

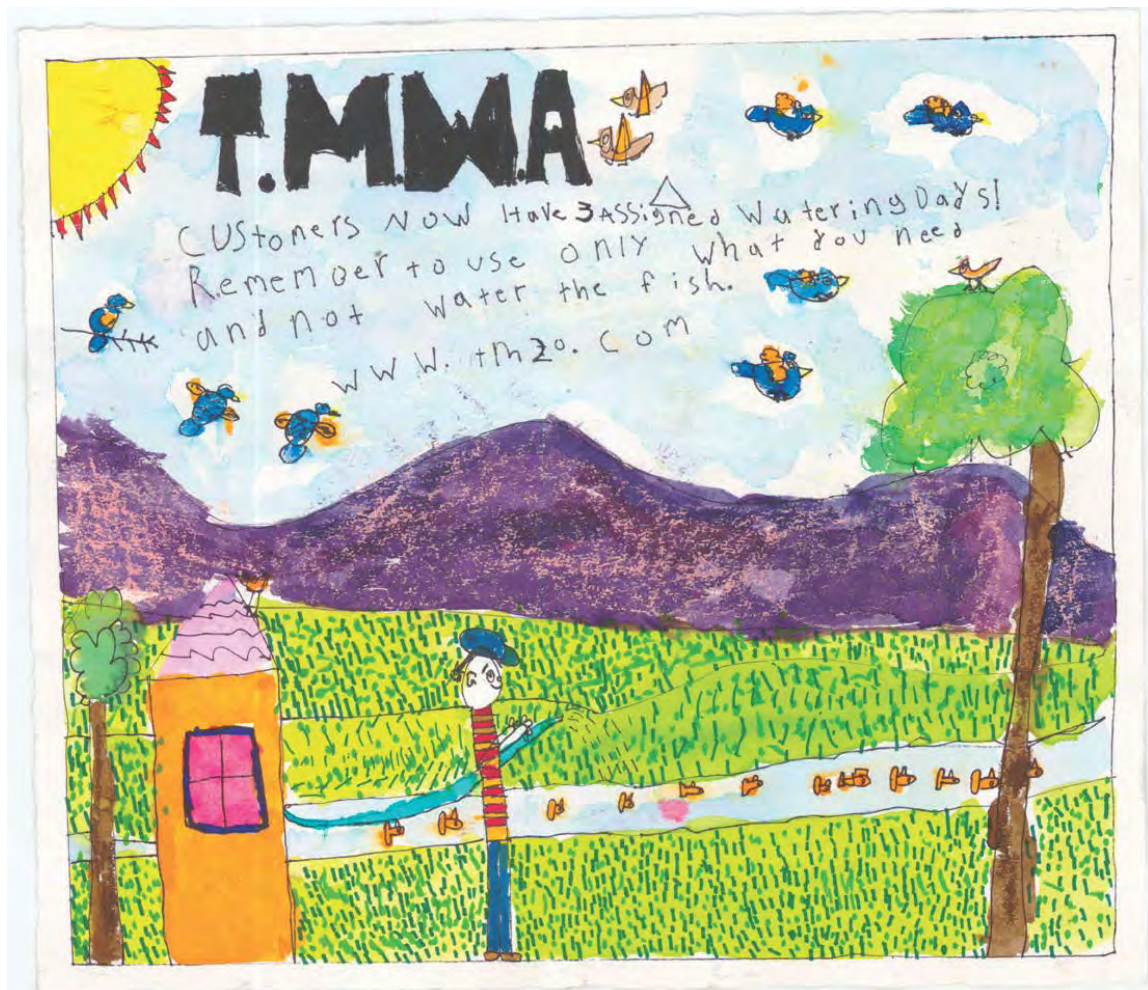


## TMWA Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 17, 2012

### Press Clippings

September 11, 2012 – October 10, 2012



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

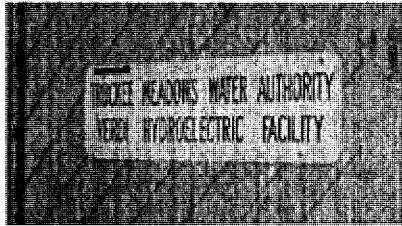
# Stallar presents The Issues:

evolution, environment and entrepreneurship in the skate and snowboard world



Introductions!

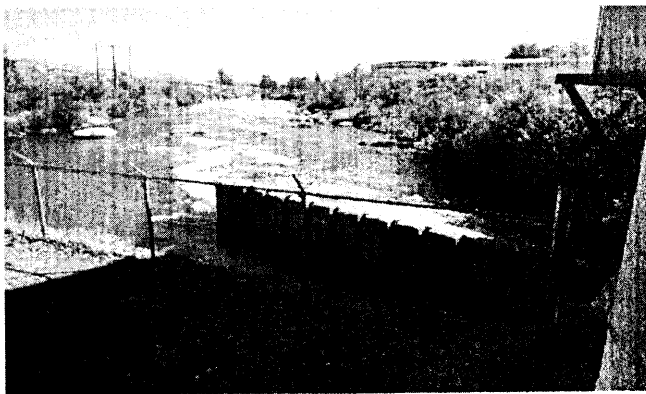
**100 year old technology producing green power for Nevada** posted by Stallar Luffiano | September 28, 2012



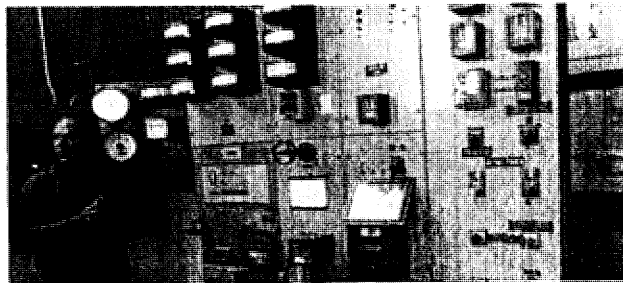
On Wednesday I had the opportunity to tour the hydroelectric plant owned by Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) in Verdi, Nevada. This plant, and three others, were built to supply the growing demand of Virginia City mining and the expanding population in the Reno area through built in late 1800's and early 1900's. The Verdi plant was fully operational by 1914. So for over 100 years this small building has been pushing water from the Truckee River, turning it for energy, only needing a fragment of the amount of water collected, and pushing it back out into the river. Every

few fish are collected but with the help of the Army Corp of Engineers, a new screen is being developed.

TMWA purchased the plant from Sierra Pacific Power Company, after they sold the water division of their business, so they could retain their water rights on the river. Since then, TMWA has sold the electricity back to NV Energy at 7 cents kilowatt. When the Lake Tahoe basin falls below the natural rim the Verdi plant has to stop generating power. The plant also synchronizes its load amount in the Fall to accommodate for decreased water available from nearby reservoirs. When fully operational Verdi generates about 2.3 mega watts, equivalent to powering just under 2,000 homes. This is significant because the plant requires little maintenance, has no thermal loading or gas components and still uses original parts to generate energy. Small changes and updates in the controls have helped efficiency, but overall the 100 year old technology used to create clean energy has not changed.



I appreciate TMWA's transparency not only with the tour and the Verdi plant, but as a group playing a part in energy efficiency and helping solve our global issues. Our tour group was about 20 strong and from all demographics and age groups, because energy does not effect a specific type of individual, it matters to us all.



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- 100 year old technology producing green power for Nevada
- The Underwhelming Effect of the Tahoe Summit
- My National Clean Energy Summit Experience (NCELS 5.0)
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- Feast or famine for the Lake Tahoe area?
- I'm disappointed in the X Games.
- Stallar Skate & Snow gear manufacturing with a green purpose
- What a break!
- A top for good or bad? YouTube Ads

ABOUT ME



I'm exploring the nature of entertainment, entrepreneurship and the environment in the skateboarding and snowboarding industry. I started an online skate and snowboard equipment company, Stallar Skate & Snow where I use Lake Tahoe as the inspiration for designs and dedication to the quality of my brand.

STALLAR'S TWITTER

- Thank u for the # @DIA\_NV. My story is one of struggle and perseverance. Stallar shares why she supports @BarackObama OPA, BOB! @gr14 hours ago
- My story is one of struggle and perseverance. Stallar Luffiano shares why she supports @BarackObama BarackObama.com/newsletter/18 hours ago
- "Discouraged" workers face tough road back to employment economywatch.nprnews.com/2012/10/... via
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- 100 year old technology producing green power for Nevada wp.me/p1D1Z-ed 1 week ago

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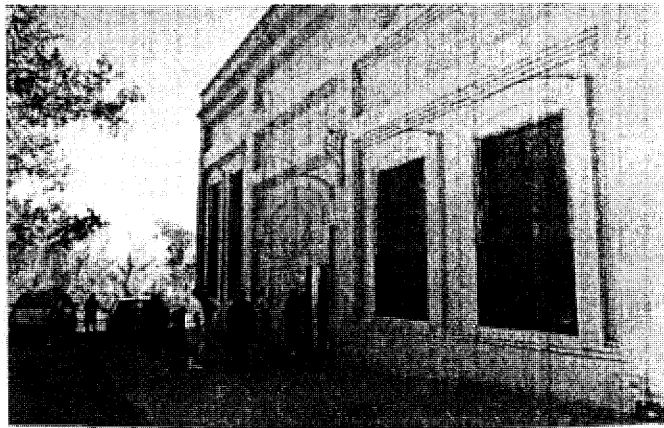
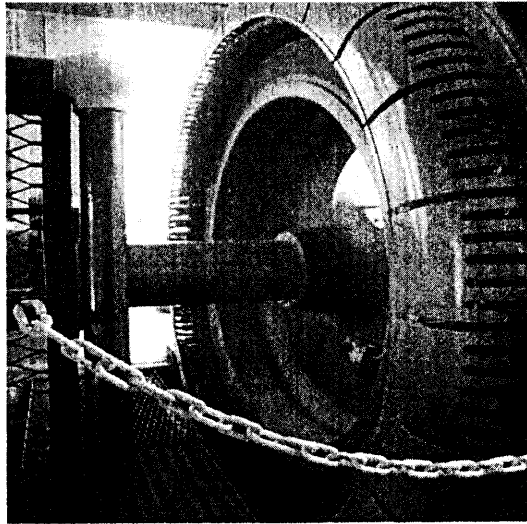
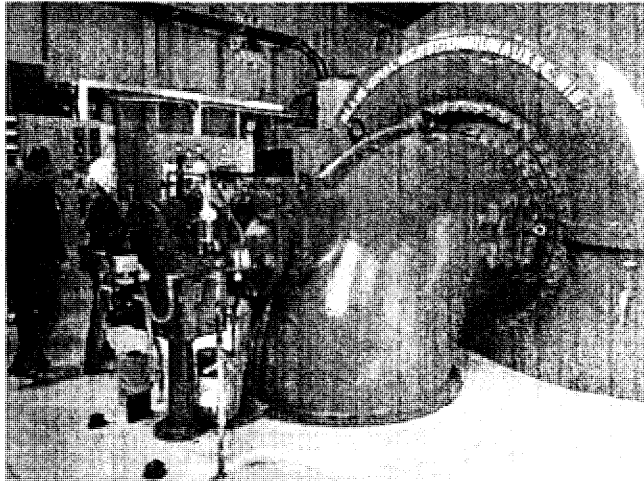
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Pat Nielson and Cameron were great tour guides. Pat was kind enough to give me a handout explaining the history and operation of the plant. So if you have any other questions about the capabilities that I didn't share above please comment below. I hope this brief overview will help people look into and explore green energy alternatives.

If you're interested in seeing the plant for yourself, get a group together and contact I MWA.



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October 6, 2012 10:14 AM

# Giant plastic water pipe maker accused of fraud

By Sharyl Attkisson

(CBS News) Few things are as crucial to everyday life as clean water, carried in PVC plastic pipe.

Much of it is made by JM Eagle, the biggest pipe manufacturer of plastic PVC pipe on the planet.

But whistleblower John Hendrix claims JM Eagle harbored a terrible secret.

He says it's "absolutely" fair to say he felt as though he was being asked to be a participant in fraud.

Hendrix was an engineer in JM Eagle's Product Assurance Division.

In his first TV interview, he says his own company cut corners for profit and hid internal tests allegedly showing some pipe had a high failure rate and was too weak to meet industry standards.

He says tests had "anywhere from 50 to 80 percent failure rates. ... When you're at 50-80 percent, you're buying a lottery ticket that's going with odds in the wrong way."

Across the country, JM Eagle customers have fought the odds:

-- a nighttime rupture under a major San Diego road.

-- catastrophic breaks in Calleguas, Calif. in 1999, 2003, '06, '07 and '08. They cost taxpayers \$4 million.

-- and in Reno, Nevada, JM Eagle pipe exploded twice in two days on installation workers Casey Jones and Rick Pickworth.

Jones, who weighs about 220 pounds, was thrown some 15 feet.

He was lucky to escape with bruised ribs and a bloody nose. "It's very powerful," Jones says.

"It's like a bomb that goes off," Pickworth added.

Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto worries about both safety and cost.

JM Eagle water pipe at a Nevada state prison in the desert broke 17 times in seven years.

Masto says public budgets are already stretched to the limit, and taxpayers can't afford to spend millions repairing pipe that's supposed to last 50 years.

"It was really about pushing these pipes out the door," she asserts. "They didn't care whether they were defective or not, and their only concern was if somebody found out they were defective. That's what's so troubling about this."

Hendrix says when the claims came in, he was encouraged to lie.

He says he was told to blame contractor error and say the pipe had been installed improperly.

After Hendrix put his concerns in writing to management, he was fired.

The company claims he attempted a kickback scheme; he says the story was fabricated in retaliation.

Neal Gordon, JM Eagle's press representative, says the company "never" falsified or misrepresented test results.

Gordon says JM Eagle pipe has a very low rate of failure, and most customers are satisfied, adding that, "Pipe breaks for a variety of reasons. In 99.9 percent of the incidences, pipe breaks because of improper installation."

But 45 government entities, including Nevada are unconvinced, and joining Hendrix in suing JM Eagle for fraud.

The government agencies are hoping for a monetary award so that, as JM Eagle pipes break, the company, rather than taxpayers, will have to foot the bill for fixing it.

*To see Attkisson's report, click on the video in the player above.*

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Margo Bartlett Pesek | TRIP OF THE WEEK



## Truckee's 'silvery rills' are making comeback

Posted: Sep. 30, 2012 | 2:06 a.m.

The Colorado River is mightier. The Humboldt, Carson and Walker rivers are longer. The Amargosa River is stranger. But the Truckee River remains Nevada's iconic stream.

The official state song idealizes its "silvery rills" and the river figures prominently in Nevada history. The Truckee's water is vital to the Reno-Sparks area and smaller northwestern Nevada towns.

The Truckee River flows north out of Lake Tahoe from a dam near Tahoe City, Calif. It tumbles out of the Sierra Nevadas, cutting through stone to create gorges and whitewater rapids as it descends toward the quaint town of Truckee, Calif., near the infamous Donner Pass. Then it makes a sharp turn east into Nevada, coursing through scenic canyons to emerge into the Truckee Meadows, the valley where first Reno and later Sparks developed. It continues east around the end of a mountain range, then heads north again. It ends at Pyramid Lake, a little more than 100 miles from its origin.

The river's course provided a transportation corridor for indigenous people paddling through its canyons. Mountainmen and explorers mapped the river, charting trails for emigrant trains headed for California. Roads were built along the Truckee as mining brought settlers to the Sierras. Railroads followed, coping with the area's heavy winters by constructing miles of snow sheds over the tracks. Logging concerns built wooden flumes paralleling the river and using its own water to carry logs from the mountains down to mills in the valley. Nowadays, Interstate 80 follows the old transportation route along much of the Truckee's length.

It has always been a busy little river and given to seasonal tantrums. Following a heavy, wet winter, the Truckee is sure to flood with devastating effects in the ever-expanding urban Reno-Sparks area. The cities welcome the river's flow, which provides a large part of the area's drinking water, but too much of a good thing has never been welcome. Therein lies the trouble with the Truckee.

Over the past 150 years, the Truckee River has endured construction of more than 30 dams and water supply diversion structures. It has been reconfigured, rechanneled and mismanaged until parts of it bear no resemblance to the original river. Industrial and commercial development supplanted scenery. Pollutants from industrial, municipal and agricultural sources fouled the water. In the 1960s, its bottom was dynamited and its channel straightened to allow floodwater to run away faster. The river lost most of its riparian habitat. The water table dropped. The fish, birds and wildlife dependent upon the river fled. But the Truckee still produced a terrible flood in downtown Reno one New Year's Day.

Fortunately, the Truckee River is being treated much better these days. More people recognize the worth of the river to provide recreation for residents and visitors. Reno has regenerated part of the river with a popular water park with pools and whitewater for kayaking, tubing and body surfing. Miles of handsome riverside trails fan out along the Truckee through the urban area, inviting walkers, joggers and bicyclists. Fishermen find sport along the river. Families picnic there. Kids search in the shallows for crayfish and turtles. Riverside parks contain artwork, festivals and music that draw people downtown.

For the past decade, The Nature Conservancy and a coalition of local, state and federal agencies, politicians, tribal groups, outdoors enthusiasts and volunteers labored to revitalize parcels of ranchlands on the lower Truckee east of Sparks. The public now has year-round, dawn-to-dusk access to the McCarran Ranch Project ([www.nature.org/mccarran](http://www.nature.org/mccarran)), which encompasses hundreds of acres, including nine miles of riverbanks. The coalition created a winding river with riffles and natural fish habitat. Wetlands and native vegetation fill flood plains, allowing floodwater to spread out. The water table is up. The birds and animals are returning. The "silvery rills" are back.

Travel Nevada's favorite river to learn more about our diverse state. The Truckee River corridor along I-80 from mountains to sage flats offers some of Nevada's best fall color. The season starts soon and lasts until the snow flies.

Margo Bartlett Pesek's Trip of the Week column appears on Sundays.

Find this article at:  
<http://www.rvj.com/living/truckee-s-silvery-rills-are-making-comeback-171982981.html?ref=981>

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as of 12/12/12

Water costs getting more expensive

A USA TODAY survey of 100 municipalities found residential water bills in at least one in four places have doubled in the past 12 years

0 -- 37%

38% -- 70%

71% -- 89%

90% -- 129%

130% -- 233%

Comparing utility costs

Sources: Black & Veatch, Raftelis Financial Consultants and USA TODAY research of municipal water data, Energy Information Administration, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and USA TODAY research

By Kevin A. Kepple, Denny Gainer, Joan Murphy, Doug Carroll, Kevin McCoy, Oliver St. John and Tom McGarrity, USA TODAY

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USA TODAY analysis: Nation's water costs rushing higher

By Kevin McCoy, USA TODAY

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While most Americans worry about gas and heating oil prices, water rates have surged in the past dozen years, according to a USA TODAY study of 100 municipalities. Prices at least doubled in more than a quarter of the locations and even tripled in a few.

Consumers could easily overlook the steady drip, drip, drip of water rate hikes, yet the cost of this necessity of life has outpaced the percentage increases of some of these other utilities, carving a larger slice of household budgets in the process.

"I don't know how they expect people to keep paying more for water with the cost of gas and day care and everything else going up," complains Jacquelyn Moncrief, 60, a Philadelphia homeowner who says the price hikes would force her to make food-or-water decisions. She gathered signatures on a petition opposing a proposed water rate increase in her city this year.

Robert Deutsch, USA TODAY

Fairmount Dam on the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia. The river is the source of much of the city's drinking water.

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VIDEO: Water bills rising quickly in the USA

USA TODAY's study of residential water rates over the past 12 years for large and small water agencies nationwide found that monthly costs doubled for more in 29 localities. The unique look at costs for a diverse mix of water suppliers representing every state and Washington, D.C. found that a resource long taken for granted will continue to become more costly for millions of Americans. Indeed, rates haven't crested yet because huge costs to upgrade or repair pipes, reservoirs and treatment plants loom nationwide.

In three municipalities — Atlanta, San Francisco and

Wilmington, Del. — water costs tripled or more. Monthly costs topped \$50 for consumers

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in Atlanta, Seattle and San Diego who used 1,000 cubic feet of water, a typical residential consumption level in many areas. Officials in the three municipalities and elsewhere, however, say actual consumption is often lower. But conservation efforts counter-intuitively may raise water rates in some localities.

The trend toward higher bills is being driven by:

- The cost of paying off the debt on bonds municipalities issue to fund expensive repairs or upgrades on aging water systems.
- Increases in the cost of electricity, chemicals and fuel used to supply and treat water.



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**About this report**

**How project was done**

To document the rising cost of drinking water, USA TODAY started by obtaining periodic municipal water-cost surveys conducted since 2000 or 2001 by Black & Veatch and Raffetis Financial Consultants, private firms that advise water agencies on financial issues. USA TODAY verified those companies' data with each municipality and also gathered 2012 costs from the localities. Reporters then independently collected the same information from dozens of other municipalities to cover 100 in all, spanning all 50 states and Washington, D.C.

**More about the data**

Local water costs vary widely because of geography, climate, population, a water company's borrowing costs and other factors. That makes it virtually impossible to compare one city's water costs to another's. For its survey, USA TODAY defined a typical household as one using roughly 7,500 gallons (1,000 cubic feet) a month and having a meter size of about 5/8 inch, or the closest equivalent. Actual average consumption may vary. Weighted averages were used for locations where rates change seasonally. The percentage change in rates shown is based on the change from 2000 or 2001, depending on the location.

- Compliance with federal government clean-water mandates.
- Rising pension and health care costs for water agency workers.
- Increased security safeguards for water systems since the 9/11 terror attacks.

**Higher rates still ahead**

The costs continue to rise even though residential water usage dropped sharply nationwide in the past three decades amid conservation efforts.

U.S. water systems will need as much as \$1 trillion in infrastructure improvements by 2035 to keep up with drinking water needs, according to a survey of industry experts released in June.

The bond debt needed to fund those projects' work will be passed on to consumers, including the many Americans struggling with the economic fallout of the great recession.

A virtually irreplaceable resource that Americans rely on for health and daily living "could potentially get more and more expensive," says John Chevrette, who heads the management consulting arm of Black & Veatch, the firm that conducted the industry survey.

He predicts rate increases of 5% to 15% every few years, saying the cost of water "could take a larger and more significant bite out of otherwise disposable income."

"You're talking about greater than inflationary costs," says

Doug Scott, managing director for Fitch Ratings, which similarly projects 5% annual rate increases among the many water and sewer agencies his company tracks.

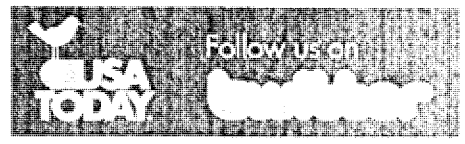
Some water agencies, including Philadelphia, have special water programs to help cut costs for those with low incomes. Even so, the economic forecasts frighten Moncrief, a single mother who bought her home in Philadelphia's Mount Airy neighborhood decades ago, and now lives there on a disability income.

The monthly cost of 1,000 cubic feet of water in her hometown has jumped 164%, to \$39.22, since 2001. Even when the costs were lower, Moncrief says at times she had to work out installment payments with the Philadelphia Water Department.

Testifying at a July hearing in an ongoing water rate increase proceeding, Ruth Bazemore said she and other Philadelphia senior citizens were astounded that the city's water commissioner proposed hikes that would "increase our bills by almost 30% in less than three years."

Community opposition prompted a tentative settlement that would save consumers at least \$80 per year from the ultimate cost of the city's original proposal, says Robert Ballenger, a

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Community Legal Services attorney who represents the public in the Philadelphia rate hike proceeding.

Bazemore, a representative of the Action Alliance of Senior Citizens of Greater Philadelphia, says even a lower increase "would be difficult for a lot of people to pay."

Efforts to compare water costs of any given area with another produce misleading or even false results, because of differences in population, geography, geology, bonding debt for infrastructure work and other variables. However, what most water agencies across the nation share is increasing costs that make higher bills all but inevitable.

In Baltimore, where water costs are up 140% since 2001, the public works agency in the last decade completed a \$65 million upgrade of the water system's Ashburton Filtration Plant.

After a series of major water main breaks in 2009, the city made plans to speed the pace of pipe cleaning, relining and rehabilitation work to 40 miles per year, a five-fold increase. The cost? About \$300 million over five years, says agency spokesman Kurt Kocher.

At the same time, Baltimore, like water systems nationwide, was forced to implement costly security upgrades at its facilities. "It's not the world of 1990. It's the post-9/11 security world we have to deal with," says Kocher.

#### 'A race against time'

In San Francisco, the monthly cost of 1,000 cubic feet of water jumped nearly 211% since 2001 as the city's regional water system ended a seven-year rate freeze and began a massive, five-year infrastructure improvement program.

Harlan Kelly Jr., the system's assistant general manager for infrastructure, says the work was vital because the freeze had left little funding for expanding and strengthening the system that serves more than 30 cities and 2.6 million people in the Bay Area.

A 2002 city economic study warned that the Bay Area would suffer a \$30 billion economic hit if an earthquake severely disrupted the water network for two months. The California Division of Safety of Dams delivered an even more immediate warning in 2001, deeming the Calaveras Dam seismically unsafe. That forced the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission to drain the reservoir created by the dam to a third of its normal level, significantly reducing the system's water storage.

"I think everyone realized this work was needed," says Kelly. "It's a race against time. Here in California, it's not if, it's when" the next major earthquake will hit.

Consumers have little choice but to pay for infrastructure improvements and repairs to the nation's often aging water systems, says Scott, the Fitch Ratings executive.

If they don't, water mains and other parts of the systems "will break, and the breaks will be catastrophic. It would be the equivalent of somebody not replacing their water heater when it is leaking, and then having it fall from the attic and tear up their entire house."

Municipal water systems typically fund major repairs and other infrastructure work by issuing bonds that are repaid over time. The annual cost of paying off debt servicing those bonds is passed on to consumers in higher rates.

The financial impact is already being felt. Fitch Ratings showed water agencies' debt per customer rose from \$1,012 in 2006 to \$1,611 in 2011.

Diane Clausen, a Seattle Public Utilities official, says her agency has outpaced many other municipal water suppliers by working to place protective coverings over reservoirs, building a filtration plant on one major water source and installing an ultraviolet treatment facility on another major source.

"We've pretty much done our major capital projects," says Clausen. "The debt service on those are included in the rates that our customers pay, so the rates for us, we believe, would tend to be higher than the rates for other utilities that aren't as far along in their infrastructure development."

Similarly, Atlanta officials say their rates — up 233% since 2001 for monthly usage of

1,000 cubic feet of water — partly result from \$1.3 billion in spending to upgrade the city's water supply system in compliance with federal clean water mandates.

### **Conserving, yet costs still rise**

Unique geographic conditions and other circumstances can also raise costs. In Augusta, Maine, the monthly cost of 1,000 cubic feet of water has topped \$40 since 2000. That's partly because the city has a small base of approximately 5,800 mostly residential customers and lacks major industrial customers that would help share the cost, says Brian Tarbuck, general manager of the Greater Augusta Utility District.

"Coupled with our 10 storage tanks, deep frost conditions — pipes are literally 'six feet under' to avoid freezing — low (number of) customers per mile of pipe and lots of granite and hills, it gets expensive," says Tarbuck.

U.S. homeowners who reduce their water consumption in an effort to save money can cut their costs. But they may end up raising the rates they're charged. Why? Because water suppliers collect less income as consumption drops, but ongoing costs — such as bonding debt, salaries and chemicals — either increase or, at best, remain stable.

A 2010 report by the Water Research Foundation, a non-profit organization that studies drinking water issues, concluded that residential usage per customer dropped more than 380 gallons annually in the last 30 years, a changing era when conservation became more prevalent. Compounded over time, the report says the trend implies that a customer would have used 11,673 fewer gallons in 2008 than an identical customer in 1978, a 13.2% decline.

As a result, many water agencies have been forced to raise rates.

"When we explain that part of the reason you're paying more is because you're using less, that doesn't go over real well with a lot of people," says Joseph Clare, the Philadelphia Water Department's deputy commissioner for finance and administration.

The 2012 drought that continues to hold roughly half the nation in its grip has also had an impact on some water rates. In March, the Midland, Texas, City Council unanimously imposed a five-fold price increase on water customers who use more than 10,000 gallons per month, which surpasses consumption for a typical family.

In El Paso, the drought cut the city's ability to draw from the Rio Grande River, the source for about half the area's water. To help make up for the loss, El Paso Water Utilities for about 15 days in late May and early June ran its water desalination plant at its full 27.5 million gallons-per-day capacity, making brackish groundwater fit for drinking, said Christina Montoya, an agency spokeswoman.

"This is the first time that's ever happened," she said.

Although Scott and others expect increases in water costs around the nation to remain both regular and high, the good news is that the dollar costs are still relatively low in many municipalities.

"It's going to be a pretty good bargain for the foreseeable future," Scott says.

Try telling that to Americans hard pressed by the still sluggish economy, including low-income residents and senior citizens living on fixed incomes.

### **Something has to give**

Philadelphia homeowner Moncrief, who delights in watering her garden into bloom, says she understands her city's water agency faces higher costs for water system projects. That includes the \$50 million construction of a 5-million-gallon storage tank to prevent storm sewers from overflowing into the Schuylkill River— source of about 42% of local drinking water.

But she says higher rates — even those under the tentative compromise in the Philadelphia water rate increase proceeding — would make it harder for her to pay "my medical costs ... co-pays for medication," upkeep of her home, even food.

"It's been quite stressful just trying to budget. How am I going to maintain all these things

on a fixed income that's not going to increase?" said Moncrief, who adds that she's cut back on hot baths and takes shorter showers.

Responding to that type of consumer concern, some municipalities have tried to limit or delay rate increases. For instance, Antioch, Calif., officials in May opted to defer some capital spending and use the savings and other measures to delay previously announced plans for an 8% water rate increase.

Clare, Philadelphia's deputy water commissioner, notes that his agency held rates stable from 1993 until 2001. But, ultimately, costs had to go up to maintain crucial water supply and delivery systems, he says.

"It's going to be a hardship for me; I think it's going to be a hardship for a lot of people," says Moncrief. "But there's a greater sense of hope and possibility . . . when you know the increase is not going to be as high" as originally proposed.

"I may not be able to eat meat five days a week, but maybe I can eat meat three days a week."

Contributing: Oliver St. John, Tom McGarrity

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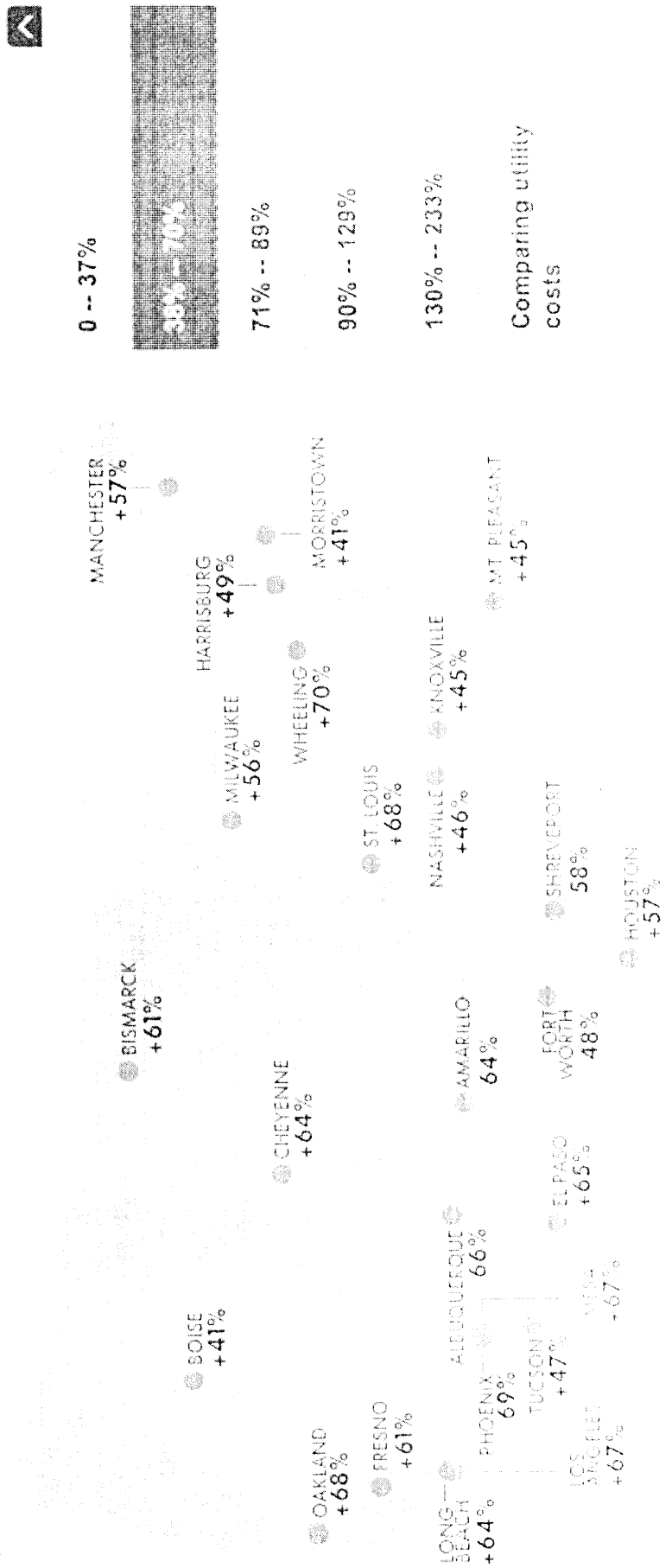
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# Water costs getting more expensive

A USA TODAY survey of 100 municipalities found residential water bills in at least one in four places have doubled in the past 12 years:



Note: Long Beach, Oakland, Boise, Bismarck, Cheyenne, Milwaukee, Wheeling, Manchester, Harrisburg, Morristown, St. Louis, Nashville, Knoxville, Mt. Pleasant, Amarillo, Fort Worth, Shreveport, Houston, Albuquerque, Phoenix, Tucson, El Paso, Los Angeles, and Tucson are the only municipalities that have doubled their residential water bills in the past 12 years. The survey was conducted by USA TODAY and the National Public Health Statistics Center, University of North Carolina, from 2001 to 2002. The survey included 100 municipalities.



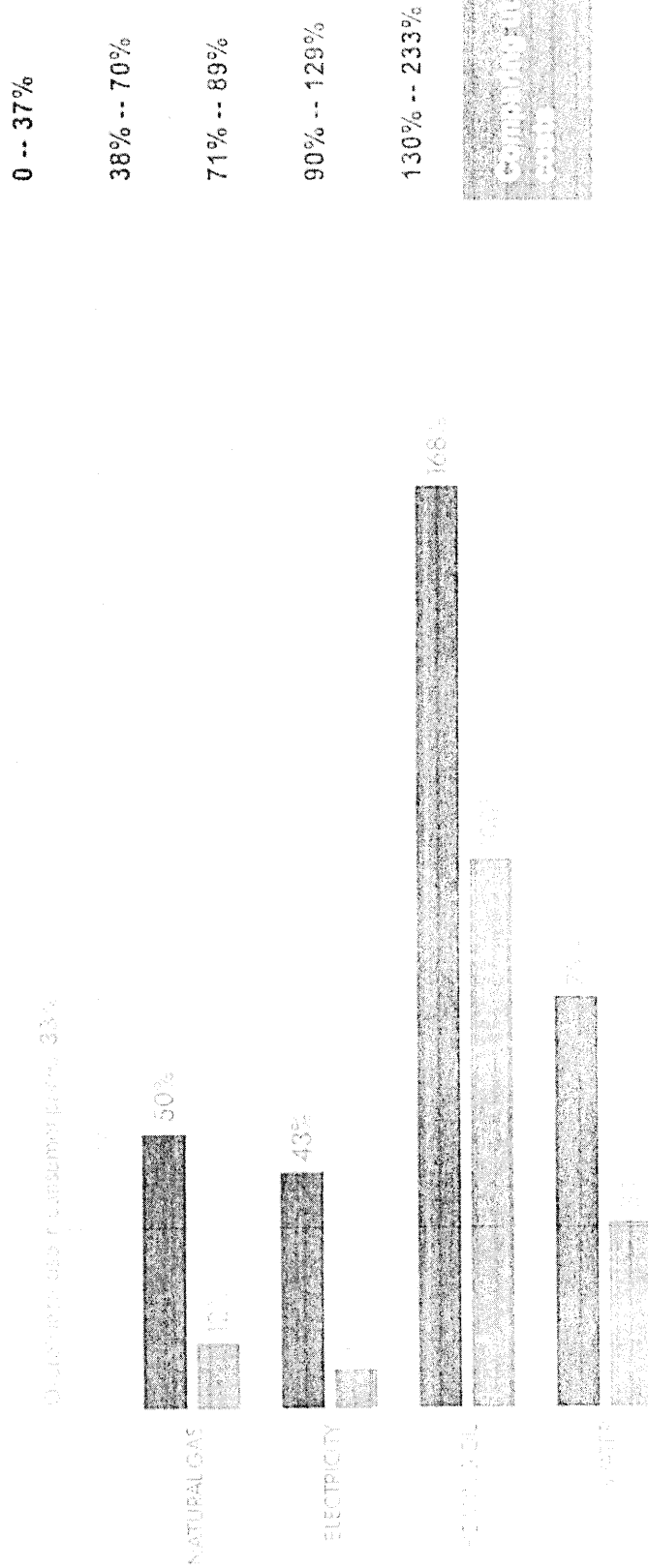




# Water costs getting more expensive

A USA TODAY survey of 100 municipalities found residential water bills in at least one in four places have doubled in the past 12 years.

Consumer prices overall have risen 33% since 2000. How average residential utility costs have changed in current dollars and adjusted for inflation from 2000 to 2012:



Source: USA TODAY survey of 100 municipalities, 2012.

Water costs rose 79% in the past 12 years, while electricity costs rose 43% and natural gas costs rose 50%. Heating oil costs rose 168%.

Consumer prices overall have risen 33% since 2000. How average residential utility costs have changed in current dollars and adjusted for inflation from 2000 to 2012:

## Fernley alternative water system requirement nixed

Sep 30

rgj.com

FERNLEY — By a 3-1 vote, the Fernley City Council voted to adopt a resolution that eliminates the requirement for design and construction of alternative water systems in all new developments.

However, the design standards will stay in place for developers who would like to use the purple pipe system such as commercial developers.

The issue has been raised numerous times and resulted in the council enacting a 10-year moratorium on the alternative water requirement, which is also known as purple pipe.

The requirement was initiated in 2004 as a conservation measure that would allow homeowners to use non-potable water from the Truckee Canal to irrigate their yards. The city required all builders and developers to install alternative water pipes (purple) at each newly constructed single family home, and water would be pumped from the Truckee Canal; however, the method to extract the water was never developed.

City Engineer Shari Whalen indicated in her staff report that the alternative water plan “may not be cost effective to require alternative water hook ups in residential areas...The costs of connecting a single family home with an existing alternative water main could be up to \$2,000 and the cost of connecting a home without an alternative water main may be up to \$60,000.”

Still Whalen also noted that the purple pipe system is “a valuable tool for conservation in the arid west.” Whalen also pointed out that recently, several “potential industrial and commercial developers have come to the community to discuss water resources and alternative water has been consistently discussed at their request. The rates that potential industrial and commercial customers would pay for non-potable water provided through groundwater or surface water is significantly less than the potable water rates.”

Councilman Curt Chaffin, who voted against the motion, served on the council when the purple pipe requirement was passed; and during discussion, he said he still thinks it’s a good idea and is against totally eliminating the program.

“I think we should keep the middle ground, and I hope we don’t throw out the whole thing completely,” he said.

Councilman Cal Eilrich said, “I’m all for leaving in the design standards. There can be a use for this in the future.”

He went on to say builders placed purple pipe in the ground, but the city had not yet figured out how to get non-potable water from the Truckee Canal to the pipes. He added he supports commercial developers who may use the alternative water system, adding, “I never could grasp having every home in Fernley having this (alternative water), because a kid might drink water out of a hose in the yard. It’s unwise to put untreated water at every house.”

Eilrich also disclosed he is a developer and he may be involved in future projects, saying, “I’m in the business, but it will not affect my opinion as a councilman.”

Several questions were raised regarding the construction bonds for the alternative water that were required

by the city, and whether the city could now release those bonds.

City Attorney Brandi Jensen noted she would have to research the bonds to see if they can be released, but the council could not discuss that issue, as the agenda item only concerned the resolution.

# US water costs rushing higher

## Some double, more than inflation

By Kevin McCoy  
USA Today

While most Americans worry about gas and heating oil prices, water rates have surged over the past dozen years, according to a USA Today study of 100 municipalities. Prices at least doubled in more than a quarter of the locations and even tripled in a few.

The cost of this necessity of life has outpaced the percentage increases of some other utilities, carving a larger slice of household budgets in the process.

"I don't know how they expect people to keep paying more for water with the cost of gas and day care and everything else going up," said Jacquelyn Moncrief, 60, a Philadelphia homeowner who said the price hikes would force her to make food-or-water decisions. She gathered signatures on a petition opposing a proposed water rate increase in her city this year.

USA Today's study of residential water rates in the past 12 years for large and small water agencies nationwide found that monthly costs doubled or more in 29 localities. The unique look at costs for a diverse mix of water suppliers representing every state and Washington, D.C., found that a resource long taken for granted will continue to become more costly for millions of Americans. Rates haven't crested yet, because huge costs to upgrade or repair pipes, reservoirs and treatment plants loom nationwide.

In three municipalities — Atlanta, San Francisco and Wilmington, Del. — water costs tripled or more. Monthly costs topped \$50 for consumers in Atlanta, Seattle and San Diego who used 1,000 cubic feet of water, a typical residential consumption level in many areas. Officials in the three municipalities and elsewhere, however, say actual consumption is often lower.

The trend toward higher bills is being driven by:

- » The cost of paying off the debt on bonds that municipalities issue to fund expensive repairs or upgrades on aging water systems.
- » Increases in the cost of electricity, chemicals and fuel used to supply and treat water.
- » Compliance with federal government clean-water mandates.
- » Rising pension and health care costs for water agency workers.
- » Increased security for water systems since the 9/11 terror attacks.

### Higher rates still ahead

The costs continue to rise even though residential water usage dropped nationwide in the past three decades amid conservation efforts.

U.S. water systems will need as much as \$1 trillion in infrastructure work by 2035 to meet drinking water needs, according to a survey of industry experts released in June.

The bond debt needed to fund those projects' work will be passed on to consumers, including the many Americans struggling with the economic fallout of the great recession.

A virtually irreplaceable resource that Americans rely on for health and daily living "could potentially get more and more expensive," said John Chev-

### COMPARING CITIES

Efforts to compare water costs of any given area with another produce misleading or even false results, because of differences in population, geography, geology, bonding debt for infrastructure work and other variables. However, what most water agencies across the nation share is increasing costs that make higher bills all but inevitable.

rette, who heads the management consulting arm of Black & Veatch, which did the industry survey.

He predicts rate increases of 5 percent to 15 percent every few years, saying the cost of water "could take a larger and more significant bite out of otherwise disposable income."

"You're talking about greater than inflationary costs," said Doug Scott, managing director for Fitch Ratings, which similarly projects 5 percent annual rate increases for the many water and sewer agencies his company tracks.

### Help for low-income residents

Some water agencies, including Philadelphia, have programs to help cut costs for those with low incomes. Even so, economic forecasts frighten Moncrief, a single mother who bought her home in Philadelphia's Mount Airy neighborhood decades ago and now lives on a disability income.

The monthly cost of 1,000 cubic feet of water in her hometown has jumped 164 percent, to \$39.22, since 2001. Even when the costs were lower, Moncrief said, at times she had to work out installment payments with the Philadelphia Water Department.

Testifying at a July hearing in an ongoing water rate increase proceeding, Ruth Bazemore said she and other Philadelphia senior citizens were astounded that the city's water commissioner proposed hikes that would "increase our bills by almost 30 percent in less than three years."

Community opposition prompted a tentative settlement that would save consumers at least \$80 per year from the ultimate cost of the city's original proposal, said Robert Ballenger, a Community Legal Services attorney who represents the public in the Philadelphia rate increase proceeding.

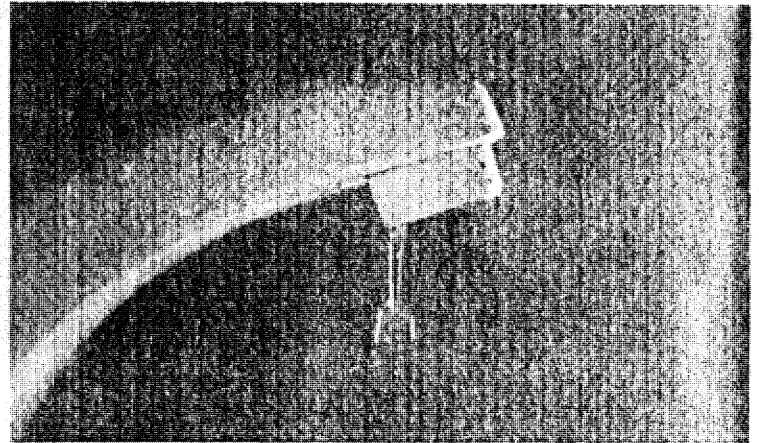
### Age, terrorism and earthquakes

In Baltimore, where water costs are up 140 percent since 2001, the public works agency in the past decade completed a \$65 million upgrade of the water system's Ashburton Filtration Plant.

After major water main breaks in 2009, the city made plans to speed the pace of pipe cleaning, relining and rehabilitation work to 40 miles per year, a fivefold increase. The cost? About \$300 million over five years, said agency spokesman Kurt Kocher.

Baltimore, like water systems nationwide, also had to implement costly new security at its facilities. "It's not the world of 1990. It's the post-9/11 security world we have to deal with," said Kocher.

In San Francisco, the monthly cost of 1,000 cubic feet of water jumped 211 percent since 2001 as the city's regional wa-



Much of the USA is being deluged with fast-rising water bills. USA TODAY

ter system ended a seven-year rate freeze and began a massive, five-year infrastructure upgrade.

Harlan Kelly Jr., the system's assistant general manager, said the work was vital because the freeze had left little funding to upgrade the system that serves more than 30 cities.

A 2002 study warned that the Bay Area would suffer a \$30 billion economic hit if an earthquake severely disrupted the water system for two months. The California Division of Safety of Dams delivered an even more immediate warning in 2001, deeming the Calaveras Dam seismically unsafe. That forced the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission to drain the reservoir created by the dam to a third of its normal level.

### Bond debt

Consumers have little choice but to pay for infrastructure improvements and repairs to the nation's often aging water systems, said Scott, the Fitch Ratings executive. "It would be the equivalent of somebody not replacing their water heater when it is leaking, and then having it fall from the attic and tear up their entire house," he said.

Water systems typically fund major repairs and other infrastructure work by issuing bonds that are repaid over time. The cost of paying off that debt is passed to consumers in higher rates.

The financial effect is already being felt. Fitch Ratings showed water agencies' debt per customer rose from \$1,012 in 2006 to \$1,611 in 2011.

Diane Clausen, a Seattle Public Utilities official, said her agency has outpaced many other municipal water suppliers by placing protective coverings over reservoirs, building a filtration

plant on one major water source and installing an ultraviolet treatment facility on another.

"We've pretty much done our major capital projects," she said. "The debt service on those are included in the rates that our customers pay, so the rates for us, we believe, would tend to be higher than the rates for other utilities that aren't as far along in their infrastructure development."

Similarly, Atlanta officials say their rates — up 233 percent since 2001 — partly result from \$1.3 billion in spending to upgrade the city's water supply system in compliance with federal clean water mandates.

### Conserving, yet costs rise

Unique geographic conditions can also raise costs. In Augusta, Maine, the monthly cost of 1,000 cubic feet of water has topped \$40 since 2000. That's partly because the city has a small base of about 5,800 mostly residential customers and lacks major industrial customers that would help share the cost, said Brian Tarbuck, general manager of the Greater Augusta Utility District.

"Coupled with our 10 storage tanks, deep frost conditions — pipes are literally 'six feet under' to avoid freezing — low (number of) customers per mile of pipe and lots of granite and hills, it gets expensive," said Tarbuck.

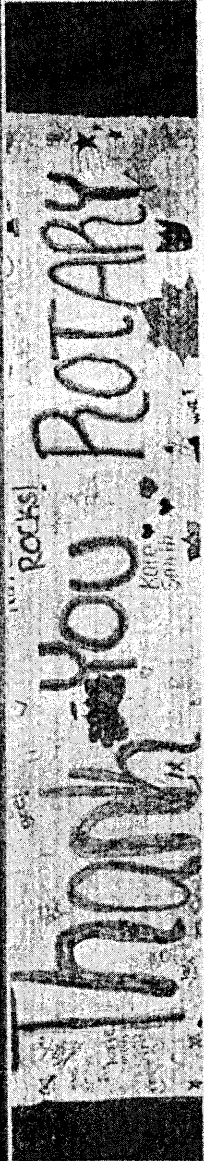
Homeowners who reduce water consumption in an effort to save money can cut their costs. But they may end up raising the rates they're charged. Why? Because water suppliers collect less income as consumption drops, but ongoing costs — such as bonding debt, salaries and chemicals — either increase or, at best, remain stable.



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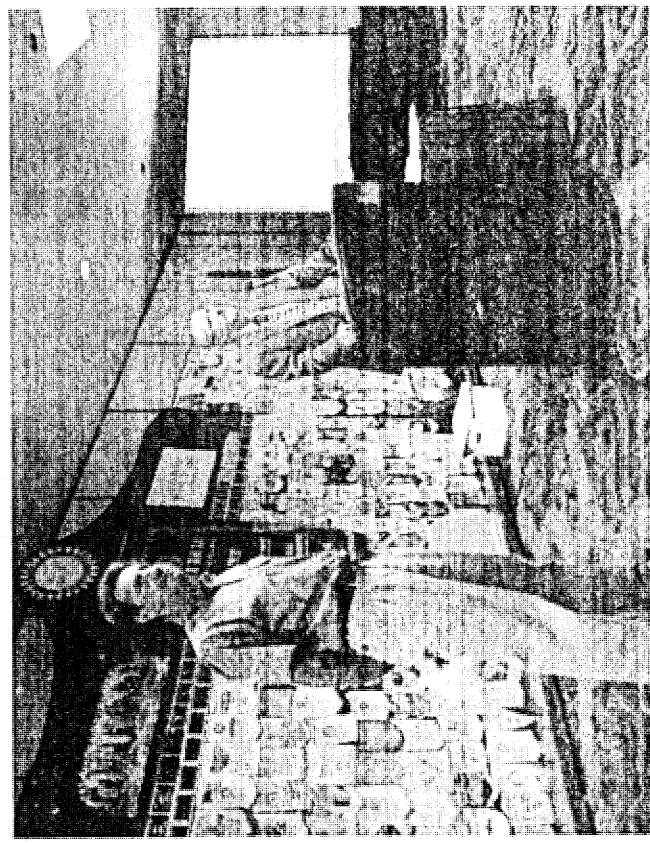


# NEWS

TMWVA February 28, 2014 by Sparks Press

## TMWVA

February 28, 2014 by Sparks Press

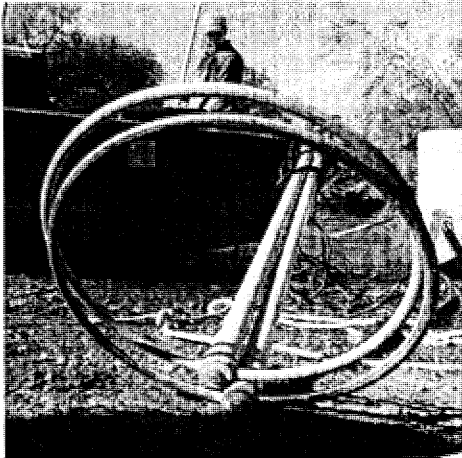


Mark Fozza, General Manager of TrueBee Meadows Water Authority, spoke to the club on September 26 providing an overview of the community's water system and discussing the area's water supply.

## Truckee River fish thrive thanks to previous big winter, restoration efforts

Sep 26

rgj.com



*Electric probes were used to electrify and collect fish from the Truckee River on Wednesday.*

2010 Truckee River fish survey

Brown trout: 340

Rainbow trout: 457

Lahontan cutthroat trout: 15

Tahoe sucker: 59

Mountain sucker: 165

Redside shiner: 87

Source: Nevada Department of Wildlife

2012 survey, lower Truckee River

At Painted Rock

Brown trout: 5

Rainbow trout: 19

Lahontan cutthroat trout: None

Tahoe sucker: 10

Mountain sucker: 25

Redside shiner: 155

At Derby Dam

Brown trout: 4

Rainbow trout: 16

Lahontan cutthroat trout: None

Tahoe sucker: None

Mountain sucker: 1

Redside shiner: None

At McCarran Ranch

Brown trout: 3

Rainbow trout: 20

Lahontan cutthroat trout: None

Tahoe sucker: 98

Mountain sucker: 5

Redside shiner: 19

Source: Nevada Department of Wildlife

The Truckee River's fish population is robust and thriving, still reaping benefits from a big winter in 2010-11 and from ongoing efforts to restore the river to a healthy and natural state.

That's one conclusion by biologists in the midst of an annual survey of the trout, minnows and sucker fish that live in the river that winds through the heart of Reno-Sparks on its 116-mile journey from Lake Tahoe to Pyramid Lake.

On Wednesday, crews waded through the rushing current at Rock Park in Sparks and in downtown Reno, dipping hand-held electric probes into the water. Stunned fish were removed by net to be examined and later returned to the river. On Tuesday, areas of the lower Truckee River were surveyed. Today, crews will hit upstream stretches near Verdi and the California line.

“It’s been really positive this year,” said Chris Crookshanks, Truckee River fisheries biologist for the Nevada Department of Wildlife. “I want to see big fish, medium-sized fish and smaller fish, and I’m seeing them.”

That age diversity, Crookshanks said, is a good indication that the river’s fish are successfully spawning and reproducing from year to year.

That’s good news regarding the fish most coveted by anglers, Brown and Rainbow trout and Mountain whitefish. These fish are doing well and offering a welcome opportunity for those folks prone to casting a line into the water.

This year’s survey revealed no Lahontan cutthroat trout, the river’s native trout, and isn’t expected to when it’s finished today. While re-establishing Lahontan cutthroat remains a long-term goal of the federal government and thousands of them were planted in the river by the state for anglers last year, the fish simply can’t out compete the non-native Brown and Rainbow trout thriving in the river.

Native minnows – fish like Redside shiners and Speckled dace – are counted because they are considered important in their own right.

“They’re an indicator of the relative health of the river,” Crookshanks said. “They can be an early indicator if there is something going wrong with the river.”

By most accounts, the river’s doing pretty well these days.

In part that’s due to the big winter of 2010-2011, which left a massive mountain snowpack, filled Lake Tahoe and had the Truckee River churning with runoff.

High water levels actually interfered with fish surveys in the river last fall but the counts that did occur combined with early results this year indicate a “huge response” by the river’s fish and successful spawning, Crookshanks said.

“Fish need water. Every time we have a good water year you can always count on a big spike,” Crookshanks said.

Last winter was pathetic when it came to snowfall and resulting runoff but the current drought has yet to produce a serious impact on the river’s fish, experts said. That could change if the drought continues.

“We’re still seeing residual effects of that good year,” Crookshanks said. “If we string together a number of dry years, then we will see an impact.”

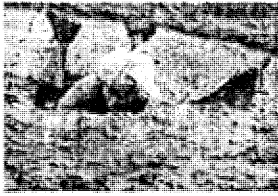
Fish have another good thing going for them when it comes to the Truckee River these days. People care about it.

What once was treated as little more than a straight-shot drainage channel running past casino strips and industrial areas is now being treated as something of value. Fish habitat was enhanced in areas like downtown Reno’s whitewater park while millions of dollars have been spent to restore large portions of the river in its lower stretches.

That work involved returning a system of channel meanders, rock riffles and pools that provide prime habitat for fish. For the first time this year, the state’s fish survey included parts the McCarran Ranch east of Sparks — a place previously too degraded to be considered of value when it comes to gauging the status of the river’s fish.

The McCarran Ranch is the location of the first major restoration effort on the lower Truckee and “absolutely fantastic” fish habitat exists there today, Crookshanks said.

“It’s looking really good for fish,” Crookshanks said. “(The river) used to be sort of a wet spot that ran through town. “I think the community has really sort of stepped up and taken ownership of the river. Fish have really been responding to all of this.”



*Tough Mudder*



*Pirate Crawl*



*Mug shots*



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# Mulroy: Time for businesses to start sharing costs for water infrastructure

BY HUBBLE SMITH  
LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

Posted: Sep. 21, 2012 | 4:40 p.m.

It's time for businesses to start sharing the cost for building water infrastructure in Las Vegas, Southern Nevada Water Authority general manager Pat Mulroy said Friday.

Developers are going to have to pay for something they got for free for 20 years, she added.

Mulroy said the authority had to develop a funding formula to pay for \$2.5 billion in regional infrastructure such as the third intake at Lake Mead, a second water treatment plant and 8-inch fire lines. It was determined that more than half of that cost would have to come from connection fees.

"It was finally a duel between gaming and commercial on one side and residential on the other," Mulroy said at a real estate symposium presented by Commercial Alliance Las Vegas. "The only reason the (Wall) Street bought our bonds is because we have a debt service fund, and the only reason the rate increase didn't occur in 2008 is because money was sitting in that debt service fund."

The water authority had to dig into that \$280 million fund to pay debt between 2008 and 2011 when connection charges went from \$188 million a year to \$3 million, Mulroy said.

The purpose of the reserve was to get through the economic downturn, she said. Las Vegas Valley Water District customers have had only two small rate increases during that time.

"We looked at our debt portfolio and did a lot of refinancing and restructuring," she said. "Your commodity charge went up a dime each year and unfortunately that wasn't enough. This has gone on so long those measures were not sufficient."

Mulroy has tightened the budget at the water authority, stopping \$400 million in capital projects and laying off 25 percent of the work force.

All of the pieces are "on the table," and the community has to decided how to pay for it and meet the reserve, she said. Las Vegas residents are still paying 30 percent less

for water than their California neighbors, Mulroy said.

At the same meeting, Tony Sanchez, senior vice president for NV Energy, said the utility's main challenge is meeting renewable energy goals. By 2025, the utility must meet renewable energy standards for 25 percent of its energy.

About 70 percent of Southern Nevada's power comes from natural gas plants, 14 percent from coal plants and 16 percent from renewable energy. In Reno, renewable energy is 24 percent.

The utility closed its coal plant in Ely, and now the biggest issue is the coal plant near Moapa, which has operated since 1965. NV Energy has invested \$100 million since 2005 to make it the cleanest coal plant in the nation, Sanchez said.

"The PUC (Public Utilities Commission) told us to take a breather from renewables. I bring this up because there are cost implications to tearing down a plant that's paid for and producing energy," he said. "If we shut down a plant, we have to go on the open market to buy electricity. We're proud to say power rates are where they were five years ago."

Bob Coyle, vice president of government affairs for Republic Services, said 53,000 homes in North Las Vegas have converted from the red, white and blue recycling bins to 96-gallon roller carts, increasing recyclable materials from 3 percent to 30 percent of trash collection in the area. Henderson is looking at converting to roller carts next year.

That's allowed Republic to go from twice-a-week trash pickup to once a week, while recycling pickup increases from once every two weeks to once a week.

The current rate for Republic customers in Las Vegas is \$13.61 a month, compared with \$20 in Dallas and \$26 in Phoenix, both of which have once-a-week collection. Portland residents pay \$48 a month to have trash collected once every two weeks, he said.

Contact reporter Hubble Smith at [hsmith@reviewjournal.com](mailto:hsmith@reviewjournal.com) or 702-383-0491.

**Find this article at:**

<http://www.lvrj.com/business/mulroy-time-for-businesses-to-start-sharing-costs-for-water-infrastructure-170774536.html>

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# Walker River water case in talks to settle

**By Robert Perea**

[rperea@masonvalleynews.com](mailto:rperea@masonvalleynews.com)

The Walker River Irrigation District is involved in settlement discussions over a federal lawsuit involving the Walker Lake Paiute Tribe, the federal government and Mineral County.

Attorney Gordon DePaoli told the district's directors recently that U.S. District Judge Edward C. Reed is retiring and the new judge presiding over the cases, U.S. District Judge Robert Jones, has told the parties involved that he wants both matters to get moving.

"It is quite clear we are going to move forward at a much faster pace than we have since 1992 and 1994," DePaoli said.

He said the discussions began in 2010 but were intermittent until 2012.

DePaoli said the settlement discussions will proceed in the two actions separately, with the first litigation in two phases, first on the claims involving the Walker River Paiute Tribe for additional water filed in 1992 and claims filed by the federal government second. The second litigation to be discussed will be the motion to intervene filed by Mineral County in 1994.

Jones has ordered the parties to report to him by Oct. 3 and to submit a report on what has been agreed upon by Nov. 5, according to DePaoli.

DePaoli said he also hopes to sit down with Lyon County and Nevada to put together a single response on behalf of Nevada, Lyon County and the district.

## **TMWA offers planttours**

*Filed Under Northern Nevada*

*Sep 16*

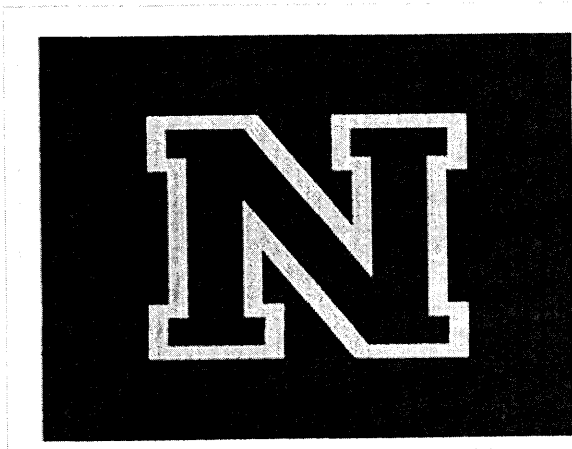
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Learn what it takes to get water from the river to the tap by touring TMWA's Chalk Bluff Water Treatment Plant, where expert staff will explain the water treatment and distribution processes. Tour dates and times are 5:30 p.m., Sept. 27 and at 9 a.m and 1 p.m. Sept. 28.

Tours last approximately two hours. Residents can also tour the Verdi Hydroelectric Power Plant at 1 p.m. Wednesday and Sept. 26. Tours last approximately one hour. Participants must be at least 18 years of age. Tours require lengthy walks on uneven surfaces.

Details: Email [presentations@tmwa.com](mailto:presentations@tmwa.com) or call 775-834-8290.

## EPA awards University of Nevada, Reno nearly \$500,000 for sustainable drinking water treatment methods



Published: 9/06 1:21 pm

Updated: 9/06 1:23 pm

WASHINGTON D.C. (KRNV & MyNews4.com) -- Today the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a \$499,743 grant to the University of Nevada, Reno, part of almost \$1.5 million in funding to three universities nationwide to develop sustainable drinking water treatment methods.

The research grants are funded through EPA's Science to Achieve Results (STAR) program. These grants, which supplement last year's grants to eight other universities, are intended to provide innovative treatment methods to protect people's health by keeping harmful contaminants out of drinking water.

In 2010, EPA announced a new drinking water strategy to strengthen protections against contaminants in drinking water and promote

cost-effective new technologies to meet the needs of communities across the country struggling with water challenges. The research sponsored by these grants will help satisfy the key goals of this strategy.

There are approximately 157,000 public drinking water systems in the U.S. regulated by EPA, states, or tribes that provide drinking water to 90 percent of Americans. More than 290 million people living in the U.S. rely on the safety of tap water provided by public water systems that are subject to national drinking water standards.

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