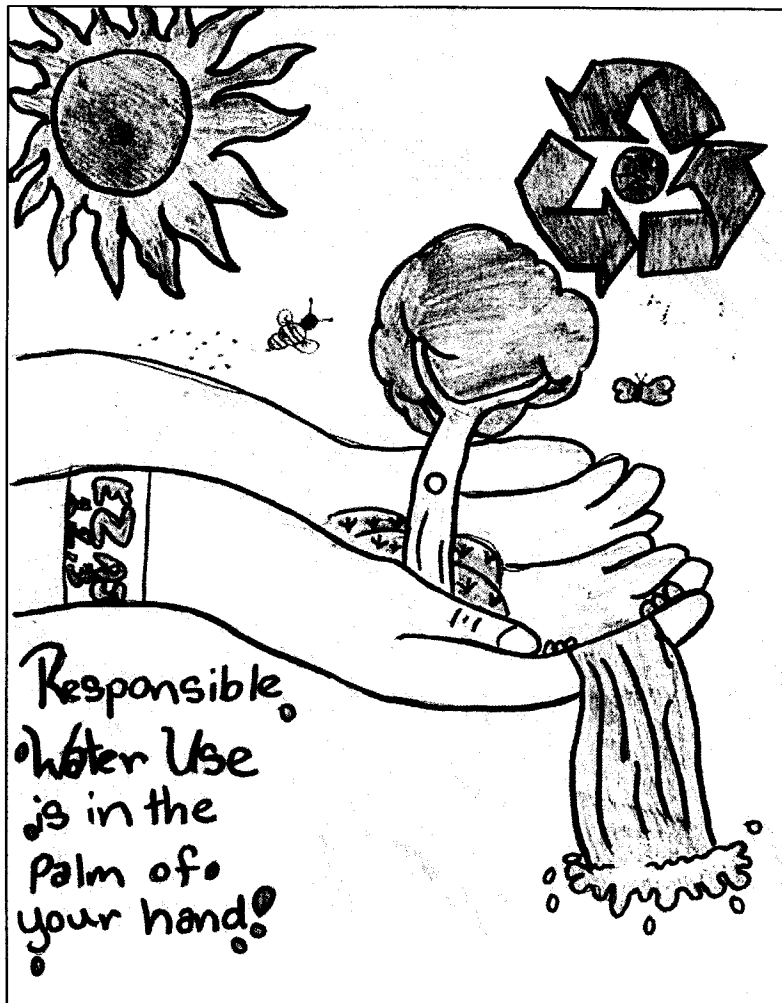


TMWA Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 19, 2011

Press Clippings

September 9, 2011 – October 11, 2011



*Nahin Chowdhury (Mamie Towles Elementary School)
2010 Poster Art Contest – Honorable Mention, Grades 4-6*

<< Back

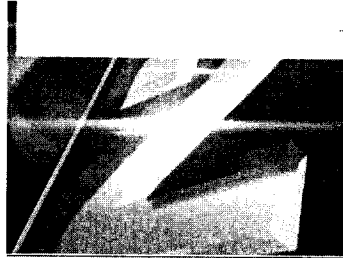


TMWA Offers Free Winterization Workshops

Posted: Oct 10, 2011 12:31 PM PDT
Updated: Oct 10, 2011 12:31 PM PDT

From Truckee Meadows Water Authority:

Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) offers winterization workshops in October to help residents prepare their homes for cold weather and freezing temperatures.



Join TMWA's Conservation staff for one of two free workshops to learn how to turn off your sprinkler system and protect water pipes from breaking this winter. The first workshop will take place on Wednesday, Oct. 19 at 5:30 p.m., and the second is on Tuesday, Oct. 25 at 5:30 p.m. Both workshops will be led by TMWA's Conservation department at TMWA's main office, located at 1355 Capital Blvd. in Reno.

Homeowners can avoid the expense and inconvenience of frozen water pipes by attending one of these free workshops to learn how to protect your home's pipes – inside and out – from freezing temperatures this winter.

For more information about winterization, please visit the Conservation section of www.tmwa.com. To RSVP, please e-mail conservation@tmwa.net or call 834-8005.



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NDOW officials rescue up to 1,000 fish from irrigation ditch near Reno

The Nevada Division of Wildlife did its version of the Disney movie "Finding Nemo" on Monday, but instead of clown fish, they led volunteers on a mission to save trout and other finned critters that would have been trapped in an irrigation ditch west of Reno.

Kim Toulouse, NDOW's coordinator of volunteers, said the Truckee Meadows Water Authority alerted his agency that it would be cutting off the water to the Fleish Ditch it operates in Verdi to do repair work on the flume.

"They let us know that so we could put together a little rescue effort," Toulouse said.

He said estimated that 800 to 1,000 were captured.

They included brown and rainbow trout, mountain whitefish, Tahoe suckers, speckled bace and sculpin, which Toulouse said is one of his favorite kinds of fish, but not for eating.

"They're not a game fish," he said. "They typically don't get more than 4 inches long, but they're a really spectacular-looking little fish. They have spines in them and

they're just really cool looking. Other fish eat them, especially brown trout."

The fish were caught by electro-fishing, Toulouse said.

"We use electricity to stun them," he said. "They float up to the surface and we net them, put them in a tank and empty that into the Truckee River."

The fish get into the ditches through headgates along the river used to divert water for irrigation that are not screened.

"So the fish just swim into them but the ditches actually make good nurseries for the fish," he said. "It's a good place for the juveniles to hang out because the water isn't too deep or fast, and there is a lot of food but not a lot of predators."

Of the dozen volunteers who came out to help, 11 were members of the Truckee River Flyfishers, a local fly-fishing organization whose members often volunteer for conservation projects to

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protect the river and other nearby riparian areas.



Purchase Image Zoom
This plump rainbow trout was one of dozens of fish taken from the Fleish ditch west of Verdi in a rescue involving the Nevada Department of Wildlife and the Truckee River Flyfishers. The fish had become stranded when the ditch was shut down and would die in the shallow when freezing temperatures arrive. / Tim Dunn / RGJ

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This article was printed from the Green Guide section of the *Reno News & Review*, originally published October 6, 2011.

This article may be read online at:

<http://www.newsreview.com/reno/content?oid=4026273>

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Down by the river

Truckee River Symposium

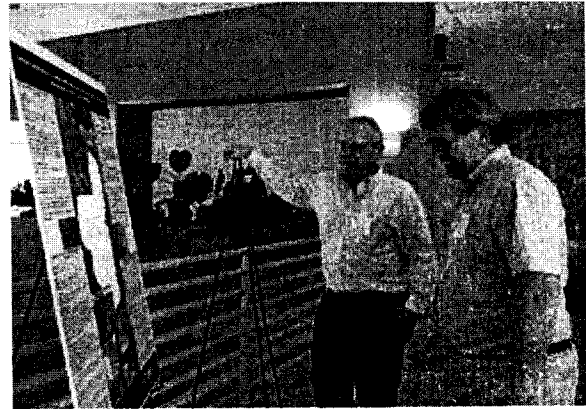
By Ashley Hennefer

A river ecosystem encompasses many elements—the soil, the foliage, the water itself and the creatures that dwell within it. But that's just the tangible portion of its existence. Unseen forces, such as political discourse, fiscal planning, and the innovation of scientists are what ensure its survival.

Researchers, students and other members of the community gathered at the Truckee River Symposium Sept. 27-29 to discuss issues affecting the Truckee River and surrounding areas. The three-day event hosted at the Desert Research Institute is held biannually. With more than 110 in attendance, this year's conference focused on progress, despite economic and political setbacks.

"We're talking about a lot of restoration projects," said Tim Rowe, chairman of the event and a hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey. The poster presentations at the conference hall displayed improvement plans, such as the Derby Dam project, which reconstructed the riverbed to improve water quality for wildlife. Presentations by local and visiting speakers highlighted current and upcoming restoration ideas, and speeches were also given about increasing community outreach and implementing new technology into existing programs.

While the majority of attendees were working scientists, students were also encouraged to attend. Several were present at this year's conference.



Pat Britchel and Tom Scott of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation examine an exhibition poster. Photo by Ashley Hennefer

For more information about the Truckee River Symposium, or to help organize the 2013 conference, go to www.nvwra.org.

<http://nvwra.org>

“It’s good for the students to see options for future jobs, and it’s also good for the organizations to see students,” Rowe said.

Professionals from the various environmental fields of study also found the conference thought-provoking.

“I’m always looking to expand my thought process,” said first-time attendee Cliff Lawson from the Environmental Protection Agency in Carson City. Lawson works primarily in water pollution control permitting and was among 12 members from the EPA who participated in the conference. While not all of the presentations were on water pollution specifically, Lawson said that they all raised relevant points and new perspectives.

“Most things having to do with water have to go through our office,” he said. “It was good to hear new thoughts.”

The majority of attendees were associated with local organizations or agencies like DRI and USGS, but scholars traveled from as far as Virginia and Tennessee.

“It’s great to bring locals and those around the country,” Rowe said. “It’s an opportunity to coordinate and collaborate. Researchers have a chance to share their data.”

Because policy and economic support is vital to infrastructure, restoration and conservation projects, Rowe said the planning committee invited political figures. The response was minimal.

“So much of what we plan to do relies on politics, so we would like more political types here,” he said.

The budget restraints in California and Nevada make it difficult for projects to happen soon after the conference concludes, but Rowe is optimistic about the symposium’s role as a facilitated collaboration effort.

“It does plant the seeds for the future,” said Rowe. “We’re here to figure out how to work together.”

VOICES

WINNERS: THE EFFORTS OF THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS HAVE EARNED MENTION AS WINNERS THIS WEEK

690 volunteers, groups help clean up the Truckee River

The 690 volunteers and volunteer groups that helped clean up more than 12 tons of trash along the Truckee River during Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful's Truckee River Cleanup Day on Sept. 24. Partners and sponsors included: the Truckee River Fund, Washoe County, Sparks, Reno, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northern Nevada, Truckee River Foundation, Truckee River Yacht Club, Champions of the Truckee River, REI, Tahoe Whitewater Tours, Save Mart Supermarkets, Great Basin Brewing Co., Tahoe Supply, MicroFlex and PSC.

Sigma Alpha Iota grant will buy new instruments

Sigma Alpha Iota Philanthropies, a national music education sorority, for awarding a \$4,487 music educators grant to the Sparks Middle School band program to purchase new instruments. SAI has a college chapter at the University of Nevada, Reno, and a Reno alumnae chapter. Both groups support music and music education in the Reno-Sparks community and the schools.

NV Energy Foundation aids numerous area organizations

The NV Energy Foundation, for contributing more than \$773,000 to 45 nonprofit organizations statewide during the third quarter of 2011, including 24 in Northern Nevada. Among the recipients: Boys & Girls Clubs of Western Nevada, the Carson Valley Trails Association, Junior Achievement of Northern Nevada, Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful, Boy Scouts of America-Nevada Area



Truckee River clean-up at Fisherman's Park. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Council, Girl Scouts of Sierra Nevada, American Red Cross, Northern Nevada Children's Cancer Foundation and CARE Chest of Sierra Nevada.

Bank of America, NV Energy help Access to Health Network

Bank of America, for its \$10,000 donation to support Access to Healthcare Network's eligibility and enrollment activities, and NV Energy, for a \$7,500 grant to upgrade technology capabilities.

Also winners are the new providers in the Northern Nevada network: Kristian Sievert, DDS, Reno; HAWC Clinic, Reno; Steven Bilach, CSA, Reno; Kurt Krakow, M.D., Winnemucca; Charlotte Weaver, LMT, Wellington; Lois Ergulaga, LCSW, Battle Mountain; Wayne Hansen, M.S., Elko; Trevor Phan, M.D., Fallon; B. Bottenberg, M.D., Carson City; Nareg Fallon Family Clinic; Harold Kent Mead, MFT, Fallon; Winnemucca Emergency Physicians; Ron

Marrujo, MFT, Fallon; Paul McKean, PhD, LCSW, Elko; Jacqueline Volkmann, LCSW, Elko; and Reno Diagnostic Centers.

Numerous groups contributed to Dayton Valley Days event

Everyone who contributed to the Dayton Valley Days event, including: Pioneer Crossing Casino; Eagle Valley Golf Course, for use of golf carts; Dayton Kiwanis, for the pancake breakfast; Dayton High School Band parents, for overseeing the parade; Boys & Girls Club Dayton Unit; Dayton Valley Car Club, for the show 'n' shine; Karren Rhodes; Bonnie Matton; Nadine Hastings; and Kukuis Alli Animal Rescue to heading the Pet Parade on Sunday.

YOUR VOICE: The Reno Gazette-Journal Editorial Board invites your comments on topics we write about. Go to RGJ.com and click on the "Voices" link to share your thoughts.

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Family hears judicial nominee testify at Senate hearing

BY STEVE TETREULT
STEPHENS WASHINGTON BUREAU

Posted: Oct. 4, 2011 | 8:17 p.m.

Updated: Oct. 5, 2011 | 8:14 a.m.

WASHINGTON -- Miranda Du, who came to the United States in childhood as a Vietnamese refugee, took a step Tuesday toward becoming a federal judge in Nevada.

Sixteen members of Du's family dotted the audience as she was questioned at a confirmation hearing by members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. She was nominated by President Barack Obama in August to sit on the U.S. District Court for the state.

Du, from Reno, is a partner in the firm of McDonald Carano Wilson LLP, where she handles employment law and civil litigation. Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., said he proposed Du for a judgeship after she was brought to his attention by his son Leif, a Northern Nevada attorney.

Reid called Du "an American success story. She is going to become a fine judge."

Sen. Dean Heller, R-Nev., also said he backed the nominee.

Du, 41, was brought to the United States at age 9 by her parents, who fled Vietnam by boat for Malaysia after the North Vietnamese took control. The family eventually moved from their initial sponsor's home in Alabama to the Bay Area in California.

Du joined the McDonald Carano firm in 1994 after graduating from law school at the University of California, Berkeley.

"Having been born and raised initially in a country where the rule of law was not respected gave me an appreciation for the rule of law in our judicial system," Du told senators. "One of the reasons I decided to go into law is I wanted to show my family that in this country we can be a part of the system and do well."

While Du's life story was highlighted during the session, she also was questioned about her experience and about a 2007 federal case in which she was sanctioned.

Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., noted Du in private practice has mostly handled the defense in civil cases, but she said she would not bring a bias for the defense to her work as a

judge.

"I believe a judge's role is to look at the facts and apply the law and to be fair and open to everyone before the court," she said.

Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, questioned Du on her handling of a case in which she was sanctioned for what the Nevada federal court concluded was a faulty complaint against a local unit of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Her client, the Truckee Meadows Water Authority, was directed to pay the union's legal fees in 2007 after the court said Du "acted recklessly."

"I don't believe I was reckless in that case," Du told Lee. "We certainly made a mistake and didn't take the best course of action."

Du received a mixed rating from the American Bar Association's 15-member Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary. According to the ABA, a "substantial majority" rated Du "qualified," while a minority rated her "not qualified."

Reid, who has been critical of the ABA's system, said Du's rating should not affect her confirmation by the full Senate. Gloria Navarro, another Reid judicial choice, was confirmed by the Senate last year after receiving a similar mixed rating.

Find this article at:

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/family-hears-judicial-nominee-testify-at-senate-hearings-131117118.html>

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

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Water rates could jump in Reno-Sparks



Written by

Jeff DeLong

10:04 PM, Oct. 3, 2011

A weak economy, no new customers and cooler-than-normal temperatures could combine to force an increase in rates collected by the primary water provider in Reno-Sparks.

No decisions regarding a rate increase have yet been made, but officials with the Truckee Meadows Water Authority are considering one that could take effect in early 2012.

"We look at revenue and cost of (providing) service and see if they're meeting," said Mark Foree, general manager of the not-for-profit utility.

"They're not right now," Foree said. "There's a gap."

But the chairman of the panel of elected and appointed officials that oversee the water authority said it's going to take some hard convincing for him to support a rate increase in the current economic climate.

"I don't think there's an appetite to raise

rates," said Sparks Councilman Mike Carrigan.

"It's just not a good atmosphere right now," Carrigan said. "It's going to have to be very convincing for me to entertain one."

Since Reno, Sparks and Washoe County created the water authority with the 2001 acquisition of the water system formerly operated by Sierra Pacific Resources, four rate increases have been adopted.

The first came in 2003 and increased the average water bill for metered customers by 18 percent. That controversial increase was followed by smaller, single-digit hikes in 2005, 2009 and 2010 that generated little controversy.

The last one increased average monthly water bills by \$1.47 to about \$45. Should the utility proceed with another increase in 2012, it would likely be a single-digit increase of 3 percent or so followed by similar inflationary increases in subsequent years, Foree said.

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The two-prong rate adjustment approved for 2009 and 2010 was supposed to increase total water sales revenue to nearly \$78 million through 2011, but the amount now projected to be collected is \$71.3 million.

The shortfall is due to a variety of factors, including an "economic malaise."

"Some of the drop, obviously, is the economy," Foree said. "We've had pretty much flat growth for the last three or four years."

Water use by existing customers is also on the decline. Part of that stems from a growing and welcome conservation ethic among water customers in the Reno-Sparks area, Foree said. Cooler temperatures in recent summers have also reduced demand and resulting revenue from water sales.

The utility has taken steps to cut costs, reducing operating expenses from \$40.5 million in 2009 to \$33.2 million in 2011, or by 18 percent, Foree said. The utility now has 150 employees, down from 178 in 2007.

The possible rate increase comes as the utility -- which serves about 93,000 homes and businesses -- continues to tap into cash reserves by about \$6 million per year to finance operations, Foree said.

It's a practice Foree said can't be sustained considering the utility's need to maintain and rehabilitate its system of water lines,

pumps, wells and treatment facilities.

"If you continue to burn cash, in the not-too-distant future you run out," Foree said.

But Carrigan remains uncomfortable with the concept of turning to ratepayers in troubled times.

"Everybody is kind of in a hurt position right now," he said.

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Regional Briefly Sept. 29

SEPTEMBER, 28 2011

Winter hours to begin for Tahoe boat inspections

(AP) – Boat inspections at Lake Tahoe will move from off-site locations back to launch ramps when the winter boating season begins Oct. 1.

The Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources said beginning Saturday, the boat ramp at Sand Harbor will be open Thursday through Monday, 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cave Rock will be open from daily from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The winter hours will remain in effect until March 31, 2012.

Boat inspections at Tahoe are mandatory to try to prevent invasive species, especially quagga and zebra mussels, from becoming established in the clear, Sierra lake.

Biologists say the mussels attach to boats used in other infested waters and could spread to Lake Tahoe if precautions aren't taken.

61 Nevada arrests reported in immigration sweep

LAS VEGAS (AP) – Federal officials say 61 arrests were made in Nevada as part of a nationwide campaign to catch people who illegally reenter the country after they've been deported.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials said Wednesday the operation to identify and arrest previously identified deportees was part of a seven-day enforcement effort last week that netted 2,900 convicted people in the 50 states and four U.S. territories.

Officials say 45 people were arrested in the Las Vegas area, including a 44-year-old Mexican man who had been deported following a conviction for smuggling drugs and a 32-year-old Mexican man convicted of attempted lewdness with a child.

Sixteen people were arrested in the Reno area.

Officials say the sweep was the largest of its kind and involved more than 1,900 immigration officers.

Reno police: 43 accidents during Street Vibrations

RENO(AP) – Reno police say department officers investigated 43 accidents, including one fatal, during the five day Street Vibrations motorcycle event that wrapped up Sunday.

Officers also issued 201 traffic tickets and 100 warnings.

Additionally, 18 people were arrested for drunken driving, 15 were taken into civil protective custody and 10 were arrested on other misdemeanor charges.

The city of Sparks canceled the rest of its Street Vibrations events after a Friday night shooting inside John Ascuaga's Nugget left one Hells Angel member dead and two members of the rival Vagos motorcycle club wounded. A third was hurt in a drive-by shooting hours later.

Elton John starts 3-year Las Vegas run at Caesars

LAS VEGAS (AP) – Elton John is making his return to Las Vegas for a three-year headlining gig at Caesars Palace.

The five-time Grammy winner was scheduled to perform Wednesday night for the first of 16 shows scheduled through October to start the run.

The show is titled "The Million Dollar Piano." John says it's named for the instrument he'll play during the show – a piano that took manufacturer Yamaha four years to build.

His return comes more than two years after a five-year stint that ended in 2009. That run was originally planned for three years, but was extended because of demand.

John is one of music's most decorated stars. He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 1998 and inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1999.

<http://www.nevadaappeal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110929/NEWS/110929723/1002&parentprofile=1058&template=printart>



Northern Nevadans' electric and gas rates reduced

Written by

Bill O'Driscoll

9:00 PM, Sep. 30, 2011

Northern Nevadans girding for the coming cold season will receive a break in their costs to keep warm starting today.

NV Energy on Friday announced reductions in the average residential rates for electricity and natural gas as part of its periodic cost adjustments required by law.

The utility is trimming rates for its 367,000 electricity customers across Northern Nevada by an average of 2.43 percent. And rates for its 151,000 natural gas customers in the greater Reno-Sparks area are being cut by an average of 10.7 percent.

For the typical residential customer using 746 kilowatt hours of electricity per month, that means a drop of \$1.82 to \$82.16 in the monthly bill.

For the typical natural gas customer using 56 therms of gas, NV Energy's monthly charge will fall \$5.03 to \$45.52.

The adjustments are a result of state-mandated periodic adjustments in which utilities' costs for fuel and purchased power

are passed along to customers

dollar-for-dollar with no profit for the company.

NV Energy officials attributed the decreases to several factors, notably declining energy markets and the state-of-the-art Tracy Combined Cycle Generating Station east of Sparks, which is one-third more efficient in producing electricity than other conventional gas-fired power plants.

With the changes, total electricity rates have decreased nearly 25 percent and total natural gas rates by nearly 30 percent since January 2009, according to NV Energy.

rate relief

Starting today for NV Energy ratepayers:

Electricity: average drop of 2.43 percent

Natural gas: average drop of 10.7 percent

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Give your opinion on Stateline-to-Stateline Bikeway



Written by

Lenita Powers

11:14 PM, Sep. 29, 2011|

The public is invited to give input and comment on potential environmental effects of the North Demonstration Project, a section of the larger Nevada Stateline-to-Stateline Bikeway.

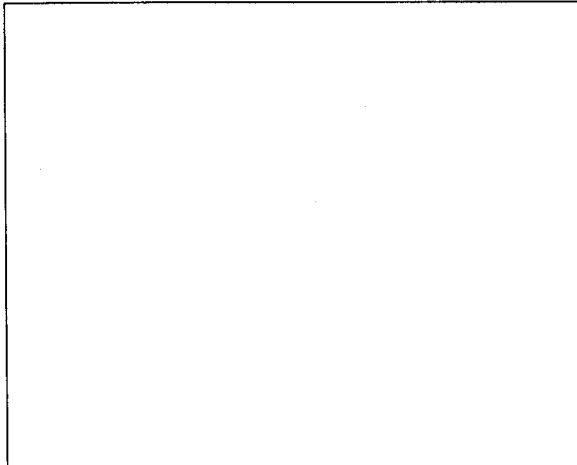
The Tahoe Transportation District, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Federal Highway Administration and U.S. Forest Service are hosting the meeting at 6 p.m. Wednesday at The Chateau, 955 Fairway Blvd., Incline Village.

The larger Nevada Stateline-to-Stateline Bikeway will encompass about 30 miles between the Nevada state line in Crystal Bay and the casino core in Stateline.

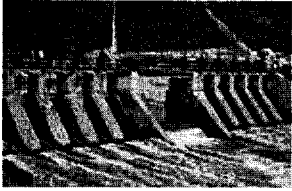
Wednesday's meeting will focus on the section between Incline Village and Sand Harbor.

The public also can send in written comments through Oct. 21 to Brian Judge, acting assistant branch chief of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, P.O. Box 5310, Stateline, NV. 89449-5310.

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County denies water diversion request

Business park near Reno applies for project resource

SEPTEMBER, 27 2011

BUSINESS PARK NEAR RENO APPLIES FOR PROJECT RESOURCE

BY STEVE PUTERSKI

LAHONTAN VALLEY NEWS

The Churchill County Commissioners held a special meeting on Monday to discuss and act on applications by the TRI General Improvement District asking for the diversion of Newlands Project water.

The commissioners, though, voted 3-0 to deny the request of the applications filed with the Nevada State Engineers office. Several residents and members of the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District, U.S. Wildlife Service and Naval Air Station Fallon were present to voice displeasure with the request and urged commissioners to deny the applications.

Two of the four applications submitted by TRI asked for up to 85 acre-feet of water to be diverted from the Truckee and Carson rivers in Lyon and Storey counties. The request by TRI stated it would divert water above Derby Dam.

The complex sits off Interstate 80 off USA Parkway and is 120,000 square feet. It is home to an industrial business complex. According to County Manager Brad Goetsch, TRI has requested water from Northern Nevada to supply the park.

"They have a lot of acres of land," he added. "They asked for a lot more water than the ground holds there. Their constraint is they don't have enough water for the 110 businesses they think may come."

However, the commissioners said in their response the loss of water would negatively affect Churchill County residents. They cited the numerous issues including how the U.S. Secretary of the Interior has not approved the applications to transfer water outside the project.

According to commissioners, the Alpine and Orr Ditch decrees specifically state the amount of water requested was above the limit approved by those entities.

But one of the focal points of the denial was the 25/75 percent split between the Truckee and Carson rivers. Chris Mahannah, a water resources expert with Mahannah Associates, testified to the

commissioners the water levels in the rivers vary from year to year. The unpredictability of snow melt and runoff is based on projections and can and do vary from month to month.

In its applications, TRI stated it wanted to build two induction wells near Lahontan Reservoir near Silver Springs and adjacent to the Truckee River near Tracy to gather surface water.

The commissioners said the wells do not stop drawing surface water once they are shut off, and there would be lag times and diversions from aquifers.

"Churchill County supported TRI ... it's a regional economic thing," Goetsch said. "We're all for it. But we said it needs to be built with restraints and plan for businesses that aren't huge water users. They need more water than they have and will destroy the economies around them. We don't support that."

In addition to the county protesting the water diversion applications, the city of Fallon, TCID and the Bureau of Reclamation oppose the proposal. The entities, though, may have found yet another ally, the Pyramid Lake Paiute Shoshone Tribe.

The tribe depends on water from the Truckee River and has been in battles with TCID for years to divert project water to the lake. However, the City of Fernley and Lyon County have not filed protests, and Goetsch said he feels Lyon County is playing both sides.

One on hand, the county wants the monetary gain for the cash-strapped region, while the water diversions would effect the agriculture livelihoods of farmers in Fernley.

“It’s us and Fernley that gets hit by this,” Goetsch added.

Commission Chairman Norm Frey said there has been a regionalization of water from Gardnerville to Stagecoach that has spread fear of the Newlands Project cannibalizing its own water supply.

“Many of us have worked pretty hard for a lot years now to protect resources,” he added. “We have solidified the water rights here.”

<http://www.lahontanvalleynews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110927/NEWS/110929937/1055&ParentProfile=1045&template=printart>



Nevada Agriculture board opposes Las Vegas water pipeline plan

8:57 AM, Sep. 2, 2011|

CARSON CITY (AP) — The Nevada state Board of Agriculture is opposing a Southern Nevada Water Authority plan to pump millions of gallons of water from eastern Nevada and pipe it to Las Vegas

The Las Vegas Sun reports (<http://bit.ly/qgDlfB>) the board agreed to send a letter of opposition to federal Bureau of Land Management officials considering allowing the pipeline to cross federal land on a 285-mile route from White Pine and Lincoln counties to Clark County. State agriculture chief Jim Barbee says a unanimous vote Tuesday in Reno cited the impact on agriculture in rural Nevada. The BLM is taking public comments until October before issuing a final environmental report. State Engineer Jason King begins hearings Sept. 26 on a water authority application for water rights in Nevada near the Utah state line.

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Turn in prescription drugs this weekend

by Tribune Staff

09.27.11 - 12:00 am

RENO — Join Together Northern Nevada (JTNN), the Reno Police Department and many others are partnering for the Prescription Drug Round-Up from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday at several local retail locations to collect unwanted, expired prescription drugs.

The semi-annual event was created to remove old medications from homes to eliminate the potential for abuse or dependence by those who have easy access to medicine cabinets, such as teenagers and young children. The majority of teens say prescription drugs are easier to get than illegal drugs, and 1 in 5 teens has used a prescription drug to get high.

“Kids have easy access to the family medicine cabinet, and we ask parents to lock up their prescription drugs or dispose of those that are no longer needed,” said Kevin Quint, executive director for JTNN.

Prescription drug abuse is our nation’s fastest-growing drug problem, according to JTNN. Prescription drug poisoning is second only to motor vehicle crash deaths as the leading cause of accidents. Nevada had an overdose rate of 14.8 per 100,000 people in 2006, the eighth highest rate in the country. The increase in drug overdose death rates is largely attributable to the use of prescription opioid painkillers, such as Vicodin and Oxycontin.

Area residents can turn in unwanted or expired prescription drugs, over-the-counter pills, prescription liquids, pet medications,

and residential sharps at the following locations:

- Save Mart – 565 E. Prater Way, Sparks
- Scolari’s – 1300 Disc Drive, Sparks
- Smith’s – 175 Lemmon Drive, Reno
- Scolari’s – 8165 S. Virginia St., Reno
- Walgreens – 10370 N. McCarran Blvd., Reno
- Walmart – 4855 Kietzke Lane, Reno

The event is being sponsored by Join Together Northern Nevada, The Reno Police Department, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Drug Enforcement

Administration, Scolari's Food & Drug Company, Medical Reserve Corps, Sparks Police Department, Washoe County Sheriff's Office, Washoe County School District, Truckee Meadows Water Authority, Retail Association of Nevada, Walgreens, SaveMart, Walmart and Waste Management.

For more information, visit www.jtnn.org or call 324-7557.

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Battle over big Vegas water pipeline gets hearing

Written by

SANDRA CHEREB

Associated Press

3:02 PM, Sep. 26, 2011|

CARSON CITY, Nev. (AP) — A hearing scheduled to last into late fall began Monday on the Southern Nevada Water Authority's plans to pump billions of gallons of water from remote valleys along the Nevada-Utah line to quench Las Vegas' thirst.

In opening statements before the state engineer, critics of the proposal said the water authority's own data and modeling used to justify the 300-mile, \$3.5 billion pipeline are flawed. They say tapping 126,000 acre-feet of groundwater would result in economic and environmental catastrophe for those in and around Spring, Cave Valley, Delamar and Dry Lake valleys.

An acre-foot is the amount of water it takes to cover 1 acre 1 foot deep.

"Under their data, every single spring in Spring Valley will go dry," said Paul Hejmanowski, a Las Vegas lawyer representing the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, which owns the sprawling

Cleveland Ranch in Nevada's White Pine County.

Other opponents include Great Basin Water Network, several Indian tribes and various rural counties in Nevada and Utah.

Pat Mulroy, general manager of the water authority, testified that the agency is only seeking water rights for unappropriated, annual recharge.

Southern Nevada, the state's population hub, is home to 2 million people and attracts 40 million visitors annually.

Most of the region's water comes from the overtapped Colorado River, a source shared by seven western states and Mexico.

"There are no easy solutions left on the Colorado River," Mulroy said.

The water authority will have three weeks to present its case to Jason King, the state engineer. Opponents will be given the

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same amount of time to offer counter-testimony and expert opinions, and public comment will be heard Oct. 7.

A ruling could come early next year.

The agency was granted the permits it seeks once before, but last year, the Nevada Supreme Court sent the matter back for a new round of hearings. The court ruled the state engineer failed to act on the water authority's applications in a timely manner, and that people who were not part of the original case but have a stake in the outcome should be allowed to participate in the proceedings.

If the authority secures approval of all the rights it is seeking, the pipeline could end up carrying as much as 65 billion gallons of water from the north to the south on an annual basis. Daily flows would total up to 178 million gallons under that scenario — enough to cover an area the size of nearly 500 football fields with a new foot of water each day.

Hejmanowski said his clients don't object to southern Nevada wanting to develop available, unappropriated water, but they have concerns about the effects the pumping would have on existing water rights holders.

"We are not here to argue against progress or water for Las Vegas," he said, but added, "good intentions are no substitute for good science."

He said the LDS Church is opposed to 12 of the 19 permits SNWA has applied for in

Spring Valley. Of the 12, four were denied previously.

Lawyers for Millard and Juab counties in Utah also oppose what critics call a "water grab," fearing that pumping from Spring Valley could alter groundwater flows in Utah's nearby Snake Valley.

Paul Taggart, a lawyer representing the water authority, said over the past 10 years, Lake Mead's water level plunged 140 feet because of drought, and the river-supplied water came within 6 feet of a shortage declaration that would trigger tough measures to curtail use.

He said opponents were "blinded by "personal prejudices" against SNWA and "fundamentally opposed to moving water from where it is to where the people need it."

But Simeon Herskovits, with Great Basin Water Network, said the agency's estimate of perennial recharge is "grossly exaggerated" and its projections on the

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effects of groundwater drawn down
“greatly skewed.”

He said pumping the water would cause economic and environmental harm by eliminating plant communities and take a toll on wildlife.

“We believe the state engineer will not be able to legally grant the applications,” he said.

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Prescription drug round-ups planned for Oct.

by Tribune Staff

09.22.11 - 12:19 am

SPARKS — On Oct. 1 and Oct. 29, officers of the Reno Police Department, Sparks Police Department and Washoe County Sheriff's Office will hold a prescription drug round-up at various locations throughout Washoe County. During this event, citizens can drop off expired or unused prescription and over-the-counter medications, which will be safely destroyed.

This will be the area's fifth such event. To date, the round-ups have collected more than 285,000 prescription pills. These pills will no longer be improperly disposed of or make it into the hands of youth or adults who might abuse them. This is a collaborative effort and a result of partnerships with many other community agencies, including Join Together Northern Nevada and local pharmacies and retailers.

Prescription drug abuse is the fastest growing drug problem in our nation today. Prescription drugs are now the second most commonly abused drug type among all teens, and among 12-13 year olds are the most common – even more prevalent than marijuana. About 1 in 5 teens admit to abusing prescription drugs to get high. The round-up is one way to raise awareness of this problem, provide information and resources, and reduce the availability of prescription drugs for abuse.

Medications can be dropped off confidentially, with no questions asked. No identifying patient information will be collected. Please bring medications in their original containers if possible, and feel free to mark out the patient's name. Those dropping off medications will also receive educational materials as well as a free MedSafe locking medicine cabinet (limited supply available) to safely store their medications in the future.

Round Up Locations:

Oct. 1, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Scolari's, 300 Disc Dr., Sparks; Scolari's, 8165 S. Virginia St., Reno; Save Mart, 565 E. Prater Way, Sparks; Walgreens, 10370 N. McCarran Blvd., Reno; Smith's, 175 Lemmon Dr., Reno; Walmart, 4855 Kietzke Lane, Reno;

Oct. 29, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (in conjunction with the Drug Enforcement Administration's National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day) – Scolari's, 8165 S. Virginia St., Reno;

Save Mart, 565 E. Prater Way, Sparks.

Proper disposal of medications protects teens, children, pets and the environment. If you have any questions regarding the event, call Stacy Shamblin,

prevention & education coordinator for the Reno Police Department, at 657-4794.

For those not able to make it to the event, information on the proper disposal of unused or unwanted prescription drugs can be located at www.jtnn.org. More collection dates will be scheduled in the future.

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Posted: 10:53 PM Sep 22, 2011

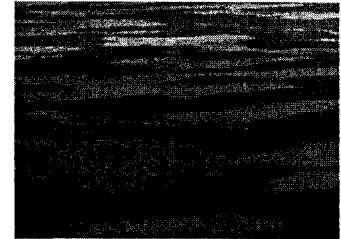
Underwater Inspections Keep TMWA's Water Safe

The water coming from your tap first goes through a extensive treatment process, keeping it that way involves going somewhere most never get to see.

Reporter: Ed Pearce

Email Address: ed.pearce@kolotv.com

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RENO, NV - It may help to think of the Hunter Creek Reservoir as a big water bed, a water bed covering several acres and containing 30 million gallons.

"That's a good analogy," says Christ Struffert, the Truckee Meadows Water Authority's Senior Engineer. "It's got a liner on the top and on the bottom and when you walk on it, it sloshes around your feet."

The water stored here has been already been treated at the Truckee Meadows Water Authority's Chalk Bluff Treatment Plant and pumped here, ready for use in your home. TMWA wants to keep it that way.

Making sure this reservoir is doing its job keeping all that water safe and secure is Richard Peterson's job.

Once a year, he dons dry suit, helmet, and, after being disinfected, dives into that big water bed and looks for problems.

His helmet is equipped with two-way communication and a camera. What he sees down here is monitored by the surface crew.

Today we see tiny bits of sediment, a little corrosion and a couple of loose bolts. Little else.

"We don't expect to find problems," says Struffert, " and today we didn't."

The forty plus tanks and reservoirs in TMWA's system are periodically inspected like this. Hunter Creek Reservoir is the largest storage unit in the system, so it gets checked each year.

"It's basically a proactive program that we have to identify any visual problems we may have, corrosion, leaks, anything out of the ordinary," says Struffert.

And if they find problems?

"If it's a minor issue that we don't think is in need of repair immediately we can dive it again next year. We can dive it in 5 years. He also has the ability to make repairs.'

"If the reservoir is OK, the water coming out of it should be alright?

"Our water quality is something we're very proud of and if there's a problem that will affect it we want to catch it before it becomes an issue."

Find this article at:

http://www.kolotv.com/home/headlines/Underwater_Inspections_Keep_TMWAs_Water_Safe_130395653.html



Editorial: This is not time to give up on the flood-control project

9:00 PM, Sep. 21, 2011

The biggest challenge facing those who have been planning the Truckee Meadows flood-control project -- besides finding the money to pay for it -- has always been fading memories.

It has been nearly 15 years since the devastating New Year's Flood of 1997, and only once has there been even a threat of a repeat.

Yet, the danger remains, and it is inevitable that one day -- maybe this coming winter, maybe five or 10 years from now -- the Truckee River will again leave its banks because of a week of heavy rains or a sudden warming trend that melts the Sierra snowpack too quickly or some other event that sends more water down the Truckee River channel than it can handle. And when it does, the damage will be close to \$1 billion this time, if we don't do something to prevent it.

That's why it is imperative that the community not give up on the flood-control plan developed by a citizens panel a dozen years ago and now close to fruition.

As the chairman of the recently created

Flood Management Authority's board of directors, Sparks City Councilman Ron Smith, writes below, "Our community cannot afford to lose this project, and we will not."

• • •

The plan developed by the community is comprehensive, and it is realistic. It avoids the mistakes made by many flood-threatened areas of the country that have relied on ever-higher flood walls and levees -- structures that eventually fail under the unrelenting onslaught of water. Instead, the plan will return the Truckee River to something more closely resembling its natural state. Flood walls will be used only where absolutely necessary. In other stretches, the river will be allowed to do what comes naturally -- it will spread excess water into the flood plain where it will do little damage. Reno-Sparks residents have done their part. Shortly after the 1997 flood, voters agreed to increase the sales tax in Washoe County by one-

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eighth of a percentage point to provide seed money for the project. While they've waited -- patiently -- for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to approve the plan, some of that tax money has been used for important pieces of the overall project, such as buying up land that will be used for spillover and successfully restoring several down-river wetlands. In recent months, an authority has been created to oversee the plan, an authority that will be able to tax property owners to pay for it. No one likes the idea of additional taxes for any reason, but this is a critical indication that Truckee Meadows residents are willing to do what's necessary to make this plan a reality. Yes, it's expensive, and in this era of national austerity, the desire of the corps not to spend any more money than it has to is understandable. But we only have to think back to 1997, when water flowed through the Rosewood Lakes area and closed downtown Reno businesses and Reno-Tahoe International Airport, at a cost of about \$700 million to the community and the federal government. As challenging as the past 15 years may have been, this is no time to give up.

SNAPSHOT

TOPIC: Remembering 1997

OUR VIEW: Despite the long delay, community plan is critical to protecting the Truckee Meadows.

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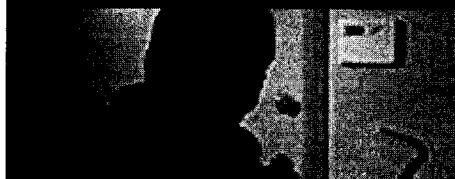
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» TMWA

**Job isn't completed
until rest room's open**

Truckee Meadows Water and its contractor, Q&D Construction, are lauded for completing enough of the new water treatment facility at the corner of Greg and Galletti Way in order to get the bike path mostly open.

However, now that the work is done, why is bathroom still "closed for the winter"? What rest room facilities are the day laborers who congregate on Galletti Way using? Closed for another winter? Come on, guys, finish the job!

Richard Hill, Reno

9/19/11