

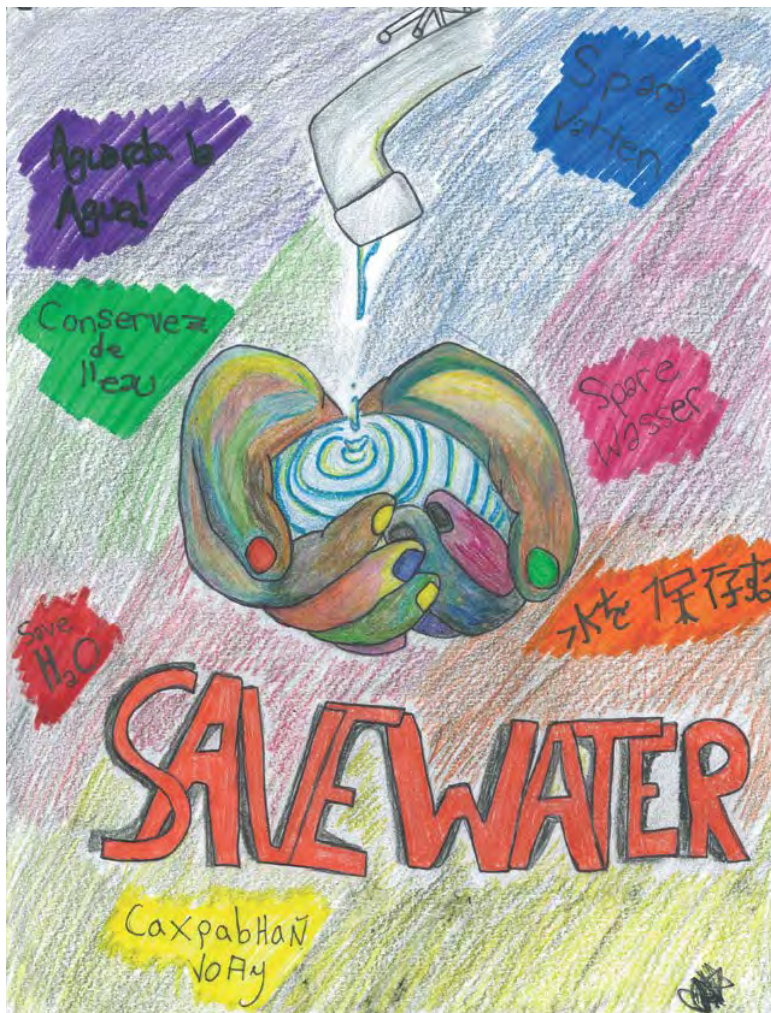


TMWA Board Meeting

Thursday, May 17, 2012

Press Clippings

March 14, 2012 – May 9, 2012



Katherine Horton (Archie Clayton Middle School)
2010 Poster Art Contest – Honorable Mention, Grades 7-8



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Updated: 10:13 AM May 8, 2012

KTMB's 7th Annual Great Truckee Meadows Community Cleanup

Reno

Volunteers are needed for the Community Cleanup.

Posted: 9:15 AM May 8, 2012

Reporter: Morgan Tiar

Email Address: morgan@ktmb.org



Like Be the first of your friends to like this.

f

Volunteers are needed to remove trash from open space areas and pull invasive weeds from along the banks of the Truckee River on Saturday May 12th from 8:30am-12 noon. Last year over five hundred volunteers coordinated by Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful removed over eighty five tons of trash and invasive weeds throughout the Truckee Meadows. A volunteer appreciation picnic sponsored by SaveMart will follow the cleanup. To sign up at one of fifteen clean-up or weed-pull sites go to ktmb.org or call 851-5185.

The Great Truckee Meadows Community Cleanup is part of a long-term, community-based effort to provide greater stewardship of the region's natural resources. "Working together, we can improve our quality of life through the proper disposal of solid waste and the preservation of some of our favorite recreation areas," says Christi Cakiroglu, Executive Director of Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful.

i

What: Great Truckee Meadows Community Cleanup

When: Saturday, May 12th 2012, 8:30am- 12 noon

Where: Go to www.ktmb.org for a list of sites and to sign up or call 851-5185

Partners and Sponsors for the Great Truckee Meadows Community Cleanup include: The Truckee River Fund, NV Energy, Sun Valley General Improvement District, Castaway Trash Hauling, SaveMart Supermarkets, Hobeys Casino & Restaurant, Nature's Bakery, KTVN Channel 2 News, Washoe County, City of Sparks, City of Reno, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service,

Washoe County Health Department, Washoe County Sheriff's Office, The Nature Conservancy, Truckee Meadows Weed Coordinating Group, University Nevada Cooperative Extension, The Reno-Sparks Chamber, New Belgium Brewery, American Auto Wreckers, RT Donovan, Bridgestone-Firestone, Simms Metal Management, PSC Environmental and ERGS Properties.

Find this article at:

<http://www.kolotv.com/community/headlines/150615065.html>

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

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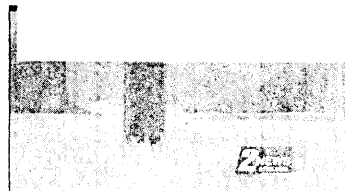
Tips From TMWA on Watering This Season

Posted: May 08, 2012 5:48 PM PDT

Updated: May 08, 2012 6:15 PM PDT

Arianna Bennett
Channel 2 News

Now that the warm weather seems to be here to stay, it is time to start a regular watering routine. So is there anything new that we need to know about watering this season?



According to the Truckee Meadows Water Authority, our dry winter didn't really have a big impact on our water levels. So it's perfectly fine to water on your normal schedule.

"Even with our light snow pack this year, we have great upstream reservoir storage," TMWA Customer Relations Director Kim Mazeres said, "and so people can water as normal, as they have the last few years."

If you need a reminder of what that schedule is--

For even number addresses, you can water on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. And if your address ends in an odd number, your days are Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays.

The assigned watering days are only for your sprinkler system, though. They don't apply to hand-watering, car washing, or even your drip system.

Mazeres said that schedule is a guideline depending on the weather, and you can do a lot to save water by paying attention to the forecast. If it is a particularly wet week or month, she said it is a big help to the water supply if you allow the rain to do the work and keep the sprinklers off.

"If it starts raining in June, turn those sprinklers off.," Mazeres said. "Use water responsibly; just don't waste it."

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TRUCKEE MEADOWS
WATER AUTHORITY

Pursuant to NRS 358.596 notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be conducted on the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 tentative budget of the Truckee Meadows Water Authority at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 17, 2012, in the Sparks Council Chambers - Legislative Building, 745 Fourth Street, Sparks, Nevada. The budget has been prepared in such detail and on appropriate forms as prescribed by the Department of Taxation. Copies of the budget are on file and available for public inspection at Truckee Meadows Water Authority, 3355 Capital Blvd., Reno, Nevada.

Mark Force
General Manager

Media Monitoring Suite

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Transcript

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KTVN (CBS) - Reno, NV
CBS This Morning

+ Local Market Viewership: 5,582
Local Publicity Value: \$234.08 per 30s

KTVN 5/7/2012 8:56:26 AM: ...that prompted school district superintendent heath morrison to recommended they not move forward with the project. it's "drinking **Water** week" .. so what does that mean for you? for starters, if you've ever wondered what's in your **Water**, you can find out -- straight from the source. the truckee Meadows water authority is hosting a special workshop on thursday night. you can get an overview of tum-wah's **Water** system, quality standards and testing.. along with the **Water** treatment process. the workshop starts at 5:30, again on thursday night, at tmwa's main office on capital boulevard in reno. it's monday, which means it's "om nom nomdays" at the reno aces ballpark. today's treat, is nachos -- at a buck per plate. channel 2 news is proud to sponsor this event every monday. the reno aces take on the tacoma rainers this afternoon at 1:05. let's get to that forecast.. and meteorologist ron percivalle. thanks ron-- and thank you for staying with us this morning. your next newscast is at five o'clock. until then you can stay up to date on our website at ktvn-dot-com. ...

Paused

5/7/2012 8:56:42 AM

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KOLO (ABC) - Reno, NV
KOLO 8 News Now @ 11PM

+ Local Market Viewership: 12,388
Local Publicity Value: \$1,060.49 per 30s

KOLO 5/7/2012 11:03:52 PM: ...turf, volleyball courts... and a new walkway. nats: if you walk out to the peninsula, you'll see that we're essentially expanding to the south the turf area. there will be a retaining wall.. all this construction is costing the city... 393-thousand dollars. that's paid for by a franchise fee from nv energy and TMWA. they have to pay the city a franchise fee to use the city's right of ways. denise: what about people who think maybe 393,000 could be better spent somewhere else? you know, this is really what makes sparks unique. sparks is really branding itself to be a place where there's always something going on. and we're known for our special events. that's our brand and that's what we strive to be. and the sparks marina is really a key component of that. it's a great investment. you couldn't do anything better. in order to generate and build our economy, you have to generate business. and the way to do that is to draw people out here. and some say - improving this areas ... is a great way to get locals to keep stopping by. well that's really good and i'll be more interested in coming down here. the city imagines this area could be used for more sporting events, craft fairs and music festivals. funding for this project... comes from a franchise fee... paid for by nv energy and tumwa. construction is supposed to be done... by the end of next month. reporting live from our mobile newsroom in sparks, denise wong kolo 8 news now. denise, thanks. pretty nice weather today. and it is only supposed to get better. the question is: just how good... chief meteorologist chris larson is here with kolo 8 weather now. thanks, chris. the c-i-a has thwarted a terrorist plot to blow up a a plane bound for the united states. the c-i-a has thwarted a terrorist plot to blow up a a plane bound for the united states. an attack, which was meant to mark the one- year anniversary of osama bin laden's death. the c-i-a says the plot involved an upgrade of the underwear bomb which failed to detonate over detroit on christmas day 2009. this new bomb, did not contain any metal... meaning it could have passed through an airport metal detector. its unclear, though, ...

Paused

5/7/2012 11:05:06 PM

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This article was printed from the Green section of the *Reno News & Review*, originally published May 3, 2012.

This article may be read online at:

<http://www.newsreview.com/reno/content?oid=5889732>

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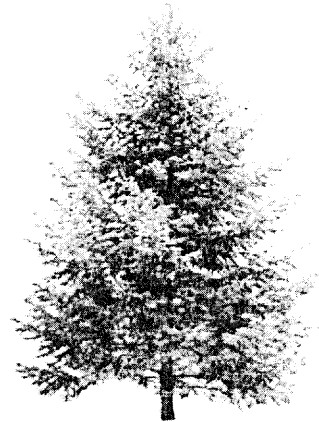
Printed on 2012-05-07.

Tree time

By Ashley Hennefer

In the spirit of Arbor Day on April 27, the city of Reno and Truckee Meadows Forestry Coalition planted 12 trees at Idlewild Park. A tour through the Wilbur D. May Arboretum at Rancho San Rafael park was also hosted.

Arbor Day was established on April 10, 1872, in Nebraska. Countries around the world participate in the holiday during various times of the year.





Mark Foree: It's business as usual for water customers

It is quite obvious to most that we didn't have as much snow in the 2011-12 winter as we did during the 2010-11 winter. It is amazing how we could go from one extreme to another within one year. But that's exactly what happened.

The official National Resources Conservation Service snowpack measurement for the Lake Tahoe Basin this year was roughly half of what would be considered normal, at a meager 55 percent of average, in stark contrast to last winter's 173 percent of average.

This wasn't too surprising considering that the exceptional dry spell we experienced very early this winter left only trace amounts of precipitation during the two-month stretch from November through December.

Even though March did come on quite strong, bringing a decent amount of precipitation to the region, it wasn't enough to get us anywhere close to average.

Stream flow runoff for Lake Tahoe and the Truckee River basins this spring will be low as a result of the below-average snowpack. Fortunately for Truckee Meadows Water Authority and its water customers, the Truckee River system has a

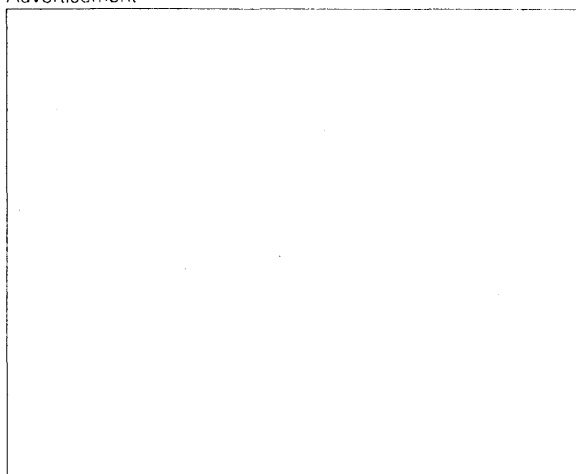
series of upstream reservoirs high in the Sierra Nevada.

The largest reservoir on this system is Lake Tahoe, which in 2011 came within about a half foot from reaching its maximum level as a result of last winter's impressive snowpack.

All of the other upstream reservoirs on the Truckee River system filled as a result of last year's snowfall. Most of these reservoirs are used to capture and store stream flow runoff from good snowpack years for use in below average years, like this one.

They provide a buffer or layer of protection for our water supply here in the Truckee Meadows. This enables TMWA to withstand an occasional dry year or two without river flows being negatively impacted. In really good runoff years, a surplus of water is built up in these reservoirs and then carried over into the following year, as was the case this year.

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It is this carry-over water, primarily the water stored in Lake Tahoe, that will be used to supplement the natural flows of the Truckee River this year. There is enough water in storage in Lake Tahoe to help provide for normal Truckee River flows for the rest of 2012 and enable TMWA to meet the water demands of our customers.

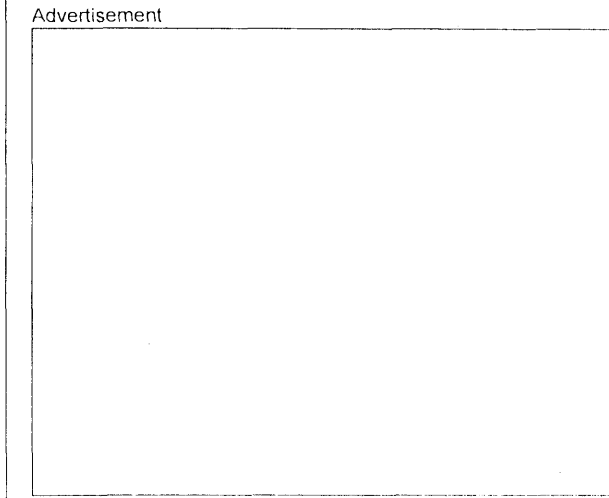
So, even though this year was half of an average snowpack year, the overall water supply outlook for Reno-Sparks and for other water users along the Truckee River is still quite good.

Other communities throughout the West aren't as fortunate as the Truckee Meadows. We won't experience reduced river flows this summer.

We are fortunate to be situated just downstream from beautiful Lake Tahoe, the largest reservoir on the Truckee River system, which is currently two-thirds full.

As such, it will be business as usual for TMWA and its water customers this summer and for the rest of the year.

Mark Foree is general manager of the Truckee Meadows Water Authority.



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auction items, all of which will be used to support the recruitment and enrollment of volunteer mentors, background checks to ensure the safety and security of the children, and ongoing match activities such as sporting events, museum visits, skiing, and tours of local businesses.

Next year's Gala is scheduled for Saturday, April 13 at 6:00 pm at the Atlantis.



Solace Tree Celebrates 8th Anniversary with New Virtual Service

The Solace Tree is celebrating eight years of providing service to the community on May 1. Through partnerships with schools, social services, emergency services, community organizations and businesses, the Solace Tree works with families to prevent the negative consequences of unresolved grief.

In its eight years of service, this local non-profit organization has:

- Served more than 4,400 children, teens and adults
- Developed a special session for teens who are dealing with teen suicide
- Met the needs of about 50% of those who have experienced loss in Northern Nevada
- Produced six books: The Solace Tree Love Never Stops, I Will Never Forget You, No Child Should Grieve Alone, Out of The Shadows, Kids Can Cope,
- Trained more than 100 volunteers, who have provided more than 75,000 volunteer hours
- Facilitated/participated in more than 500 speaking engagements and 79 workshops
- Hosted six Grief Camps at Lake Tahoe for 153 children and 50 teens
- Provided service for people from 12 cultures and seven religions.

The Solace Tree is self-funded through grants and donors, and its annual operation budget has increased from \$17,000 in 2005 to \$225,000 in 2010. For more information, visit www.solacetreecorp.org.



TMWA Celebrates Drinking Water Week, May 6 - 12
Meet the professionals who treat and deliver your water

(For more than 30 years, the American Water Works Association has celebrated Drinking Water Week in the first week of May, celebrating the essential role drinking water plays in our daily

lives.

Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) is celebrating Drinking Water Week with a workshop where customers can hear from the experts that treat and deliver their water:

Drinking Water Week: Know What's in Your Drinking Water
Thursday, May 10 at 5:30 p.m.
TMWA's main office: 1355 Capital Blvd., Reno

Attendees will get an overview of TMWA's water system, water quality standards and testing, the water treatment process and the annual Water Quality Report. This is also an opportunity for customers to receive answers to any water quality questions from the experts.

Visit www.tmwa.com for more information on this, and other workshops.



Trey Herrera Creative Director - 775-744-2260

We have been busy working on everyone else's creative needs, but we decided to spread the love a little. Well, to ourselves that is. Call us selfish but our website needed a facelift. Being a creative and technology based company keeps our feet to the fire when putting our best foot forward. We kept this site simple and easy to navigate with our work and information easily accessible. Enjoy!

<http://www.sambolgroup.com/>

The Nevada Microenterprise Initiative and the Women's Business Center have joined forces with the Nevada Small Business Center to provide a new NxLevel curriculum, NxLevel for Micro Entrepreneurs. This 15-session course presents options and strategies for achieving self-sufficiency through self-employment, with an emphasis on learning and meeting professional standards for financial management, marketing, and customer service. Beginning May 9th, 15 consecutive classes on Wednesday evenings will be held at the Redfield Campus at 18600 Wedge Parkway, Building A, Room 230. Course Instructor: Kathy Halbardier. Details and Enrollment Cost: (775) 720-4428 or Kathy Carrico (775) 784-6879 www.4microbiz.org



RE/MAX Realty Affiliates Teams and Agents Placed Among Top 25 in Southwest Region

The Southwest Region (Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico) of RE/MAX International recently recognized five RE/MAX Realty Affiliates (RRA) teams and nine individuals who placed amongst the Top 25 for 2011. Teams: The Lessinger Team, the David Morris Group, and the Jan Mackenzie Group. Individuals: Linda Averett, Brian Williams, Lisa Koch, Mike Wood, Ken Scott, Mike Smith, Pam Reese, Jay Kenny and Ardea Heinen. Teams and individuals are ranked based upon their sales volume and compete against all RE/Max agents in the Southwest region.

TMWA Celebrates Drinking Water Week, May 6 – 12

May 1, 2012

By [ThisIsReno](#)

Meet the professionals who treat and deliver your water

For more than 30 years, the American Water Works Association has celebrated Drinking Water Week in the first week of May, celebrating the essential role drinking water plays in our daily lives.

Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) is celebrating Drinking Water Week with a workshop where customers can hear from the experts that treat and deliver their water:

- **Drinking Water Week: Know What's in Your Drinking Water**

Thursday, May 10 at 5:30 p.m.

TMWA's main office: 1355 Capital Blvd., Reno

“This is an opportunity to learn about your drinking water quality from the very professionals that treat, test and deliver it to you,” Paul Miller, manager of Operations and Water Quality, said. “While we are always available to talk about our favorite subject, water, this is just another venue that customers have to meet with their local water treatment and quality experts.”

TMWA is proud to provide its customers with high-quality water, and encourages customers to attend this workshop to meet the professionals who treat, test and deliver high-quality water all day, every day.

Attendees will get an overview of TMWA's water system, water quality standards and testing, the water treatment process and the annual Water Quality Report. This is also an opportunity for customers to receive answers to any water quality questions from the experts.

Visit www.tmwa.com for more information on this, and other workshops.

Agencies to update state drought plan

By Jeff DeLong
jdelong@rgj.com

Gov. Brian Sandoval will soon be presented with an updated drought plan for Nevada at a time it might quickly be put to use.

With the U.S. Drought Monitor now characterizing all of Nevada in either severe or moderate drought and most of Northern Nevada in the severe category, the decision to update a "dry and dusty" 2003 drought strategy for the Silver State appears to be a timely one, said Kate Berry, acting state climatologist.

"I would say it's an unfortunate coincidence," Berry said of a process that started last September, when she had every reason to expect a decent winter lay ahead for the region.

It was anything but.

The winter of 2011-2012 went down as one of the driest on record for the Reno-Tahoe area, with December — normally one of the most important months for snow and rain — passing by without a drop of rain in Reno.

January and February passed with only a few significant storms.

Only March was a significant precipitation producer, improving the situation but not by nearly enough.

"There have only been a handful of storms this season that have given us much to talk about," said Gary Barbato, a hydrologist with the National Weather Service in Reno. "We're in a severe

drought at this point. It's a pretty sad situation."

Ample reservoir storage left over from a particularly impressive winter in 2010-2011 will keep the Reno area with plentiful water supplies over the summer but the situation could pose serious challenges for many areas of Nevada.

Working with representatives of the state Division of Water Resources and Division of Emergency Management, Berry and the climate office spent the last seven months updating Nevada's drought plan.

Berry and colleagues expect to meet with Sandoval, a Republican, to discuss the strategy sometime soon.

The plan essentially lays a framework for drought response on a county-by-county basis, categorizing droughts by degree of severity — drought watch, drought alert and drought emergency.

A drought committee, composed of representatives of the three states' offices and reporting to the governor, can form local task forces to recommend actions the state can take to help drought-stricken counties.

"The goal is for the state to be responsive to the needs of local entities because so much of dealing with a drought happens at a local level," Berry said.

Drought committee members could work with local water suppliers, irrigation districts and ranchers, among others.



Jeff Thompson: About time to turn on your sprinklers

Take a quick drive around neighborhoods, and you can easily see who has started watering. Residential yards look like a patchwork of green, brown and all colors in-between.

If you haven't turned on your sprinkler system, now is the time. While we still can see hard freezes this time of year, most of the cold stuff, at least numbers that can do damage, is typically behind us at this point.

When it comes to watering these days, we get three days. The Truckee Meadows Water Authority Assigned Day Watering Program changed a couple years back, adding a day for homeowners. If your address ends in an even number, now you can water Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. For the odds, your days are Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

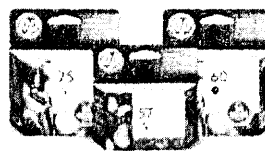
Afternoon watering still is discouraged.

This week, our weather is clearing and warming. By the weekend, we will hit temperature heights not seen since last October. Your grass will appreciate it, if you irrigate it.

Catch Jeff Thompson's forecast weekends on KTVN Channel 2 News.

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Dynamics



Wash. plan to fend off mussels gets Lake Mead test

VANCOUVER, WASH. — Researchers in the Pacific Northwest plan to test whether a chemical coating that they hope prevents invasive mussels from clogging dams will work on Lake Mead at the Arizona-Nevada border.

Invasive zebra and quagga mussels aren't in the Pacific Northwest yet— they have plagued Nevada water ways — but hydropower managers on the Columbia River fear that if they reach the area, they'll spread uncontrollably, filling dam pipes and crowding out other wildlife.

The Columbian of Vancouver, Wash., reported that later this year, researchers at a Washington state port will bring panels coated with a chemical solution to Lake Mead to see how the mussels themselves react to the coating.

With any luck, the force of water current alone will be enough to dislodge them.

Lake Mead is about 30 miles southeast of Las Vegas. Quagga mussels have overrun it since they were first discovered there five years ago.

Quagga mussels are a concern for Northern Nevada bodies as well, including Lake Tahoe. Nevada officials hope to begin

inspecting and decontaminating boats at Lahontan, Rye Patch and Wildhorse reservoirs come summer to prevent the spread of them and other aquatic invaders.

Tests conducted last April indicated the presence of juvenile quagga mussels in Lahontan and Rye Patch — the first Northern Nevada water bodies where quagga contamination is suspected.

Mandatory boat inspection and decontamination has occurred at Lake Tahoe since 2008, and officials hope to have a similar program in place at the Truckee River's other California reservoirs this summer. At Tahoe, where several quagga-encrusted boats have been intercepted before launching into the lake, about 7,600 vessels were inspected in 2011, with 4,800 were decontaminated. No mussels have been found in Tahoe's waters.

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News analysis: Does Sierra snow study buck fears of warming?

John Christy says his new study of Sierra Nevada snowfall shows global warming is not the dire threat many make it out to be.

"In general, it depends on what religion you have," Christy said when asked about the reaction to his paper. "If you believe Man is doing horrible things to the planet, then you can't believe this report. If you believe the other way, then this is a chapter in your bible."

Climate change skeptics have seized on the report published by the peer-reviewed Journal of Hydrometeorology.

James Taylor — who is not a scientist and is affiliated with the Heartland Institute, which challenges global warming — penned a blog for Forbes.com that said, "Alarmists were asserting with near unity that global warming was responsible for winters with below average snowfall. Christy's study shows that as far as the Sierra Nevada mountains are concerned, the alarmists are wrong on both counts — there is no trend one way or the other."

Christy's climatology colleagues say not so fast.

David Pierce said Christy is going beyond the data in his study, which shows steady snowfall since 1878 in the Sierra, and is making conclusions he hasn't proven.

Global warming models predict snowfall will decrease as temperatures rise toward the end of this century, not now, said Pierce, a researcher at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, Calif., where he studies the effects of climate change on ocean temperatures and water resources — including snow — in the western United States.

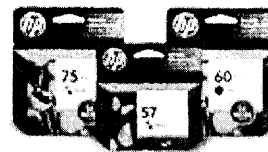
Pierce takes exception to Christy making such claims in the media instead of in his study, adding this "is unfortunate because peer-review is the process that filters out unsupported personal opinion from what is backed by evidence."

Study notes

Christy's study looks at snowfall measurements in the Sierra and goes back

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further than any previous ones — requiring him to hand-input more than 26,000 entries from before 1920.

He is director of the Earth System Science Center at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. He grew up in Fresno, Calif., where he watched with fascination as storms built over the Sierra Nevada mountains and learned to estimate snow levels by memorizing ridges and elevations.

Another hurdle with his Sierra study was that many stations reported “zero” snowfall when what they meant was that they didn’t record what fell. This required verification of thousands of numbers — with some of the worst reporting happening in recent decades as people relied on faulty automated systems or thought others were marking snowfall.

Christy found that snowfall in the Sierra — despite yearly extremes with lots of snow like last year or little snow like this year — hasn’t increased or decreased. To use the study’s scientific parlance, there have been “no statistically significant trends in their periods of record (up to 133 years) nor in the most recent 50 years.”

Kelly Redmond, a climatologist at Reno’s Desert Research Institute and deputy director of the Western Regional Climate Center, was not surprised by the findings.

“As a rule, California temperatures have been increasing, but what snow cares about is the temperature when it’s falling,”

Redmond said.

Based on DRI’s “climate tracker” data, overall temperatures for the Sierra show a trend toward higher temperatures from 1895 to now. But if you look at just winter months — when the most snow falls — temperatures have been steady for more than a century.

As long as precipitation also stays steady, and it has, then snowfall would be stable, just as Christy found.

In fact, rising temperatures won’t necessarily have an effect. Imagine an average winter temperature of 10 degrees below freezing — even a 5-degree rise would still be cold enough to create snow. It’s even likely in such a scenario snowfall could increase because, as Redmond explains, warmer air can hold more water, so in general more snow will fall at 5 degrees below freezing than at 10 below.

But if more and more winter days have average temperatures above freezing, then

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precipitation changes from snow to rain.

Such a scenario could be disastrous for California and Northern Nevada. Without the natural storage of a healthy snowpack, everything downstream that counts on water — trees, wild animals, humans, farms — is in danger.

Heated debate

Some scientists say it's not right for Christy to claim his study contradicts climate predictions.

"From a purely scientific perspective, it is bad form for a scientist to publish a paper and then to claim in press releases and in the media that the paper proves something that the paper itself doesn't actually specifically address," said Michael Ashley, a professor of astrophysics at the University of New South Wales.

Christy says there was no need to include details on climate models predicting decreased Sierra snow because such studies and claims have been widely made.

He gave the example of U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu, who said in 2009 that in a worst-case model of global warming, up to 90 percent of the Sierra snowpack could disappear by century's end.

"We're looking at a scenario where there's no more agriculture in California," Chu told the Los Angeles Times.

Christy also mentioned a half-dozen published papers that he says back up his claim that climate models show snow should've decreased in the Sierra by now.

A 2008 paper looked at SWE/P, the ratio of water in snow to the amount of overall precipitation, on April 1 in the West and found decreases in this measurement.

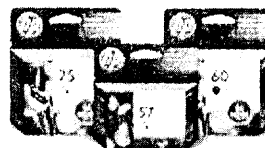
Pierce, a co-author, said that if you look at trends in the paper, it not only doesn't show a decrease for the Sierra, it shows that if the Northern and Southern Sierra are combined, the snow-water ratio is steady, just like the snowfall in Christy's paper.

The other mountain ranges covered in the paper, however, do show a decline, Pierce added.

Another paper cited by Christy is based on a report by Greg McCabe, a climatologist with the U.S. Geological Survey. McCabe wasn't willing to say the paper said what Christy says it does: "I am not sure that the climate models are accurate enough to

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actually forecast the exact timing of changes.”

Christy also cited a 2004 paper looking at water in snowpacks on April 1, which he says correlates closely with snowfall. He said this report predicts decreases that should be seen by now.

When contacted, two of that paper’s authors disagreed. Lead author Katharine Hayhoe said Christy was comparing “apples and oranges” and making a comparison that “is not really valid.” Edwin Maurer, who did models for the paper, said he would be “wary” of making Christy’s comparison.

Better models

There aren’t any papers looking at projections of Sierra snowfall, as opposed to snowpack, snowmelt or other snow-related measurements. Snowfall predications are what Christy says his study contradicts.

So, for this story, Pierce worked up 16 models using two different data archives, called CMIP-3 and CMIP-5. CMIP-5 is more advanced and takes into account more things, such as the cooling effects of volcanic ash, and its models predict less of a decrease in snowfall than the earlier formulations.

But the CMIP-3 archive would’ve been the basis of global warming predictions in the past 10 or 15 years that Christy is referring to.

The results were shared with Christy, who said they support his contention that they predict a decrease in snowfall.

“For the last 50 years, of the eight CMIP-3 models Dave gave you, six have downward trends, one is flat and one is slightly up — a clear pattern,” he said. “When averaged together, there is no doubt they depict a declining amount of snowfall.”

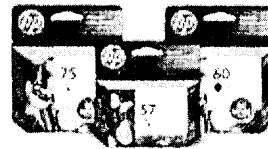
Pierce disagrees. He said that although some models show negative numbers for snowfall over time, they aren’t strong enough in that direction to be statistically significant.

The way he framed the results is that seven out of the eight models show no statistically significant trend, meaning 88 percent of the models agree with Christy’s findings that there has been no statistically significant trend in Sierra snowfall.

Redmond says there’s too much noise — meaning too many ups and downs in the snowfall measurements — to get any trend

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out of the data yet.

“If these models (run by Pierce) are thought of as opinions coming from science experts and only one out of eight says ‘I see something,’” Redmond said, “then it’s best to come back later when what they see is a little more clear.”

Although Redmond is sympathetic to Christy and has co-authored a paper with him, he doesn’t think Christy’s study contradicts global warming predictions.

“John’s study is a data point in the whole discussion,” he said. “I don’t think it in and of itself negates the contention that the climate is warming up and should be expected to warm up.

“There’s still about 90 years left in this century. With 12 percent of the precincts reporting, do we have the whole election in hand? There’s still a lot of room for things to happen in the next 88 years.”

Conclusion

If Christy had wanted to raise a red flag to the public, one way would’ve been to say something like, “Hey, I just did this study and it seems to go against what climate models are predicting, so we better do more research to make sure we’re not being led down the wrong path.”

Instead, Christy flat-out stated climate models are wrong and global warming is not dire — without backing his claims scientifically. Not surprisingly, this raised

the hackles of other climate scientists who have a lot invested in the models and think global warming is dire.

It’s not the way to help us move forward.

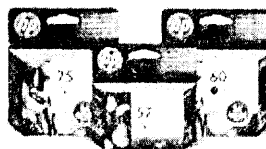
Precisely because emotion often clouds our viewpoints, on this topic, we must have dispassionate, peer-reviewed facts — facts that other experts have tried to tear down and can’t — so that we in the public can make informed choices about how to handle global warming.

If Christy is right that a global disaster isn’t waiting at the end of this century, he owes it to all of us to hold up this claim to scientific scrutiny. This is too important of a claim to make untested. If he’s looking for new study topics, here’s a perfect candidate.

— Mark Robison is the Reno Gazette-Journal’s data editor and one of its Fact Checker writers.

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To: Marlene Olsen
Subject: Public-employee salaries for 2011 now posted at NPRI's TransparentNevada



Nevada Policy Research Institute

For Immediate Release, April 4, 2012
Contact Victor Joecks, (702) 222-0642

Public-employee salaries for 2011 now posted at NPRI's TransparentNevada

LAS VEGAS — Salary data for more than 121,000 government employees statewide, for the 2011 calendar year, is now available at TransparentNevada.com, a Nevada Policy Research Institute website that makes government-spending data easily accessible to taxpayers.

The new 2011 data — covering 45 government jurisdictions throughout Nevada, including state, county and city levels — includes several newly added jurisdictions.

"Thanks to the information available at [TransparentNevada](http://TransparentNevada.com), Nevada's citizens, media members and lawmakers will now be able to easily see exactly how much government employees are being paid," said Andy Matthews, president of NPRI.

"For instance, more than 990 government employees throughout the state received over \$200,000 last year in total compensation," he added. That list includes a Clark County fire captain who made over \$525,000, a Las Vegas Metro lieutenant who took home more than \$507,000, and a UNLV English professor who received over \$326,000.

Matthews also noted that several categories of public employees had dozens of employees earning more than \$200,000. In the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, that included 32 sergeants, while in the City of North Las Vegas — recently on the verge of bankruptcy — 23 firefighters and more than 55 police and corrections officers were paid over \$200,000.

The number of firefighters earning over \$200,000 dropped from 199 in Clark County in 2010, to 142 in 2011, and from 123 in Las Vegas in 2010, to 79 in 2011.

"While it's encouraging for taxpayers to see more restraint in the number of government employees making over \$200,000 — decreasing from 1,174 in 2010 to 994 in 2011 — it's still a stark reminder of how inflated salaries for government workers remain," said Matthews. "Although government officials have told taxpayers the last five years that they've 'cut to the bone,' these salaries show that extravagant pay is still the norm for many government employees.

"Nevada's citizens are struggling with prolonged unemployment, tax increases and an upside-down housing market," noted Matthews, "while government employees still live high on the hog. Yet these inflated government salaries add another layer of hurt: They announce a clearly inequitable system where government employees — once called 'public servants' — are clearly becoming average Nevadans' masters."

Matthews noted that the base pay of numerous administrators within local governments — like the North Las Vegas city clerk, whose base pay is \$145,606, and the general manager of the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada, whose base pay is \$227,625 — is higher than the governor's base pay of \$143,426. He also noted that 17 senior attorneys working for Clark County start at \$152,372, while the base pay of the state attorney general is

\$140,389.

Not all government jurisdictions complied fully with requests for public-employee data, Matthews said.

"Several jurisdictions, including the State of Nevada, the cities of Henderson and Reno and the Clark and Washoe county school districts, failed to comply with Nevada's open-records law and provide TransparentNevada with information on their employee benefits costs," said Matthews. "By not following the law, these jurisdictions have needlessly opened themselves up to potential lawsuits."

Benefits typically increase compensation totals significantly, but even in their reported absence, an Animal Control Facility administrator working for Henderson received over \$239,000 and a graphic artist in Henderson took home over \$212,000.

TransparentNevada, on the Web at <http://TransparentNevada.com>, was first launched in September 2008 and has served as a unique source of government-financing information for thousands of citizens, journalists and elected officials.

Matthews said that the site will be adding salary data from even more jurisdictions in the coming weeks.

###

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Phone: (702) 222-0642 · Fax: (702) 227-0927 · Web site: <http://npri.org/>

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April 2, 2012, 4:22 p.m. EDT

Fitch Affirms Truckee Meadows Water Authority, Nevada Revs; Outlook Revised to Stable



AUSTIN, Texas, Apr 02, 2012 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- In the course of routine surveillance, Fitch Ratings takes the following action on Truckee Meadows Water Authority, Nevada (the authority):

--\$430 million in outstanding water revenue bonds affirmed at 'AA-';
--\$160 million of bank notes corresponding to water revenue commercial paper notes, series 2006A and series 2006B, affirmed at 'A+'.

The Rating Outlook is revised to Stable from Negative.

SECURITY

The bonds are secured by a first lien on net revenues of the authority's water system (the system). The bank notes are secured by a subordinate lien on net system revenues after payment of the bonds as well as from any proceeds of obligations issued to refund any advances made under the restated reimbursement agreement; there currently are no bank notes outstanding.

KEY RATING DRIVERS

Debt Coverage Improving: The Outlook revision to Stable from Negative reflects incremental improvement in debt service coverage (DSC) for fiscals 2010 and 2011 after rapid deterioration from fiscals 2007-2009. Management has taken appropriate actions in the last couple of years to reverse the authority's financial direction and prospects for steady operations appear favorable.

Strong Reserves: While DSC continues to be below average, the authority maintains ample unrestricted reserves, providing significant operating flexibility.

High Leverage But Manageable Capital Needs: Capital costs are substantially lower from estimates a few years ago and no additional borrowings are expected over the five-year planning horizon. Nevertheless, the debt levels remain elevated as a result of prior debt issuances, including amounts for acquisition of the system from a private utility.

Water Supplies Sufficient: Water supplies are currently adequate to meet customer demand for the foreseeable future, alleviating pressure to procure additional resources.

Struggling Economy: The service area is large and diverse, although local economic conditions continue to remain weak.

CREDIT PROFILE

DEBT SERVICE COVERAGE WEAKENED SHARPLY BY RECESSION

The authority is a joint powers authority formed in 2000 between the cities of Reno and Sparks as well as Washoe County (the county). The authority purchased the water assets of Sierra Pacific Power Company and undertook water utility operations beginning June 2001, primarily in the Reno and Sparks areas. Until a few years ago, the service area was a rapidly growing residential region, but with the national housing collapse, along with weak local economic conditions, growth has virtually stalled.

From fiscals 2004-2007, the authority posted solid total DSC of 1.9 times (x) or higher. But in fiscal 2008 DSC dropped to 1.6x and fell further to 1.3x in fiscal 2009, just above the authority's 1.25x rate covenant. DSC traditionally was boosted by system development charges (SDCs), which equaled as much as 22% of operating revenues in fiscal 2005. But as housing construction evaporated, SDC revenues dropped precipitously, accounting for just 1% of operating revenues in fiscal 2009 and contributing to the sharp decline in DSC.

STABILIZED DEBT SERVICE COVERAGE DRIVES OUTLOOK CHANGE

The authority responded to the weak revenue environment by making cuts in both operating and capital expenditures. In addition, a 4.5% rate hike was enacted for fiscal 2010. While cool, wet weather and soft economic conditions offset much of the fiscal 2010 rate hike, cost cutting measures during the year led to some improvement in DSC, with both senior lien and total DSC rising slightly to just under 1.4x. For fiscal 2011, the authority implemented an additional 4.5% rate increase but again declining consumption limited growth in operating revenues. Nevertheless, the authority continued to cut operating costs, further improving annual debt service (ADS) coverage slightly for the year, with both senior and total ADS ending at just under 1.5x coverage.

The authority's DSC stabilization coupled with incremental improvement drive the Outlook revision to Stable from Negative. The Stable Outlook also reflects the expectation of continued steady performance based on financial projections prepared by the authority through fiscal 2017. Assumptions used in forecast, which Fitch considers reasonable, include virtually no growth and only modest rate hikes.

STRONG BALANCE SHEET PROVIDES CUSHION

Despite the relatively narrow DSC levels in recent years, the authority does maintain

significant financial flexibility as a result of its cash reserves. For fiscal 2011, the authority had unrestricted cash and investments of \$48 million along with nearly \$17 million in indenture-required restricted reserves (for operations and repair and replacement). Combined, these funds equaled a very high 715 days cash for the year. Unrestricted cash balances are expected to be drawn down somewhat over the next few years for capital spending, but reserves should remain healthy overall and continue to provide flexibility for the authority.

CAPITAL FUNDING NEEDS MATERIALLY LOWER

Capital estimates are significantly reduced from just a few years ago. Currently, the proposed fiscal 2012-2016 capital improvement program (CIP) totals about \$86 million, down from \$443 million for the fiscal 2007-2011 CIP. The scale-back in expenditures is largely attributable to the authority's suspension of purchases of additional water rights. Based on its current portfolio, the authority believes it has sufficient water supplies to serve existing customers as well as any growth that may occur over the next several years. With these revised expenditures, the authority is forecasting that virtually all funding will be derived from equity sources. This will lead to some improvement to the authority's debt profile over the next several years, although debt levels are expected to remain well above comparably-rated credits.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS REMAIN WEAK IN SERVICE AREA

Retail service is provided to more than 93,000 accounts representing a residential population of 330,000. With the recession and lingering tentative economic conditions nationally, the county's economy, which historically was fueled by legalized casino gambling and construction activity, has weakened substantially. This has led to a high degree of job losses and rising home foreclosure activity. In total, employment in the county was down nearly 11% at the end of calendar 2011 from 2007 totals. While the most recent monthly labor figures (December 2011) indicate unemployment within the county improved significantly to 11.9% from 13.8% the year prior, the reduction was due a contraction in the civilian labor force (3.3%) that outpaced job losses (1.5%) as opposed to economic gains. Additional information is available at ' www.fitchratings.com '. The ratings above were solicited by, or on behalf of, the issuer, and therefore, Fitch has been compensated for the provision of the ratings.

Applicable Criteria and Related Research:

--'Revenue-Supported Rating Criteria', June 20, 2011;

--'U.S. Water and Sewer Revenue Bond Rating Criteria', Aug. 10, 2011.

For information on Build America Bonds, visit ' www.fitchratings.com/BABs '.

Applicable Criteria and Related Research:

Revenue-Supported Rating Criteria

http://www.fitchratings.com/creditedesk/reports/report_frame.cfm?rpt_id=637130

U.S. Water and Sewer Revenue Bond Rating Criteria

http://www.fitchratings.com/creditedesk/reports/report_frame.cfm?rpt_id=647331

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SOURCE: Fitch Ratings

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Updated: 9:31 PM Apr 2, 2012

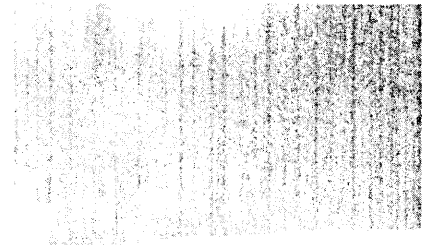
Miracle March: How Close Did We Get?

We did not get the "Miracle March" hydrologists were hoping for in our region, but they say the rain and snow we did receive was very much needed.

Posted: 8:20 PM Apr 2, 2012

Reporter: Denise Wong

Email Address: denise.wong@kolotv.com



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RENO, NV - We did not get the "Miracle March" hydrologists were hoping for in our region, but they say the rain and snow we did receive was very much needed.

At Squaw Valley, skiers and snowboarders are enjoying all of the fresh snow that fell over the weekend.

Ross Philips, who was visiting from Livermore, California, says he was out skiing when the snow fell.

"The snow was actually our January powder day. It came a little late, but at least it came," he says.

"It turned out incredible," says Amelia Richmond, spokesperson for Squaw Valley. "We had 14 feet of snow in March alone."

That's why many Sierra ski resorts are extending their ski seasons. At Squaw Valley, they're extending it through the month and Alpine Meadows is staying open for skiing and riding through Mid-May. Heavenly was supposed to close the season on April 15, but it will now stay open for the two weekends following that. Kirkwood is also extending the season.

Experts say those storms we had in March were great, but they didn't solve our dry season problems.

"All these storms, all the wind we've been putting up with the last few weeks... pulled us out of almost record-breaking low conditions, but we're still only sitting at about 40 to 50-percent average

up there right now," says Dan Greenlee, a NRCS hydrologist. "We got a really good March, but not a 'Miracle March.'"

Bill Hauck, hydrologist for the Truckee Meadows Water Authority, says we don't have to worry about our water supply, though this summer. He says TMWA plans ahead in case we experience dry weather seasons like this one. He says there is enough in reserve for the Reno area this year.

However, Greenlee says he is concerned about the farmers and ranchers in the state.

"You know, TMWA's got it pretty well covered. They've got back up plans for multi-year droughts even if the reservoirs go down, but the agricultural community is going to take a little bit of a hit this year, I'm afraid," says Greenlee.

Greenlee will head up to Mount Rose summit on Tuesday morning to perform his April snowpack survey and get another check of March's precipitation totals.

Find this article at:

http://www.kolotv.com/home/headlines/Miracle_March_How_Close_Did_We_Get_145869415.html

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

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TMWA gets \$60,000 settlement from Bank of America

Bank of America will pay the Truckee Meadows Water Authority \$60,320 as part of a multi-state settlement over a bid rigging scandal that involved some of Wall Street's largest firms.

The December 2010 settlement stems from municipalities trying to raise money for investors from the interest rates on large bond offerings.

Normally, banks compete with each other to offer the highest yield possible, meaning the municipality would make more money with the highest interest rate offer.

It later was alleged banks such as Bank of America and JPMorgan Chase & Co. took illegal peaks at the competition's offers, depriving the governments of the best possible outcomes.

For TMWA, that amounted to about \$60,000 on a \$30.1 million reserve fund that was set up in 2001, which earns 5.5 percent in interest, or about \$1.6 million a year.

Jeff Tissier, TMWA's chief financial officer, said the Nevada Attorney General's Office, notified the organization earlier this year it was eligible for a portion of Bank of America's overall \$137 million settlement.

He said it didn't amount to much, but likely was the best outcome given the complexity and costly nature of the litigation.

"Pursuing separate legal action most likely would not make sense," he said.

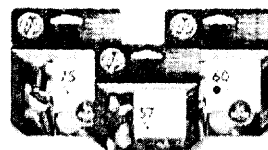
In May 2011, UBS AG agreed to pay \$160 million in the bid-rigging scandal while JPMorgan agreed to pay \$211 million.

Wachovia Bank, which was bought by Wells Fargo & Co. in 2008, agreed to pay \$148.2 million in December.

The settlements were shared with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. Department of Justice and attorneys general from around the country.

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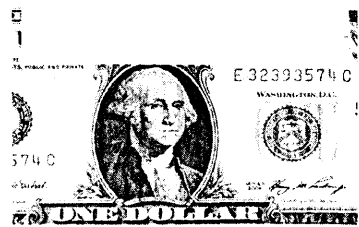


NV Energy Awards TMWA for Electric Usage

Posted: Mar 21, 2012 4:21 PM PDT
Updated: Mar 21, 2012 4:21 PM PDT

Michael Wolfe
Channel 2 News

NV Energy has awarded the Truckee Meadows Water Authority with more than \$82,000 for reducing its electric bill.



TMWA presented NV Energy with the check for the "Sure Bet" rebate at Sparks City Hall Wednesday morning.

TMWA saved on its energy bill by upgrading its canal system leading to one of its treatment plants to let gravity move the water instead of using electricity to pump it.

That will let it save more than \$240,000 a year. "The customers will see the benefit of any cost saving we have so this rebate directly benefit our customers," says general manager Mark Foree.

NV Energy says the electric TMWA will save comes out to 2.9 million kilowatt hours a year.

That's enough to power more than 300 homes for a year.

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TMWA approves \$145K for Washoe Fire rehab work

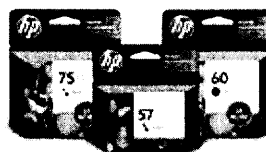
The primary water provider for Reno-Sparks today approved \$145,000 to help fund rehabilitation work on land burned by the Jan. 19 Washoe Drive Fire.

The money provided through the Truckee Meadows Water Authority's Truckee River Fund will pay for seeding, installation of erosion control measures and drainage repairs in the fire area, protecting water quality of Steamboat Creek, Browns Creek and Galena Creek, all of which drain into the Truckee River.

The Washoe Drive Fire, started by a man who improperly disposed of hot fireplace ashes, burned more than 3,100 acres and destroyed 29 homes in north Washoe Valley and in Pleasant Valley. An elderly woman died in the fire from smoke inhalation.

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Reno seeks feedback on water toll increase

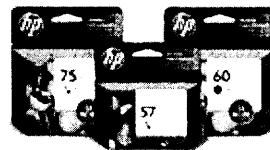
Reno is asking for feedback from businesses that will be affected by a proposed 2 percent increase to the city's right-of-way toll for Truckee Meadows Water Authority customers.

An information meeting for the business community on the proposed rate increase from 3 percent to 5 percent is scheduled for 1 p.m. March 21 inside the Reno City Council chambers, 1 E. First St.

For more information email stormwater@reno.gov or call 775-334-2168. All submissions to the city are due by March 30.

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Reno seeks feedback on water toll increase

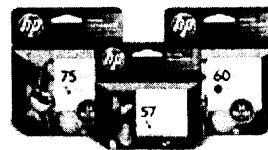
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