

TMWA Board Meeting
Wednesday, December 12, 2012

Press Clippings

October 18, 2012 – December 5, 2012



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

The article could not be found.
Object reference not set to an instance of an object.



Close attention to details cuts power costs for TMWA

John Seelmeyer, 11/26/2012

Managers of Truckee Meadows Water Authority estimate that they've cut the utility's electricity bills by more than \$500,000 a year.

The cost: Mostly a matter of paying close attention, says Ryan Dixon, water operations supervisor for the utility.

While it's a quasi-governmental agency, TMWA has been caught in the same downdraft as much of the private sector in northern Nevada. For six consecutive years, water consumption — the sales that drive TMWA's finances — have declined as houses sit vacant and homeowners squeeze pennies.

"We've felt the squeeze of the economy," Dixon says.

But the notion of looking closely at power bills, one of the single largest expenses of the water authority, didn't come naturally to an organization that had been owned by Sierra Pacific Power from the time of its inception in the late 1800s until it was sold to the newly created TMWA in 2001.

TMWA's staff first focused on power use at the Chalk Bluff Water Plant, the facility near the Truckee River just west of McCarran Boulevard in west Reno that meets most of its demand.

Like most commercial and industrial power users, TMWA pays differing rates throughout the hours of the day for the power that drives Chalk Bluff.

TMWA began looking for ways to shift power use from high-cost times of the day — the early evening hours, for instance — into the early morning hours where costs are lowest. And they worked to reduce the spikes in electric demand that drove rates higher, even if the spikes lasted no more than a few minutes.

"We've tried to hold a flat line on our production," says Dixon.

Armed with the data, the Chalk Bluffs management team was given targets — not hard-and-fast rules, but targets — for the facility's power consumption. The use of targets, Dixon says, allowed staff the flexibility to meet the community's water demand without worrying about stringent internal rules.

The upshot: An estimated \$225,000 annual reduction in power bills. "It was worth the exercise," says Dixon.

In the meantime, TMWA managers were looking at ways that Mother Nature could help the energy-conservation effort. It turns out she could play a big role.

Water arrives at the Chalk Bluffs Plant from one of two routes — traveling down the gravity-fed Highland Ditch, or arriving via pumps from the Orr Ditch diversion ditch.

Gravity is free. Pumping costs of \$70 per million gallons of water translated into an expense of \$5,000 a day when water is drawn from the Orr Ditch system.

Improvement of the Highland Ditch after a 2008 earthquake caused damage allows TMWA to draw 70 million gallons of day — the usual production of Chalk Bluffs — from the ditch. And knowing the potential savings from use of the gravity-fed ditch, TMWA managers paid closer to attention to steps such as ice removal that otherwise might have caused the Orr Ditch pumps to be turned on.

A third bunch of low-hanging fruit, Dixon says, was found in the approximately 100 pumping stations used by TMWA to deliver water across a rolling topography that stretches from Somersett to South Meadows.

Because many points on the TMWA system can be served by two or more pumping stations, the water authority's staff undertook a complex analysis of the most efficient ways to serve neighborhoods, then incorporated this into operating plans.

Between greater attention to use of the gravity-fed Highland Ditch and the analysis of pumping efficiencies, Dixon says TMWA brought total savings to close to \$500,000 annually.

Next up: TMWA hopes to use the smart-meter technology that's being rolled out by NV Energy to compare the efficiency of each of the electric motors in the pumping stations, allowing TMWA to focus even further on reduction of costs.

ALL CONTENTS © 2012 Northern Nevada Business Weekly. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Conservationists purchase 3,000 acres of upper Truckee River watershed

Written by Jeff DeLong,

Nov 15

rgj.com

Conservationists today announced a deal that will protect 3,000 acres of the upper Truckee River watershed, with the Webber Lake and Lacey Meadows area to be opened for public use next spring.

The \$8 million acquisition was disclosed by the Truckee Donner Land Trust and the Trust for Public Land. The organizations bought the property from Clifton and Barbara Johnson, whose family has owned it for more than a century.

“This property has it all,” said Perry Norris, executive director of the Truckee Donner Land Trust. It includes 1,900 acres of pristine sub-alpine meadow and the Webber Lake Hotel -- one of the oldest standing structures in the region – as well as critical wildlife habitat, Norris said.

The deal is the latest in a string of public acquisitions in the watershed totaling 14,000 acres over the last five years. Others include Independence Lake, Perazzo Meadows, Webber Falls and the Mt. Lola trail.

Ask Joe: Help For Water Bill ?



Reported by: Joe Hart

Email: jhart@mynews4.com

Published: 11/14 5:47 pm

Updated: 11/14 5:48 pm

Lee wrote in asking why is it that there are programs that assist people with their energy bills but there are not any programs to help people with their water bills ?

I checked with TMWA, the Truckee Meadows Water Authority.

Kim Mazeres, director of customer relations says TMWA encourages customers who are struggling with their bills to call them. She says they are always willing to provide payment arrangements for those who need it. And they will also offer a usage review to customers who believe their bills are too high.

If you need help or want more information call 834-8080 and select option # 2.

Mazeres also points out tmwa is a non-profit community owned water utility. That makes it more challenging to subsidize customers but she says they do their best to help any way they can.

Sponsored Links



FTTN Strikes Oil

Demand for this Commodity is Rising Fast - Get In Now, Buy Shares!
www.FirstTitanEnergy.com



RBCC Top Stock Pick

JV Target Secures \$1.1M in Funding, This Could Be Huge--Buy Now!
www.RainbowBioSciences.com



Weird Loophole in Nevada:

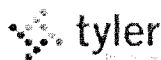
If You Pay For Car Insurance You Better Read This Now...
www.ConsumerFinanceDaily.com

[Buy a link here](#)

 Oct. 31, 2012, 9:17 a.m. EDT

Water Authority in Nevada Selects Tyler Technologies for Microsoft Dynamics(R) AX 2012 for the Public Sector

Truckee Meadows Water Authority to use Dynamics AX 2012 and Tyler's Eden ERP solutions as part of strategic initiative



DALLAS, Oct 31, 2012 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- Tyler Technologies, Inc. [TYL -2.13%](#) today announced it has signed a contract with Nevada's Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) for Microsoft Dynamics(R) AX 2012, an enterprise resource planning (ERP) solution with public sector functionality that Tyler Technologies jointly developed with Microsoft(R). The agreement also includes Tyler's complementary Eden human capital management and payroll applications.

"Truckee Meadows Water Authority selected Dynamics AX 2012 and Tyler's Eden solutions based on several factors, including how both products closely align with our strategic direction and how they will allow for significant process automation through the reduction of current manual processes," said Yugandhar Narala, Manager of Information Technology at Truckee Meadows Water Authority. "The Microsoft and Tyler products are intuitive and easy to use, which cuts down on training time. Additionally, TMWA values these solutions' quick implementation timeline compared to other ERP solutions."

"Tyler is the market leader in developing, implementing and supporting integrated solutions for the public sector, all backed by our exceptional services and support for all of our product offerings," said Richard E. Peterson Jr., president of Tyler's ERP & School Division.

"Truckee Meadows Water Authority has selected a state-of-the-art public sector ERP solution with Dynamics AX 2012 and Tyler's Eden human capital management applications. We look forward to a long partnership with TMWA and helping it achieve future goals." TMWA is a not-for-profit water utility overseen by elected officials from Washoe County and the cities of Reno and Sparks in Nevada. Under the agreement with TMWA, Tyler will implement Dynamics AX 2012 applications, including project accounting, accounts receivable, general ledger and business intelligence.

About Tyler Technologies, Inc.

Tyler Technologies [TYL -2.13%](#) is a leading provider of end-to-end information management solutions and services for local governments. Tyler partners with clients to empower the public sector -- cities, counties, schools and other government entities -- to become more efficient, more accessible and more responsive to the needs of citizens. Tyler's client base includes more than 10,000 local government offices in all 50 states, Canada, the Caribbean and the United Kingdom. Forbes has named Tyler one of "America's Best Small Companies" five times in the last six years. More information about Dallas-based Tyler Technologies can be found at www.tylertech.com.

SOURCE: Tyler Technologies, Inc.

Jetstream PR for Tyler Technologies
 Tony Katsulos, 972-788-9456, ext. 301
katsulos@jetstreampr.com

Copyright Business Wire 2012



ADD TO PORTFOLIO [TYL](#)

Tyler Technologies Inc.

US : U.S.: NYSE

\$ 47.41

-1.03 -2.13%

Volume: 80,621

Oct. 31, 2012 11:53a

P/E Ratio

48.40

Dividend Yield

N/A

Scientists try to rid Lake Tahoe's iconic Emerald Bay of invading clams

Written by Jeff DeLong
Oct 30

rgj.com



Zoom

Diver Brant Allen with UC Davis shows a bag of Asian clams retrieved from the mouth of Emerald Bay Tuesday Oct. 30, 2012. The group is laying a variety of things on the bottom in an effort to stem the spread of the clams. Marilyn Newton/RGJ

Can you eat Asian clams?

Yes, but it might not be worth the while. They are very small, don't taste all that good, and are a great deal of trouble for a tiny tidbit of protein.

"The general verdict is they're not going to be a show-stopper in the culinary sense," said Geoffrey Schladow, director of the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center. "If there was a commercial incentive to aid in their removal, that would be fantastic."

Diver Brant Allen with UC Davis shows a bag of Asian clams retrieved from the mouth of Emerald Bay Tuesday Oct. 30, 2012. The group is laying a variety of things on the bottom in an effort to stem the spread of the clams. Marilyn Newton/RGJ

- See video of the efforts

Efforts are under way to rid Emerald Bay — perhaps Lake Tahoe's most

iconic place — of an unwelcome visitor.

Asian clams, which have overrun the southeast portion of the lake, might still be successfully eliminated from the landmark bay on Tahoe's west shore, scientists say.

Scuba divers are unrolling large rubber mats on 5 acres of the lakebed near the mouth of Emerald Bay where Asian clams are found, with the idea of killing the invaders by suffocating them.

The \$810,000 project has a chance at success, experts say, because the number of clams in Emerald Bay is still relatively low. Success matters because of the lake's role in recreation, tourism and the area's economy.

"That's the urgency with Emerald Bay. It's so special. We're trying to really get on top of this at the outset," said Geoffrey Schladow, director of the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center.

Asian clams were first noticed at the lake about a decade ago but exploded in number in 2008, the same year they caused a nasty bloom of algae in the Marla Bay area of southeast Lake Tahoe. In that area, clams now number more than 7,000 per square yard in places, "probably the highest in the world," in terms of population concentrations, Schladow said.

The clams pose a water quality threat to Tahoe's shallow, near-shore environment where water intakes are located by releasing nutrients that promote algae growth.

It's also feared they could alter calcium concentrations in the lake in such a way as to encourage the successful establishment of another potential invader, the quagga mussel, at crippling cost to Tahoe's environment and economy.

Scientists don't pretend they will ever be able to eradicate Asian clams from Lake Tahoe but say it should be possible to control their spread by attacking satellite populations like those now in Emerald Bay — the farthest north they've been located in the lake.

Asian clams have also been found in Donner Lake and may have successfully migrated down the Truckee River to Reno and beyond, experts said Tuesday.

"Eradication isn't a word that's used. It's controlling it," Schladow said. "If we can identify satellite populations, let's hit those first and go back to the mother lode."

In 2009, scientists first used rubber barrier mats to kill clams at Marla bay and offshore of South Lake Tahoe. The method proved highly effective at killing clams by robbing clam beds of oxygen.

Subsequent tests conducted at the Emerald Bay infestation were less effective. "an unpleasant surprise" scientists eventually linked to soil conditions and temperature variations, Schladow said.

The problem is now being overcome at Emerald Bay by putting down a layer of shredded aspen trees beneath the rubber mats, with the biomass material helping to eat up oxygen and successfully kill clams.

"They're not easy to suffocate. Clams are very good at clamming up," said Brant Allen, a UC Davis researcher who was diving at the Emerald Bay kill zone Tuesday. At the depth of about 15 feet, Allen and colleagues are in the process of laying down more than 200 mats, each 100-foot long and 10-foot wide.

Emerald Bay, visited by thousands each year and often viewed from the decks of stern-wheeler tour boats, is an obvious place to do battle against the clams, said Dan Shaw, an environmental scientist with the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

"It's a unique place. It's probably one of the most photographed natural wonders in the world," Shaw said. "Emerald Bay is a strategic target in the attempts to control Asian clams in Lake Tahoe."



Reno Zombie Crawl



Bassnectar at GSR



Mug shots



Decompression 2012

NDOW: Invasive Species decal required in 2013

Written by Edwin Lyngar Nevada Department of Wildlife

Oct 17

rgj.com

This column is part of a series by local stakeholders. Have a column idea? Email editor Lauren Gustus at lgustus@rgj.com.

As boaters put equipment, boats and life jackets away for the winter, they should be aware of big boating changes coming up next year.

On Jan. 1, 2013, boaters will be required to purchase an Aquatic Invasive Species decal from the Nevada Department of Wildlife. This new program was created in the previous legislative session to combat the growing menace of AIS in Nevada waters. The program will ramp up slowly over the next year, as boaters purchase decals and learn how to help stop the spread of AIS.

Decal cost falls into four categories: resident motorboats, \$10; resident nonmotorboats, or paddle craft and sailboats, \$5; nonresident motorboats, \$20; and nonresident nonmotorboats, \$10.

The requirement includes in- and out-of-state motorboats, as well as most paddleboats. Paddle craft such as stand-up paddleboards and float tubes (most often used by anglers) are exempt from the requirement because they have no way to “retain water” according to the regulation. Paddlers can contact NDOW if they have questions about a particular craft.

AIS is the blanket term for a number of nonnative aquatic plants and animals that overwhelm native plants and wildlife. AIS also is a term that includes the problematic Quagga Mussel, first discovered in Nevada at Lake Mead in 2007.

Quagga Mussels are a thumbnail-sized mussel that causes tremendous damage to infrastructure and native wildlife in infected waterways. Like many other AIS, Quagga Mussels are most often spread by boats on trailers that move between clean and infected waterways, further spreading the problem. The best way to avoid spreading these dangerous invasive species, according NDOW, is to clean, drain and dry all boats and equipment before moving to other waterways.

“Since they were discovered a few years ago, we’ve seen an explosion of Quagga Mussels at Lake Mead,” said Rob Buonamici, chief game warden at NDOW. “We know that once introduced, Quaggas cause real headaches to water managers, boaters and just about anyone using the lake. We are dedicated to protecting other waterways from infection.”

NDOW is developing a program of inspections, education and monitoring of waterways, using the funds that will be generated by the sale of the decal.

Some other Nevada waterways have had preliminary indications of Quagga infection, including Rye Patch and Lahontan Reservoir, but these initial tests remain inconclusive. There have been no adult mussels found outside the Colorado River system, and NDOW official hope to keep it that way.

A consortium of agencies and organizations are already conducting robust inspection and education programs at environmentally sensitive Lake Tahoe, but NDOW officials want to spend more time, money and effort protecting waters across the state, said

Buonamici, and the key to success is enlisting the help of boaters.

“We’ve tried to make it easy for boaters to know what to do,” said David Pfflner, Nevada’s boating law administrator. “We don’t want to make boating any more complicated or difficult.”

Boaters can purchase decals at any NDOW office across the state, including Reno and Fallon. They can also be purchased online at www.ndow.org or by calling 866-703-4606.

“Protecting Nevada waters is everyone’s business,” Buonamici said. “With just a little bit of care and diligence on the part of all boaters, we can preserve our pristine waters and angling opportunities for future generations.”

Edwin Lyngar is boating education coordinator at the Nevada Department of Wildlife.

Reno-area water providers buy into cloud seeding

Written by Jeff DeLong

Oct 15

rgj.com

By the numbers

29: The number of times cloud-seeding occurred at Tahoe-Truckee last winter

1,213: Hours of cloud-seeding operations

21,600: Acre-feet of water produced through cloud-seeding

\$11.80: Cost of an acre-foot of water produced

\$275,000: Cost of this winter's cloud-seeding for Tahoe-Truckee

Source: Desert Research Institute

Regional water suppliers are again poised to pay for a program to squeeze a little extra moisture out of winter storms, but some say a stable and long-term funding source to finance "cloud-seeding" is needed soon.

An advisory panel of water experts recently recommended the Western Regional Water Commission provide \$100,000 to fund the Desert Research Institute's cloud-seeding program for the Tahoe-Truckee area over the winter of 2012-13.

The Reno-Sparks area's primary water purveyor, the Truckee Meadows Water Authority, agreed to provide another \$175,000 when its directors OK'd the utility's budget in May.

This marks the fourth straight year cloud-seeding will be paid for by water providers after the 2009 Legislature cut state funding to DRI, imperiling the program's survival.

The extra water made available through a boosted snowpack is worth the expense, said Mark Foree, general manager of the water authority.

"We feel it's money well spent," Foree said. "Certainly anything that can help out our snowpack is something we are interested in."

DRI has seeded storms with chemicals to increase snowfall for more than 25 years. The process involves use of mountaintop generators that spray particles of silver iodide into storm clouds, enhancing ice particle formation and boosting snowfall. Airplanes have also been used in the process, but not since state funding was cut.

DRI experts estimate that over the last decade, cloud-seeding increased the Truckee River Basin's snowpack by an average of about 18,000 acre-feet per year.

Last winter, when conditions were often just right to support cloud-seeding despite the season's remarkable dryness, an increase in snow water of 21,600 acre-feet was achieved, DRI reports. An acre-foot of water is 325,851 gallons, or enough to serve the water needs of two average homes for more than a year with a little left over.

"We thought we had a very successful year last year in enhancing the precipitation," said Mark Green, the DRI research professor who now runs the snow-making program.

"It made what would have been a very bad year a little bit less bad," Green said.

The \$100,000 request considered last week by the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission was supported unanimously but one member of the panel, Michael DeMartini, suggested that a long-term arrangement to pay for the program be put in place so DRI does not have to make annual requests to water providers.

Elsewhere in the state, such arrangements are in place. DRI is now starting a three-year cloud-seeding program in Southern Nevada paid for with \$1.3 million provided by the Southern Nevada Water Authority. The Bureau of Reclamation is financing a five-year program to boost the snowpack for the Walker River Basin at a cost of \$1.6 million.

“The idea is that seeing the technology is proven, it would be more sensible to have it considered for long-term funding. That would be more efficient,” DeMartini said.

Discussions to have a longer commitment put in place for Tahoe-Truckee’s cloud-seeding operations have continued for years, with the idea that some private industries such as ski resorts and agriculture that benefit from increased water supplies could be potential donors.

The ski industry expressed some interest but, so far, provided no funding.

Recent attention has been focused at Vail Resorts, which after last year’s acquisition of Kirkwood Mountain Resort now operates three of the Lake Tahoe area’s prime ski resort properties — Kirkwood, Heavenly Mountain Resort and Northstar California.

Vail Resorts will pay \$179,000 to help finance a \$1 million-plus cloud-seeding operation in Colorado this winter, according to a report by the Colorado Water Conservation Board cited by DRI’s Green.

Vail is supportive of cloud-seeding in Tahoe-Truckee but has yet to decide if it can support it in any way financially, said Russ Pecoraro, communications director for Heavenly and Kirkwood.

“I would say it’s a discussion that is occurring,” Pecoraro said. “We do support the effort. We’re not in a position at this point to support it financially.”



Decompression 2012



Homeless pets



Mug shots



Swimsuit competition

Less regulation and clean water

Written by Randi Thompson

Oct 14

rgj.com

I get a lot of flak from people when I say that we need regulatory reform. They think I want to roll back regulations that will make our water or air dirtier, or the work place less safe. That is not it at all. Let me relate an example.

I wrote in my last column about the high costs for permits for new construction and cited specifically the high sewer fees. In Reno, the current rules say that if a restaurant puts in a dishwasher, the permit will cost 35 “fixture units,” but a three-hole sink that can be substituted for a dishwasher is only four units. Each “fixture unit” is \$264. That means a dishwasher permit is \$9,240 versus \$1,056 for a sink.

Since all Reno water has to be purified before it can go back into the Truckee, these fees help cover water-treatment costs. The difference in rates was likely based on assumptions that a dishwasher would use more water. But today, high-efficiency dishwashers use much less water and have filters to reduce waste. So why has no one stopped to ponder that we could actually encourage conservation by lowering the cost of more efficient equipment.

Regulatory reform means accommodating for technological advancements and also understanding the unintended consequences.

This high fee structure is likely tied back to the 1980s, when the mantra was “growth should pay for itself.” Long-time residents didn’t want to pay more to expand the sewer system or for roads they’d never use. It was a valid argument at the time, and local governments reacted to meet the desires of the community by placing higher fees on new construction.

Now, it’s 2012, and our community has a new mantra: jobs, jobs, jobs! The fee increases have continued to rise over the decades and now place an unreasonable burden on the price of construction. So, now it seems only logical that our local governments respond to changes in our community and look at the fees and regulations to see if they are reasonable and accomplish their intended goal.

I’m happy to say this dishwasher scenario was recently conveyed to some key staff at the city of Reno, and they got it. Now, they are looking into the city’s fee structure to see how it can be updated to take into account technological advancements, as well as attitude changes in our community. Unlike the 1980s, we are more supportive of helping pay for growth because we see its benefits to our economy, especially as we’ve learned to be smarter about it.

Restoring old buildings along Virginia Street to create Midtown and building on vacant lots closer to town like South Creek are two examples of smart growth. But the number of developers who can afford to build will continue to decline unless we find ways to make it more affordable. I’m encouraged that Reno is willing to look at how it can make that happen.

Randi Thompson is a Republican political and media consultant. You can reach her at www.RandiThompson.com.

New project slated to kill Lake Tahoe clams

Written by Associated Press

Oct 14

rgj.com

Scientists are set to launch a new project to quell a clam invasion that could cloud Lake Tahoe's waters.

The Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Program plans to treat a relatively small, isolated population of Asian clams at the mouth of Emerald Bay before they spread to an unmanageable level.

Waste from non-native Asian clams has triggered algae blooms in the lake for numerous years. Their sharp shells befoul beaches and rapidly expanding populations compete for food with slow-growing native freshwater mussels.

Scientists say the clams' excretions promote so much algae growth that they can turn some coves from blue to green.

The project is scheduled to begin on Oct. 15 and is ultimately set to treat an area of up to 5 acres. The barriers will be left in place for approximately one year.

Stateline residents could face big new water costs

Reported by: Ashley Cullins

Email: acullins@mynews4.com

Published: 11:57 am


Updated: 12:10 pm

STATELINE, Nev. (KRNV & MyNews4.com) -- Some Stateline residents could face water rate increases of up to nearly 400 percent.

The Kingsbury Grade Improvement District installed meters that monitor water use. Now that they're up and running they need to decide how to set the rates for customers.

There was an open meeting Tuesday night to discuss the proposed plan and address community concerns, and it seems to have raised more questions from residents than it answered.

The proposed rates include a base fee of about 54 dollars, which doesn't include water use.

 Stateline residents could face big new water costs

It's designed to make sure people pay their fare share, but it means a big jump in rates for people in mobile home parks and apartments. They could see increases from 46 percent up to 397 percent, and many of these residents are low-income and don't know how they're going to cover the costs.

Another big question is who should pay for unoccupied units and how much would be fair.

Commercial customers could see rate decreases because the board says they've been overpaying for water.

Board of Trustees President Dan Norman says they're taking the concerns seriously, and while they can't make everyone happy they're trying to be as fair as possible.

"Our next step as a board is to try to come up with a plan that addresses these questions and present that plan, or clarify what we have to do better to the people that were present this evening as well as the rest of the community," Norman said. "I don't think we've communicated our purposes and our needs well enough for everyone to understand, and I think there's more work that we can do to lower the rates for a lot of people and that's what we're trying to figure out."

The next meeting is October 23. Norman says they were originally planning to vote to approve the new rates at that meeting, but now the decision will likely be delayed.

Sponsored Links



LifeLock® Official Site

Relax this vacation season & stay protected with LifeLock® protection.

Learn how.
LifeLock.com



Weird Loophole in Nevada:

If You Pay For Car Insurance You Better Read This Now...

www.ConsumerFinanceDaily.com

Try Social Marketing Free

Simple Social Media Marketing Tool. Schedule Tweets & Status Updates!

<http://www.verticalresponse.com>

[Buy a link here](#)

Canal study causes concerns for TCID

NOVEMBER, 8 2012

BY [STEVE PUTERSKI](#)

SPUTERSKI@LAHONTANVALLEYNEWS.COM

In the coming months, the Bureau of Reclamation will release its Truckee Canal Planning Study that will assess flow levels in the waterway.

BOR representatives Terry Edwards, assistant manager of the Lahontan Basin, and Lee Burgett, the Newlands coordinator, discussed the study with Truckee-Carson Irrigation District Board of Directors on Wednesday at their monthly meeting.

The study is a projection of canal flows of 150 cubic-feet per second, 250 cfs and 350 cfs and to determine the stability of the canal at each level. It was approved by Congress and funded through Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009.

Members of the public will be able to comment on the study in Fallon in January, although no specific date has been announced.

TCID, meanwhile, was ordered by a federal court to reduce flows to 350 cfs after the 2008 Fernley Flood.

On Wednesday, though, Director Lester de Braga questioned the 150 cfs number as a starting point for the BOR. Edwards said 150 cfs represents a no action baseline, meaning how much water the canal could withstand now and into the future if no maintenance or improvements were made and still deliver water to Lahontan Reservoir.

De Braga's querie, though, remained as no study has been provided to determine any benefits of 150 cfs or if 350 cfs would be as equally safe.

TCID vice president Dave Stix Jr. said the 150 cfs level is unacceptable to the district. The BOR, Stix added, made an argument in court for why 350 cfs is safe for the canal.

TCID Project Manager Rusty Jardine said the report is a five-year study of flows to determine levels of safety along the canal. Burgett said after five years the canal would be re-evaluated.

"The 150 (cfs) that was discussed that was the original risk level to operate after the breach," Burgett said. "The 150 in the planning study is an alternative."

The 250 and 350 numbers, meanwhile, are higher flows, according to the study, with numerous maintenance operations conducted.

TCID, meanwhile, has put in millions of dollars of safety improvements to the Truckee Canal since 2008, most notably the multi-million dollar project last spring to reconstruct and reduce the number of conduits and takeouts from 33 to 17.

In addition, the district has mapped out plans for pest control, which include weeds, algae and rodents burrowing inside and outside the embankments, according to Office Manager Kate Rutan.

But the larger issue for the district, though, is the motivation behind the study. TCID has followed all court orders restricting flows and worked with the BOR on several construction projects in order to access higher flows through the canal.

"We have provided for the conduit replacement," Jardine said. "We take to the table a lot of things that will be properly evaluated."

Although the report is not a decision document, TCID officials stressed the position of 350 cfs must be in the canal for water users to irrigate. Jardine, though, said he feels the study will be used in the final report.

"We think it will have some incredible weight in the future," he said. "It will have a certain weight attached to it. It's not being created just for the heck of it."

In other TCID news –

- Mark Soliniski, hydro foreman, reported to the directors the power output at Lahontan Reservoir and 26-foot Drop has been efficient and increased revenue in the past month.

Soliniski said 400 cfs of water is running through the dam and the new plant is generating 520 kilowatts of power. Two units at the old plant are producing 410 kW and 26-foot Drop is generating 400 kW.

- Richard Grimes of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported about their recent land sale. The USFWS sold one property, a 60-acre parcel on Curry Road, to Cottonwood Dairy for about \$48,000.

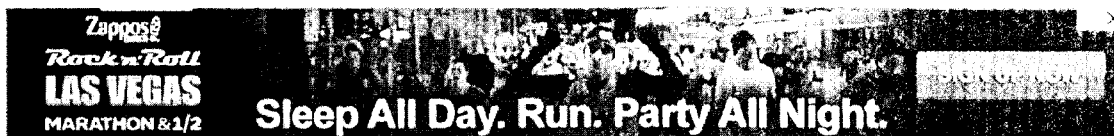
Grimes said the value of the property dropped from more than \$100,000 in 2008 to its present sale price.

He said the USFWS has numerous properties in the process of being appraised and will soon come up for sale to the public. Funds from the land sales are used by the USFWS to cover Operation and Maintenance fees to TCID.

<http://www.lahontanvalleynews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20121108/NEWS/121109891/1001&parentprofile=1045&template=printart>



News Sports Living Fun Community Classifieds Search Subscribe! My Account E-Edition Contact Us About Us



Reno-area water providers buy into cloud seeding program that boosts snowfall

JEFF DELONG Reno Gazette-Journal
October 17, 2012 - 6:16 pm EDT

Share / Save

RENO, Nev. — Regional water suppliers are again poised to pay for a program to squeeze a little extra moisture out of winter storms, but some say a stable and long-term funding source to finance "cloud-seeding" is needed soon.

An advisory panel of water experts recently recommended the Western Regional Water Commission provide \$100,000 to fund the Desert Research Institute's cloud-seeding program for the Tahoe-Truckee area over the winter of 2012-13.

The Reno-Sparks area's primary water purveyor, the Truckee Meadows Water Authority, agreed to provide another \$175,000 when its directors OK'd the utility's budget in May.

This marks the fourth straight year cloud-seeding will be paid for by water providers after the 2009 Legislature cut state funding to DRI, imperiling the program's survival.

The extra water made available through a boosted snowpack is worth the expense, said Mark Foree, general manager of the water authority.

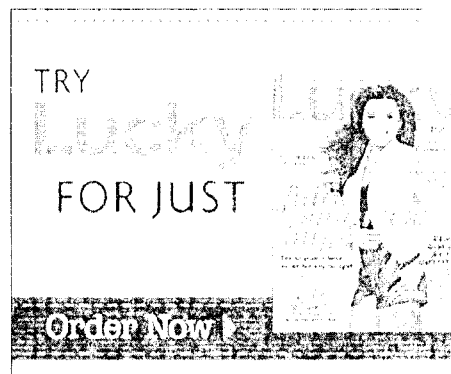
"We feel it's money well spent," Foree said, according to the Reno Gazette-Journal (<http://on.rgj.com/R7Pq52>). "Certainly anything that can help out our snowpack is something we are interested in."

DRI has seeded storms with chemicals to increase snowfall for more than 25 years. The process involves use of mountaintop generators that spray particles of silver iodide into storm clouds, enhancing ice particle formation and boosting snowfall. Airplanes have also been used in the process, but not since state funding was cut.

DRI experts estimate that over the last decade, cloud-seeding increased the Truckee River Basin's snowpack by an average of about 18,000 acre-feet per year.

Last winter, when conditions were often just right to support cloud-seeding despite the season's remarkable dryness, an increase in snow water of 21,600 acre-feet was achieved, DRI reports. An acre-foot of water is 325,851 gallons, or enough to serve the water needs of two average homes for more than a year with a little left over.

"We thought we had a very successful year last year in enhancing the



We also have more stories about:
(click the phrases to see a list)

Category:

- Nevada

Subjects:

- Winter weather
- Utilities
- Weather
- Industries

Places:

- Truckee
- Valley
- Reno
- Nevada
- California
- California

Follow Us

Facebook

Twitter

precipitation," said Mark Green, the DRI research professor who now runs the snow-making program.

All rights reserved. Privacy policy. Content enhanced with OpenCasts.

"It made what would have been a very bad year a little bit less bad," Green said.

The \$100,000 request considered last week by the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission was supported unanimously but one member of the panel, Michael DeMartini, suggested that a long-term arrangement to pay for the program be put in place so DRI does not have to make annual requests to water providers.

Elsewhere in the state, such arrangements are in place. DRI is now starting a three-year cloud-seeding program in Southern Nevada paid for with \$1.3 million provided by the Southern Nevada Water Authority. The Bureau of Reclamation is financing a five-year program to boost the snowpack for the Walker River Basin at a cost of \$1.6 million.

"The idea is that seeing the technology is proven, it would be more sensible to have it considered for long-term funding. That would be more efficient," DeMartini said.

Discussions to have a longer commitment put in place for Tahoe-Truckee's cloud-seeding operations have continued for years, with the idea that some private industries such as ski resorts and agriculture that benefit from increased water supplies could be potential donors.

The ski industry expressed some interest but, so far, provided no funding.

Recent attention has been focused at Vail Resorts, which after last year's acquisition of Kirkwood Mountain Resort now operates three of the Lake Tahoe area's prime ski resort properties — Kirkwood, Heavenly Mountain Resort and Northstar California.

Vail Resorts will pay \$179,000 to help finance a \$1 million-plus cloud-seeding operation in Colorado this winter, according to a report by the Colorado Water Conservation Board cited by DRI's Green.

Vail is supportive of cloud-seeding in Tahoe-Truckee but has yet to decide if it can support it in any way financially, said Russ Pecoraro, communications director for Heavenly and Kirkwood.

"I would say it's a discussion that is occurring," Pecoraro said. "We do support the effort. We're not in a position at this point to support it financially."

Information from: Reno Gazette-Journal, <http://www.rgj.com>