



TMWA Board Meeting

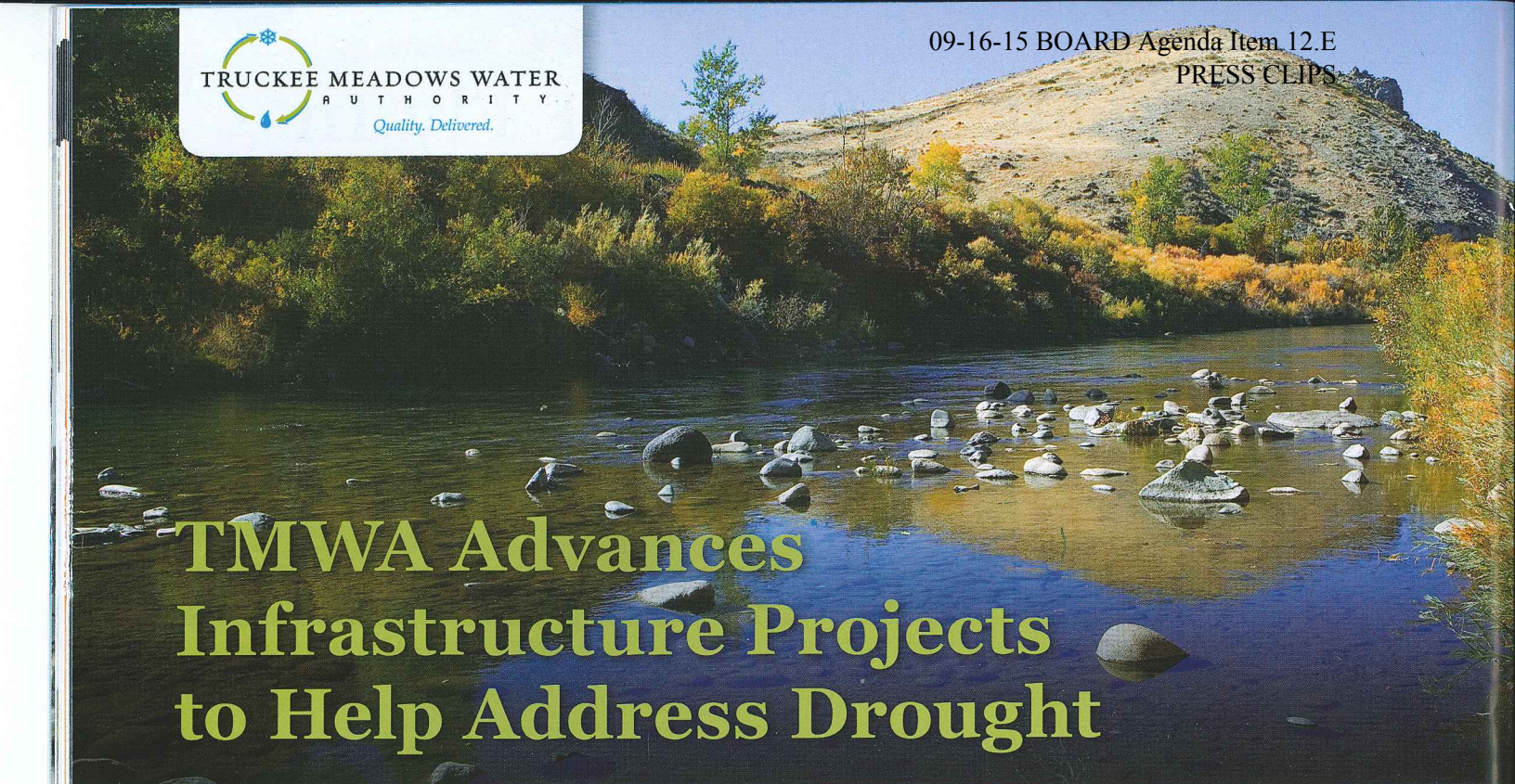
Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Press Clippings

August 13, 2015 through September 9, 2015



Ann Matya (Desert Heights Elementary School)
2010 Poster Art Contest – Third Place, Grades K-3



TMWA Advances Infrastructure Projects to Help Address Drought

By Scott Estes and Paul Miller

The Truckee River near Reno © Trilobite

In response to the ongoing drought and whatever Mother Nature may have in store for the future, Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) is working on two significant water distribution system projects in the North Valleys and Arrowcreek/Mt. Rose areas, as well as expanding their Aquifer Recharge Program.

According to Scott Estes, TMWA's director of systems planning and engineering, the North Valleys Integration project involves construction of about 29,000 feet of 24-inch pipe on Lemmon Drive. This will allow 100 percent of the Fish Springs groundwater supply (currently 6,500 gallons per minute up to 8,000 acre-feet per year) to be available for use within the North Valleys areas. This groundwater supply can offset an equal amount of surface water from the Truckee River that is currently pumped up from the Truckee Meadows to the North Valley areas. This conjunctive management will help TMWA conserve additional upstream drought reserves, should the drought continue in to 2016. The \$17.8 million project is currently under design with construction scheduled to begin sometime in the late summer or fall of 2015 with an in-service date of June 1, 2016.

TMWA is also planning to construct water-system improvements to deliver up to 1,500 gallons per minute of off-peak water supply to allow existing groundwater wells in the Arrowcreek and ultimately

the Mt. Rose water systems to rest during the winter months. These areas currently rely on groundwater wells for 100 percent of their water supply and the continuing drought situation has severely limited the amount of natural recharge to the local aquifers. Phase 1 of the proposed improvements consist of about 3,600 feet of 10-inch pipe on Zolezzi Lane along with two new booster pump stations to get the water up into the Arrowcreek system where it can be distributed to several areas. The \$2.8 million project is scheduled for construction in the summer of 2015 with a planned in-service date in November 2015 to allow passive recharge throughout the off-peak water season. Phase 2 of the project, to be constructed in 2016-2017, consists of an additional \$1.2 million of improvements to deliver some of the off-peak supply up into the Mt. Rose/Galena water system to provide a source for passive aquifer recharge in those areas.

TMWA has also been expanding the Aquifer Storage and Recovery Program (ASR). Groundwater supplies are enhanced and protected when TMWA pumps approximately eight million gallons a day of treated surface water *per day* through its wells into the aquifer for future drought use. This storage is in addition to the upstream drought reserves stored in reservoirs. The process occurs when water use in the community drops to

one-fourth of the peak summer average usage and surface water is available in the winter and spring. The stored water can then be accessed during drought periods. According to Paul Miller, TMWA's manager of operations and water quality, TMWA lets ground water wells rest in the off-season and maximizes the use of surface water from the Truckee River.

Since the start of winter, TMWA has been reviewing all possible well sites in the TMWA system, which includes wells acquired through the recent consolidation with Washoe County's water utility. TMWA has currently identified over a dozen additional well sites that can be set up for recharge; and is working as quickly as possible to test, design, construct and implement recharge in those wells. "The more water we can store this time of year, the better. It's like money in the bank," Miller said.

ASR was established by TMWA to improve water quality and augment water resources. The program and the projects described above are also part of one of the primary goals of consolidation: to improve the management of the area's water resources through conjunctive use – minimizing groundwater pumping and maximizing use of surface water when it is available. Many other efforts are also underway to improve infrastructure and service to customers. 💧

Reno to craft aggressive drought response plan



[Anjeanette Damon](#), RGJ 4:04 p.m. PDT August 12, 2015



The downtown Riverwalk fountain, maintained by the city of Reno, used 4 million gallons of water last year, according to data from the Truckee Meadows Water Authority. People hang out by the Riverwalk Fountain on the south bank of the Truckee River in downtown Reno on Tuesday, July 21, 2015.(Photo: Jason Bean/RGJ)

36 CONNECT [17 TWEETLINKEDIN](#) 1 COMMENTEMAILMORE

The Reno City Council voted unanimously to craft an aggressive drought response plan, looking to take on the authority of declaring its own drought condition alerts rather than relying on the Truckee Meadows Water Authority to do it.

The decision by the council to up its water conservation game follows a Reno Gazette-Journal investigation into what the city was doing— and not doing— to save water during the drought.

The RGJ investigation found the city had not activated its drought response plan despite the fact the region has been in an exceptional drought for more than a year following four dry winters. Instead, staff has implemented voluntary water conservation efforts.

RENO GAZETTE JOURNAL

Reno city fountain uses twice the water of homeless shelter

On Wednesday, the council decided it will rewrite the city's drought response ordinance, giving council the authority to declare drought conditions on its own and require certain actions by the public.

Several council members criticized TMWA for not being aggressive enough in responding to the drought. So far, TMWA has asked for a voluntary 10 percent reduction in water use from its customers. So far, the public has exceeded that savings request.

Councilman David Bobzien said the city can no longer wait for TMWA to declare more serious drought conditions. Under the draft response plan, the council could declare a drought alert, watch or emergency.

"In practice, (TMWA) actually making that declaration is probably still a little ways off," Bobzien said. "The drought is here. It's a condition every single one of our constituents talks to us about on a daily basis."

Councilman Paul McKenzie echoed Bobzien's comments.

"The problem is we are in the third level (drought emergency) already, whether TMWA wants to admit it or not," he said, adding that to wait to see if this winter is a wet one before upping the drought declaration is "kind of an ostrich stance."

The new city ordinance will take about two months to write and then pass. Staff must craft the criteria for declaring the three drought stages, as well as specific requirements in response to each stage.

Bobzien said early drought responses could include recommendations, such as asking restaurants not to serve water unless asked. Those recommendations could become requirements if the drought level is advanced.

The city will also look at writing new building codes requiring water-saving features on plumbing, as well as placing restrictions on water intensive features in new developments.

In the meantime, the city will also increase its water conservation efforts. The council directed staff to investigate whether it can reduce or completely turn off the downtown Riverwalk fountain that uses between 1 million and 6 million gallons of water a year. The fountain runs 24 hours a day along a nearly dry Truckee River.

Water play features at area parks also will be turned off.

Sparks Mayor Disappointed by Reno City Council Comments on TWMA Drought Measures

AUGUST 14, 2015 BY [BOB CONRAD](#) [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

Share34

Tweet4

Pin0

Share0

+12

Total Shares 40



The Reno City Council this week approved to take more aggressive measures in addressing the region's drought. During Wednesday's city council meeting, pointed words were spoken about what councilmembers said was a less-than-proactive response to the drought by the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA), which manages the region's water supply.

"It's interesting to me that those comments would be made," said Sparks Mayor Geno Martini, who is chair of **TMWA's board**. "The people, who are on the board, reviewed the drought plan and approved it, shouldn't be making those comments."

City Councilmembers Neoma Jardon, Naomi Duerr and Jenny Brekhus serve on TMWA's board. Councilman David Bobzien is an alternate.

TMWA approved in March its drought and water conservation plan that requested from citizens a voluntary 10-percent reduction in water use. Those conservation targets **have been exceeded each month since**. Minutes from the TMWA board meeting indicate that the drought and conservation plan was passed unanimously. **The minutes document** the following points:

“Alternate Member Bobzien commended staff for a great plan. He suggested TMWA staff foster communication and sharing to keep the different governing boards informed so they can take appropriate action.

“Member Jardon requested staff to ensure the conservation message is specific, flexible and clear, especially for those customers who will be receiving it for the first time. She stressed the importance of customers knowing about, and utilizing, the Water Audit program now as customers get ready for irrigation season.

“Member Duerr inquired if TMWA’s new customers receiving the conservation message for the first time, to be sensitive to the issue since they have to adhere to TMWA’s watering schedule.”

Wednesday’s City Council meeting discussed additional measures beyond a formal emergency declaration by TMWA. At the April 15, 2015 council meeting, the council had directed staff to initiate water saving recommendations rather than waiting for an emergency declaration.

Jardon noted that the city water conservation efforts “have been in place and activated at the very least since the beginning of the year and have resulted in, certainly over years’ past, particularly last year, a significant amount of water reduction. So this isn’t something we’re just deciding now because we have been blind to the drought we’re in.”

In a pre-meeting interview with ThisisReno, Bobzien said: “In year four, it’s hard to understand why we haven’t moved toward a drought emergency. Rather than waiting for TMWA to declare that emergency, we should do something now to get ahead of this.

“I want the City of Reno take the first step (to) model ... getting ahead of this issue.”

During the meeting, he said that the city should take the lead on the issue, in front of other jurisdictions and governments.

“I think it has to come at our level,” echoed Mayor Hillary Schieve. “Since I haven’t sat in those TMWA meetings, how come I don’t feel like I’m sensing the urgency from them (TMWA)? And that’s alarming. It really is. That’s the one agency you would think that we would hear, you now, much more vocal concern about this.”

Councilmember Brekhus said that TMWA has a story to tell but isn’t doing a good job.

“They (TMWA) do have a story to tell,” she said. “I don’t think they’re doing a good job telling their story, frankly. ”

Jardon advocated for penalties against water wasters.

“The community ... expects that if you have a repeat offender property that something’s going to be done to the repeat offender property,” she said.

Sparks Mayor Martini said he was angered by comments made at Wednesday’s meeting.

“But when I thought about it later in the evening I was more disappointed,” he added. “What’s amazing to me is right at the time we should be celebrating (community water conservation measures), the Reno City Council is doing nothing but handing out criticism. It’s a very disingenuous thing to do.”

Martini said that it is TMWA’s role, not the City of Reno’s, to take the lead on conservation measures in the area.

“They talked about Reno taking the lead, but they should take the lead on the TMWA board,” he added. “TMWA should be leading the charge on ... drought, and they are. They are doing exactly what they’ve intended to do.”

In a follow-up comment, Duerr said that “we all have a role to play and need to work together. (TMWA has) a big job ... working to manage the water supply. I did want to elevate the priority with (city staff). We need to get our own house in order and focus on the things that we have primary responsibilities for — building codes, plumbing codes, development ordinances and landscape standards. We can do things that support better water planning.”

Ongoing Drought Drying Up Lahontan Valley Wetlands

Posted: Aug 17, 2015 1:56 PM PDT <em class="wnDate">Monday, August 17, 2015 4:56 PM EDT Updated: Aug 17, 2015 2:04 PM PDT <em class="wnDate">Monday, August 17, 2015 5:04 PM EDT

By Andi Guevara

[Email](#)

[Connect](#)

producers@ktvn.com



About 70 miles east of Reno is a desert oasis known as the Lahontan Valley Wetlands. Although now, they might easily be called the dry-lands. Parched, cracked earth abounds and by September, the little bit of water left will be completely gone. As the drought gets more severe, so do the effects.

The Fallon Paiute-Shoshone owns and manages about 500 acres of that land. So, Tribal Wetlands Manager Willie Steve keeps a close eye on all the developments. "This is getting stagnant right now. Algae is starting to exist, already it's not going to be good for even for life stock to consume."

Water that Paiute-Shoshone ranchers rely on for their 275 head of cattle - was cut off in early summer. There's just not enough left in the Lahontan Reservoir to go around.

What's left on the wetlands is warm and filling with parasites. And that, says Steve, has left many of the livestock owners on the edge of ruin. "Nature as a whole is out of balance; that's going to cause a devastating effect", he explains

A water measuring rod in one of the marshes shows it is three feet below average. The lack of vegetation impacts not only the grazing cattle, but has also caused a huge drop in the spring migratory shorebirds, waders and water fowl. Susan Sawyer is the visitor services manager for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Division in Fallon. "With the severity of the drought the wetlands are gonna be dry, probably before the fall migration." A few hardy geese can still be seen, but not much else in an area that used to be vibrant with wildlife.

Sawyer has been watching the decline during the past four years of drought, and she's worried about the impact. "We don't know. Time will tell, I can't see it being a positive outcome."

Willie says he'll wait patiently for Mother Nature to bring snow to the Sierra, but believes there are things that can be done until then. "We've come up with a tour loop and hopefully soon, in the near future, we'll have a bird platform set up out here for bird viewing."

[To learn more about the Carson River Basin, click on this line](#)

Pipeline To Save Groundwater In Mt. Rose Suburbs

By [JULIA RITCHEY](#) · AUG 17, 2015

SHARE [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [Google+](#) [Email](#)

Residents of the Mt. Rose and Galena suburbs rely mostly on domestic wells for their water. But continued development and the drought have strapped those underground aquifers. Now, the Truckee Meadows Water Authority has a new strategy to supply these households. Reno Public Radio's Julia Ritchey spoke with TMWA's John Enloe for more details.*

Listen

Listening...

3:25

Listen to their conversation.

Enloe says the problem is that because of the drought, underground aquifers have dropped significantly over the last decade. As most households in the Mt. Rose area rely on wells for their water, Enloe says, it's akin to having too many straws pulling from the same drink.

"I actually live in that area, too, and my water level has gone down 40 feet over the last 20 years," he says. "Some people have seen more than that and some have seen less."

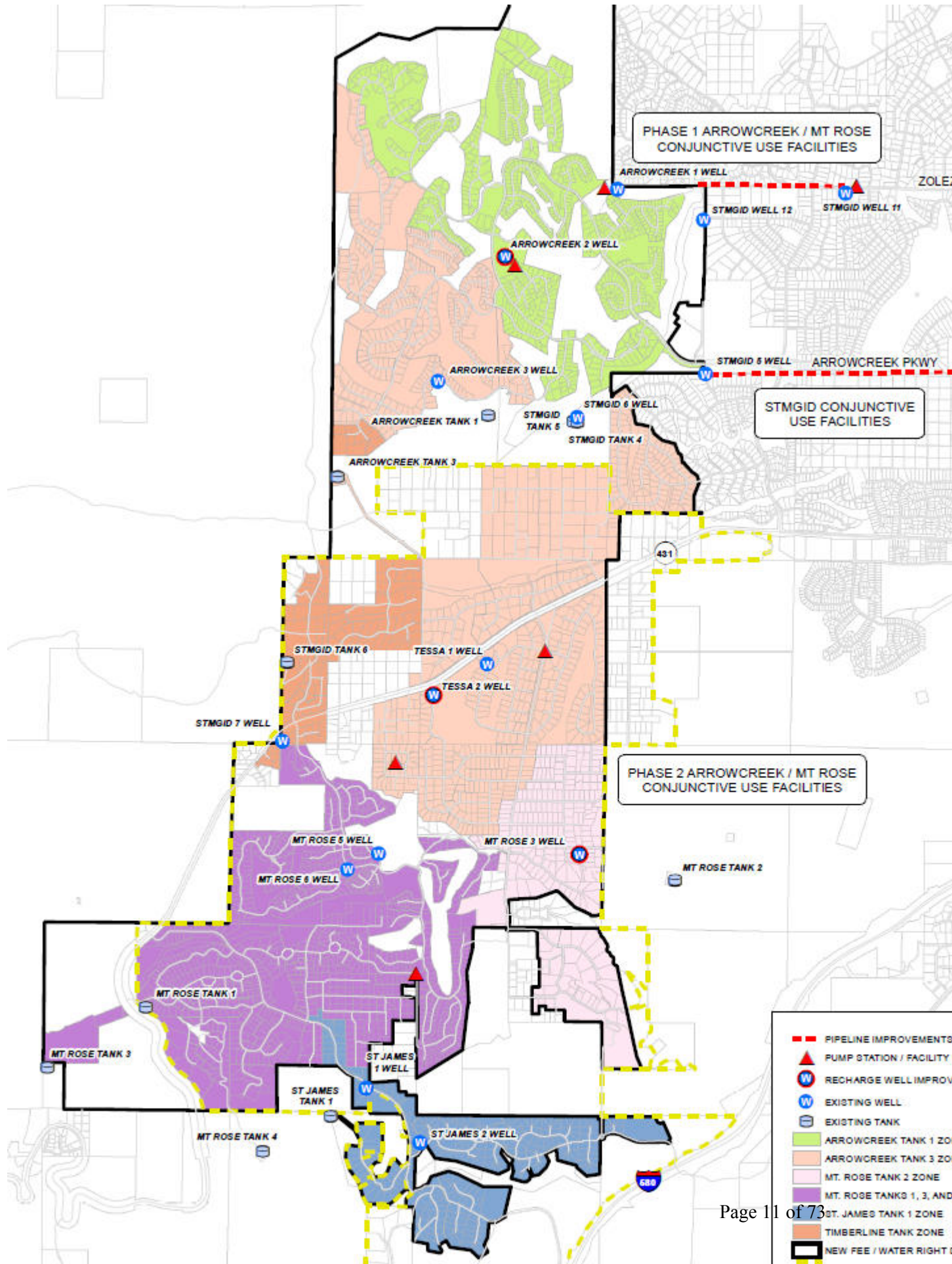
TMWA is now planning on spending \$2.8 million on new pipelines to pump treated surface water up to these areas with the goal of alleviating their municipal wells. This strategy should maximize the use of surface water when it's available — especially in the winter — and reduce groundwater pumping.

"With that additional water, we'll be able to turn off many of our municipal wells and allow the groundwater table to recover," he says.

One pipeline and pump station project is already out to bid and should be operational by November.

He says new development in that area will also be subject to more scrutiny, namely developers will have to offset any additional groundwater use with surface water.

"Our goal in all of this is to use some of the creek water for the surface water treatment plan, and treat that water to offset any additional groundwater pumping that might occur in the future as the result of new development."



A map of the Truckee Meadows Water Authority's plan to save groundwater in the Mt. Rose and Galena areas. Most households rely on wells for their water, but the ongoing drought has depleted supplies.

CREDIT TMWA

*Correction: In the audio portion, Enloe says there are 4,000 domestic wells in the affected area. That number should be 400.

Ask the RGJ: Why doesn't Reno use seawater from Calif.?



[Mark Robison](#), RGJ 9:29 a.m. PDT August 19, 2015



A worker climbs stairs earlier this year among 2,000 pressure vessels used to convert seawater into fresh water through reverse osmosis in the western hemisphere's largest desalination plant in Carlsbad, Calif.(Photo: Gregory Bull/AP)

CONNECT [TWEET](#) [LINKEDIN](#) COMMENT EMAIL MORE

Many readers have asked why Northern Nevada doesn't just pipe ocean water with the salt taken out from the Bay Area to Reno-Sparks, thus solving our water needs.

•**Short answer:** The need is not dire enough to justify the enormous expense and other almost insurmountable issues.

Full question

Among multiple queries I've received on this topic, Chris Jackson of Reno wrote: "I had an idea of taking [the city of Reno's] \$11 million surplus to put towards a desalination plant in the Bay

Area of California. Make a deal with California on building this plant — San Diego made a deal with Israel, which has built five such plants due to Turkey cutting off the Jordan River.

“But if we can get our own desalination plant, we can run a buried or above ground pipeline up the I-80 corridor and we could quite seemingly take away any fears of a drought.”

Full response

Let’s start with the San Diego desalination plant Jackson mentions.

It’s being constructed in Carlsbad, California, may open this fall and is [expected to provide 50 million gallons of drinking water a day](#) for San Diego County.

For comparison, all water company customers in [Reno-Sparks used about 58 million gallons a day in 2014](#).

Such a desalination plant would end Northern Nevada’s water concerns, so the idea is certainly worth looking at — at least until the cost is considered. The Carlsbad plant’s cost is pegged at \$1 billion, or about 100 times the city of Reno’s surplus.

The [San Jose Mercury News reported last year](#), “Desalinated water typically costs about \$2,000 an acre foot — roughly the amount of water a family of five uses in a year. The cost is about double that of water obtained from building a new reservoir or recycling wastewater, according to a 2013 study from the state Department of Water Resources. And its price tag is at least four times the cost of obtaining ‘new water’ from conservation methods — such as paying farmers to install drip irrigation, or providing rebates for homeowners to rip out lawns or buy water-efficient toilets.”

[RENO GAZETTE JOURNAL](#)

[Ask the RGJ: Reno growing season 2 months longer? Yes*](#)

[RENO GAZETTE JOURNAL](#)

[Ask the RGJ: Why no ‘cash for grass’ in Reno?](#)

Jim Thomas — executive director of hydrologic science at the Desert Research Institute — told me that’s not the only difficulty in realizing this dream.

“The cost is highly prohibitive to desalinate the water and if you had to pump it over the Sierra, the energy cost would kill you,” he said. “By the time you’re done, you’re looking at billions of dollars.”

The problems don't end there.

“Also, there are environmental issues people often don't look at,” Thomas said. “When you remove salts, you have to put a slurry back into the water. Trying to find an ecologically safe way to deal with the salts is difficult. The initial solution now is to take it back out in the ocean and let it dilute with the ocean water but there are environmental issues there as well.”

When there are no fresh-water alternatives, as in Israel and Saudi Arabia, the costs are worth it. In the American West, the costs become harder to justify.

During the big drought in the 1980s, [Santa Barbara spent \\$34 million for a desalination plant](#). It was finally finished in 1992, and by then the rains had returned, meaning no one wanted to pay for its high-priced water. The plant was shut and partially dismantled.

Australia built six desalination plants, at a cost of \$12 billion, to deal with its drought in the 2000s. Four were closed in 2012 when the drought ended.

Given these concerns, the chance of Northern Nevada pursuing a desalination solution is made even less likely because water planners here say we don't need more water yet.

A few participated in an email thread started last month by Tyrus W. Cobb asking local experts their opinions about desalination's feasibility for Northern Nevada. (I was included in the thread.)

Mark Foree, general manager of the Truckee Meadows Water Authority, said [a management plan published by the Western Regional Water Commission](#) identified sustainable water sources that are currently available that could be developed to meet the 20-year population forecast for this region and beyond.

“I think the project that was mentioned to bring ocean water to Nevada would be extremely expensive and it would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to permit,” Foree wrote.

Jim Smitherman, program manager for the Western Regional Water Commission, added to the thread that the potentially available water resources mentioned by Foree are based on estimates from the state engineer incorporating U.S. Geological Survey data from years of abundant water and years of drought.

“I have to think that the cost of a pipeline from the West Coast, a desalination plant and a power supply would far exceed the cost of alternatives to meet water demands in the next 20 years,” he said

Truckee Meadows Water Authority on drought and a growing population

- [Video](#)

•

[TMWA on drought and a growing population](#)



[Print Story](#)

Published: 8/19 6:39 pm

Share

Updated: 8/19 7:52 pm

SPARKS, Nev. (KRNV & MyNews4.com) - It's a tough situation to be in. The jobs seem to be flowing in Northern Nevada, but not the water in the Truckee River.

Eighty percent of the Truckee Meadows' water supply comes from the Truckee River. Right now, it's on drought supplies, which is intended to last 9-10 dry year cycles. But, can it handle more people?

That was one of the questions posed at the Nevada Drought Forum in Sparks, Wednesday. It's the last information gathering session between state leaders before Governor Brian Sandoval's Drought Summit in September.

E-dawn estimates a population boom. Sixty thousand new residents by 2020, thanks to new jobs and companies coming here like Tesla.

Truckee Meadows Water Authority director John Erwin says he'd would have been worried about all those new people under current conditions, but the future is stable.

"Particularly when you get to the adding more customers, you will at some point hit that wall, hit the end of the drought supply that you created," Erwin says, "But we've been embarking on a project now called the Truckee Water Operating Agreement for the past 25-30 years."

It's a whole re-operating agreement, which tackles water rights and triples the amount of drought storage.

Still, state officials gather for this drought forum to learn from each other. For example, Southern Nevada saw a 25 percent increase in population, but water consumption went down by 30%.

"So there's not this one to one correlation between population growth and increase in water usage," says John Enstminger,

general manager for the Southern Nevada Water Authority.

Enstminger said the biggest challenge with more a growing population were out-of-staters.

"So, they brought with them ideas from the Midwest, the Northeast of how to use water, and it was instilling in them that ethic that living in the Mojave desert that was most challenging," he says.

Education and conservation were huge factors for our southern neighbors, according to Enstminger. However, both water authority leaders understand each region in the silver state has their own set of challenges. This forum is a way to share what works and what doesn't.

"People just need to approach soundly, open dialogue, open conversation, and talk about what the issues are, and where we can find common ground to solve them," Erwin says.

Water deal called major milestone for Truckee River

[Jeff DeLong, RGJ](#) 4:01 p.m. PDT August 19, 2015



The Truckee River is seen passing under Interstate 80 interstate last May. Implementation of an agreement to overhaul management of the river's water is a step closer to reality after a water rights sale approved Wednesday.(Photo: Jason Bean/RGJ file)

10 CONNECT [11 TWEETLINKEDIN](#)COMMENTEMAILMORE

Decades of efforts pursuing a major overhaul in the way waters of the Truckee River are managed reached a milestone Wednesday when regional water officials agreed to a deal they said should allow the plan to be operating by 2016.

The long-pursued Truckee River Operating Agreement could be implemented by the end of this year after directors of the Truckee Meadows Water Authority agreed to sell up to 2,750 acre-feet of now "dormant" water rights to the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe.

The move, officials said, is expected to end the last remaining legal challenges to TROA, an agreement signed by the tribe, federal government, Nevada and California in 2008 but which lawsuits have kept in limbo since.

TROA is designed to bring much greater flexibility to the river's management and could more than double the amount of water stored in upstream reservoirs for use during droughts like the one being weathered now.

"This is a big deal for the community," said Mark Foree, the water authority's general manager. "TROA is a game-changer. It's definitely a game-changer."

Sale of the 2,750 acre-feet of water rights will be paid for by a \$7 million federal grant through the Desert Terminal Lakes Program, enacted by Congress in 2002. Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Chairman Vinton Hawley could not be reached Wednesday but the deal was scheduled to be considered by tribal officials Wednesday night and by elected officials from Reno, Sparks and Washoe County later in the month.

In a letter written Tuesday to Foree, Sen. Harry Reid – who has pushed for a final agreement guiding Truckee River management since 1986 – described the deal as one of pivotal importance.

"This transaction is a necessary step to finally trigger the dismissal of lawsuits and to commence the implementation of TROA by the end of this year," Reid wrote. "We are incredibly grateful to Truckee Meadows Water Authority for stepping up with its generous offer to bridge a very difficult problem that would have prevented the final implementation."

The deal satisfies a provision of the agreement that requires Reno, Sparks and Washoe County to provide 6,700 acre-feet in water rights to improve the river's water quality. Only about 3,900 acre-feet have been secured thus far and "this large shortage has caused the tribe to be concerned and to delay one of the final steps necessary for TROA implementation," John Erwin, the authority's director of natural resources, wrote in a report to the utility board.

Sale of the 2,750 acre-feet of water rights will close the gap and allow dismissal of remaining lawsuits, including the final active portion of a 1973 suit filed by the United States and Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe against the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District that went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, said authority counsel Gordon DePaoli. Also expected to be dismissed is a lawsuit filed by the tribe against the state of California over Truckee River waters in that state.

"These are the last steps" leading to an expected implementation of TROA, DePaoli said.

Federal Water Master Chad Blanchard said he is prepared to begin managing the river under the agreement's provisions once all legal issues are resolved.

"As soon as the judge says it's a go, it's a go," Blanchard said. "We're ready."

The water rights involved in the deal approved Wednesday are among more than 25,000 acre-feet acquired by the utility's private predecessor, Sierra Pacific Power Co., between the 1950s and 1970s. The water rights "are not a substantial and useful part" of the authority's water system and their sale will not impair its ability to meet water demand of its customers, Erwin's report said.

TROA is designed to permanently replace an antiquated and inflexible water management system that favors farmers, small hydroelectric plants and defunct paper mills, instead creating a far more flexible system of storing and using water from Truckee River reservoirs.

The agreement will end a requirement requiring release of water into the river to meet specific flows and allow more storage in upstream reservoirs for use during drought. Over time, potential drought storage will be more than doubled, from 27,000 acre-feet to 75,000 acre-feet, Erwin said.

Sparks Mayor Geno Martini, chairman of the water authority, praised a development expected to end years of frustration and uncertainty.

“Finally, this thing is getting done,” Martini said. “We’re so happy we’re at this point and we hope nothing else blows up.”

Water deal reached in management of Truckee River

Posted: Aug 20, 2015 10:06 AM PDT <em class="wnDate">Thursday, August 20, 2015 1:06 PM EDTUpdated: Aug 20, 2015 10:07 AM PDT <em class="wnDate">Thursday, August 20, 2015 1:07 PM EDT

RENO, Nev. (AP) - Water officials have finalized a deal regarding the Truckee River after decadeslong disputes over how the waters should be managed.

The Reno Gazette-Journal reports (<http://on.rgj.com/1hOkrNw>) Truckee Meadows Water Authority directors have agreed to sell up to 2,750 acre-feet of water rights to the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe. The long-pursued Truckee River Operating Agreement could now be implemented by next year.

The agreement was signed by the tribe, federal government, Nevada and California in 2008 but lawsuits have stalled its progress.

The sale of the water rights will allow the dismissal of the remaining lawsuits, including a suit filed in 1973 against the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District.

The agreement has been designed to permanently replace an inflexible water system and will allow more storage in upstream reservoirs for use during drought.

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

Copyright 2015 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed

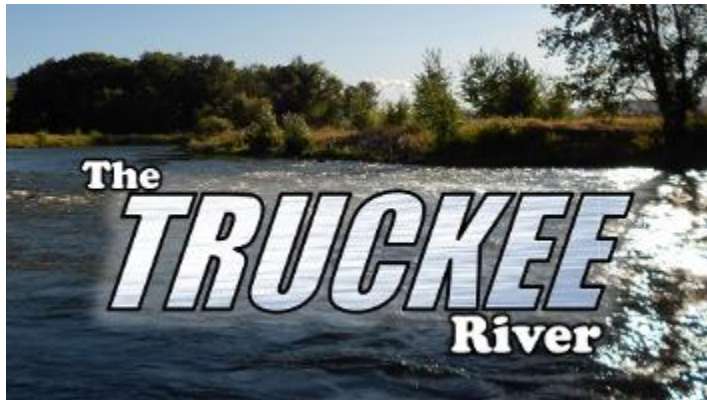
Water Deal Reached in Management of Truckee River

By: AP Email

Posted: Thu 12:22 PM, Aug 20, 2015

By: AP Email

- [Home](#)
- [/ Headlines List](#)
- [/ Article](#)



RENO, Nev. (AP) - Water officials have finalized a [deal](#) regarding the Truckee River after decadeslong disputes over how the waters should be managed.

The Reno Gazette-Journal reports Truckee Meadows [Water](#) Authority directors have agreed to sell up to 2,750 acre-feet of water rights to the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe. The long-pursued Truckee River Operating Agreement could now be implemented by next year.

The agreement was signed by the tribe, [federal government](#), Nevada and California in 2008 but lawsuits have stalled its progress.

The sale of the water rights will allow the dismissal of the remaining lawsuits, including a suit filed in 1973 against the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District.

The agreement has been designed to permanently replace an inflexible water [system](#) and will allow more storage in upstream reservoirs for use during drought.

Copyright 2015 Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.

Farmers Air Water Woes At Drought Forum

By JULIA RITCHEY · AUG 20, 2015

[Share](#) [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [Google+](#) [Email](#)



[](#)

The Nevada Drought Forum listens to testimony from affected farmers at a state hearing in Sparks.

Credit Julia Ritchey

A host of worried farmers testified at a panel gauging the effect of drought in Nevada at a state hearing in Sparks Wednesday. Reno Public Radio's Julia Ritchey reports.

Representatives from the cattle, wool and farming industries spoke at the Nevada Drought Forum, arguing against any further cutbacks in water allocation.

The farmers said the drought and subsequent water restrictions had slashed their incomes, increased operating costs and made it hard to plan for the future.

Leo Drozdoff chairs the panel and says they're collecting a candid picture of how the drought is affecting different sectors.

"We are getting very honest discussion about areas that are working well and areas that probably need some work."

State Climatologist Doug Boyle also testified at the hearing. He says 16 percent of the state is still categorized as being in deep drought, but it appears more likely that heavy rains may visit the state this winter.

"There's a 90 percent chance that those strong El Nino conditions will persist through this coming winter and an 85 percent chance that it will last through the spring," he says.

How much this will impact Nevada's rainfall is still uncertain, says Boyle, since weather patterns are volatile.

This is the final information-gathering session ahead of a Carson City drought summit next month. From there, the panel will make a report in November, which could include recommendations for tweaking the state's water laws.

Tags:

[Drought](#)
[agriculture](#)
[el nino](#)
[climate](#)

Water deal reached in management of Truckee River

Published Thursday, Aug. 20, 2015 | 10:02 a.m.

Updated Thursday, Aug. 20, 2015 | 10:02 a.m.

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Water officials have finalized a deal regarding the Truckee River after decadeslong disputes over how the waters should be managed.

The Reno Gazette-Journal reports (<http://on.rgj.com/1hOkrNw>) Truckee Meadows Water Authority directors have agreed to sell up to 2,750 acre-feet of water rights to the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe. The long-pursued Truckee River Operating Agreement could now be implemented by next year.

The agreement was signed by the tribe, federal government, Nevada and California in 2008 but lawsuits have stalled its progress.

The sale of the water rights will allow the dismissal of the remaining lawsuits, including a suit filed in 1973 against the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District.

The agreement has been designed to permanently replace an inflexible water system and will allow more storage in upstream reservoirs for use during drought.

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

Putting stock in trading water at forum

- [Article](#)
- [Comments \(0\)](#)

6

[Share on email](#) [Share on print](#)

[Smaller](#)[Larger](#)

Expand Photo AP | AP

FILE - In this May 18, 2015, file photo, plants grow out of dry cracked ground that was once underwater near Boulder Beach in the Lake Mead National Recreation Area near Boulder City, Nev. A panel gauging the effect of drought in Nevada is due to hear from farmers, tribes, environmentalists, water officials and others at a state Department of Agriculture hearing in Sparks. State Climatologist Doug Boyle is also expected to update current conditions during the Nevada Drought Forum on Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2015. (AP Photo/John Locher, File)

Expand Photo AP | AP

FILE - In this May 18, 2015, file photo, water intake pipes that were once underwater sit above the water line along Lake Mead in the Lake Mead National Recreation Area near Boulder City, Nev. A panel gauging the effect of drought in Nevada is due to hear from farmers, tribes, environmentalists, water officials and others at a state Department of Agriculture hearing in Sparks. State Climatologist Doug Boyle is also expected to update current conditions during the Nevada Drought Forum meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2015. (AP Photo/John Locher, File)

Expand Photo AP | AP

FILE - In this May 18, 2015, file photo, a partially submerged tire sits along the shore of Lake Mead in the Lake Mead National Recreation Area near Boulder City, Nev. Federal water managers are projecting Lake Mead will drop to levels in January 2017 that could force supply cuts to Arizona and Nevada. State Climatologist Doug Boyle is also expected to update current conditions during the Nevada Drought Forum meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2015. (AP Photo/John Locher, File)

«

• 1 of 3 images

»

By Anne Knowles

For the Appeal

SPARKS — Water users in Eureka County’s Diamond Valley are going to soon be testing a market for trading water in the same way shares of companies are traded on a stock exchange.

The goal is to try out a more flexible way for managing and using water that avoids some of the pitfalls of Nevada’s century old prior-appropriation water rights system, especially in areas such as Diamond Valley, where water is both seriously over pumped and over appropriated.

The share-based market and other ideas to deal with the state’s ongoing drought were discussed here Wednesday at a crowded meeting of the Nevada Drought Forum.

The forum was created in April by Gov. Brian Sandoval to investigate ways to address Nevada's water scarcity and to deliver a report by November.

In July, the forum heard from Nevada's businesses, including casinos, residential developers and manufacturing. At Wednesday's meeting, representatives from agriculture, conservation groups, several tribes, and water utilities and authorities discussed their concerns about the drought and made recommendations for improving the state's response.

Michael Young, a water economist from Australia, where water shares are now traded, made the day's final presentation, and gave a quick overview of how the market works.

Essentially, he said, water rights are unbundled, held in central registers, and share holders have water accounts much like a bank account. Senior water rights holders receive more shares than junior rights holders and each share is equal. Water management plans for each basin or area are developed to determine how much water is allocated on a seasonal basis.

"If you want to trade your water, you log into your account and trade it," said Young. "Behind all that is a metering system that tracks use."

In July, Jason King, the state engineer, declared Diamond Valley a critical management area, the first-ever CMA designation which requires the basin create a water management plan.

"Growing up in prior appropriation, when I first heard about (water shares), it blew my mind," said King, during the meeting. "I told (Young) if you can make it work in Diamond Valley we'll listen to you. It's something Nevada should consider and those words don't roll easily off my tongue."

Steve Walker, a water consultant and lobbyist, is working with Eureka County on its management plan. During a break in the meeting, Walker said the goal is to deliver a water management plan by January 2017 so any changes required to Nevada law to enable the new water market could be made during the 2017 legislative session.

The upcoming session was discussed a lot as it's assumed at least some of the forum's recommendations would involve changing existing water law.

"I feel like a large portion of cases that go to court are due to a lack of legislative intent," said Bruce Scott, chairman, Board for Financing Water Projects. "Tinkering with water law is dangerous, but I think it's essential. It was really disappointing that the past legislature ended without any clarification of water law, which was universally supported. Politics gets in the way."

But others were reluctant to see water law fiddled with.

“I’m a real fan of Nevada water law as written,” said Floyd Rathbone, a rancher. “It’s served its purpose for years so our concern is that short-term fixes in reaction to the drought will become retroactive reform.”

One thing ranchers would like to see change is how the Bureau of Land Management monitors grazing permits.

Jake Tibbitts, natural resources manager for Eureka County, said the BLM is limiting the number of cattle that can graze on a permit because of the state drought, despite the fact the range is healthy due to spring rains.

“There is a difference between hydrologic drought and vegetative drought and many of the rangelands are not in drought. It’s a record year for forage,” said Tibbitts.

Others agreed.

“We have some of the most abundant vegetation out there,” said David Stix Jr., a Fernley rancher with five BLM grazing permits. “We’re not asking for more, we just want to get back to the numbers allowed by the permits. The BLM is totally inept and cannot manage the land.”

Farmers said they have worked for generations to improve water use efficiency, from moving to drip irrigation to installing monitors, but that many of the technological improvements are cost prohibitive, especially for the smaller farmer already struggling due to the ongoing drought.

The hardest hit area is arguably Pershing County and Lovelock, where farmers haven’t received any water for nearly three years.

“There are economic and fiscal impacts, especially in agriculture and especially in Lovelock, where there is a loss in income and a loss in tax revenue,” said Mike Baughman, executive director, Humboldt River Basin Water Authority. “We’re starting to see conflicts arise between ag users, between senior and junior water rights holders and between groundwater and surface.”

Baughman said he’d like to see storage added to the Humboldt River basin, which relies on Rye Patch reservoir.

“We have a lack of upstream storage and that is a serious problem,” he said.

Everyone was hopeful the ensuing El Niño would bring much needed precipitation and the state would work to capture it and recharge the state's stressed aquifers.

"I hope this El Niño just kicks our butts to the point where I am going to have to learn how to swim," said Darrell Purcell with the Nevada Farm Bureau.

The water utilities and authorities in the north, which included Truckee Meadows Water Authority and Carson City Utilities Division, said they had asked for voluntary water use reduction and users had responded.

In Dayton and Mound House, for example, water consumption in the first half of the year dropped 15 percent from the same period a year earlier, said Scott Fleckenstein, the water superintendent for Lyon County.

Darren Schulz, Carson City's public works director, said his department is estimating water use would drop between 7 to 9 percent since asking residents to cut back earlier this year

Reno growth has positive, adverse impacts on Lake Tahoe

- [Article](#)
- [Comments \(0\)](#)

[3](#)

[Share on email](#) [Share on print](#)
[Smaller](#)[Larger](#)

LAKE TAHOE — Reno is changing and growing at a breakneck speed, and along with it, so is its economy.

This was the message Mike Kazmierski, president of Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada (EDAWN), gave during a recent luncheon sponsored by the Tahoe Prosperity Center and Lake Tahoe South Shore Chamber of Commerce.

Kazmierski said with both electric car titan Tesla and Switch, a technology company, coming to the Reno-Sparks area and the construction at the 107,000-acre Tahoe Reno Industrial Center business park, 52,400 jobs are expected to be created in the next five years.

Switch, a massive data storage company, relocated its operations from Las Vegas to Reno because of the area's growing reputation as a business hub.

This is on top of the growth Reno-Sparks saw in 2014 when 27 companies set up shop and an additional seven expanded. Tesla alone would employ some 6,500 people when its plant is fully operational.

EDAWN spearheaded the effort to gather data on the impact of the economy over the next 10 years in collaboration with neighboring county and city governments.

Overall, EDAWN projects a 4.5 percent growth in jobs and development the Reno-Sparks are between 2015 and 2019. Kazmierski said this includes manufacturing, distribution and service jobs along with an increase in housing. EDAWN's projections include Washoe, Douglas, Lyon, Carson City and Storey counties in Nevada.

LAKE TAHOE IMPACTS

The growth has a mixed impact on both South and North Lake Tahoe, Kazmierski said.

The downside has implications for the basin's talented workforce pool in the area. Kazmierski said the companies coming in will have an advantage in terms of pay. The \$10-\$12 per-hour wage will become the minimum, with many companies likely to offer higher pay packages.

Relocating or heading down the hill for a job is more desirable than driving up and down the hill every day, especially for those who live in Carson Valley.

"The workforce you counted on or had support from down in the valley is going to be more attracted to opportunities as Reno-Sparks grows," Kazmierski said.

Kazmierski said the best way to deal with the solution was to jump in front of it rather than react.

"If you haven't thought about the impact on your workforce, the sooner you do that, the better," Kazmierski said.

He stressed that a lot of the companies will want a skilled labor force.

The upside, Kazmierski said, would be increased visitor spending in Lake Tahoe, especially for those companies that move or relocate their corporate headquarters to Reno.

This means expanded air services for the area.

"We (Reno-Sparks) have better air service for a community our size than any other place in the country. Obviously the tourist has a big part of that but it is growing."

Both South and North Lake will play into the "lifestyle and play" equations for people relocating from other areas, rather than as the main purpose.

Most companies look at the bottom-line purpose of setting up shop, hiring or relocating people and handle resources and government requirements.

IMPACT OF MILLENNIALS

Quality of life plays into attracting people who are geared toward biking, hiking and other mountain and water activities. The other scenario plays into relocating the main corporate headquarters to Reno, which involves relocation of the chief executive offer.

Millennials, who represent approximately one-third of the nation's workforce, will look at Tahoe as a major quality of life indicator. Kazmierski said that EDawn has plans to attract that population to the Reno area by leveraging Tahoe's appeal.

Betty "B" Gorman, president of the Lake Tahoe South Shore Chamber of Commerce, agreed that the major impact would be workforce-related.

Gorman said Tahoe Prosperity Center has research showing 10,000 people moving over Spooner Summit or Kingsbury Grade a day for work.

She said there are businesses who can't fill job spots to date, whether it's with the city of South Lake Tahoe or the various resorts and service industries.

Sandy Evans Hall, with North Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce, said the entire basin has to take proactive approach.

"We are looking at what we can do as a collaborative," Hall said. "This is not something we should be afraid of but something we need to embrace."

Other business-savvy people at Lake Tahoe see similar concerns with Reno's impact on the basin, including Jamie Orr with Tahoe Mountain Lab, a small-business co-working space.

"That's a very legitimate fear and if we do nothing we will that happen," Orr said last week. "However if we are very savvy about how we position ourselves, we have some advantage for some industries."

Examples include biomedical, environmental policy and water quality.

"As long we keep pushing our strengths and assets, I think we are going to be OK," Orr said. "Ultimately what is happening in Reno will be a huge benefit to the whole region."

TMWA: Agreement Would More Than Double Drought Reserves

AUGUST 20, 2015 BY [BOB CONRAD](#) [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

[Share](#)
[Tweet](#)
[Pin](#)
[Share](#)
[+1](#)

The [Truckee Meadows Water Authority](#) (TMWA) board met yesterday to discuss myriad topics, mainly drought-focused.

It was identified that the Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA) — [signed in 2008](#) but held up in court since ([watch video](#)) — may finally be given the go ahead. If so, the agreement will more than double TMWA’s existing drought reserves in upstream reservoirs.

“When (TROA) is in operation, not only will how the river is managed change, but we’ll be able to save about double the drought storage as we have now,” said Kim Mazeres of TMWA. “It is a very good agreement. We just need to get it out of the court system and get it implemented.”

In a letter submitted to TMWA, U.S. Senator Harry Reid said:

“This transaction is a necessary step to finally trigger the dismissal of lawsuits and to commence the implementation of TROA by the end of this year.... Not only will the implementation of TROA provide the Truckee Meadows with very favorable drought rules to allow for more upstream storage for water for use by the residents of the Truckee Meadows, but it will provide flexibility to cope with changing weather patterns that this area has been experiencing in recent years.”

In later testimony, TMWA’s Laine Christman said that there is enough storage right now in upstream reservoirs for the Truckee Meadows to make it through another year of drought.

The board is expected to hear from TMWA staff at the next board meeting near-term scenarios about the current drought — what to do if the drought gets worse.

The board discussed conservation possibilities via turf buy-back programs, plumbing code changes, landscaping codes, dealing with HOAs, changing rate structures and encouraging more xeriscaping.

“As it was requested by the board, we have been working on some near-term scenarios, that, for example, what happens if we get a year like this for more years,” said TMWA General Manager Mark Foree.

Those scenarios are expected to be discussed at the next meeting.

In other TMWA board news:



- Reno City Councilmember Jenny Brekhuis said the **homeless encampments along the Truckee River** are out of control. She suggested the river bike path may need to be closed at night. Sparks Mayor Geno Martini said Sparks should be involved in those discussions. “The homeless camps are just out of control on the river,” Brekhuis said. “Arguably the worst spot right now is adjacent to the Glendale plant. It is a no man’s land.... Along the river side of the Glendale plant is camp after camp, trash after trash.... A city does not let a situation occur like what’s going on along the river, and I’ve been bringing it up to the (City) Council for two years, and we have just not gotten there. I’m starting another dialogue with other folks.”
- County Commissioner Vaughn Hartung made note that TMWA has been **beat up in the press** but stressed that TMWA and **customers have consistently reached voluntary conservation targets**. “Recently, TMWA has been beat up in a number of places by the RGJ editorial board on us not having a drought management plan,” Hartung said. “We’ve really tried very hard here. I’d like to thank the ratepayers. You guys have done a phenomenal job, and the continued support and participation for water reduction measures has been amazing. I think the ratepayers are really great, and they deserve kudos.”



- Mayor Martini **expressed again his frustration with comments** made last week at the Reno City Council meeting. He referred to them as “degrading and derogatory. When I read them, I was angry. I’m very, very disappointed in what happened there, especially the people that are on this board making comments about the drought study, which they approved 100 percent. When we have great people in this county and

these cities that are making a concerted effort to save water, we should be congratulating them, not kicking the board (and) TMWA in the butt.”

- Councilmember **David Bobzien apologized** for any offense taken, saying no disrespect was intended toward his colleagues on the TMWA board. “I think the City (of Reno) recognizes that we have a responsibility to move ahead with the things that we can do not wanting to wait ultimately for a TMWA drought declaration to happen because, of course, that may only happen under the most severe circumstances,” he said.

Master gardener: Save water, garden and landscape

Ashley Andrews 12:08 p.m. PDT August 21, 2015



Enriching our city with gardens and landscapes to improve quality of life is not an irresponsible use of water.(Photo: Provided to the RGJ)

5 CONNECT [2 TWEETLINKEDIN](#)COMMENTEMAILMORE

One of my goals as a gardener is balance. I strive to balance my dream garden and the one I have time to plant and maintain. I seek harmony between what is beautiful in the landscape and what is functional there. I think every gardener shares the quest for balance. For example, a friend of mine holds a yearly argument with herself pitting her desire to grow every single variety of heirloom tomato versus her family's capacity for tomato consumption. Nevada's drought

provides area gardeners with another balancing act to consider: the equilibrium between beautifying, enjoying and cooling our urban environment and responsible water use.

A thought that runs through my mind as I walk the water-wise tightrope is this: enriching our city with gardens and landscapes to improve quality of life is not an irresponsible use of water. What is irresponsible is excessively or improperly irrigating them. Responsible water use is achieved through proper water management, and that can be attained without changing a single plant. Extreme makeovers are not needed; it is possible to save water *and* your garden and landscape. To learn how, contact Cooperative Extension.

We can help you discover how much water your plants need, the most efficient delivery method for that moisture and the proper schedule on which to irrigate. Our Master Gardener volunteers are available for consultations Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Washoe County Cooperative Extension office, 4955 Energy Way in Reno. Stop by, call 775-336-0265, send an email to mastergardeners@unce.unr.edu or visit our website, www.livingwithdrought.com.

We also offer educational events to foster proper water management. This fall, our Grow Your Own, Nevada! series has been crafted to help you navigate Nevada's drought. Classes, held 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, include:

- Sept. 1: Growing Fruit Trees and Edible Landscapes
- Sept. 3: Lawn Alternatives to Protect Your Trees
- Sept. 8: Save Water *and* Your Landscape
- Sept. 10: IPM Techniques for New Beekeepers
- Sept. 15: Aquaponics
- Sept. 17: Improving Your Soil
- Sept. 22: Garden Clean-Up for Pest Prevention
- Sept. 24: Composting Kitchen and Garden Waste

Course instructors feature horticulture specialist Heidi Kratsch, author of "Water-Efficient Landscaping in the Intermountain West," along with horticulturist and certified arborist Wendy Hanson Mazet, urban integrated pest management and pesticide safety program coordinator Melody Hefner and integrated pest management extension educator Joy Paterson. Classes will be held live at our Reno office and via interactive video to our offices in Carson City, Elko, Gardnerville, Hawthorne, Lovelock, Tonopah, Winnemucca and Yerington. Class fees vary by location. For more information or to register, visit www.growyourownnevada.com.

For Reno attendees, fees are \$15 per class or \$60 for all eight classes. A promotional code is available to waive class fees for Washoe County K-12 teachers attending in Reno. Simply email a copy of your school ID to andrewsa@unce.unr.edu to receive it. Another perk for Reno attendees is an opportunity to receive a free book. Students in the Sept. 3 ("Lawn Alternatives to Protect Your Trees") or Sept. 8 ("Save Water *and* Your Landscape") classes in Reno will receive a copy of "Water-Efficient Landscaping in the Intermountain West."

Ashley Andrews is the horticulture assistant with Cooperative Extension

Tahoe funding debated at summit

Jeff DeLong, RGJ 5:10 p.m. PDT August 24, 2015



(Photo: Andy Barron/RGJ)

CONNECT [2](#) [TWEET](#) [LINKEDIN](#) [COMMENT](#) [EMAIL](#) [MORE](#)

With Lake Tahoe remaining at risk from major wildfires that could undo much important progress in environmental restoration, Congress should proceed in passing a realistic funding package to help address the danger quickly, a California congressman said during Monday's Lake Tahoe Summit.

Republican Rep. Tom McClintock was joined on the stage by Republican Sen. Dean Heller of Nevada and Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California, both of whom pressed for a bigger spending bill that would finance a broader spectrum of environmental projects they said are needed to protect a national treasure.

The politicians gathered on Tahoe's shore for the 19th Lake Tahoe Summit to assess and celebrate years of costly efforts to remedy a host of ecological problems faced at the landmark lake.

The event occurred as two bills are being considered to provide the federal government's share of funds for future restoration projects. One, introduced by Nevada's and California's senators, would authorize up to \$415 million over 10 years to fund a broad array of projects. The other, introduced in the House by McClintock and Republican Rep. Mark Amodei of Nevada, would authorize up to \$60 million over a decade, with the money focused on wildfire danger and invading plants and animals that threaten the lake.

After three previous attempts to reauthorize the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act failed to clear Congress since 2009, a pared-down spending bill addressing the lake's most immediate threats makes sense, McClintock said.

“Talk without action is just talk,” McClintock said, adding that 80 percent of Tahoe’s forests are overgrown and at risk of erupting into major, destructive wildfires at any time. Aggressive thinning of forests is needed to address a “desperately urgent” threat, he said.

“If a super fire ... were to strike the Tahoe Basin, it could decimate the lake and its surroundings for a generation to come,” McClintock said.

Heller, who hosted Monday’s summit, and Feinstein said the larger bill is needed to not only address fire danger and invasive species but the many other important environmental goals around the lake. That legislation, Heller said, would provide up to \$150 million to address fire danger and \$45 million for invasive species projects – more than the House bill would for both priority issues.

Since then-President Bill Clinton hosted the first Lake Tahoe Summit in 1997, some \$1.8 billion has been spent on environmental restoration projects by the federal government, the two states, local government and the private sector and “it has made a difference,” Feinstein said, adding that the task must continue.

“We are going to do this job,” Feinstein said.

Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval had been scheduled to attend the summit but canceled to instead meet with President Barack Obama in Las Vegas. The two were expected to discuss the potential listing of the greater sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act.

Past conflicts between Nevada and California over Lake Tahoe appear at an end and the states’ cooperation is in contrast to the ongoing polarization in Washington, D.C., said California Gov. Jerry Brown.

“There was lots of conflict and that conflict is resolved,” Brown said.

Landmark Truckee River Deal Closer To Reality

By JULIA RITCHEY · 5 HOURS AGO

Share [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [Google+](#) [Email](#)



[](#)

The Truckee River Operating Agreement between Nevada and California is one step closer to being finalized. The deal will allow Nevada to better manage its water flows.

A major water agreement between California and Nevada is one step closer to reality more than three decades after it was first proposed. Reno Public Radio's Julia Ritchey spoke with John Erwin of the Truckee Meadows Water Authority to explain the significance of the deal and how it will help in future droughts.

Listen

Listen

Listening...

2:45

Listen to the interview.

The Truckee River Operating Agreement will allow Nevada to better manage its waters, Erwin says.

"It firms up the allocation of the waters of the Truckee system," says Erwin. "Ninety percent of the water will come to the state of Nevada, 10 percent of the waters of the Truckee system will go to California — that is huge."

The agreement will also help during future drought cycles by allowing TMWA to store double or triple the amount of water in upstream reservoirs.

"It allows us to reoperate the reservoirs, remanage the flows, all the while protecting and preserving all water right holders' interests and water rights," Erwin says.

A major hurdle was lifted last week when TMWA's board approved the transfer of some water rights to the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, a key stakeholder in the agreement.

Erwin says after a few more legal filings between the two states, the operating agreement should be in place by early next year.

"It's been a long time coming," he says, "it's been decades waiting for just this event to take place."

Why Can't TMWA Prevent Golf Course Watering?



Letter to the Editor(Photo: RGJ)

CONNECT [TWEET](#) [LINKEDIN](#) 1 COMMENT [EMAIL](#) [MORE](#)

The public golf course between Mira Loma and Pembroke is closed. The golf course is still being watered right where the Southeast Connector will be.

I called TMWA and reported this waste of water to a conservationist. I was told, and I quote, "we have no authority over the golf course," and I would have to call the golf course.

If this is true the name "Truckee Meadows Water Authority" is a joke. It implies Reno, Sparks and Washoe County are under its water authority. The name should be changed to reflect what the agency really controls. It appears now they don't control anything but their paychecks.

Saving water during this alleged drought is a farce with this kind of waste plus the fact that building permits are being issued at an increasing rate and that takes water. If, in fact, there is a drought, then all businesses, agencies or whatever located in Reno, Sparks or Washoe County should be under the same authority, rather than some can do what they want and the rest of us have to conserve so that they can!

Howard Espin, Reno

-
-
- [Share on facebook](#)
- [Share on twitter](#)
- [Share on linkedin](#)
- [Share on email](#)
- [Share on print](#)
- [More Sharing Services](#)
- [0](#)

Official: Californians conserving water in drought

Posted: Aug 27, 2015 1:04 AM PDT <em class="wnDate">Thursday, August 27, 2015 4:04 AM EDTUpdated: Aug 27, 2015 1:04 AM PDT <em class="wnDate">Thursday, August 27, 2015 4:04 AM EDT

By SCOTT SMITH
Associated Press

FRESNO, Calif. (AP) - State officials say strong water conservation figures for July show Californians are beginning to understand the dire need to cut back in a fourth year of drought.

Felicia Marcus, chair of the State Water Resources Control Board, says that regulators are now turning their focus to the communities failing to conserve.

Officials are visiting cities that haven't responded to Gov. Jerry Brown's mandate to use 25 percent less water.

On Thursday, the state water board is releasing the latest figures.

In June cities statewide conserved by 27 percent.

Some of California's largest cities say they've again surpassed their targets.

Water agencies can be fined up to \$10,000 a day if they fail to comply.

Marcus says she believes that peer pressure and the bully pulpit is more effective than fines.

Copyright 2015 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

TMWA Customers Reduce Water Use By 16 Percent in July

By: [Chris Buckley - Email](#)

Posted: Fri 9:59 PM, Aug 28, 2015

By: [Chris Buckley - Email](#)



- [Home](#)
- [/ Headlines List](#)
- [/ Article](#)



- **Related Links**
- [TMWA Water Conservation Tips](#)

RENO, Nev. - [Water](#) demand from Truckee Meadows Water Authority customers in July was 16% lower than July 3013. This summer, TMWA asked customers to reduce their water use by 10%. Over the past three months, they've seen an average reduction of 14%.

"It's great because we had a goal of saving 5,000 acre-feet of water in our upstream reserves and we're about 95% of the way there," said TMWA Senior Hydrologist Bill Hauck. "[Customers](#) have exceeded our expectations this summer and when you have 400,000 customers, the little things can make a big difference."

He says drought reserves are in good shape.

"We've only used about a quarter of our total drought reserves and we're basically through August," he said. "Regardless of what happens this winter we're going to go into next year in really good shape as far as drought reserves are concerned."

TMWA is asking customers to continue their conservation efforts at home.

"Every drop of water that we are not using today is water we can have in storage for tomorrow or next week or next year in case its dry," Hauck said. "So really every gallon we're saving is water we're not having to release from upstream to meet customer demand."

For tips on saving water go to <https://tmwa.com/conservation/checklist>

Good News: TMWA hosting September tours

[Tyler Hersko](#), 8:07 a.m. PDT August 29, 2015

GOOD NEWS!

A DAILY DOSE

Good News(Photo: RGJ File)

1 CONNECT [3 TWEET](#)[LINKEDIN](#)COMMENTEMAILMORE

Truckee Meadows Water Authority is inviting customers and the public to learn about water during tours of two of the company's facilities.

Residents will be able to learn about the area's water treatment, distribution and purification processes during the Chalk Bluff Water Treatment Plant tours. Those tours will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 8 at 1 p.m.; Tuesday, Sept 15 at 3 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 22 at 1 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 26 at 10 a.m.; or Tuesday, Sept. 29 at 1 p.m.

Tours for the Verdi Hydroelectric Power Generation Plant, which has provided clean and renewable energy to the region for over 100 years, will also be held next month. Verdi tours will take place on Wednesdays at 2 p.m. on Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30.

Participants for both tours must be at least 18 years of age. Email rsvp@tmwa.com or call 834-8290 to reserve your spot. Each tour is limited to 20 people



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT NEWS RELEASE
Carson City District

Release Date: 08/31/15
Contacts: 775-885-6107

News Release No. CCDO 15-56

BLM seeks input on Truckee Meadows Water Authority Proposal

Carson City, Nev. - The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Sierra Front Field Office is seeking input from the public on a proposal by the Truckee Meadows Water Authority to install a 200,000 gallon water tank and construct a 762 foot access road on public lands, in Washoe County, Nevada. Public comments will be accepted through September 14, 2015.

The BLM would issue a right-of-way for the facilities, for a term of 30 years. The water tank is required as a part of the previously approved Master Plan. The project would result in approximately 1.8 acres of permanent disturbance. To evaluate this proposal, the BLM will be preparing an environmental assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act to assess the potential direct, indirect and cumulative effects from the project.

The documents, maps, and information on how to comment can be found on-line: <http://1.usa.gov/1JHi5Gk>

For more information contact Brian Buttazoni, Project Manager at: 775-885-6000.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western States including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's mission is to manage and conserve the public lands for the enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield. In Fiscal Year 2014, the BLM generated \$5.2 billion in receipts from public lands.

--BLM--

Carson City District 5665 Morgan Mill Road Carson City, NV 89703

Last updated: 09-01-2015

[USA.GOV](#) | [No Fear Act](#) | [DOI](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [About BLM](#) | [Notices](#) | [Social Media Policy](#)
[Privacy Policy](#) | [FOIA](#) | [Kids Policy](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Home](#)

Some Verdi water contaminated with E. Coli; no use order

Updated:

[More Sharing Services](#)

0

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Washoe County health officials are warning residents in a section of Verdi west of Reno to refrain from using water from the public system after it was found to be contaminated with E. Coli.

County Health District Spokesman Phil Ulibarri said Monday the no-use order applies to the River Belle Mobile Home Park, River Belle Market and U.S. Post Office in Verdi.

Ulibarri says the only thing the water should be used for is irrigation and flushing toilets. He says that in addition to not drinking it, the water shouldn't be used for showering, washing dishes or pet consumption.

Ulibarri says they don't know how the bacteria got into the water.

Residents infected with the bacteria could experience dehydration, nausea and vomiting. He urged anyone with symptoms to be tested for E. Coli.

Manager: Solutions in works for Verdi water contamination

- [Video](#)

•

[No Contact order due to E.Coli Water Contamination in Verdi](#)

Reported by: Van Tieu
Email: vtieu@mynews4.com



[Print Story](#)

Published: 9/01 6:38 pm

Share

Updated: 9/01 6:43 pm

VERDI, Nev. (KRNV & MyNews4.com) - Turn a nozzle in your house, and out comes water. Just think about how much it plays a role in your everyday life. Now imagine life without it.

"No showers. Don't brush your teeth. No laundry. Don't turn on the water cooler," Liz Berry lists how her day-to-day life has changed.

She's one of a couple of hundred people without clean water in Verdi due to E. coli contamination. The water system that's contaminated serves the River Belle Trailer Park, River Belle Market, and the Verdi Post office. All three properties use the same water system that's sourced by a spring.

Berry says she noticed the water looked like it had rust in it a couple of weeks ago. Late last week, the Washoe County District Health Department gave residents a 'boil' order, now it's been upgraded to a 'no contact.'

There's no word on how the spring became contaminated deep below the surface. The health district says it will continue testing to determine if the E.coli found in the water came from a human or animal source.

"We will not allow them to use the spring at all ever again. It's contaminated it doesn't matter the magnitude of it. It's contaminated by E. Colie," says Bob Sack, the Division Director for Environmental Health at the Washoe County Health District Department.

The focus right now is getting clean water to the residents.

The property manager is supplying residents with cases of bottled water and temporary showers.

However, Berry says she's concerned for elderly neighbors and pointed out that the showers were not wheelchair accessible. She also says communication with her property manager has been lacking.

"He wrote a hand written note that said, 'Code red- don't water the plants and take short showers,' which completely conflicted with the information that the health department gave us," she says. She says she feels like the residents' safety is not a priority.

Ray Labouyer is the property manager. He lives in the trailer park too, and says he's doing the best he can.

"If they have any questions I answer them. Then, I move on because I'm trying to be 20 places at once right now," he says.

Labouyer says he's dealing with problems as they come along, including the shower ramps. By the time our news crew left the property, ramps were already being installed. A short-term solution is also in the works.

"There are four white tanks. We're going to pull water from across the street. We're borrowing it. Thank god we've got good neighbors," Labouyer says.

River Oak and the **Truckee Meadows Water Authority** are sharing the water for the short term fix. It will be flowing by Wednesday, along with a boil order.

As for a long term solution, Labouyer says the owners have decided to dig a new well, pending approved permits from the county.

It could take weeks for the long-term solution to be approved. The health district says the owners have been cooperative

Washoe County Announcement

Top 5 things you need to know about the Washoe County Board of Commissioners meeting Truckee River Operating Agreement will help provide more water storage during times of drought.

Media Release
For Immediate Release
www.washoecounty.us

Contact: Chris Ciarlo
cciarlo@washoecounty.us
775.328.2070

Reno, Nevada. Aug. 25, 2015. The following report highlights several important agenda items from the Washoe County Board of Commissioners meeting Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2015. Videos of County Commission meetings are replayed regularly on WCTV (Charter Ch. 193). You may also watch [videos-on-demand online](#).

1. The Board approved an agreement to satisfy the obligation of Washoe County, the city of Reno, the city of Sparks, and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, pursuant to the Truckee River Operating Agreement to provide 6,700 acre-feet of water rights. [The Truckee River Operating Agreement \(TROA\)](#) between Sparks, Reno, Washoe County and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe will provide more water storage during drought. The agreement is the result of extensive cooperative efforts between California, Nevada, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation, Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA), Reno, Sparks and Washoe County to modify the operation of this system for the benefit of all involved.

Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV) provided a written statement to the Board of County Commissioners which said in part, “Not only will the implementation of TROA provide the Truckee Meadows with very favorable drought rules to allow for more upstream storage of water for use by residents of the Truckee Meadows, but it will provide flexibility to cope with changing weather patterns that this area has been experiencing in recent years.”

The Truckee River System consists of Lake Tahoe, the Truckee River, its tributaries, reservoirs, and Pyramid Lake where the river ends. The TROA will modernize the archaic operation of the system to improve the ability to manage the system and will provide opportunities for increased water storage during times of drought. The agreement will also improve water quality and increase habitat within the lower system of the Truckee River.

2. The Board approves a resolution proposing to consolidate Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District with Sierra Fire Protection District. The Board [approved a resolution](#) to allow consolidation of the Sierra Fire Protection District with Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD). The consolidated district will be known solely as Truckee Meadows Fire

Protection District. The only change taxpayers will notice is the name change on their tax bills. Chief Moore said the consolidation will not affect existing tax rates.

Both fire districts have been operating as one district since July 2012, but each district is a separate taxing entity. Consolidation of the two entities will save taxpayers money and simplify fiscal and administrative processes. TMFPD Chief Charlie Moore said the cost of preparing two sets of books and paying for two audits is unnecessary. The Board will hold a hearing on Sept. 25, 2015, to discuss whether consolidation is feasible and in the best interests of the constituents.

3. The Board accepts a Community Development Block Grant from the Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development to help seniors. The Board [accepted a \\$152,454 Community Block Grant](#) from the Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development for the Rural Senior Ambassador Volunteer Program. Money from the grant will help support seniors living in unincorporated Washoe County. This grant provides funds to design and implement a volunteer program to enhance the home delivered meals with volunteer drivers and to expand social activities at the congregate meal sites in rural senior centers.

"Washoe County's population is aging which makes programs like the Rural Senior Ambassador Program extremely important," said Chair Marsha Berkgigler, (Dist. 1). "This grant shows how Washoe County and the State of Nevada value our seniors and will continue to help meet their needs in the future."

4. Washoe County Sheriff Chuck Allen presents the Sheriff's mission, goals and accomplishments. Washoe County Sheriff Chuck Allen provided the Board with a [broad overview](#) of their service to citizens and re-emphasized his agency's commitment to the community.

Sheriff Allen described the roles of each Washoe County Sheriff's primary bureaus which include Operations, Detention, Administration, along with the Forensic Science Division.

Sheriff Allen highlighted the Inmate Assistance Program (IAP) which works in partnership with the courts, parole & probation, detention medical staff, substance abuse programs and community service agencies to identify suitable alternatives to incarceration for inmates. The program works to place people in treatment programs, arrange travel to family, support groups and/or connecting them with appropriate services saving more 38,000 jail days for fiscal year 14-15.

Sheriff Allen said his Office is focused on boosting the Washoe County Sheriff's Reserve Program as a way for citizens to get involved in helping protect the community. Reservist volunteers work for the Sheriff's Office a couple times a month and have policing power. Reservists have spent nearly 2,048 hours of their time giving back to the community for fiscal year 14-15.

The Sheriff's Office employs approximately 760 full-time and part-time personnel. Sheriff Allen said one of his main goals is maintaining sufficient staffing and equipment levels. He said he

also wants to reorganize the current structure of the Sheriff's Office's Public Safety Dispatch Center to better serve the public.

"I am very humbled and proud to be serving this County as Sheriff," said Sheriff Chuck Allen. "Thank you to each and every one of our employees and volunteers for helping make sure we do a great service to this community."

For more information about the Sheriff's Office, follow them on Facebook and Twitter, or visit them online at www.WashoeSheriff.com.

5. The Board reschedules first reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 110 regarding sign code.

Washoe County Commissioners voted to postpone the 6 p.m. hearing on the proposed sign code ordinance amendments until Sept. 8, 2015. The postponement allows for all Washoe County Commissioners to be present.

The public hearing and first reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 110 related to regulations on signs is rescheduled for Sept. 8, 2015.

Public feedback is encouraged and appreciated. Residents interested in learning more about the proposed sign code changes and providing feedback, may visit [Open Washoe](#), an online forum. Comments are provided directly to County Commissioners for consideration.

###

RGJ Water Savers Club saves more than 800,000 gallons



[Mark Robison](mailto:mrobison@rgj.com), mrobison@rgj.com 7 a.m. PDT September 4, 2015



Buy Photo

RGJ Water Savers Club(Photo: RGJ)Buy Photo

5 CONNECT [6 TWEET](#)[LINKEDIN](#)COMMENTEMAILMORE

So far this summer, members of the RGJ Water Savers Club have saved about 833,000 gallons.

We created the club to help the community learn how to save more water and track what they do save compared with last year.

About 70 people have signed up for the club.

It is not too late to join and track your usage — and qualify to win one of three gift cards from Moana Nursery, two for \$100 and one for \$300. Just enter your summer water usage off your water bills by Sept. 30. Details at RGJ.com/sierradrought.

[RENO GAZETTE JOURNAL](#)

[Not too late to sign up for the RGJ Water Savers Club](#)

On Oct. 1, we will pick the gift card winners and announce the club's overall summer water savings.

The club has one more event planned before then. Among our past events, we have set up water-saving landscape workshops at Moana Nursery, a drought-resistant plant tour for Girl Scouts, a bus tour with the Truckee Meadows Water Authority showing where Reno's water comes from, a Q&A with water experts including a Desert Research Institute hydrologist in downtown Reno and a behind-the-scenes tour of the Peppermill's water-saving upgrades.

Next up, kids will learn about the Truckee River ecosystem and water conservation at a free event from 6 to 8 p.m. Sept. 15 at McKinley Arts & Culture Center. There will be a lesson with city of Reno staff about the uniqueness of the Truckee River as the only closed-lake system in the United States. Kids and parents will then learn creative ways to save water with the Girl Scouts' Wonders of Water activities. Recommended grade range: kindergarten through 5th. Reserve your free tickets at tickets.rgj.com.

5 CONNECT [6 TWEETLINKEDIN](#)COMMENTEMAILMORE
Read or Share this story: <http://on.rgj.com/1EELsgy>

TOP VIDEOS



[5 years in, here's where the crisis in Syria stands](#)

01:52



[Jim Krajewski previews week 2 of prep football](#)

00:24

-

Our view: Not time for Reno high-fives yet

The Opinion of the RGJ Editorial Board 8:30 a.m. PDT September 7, 2015



Mayor Hillary Schieve delivers her State of the City address Tuesday at the University of Nevada, Reno's Joe Crowley Student Union. (Photo: Marcella Corona/RGJ)

CONNECT [TWEET](#) [LINKEDIN](#) 1 COMMENT [EMAIL](#) [MORE](#)

Reno had a lot to celebrate this past week, yet it did not translate into calls to action much more significant than "Let's go drink beer!"

Mayor Hillary Schieve delivered a State of the City address highlighting such good news as progress paying down Reno's debt and Microsoft recommitting itself to Reno by embarking on a \$10 million upgrade of its campus.

A major new study of predicted growth in Northern Nevada pegs southeast Reno and downtown as especially likely recipients of thousands of new jobs.

And a map of craft breweries in Reno and Tahoe was unveiled, demonstrating that a young and thriving creative class is settling here in numbers significant enough to support many breweries and distilleries.

This is all good news and certainly worth cheering, but there is danger in being blinded by the brightness of Reno's resurgence so that serious issues get neglected.

Reno faces an Oct. 1 deadline for a new state law requiring it and Washoe County, through the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, to develop a mutual aid agreement to make residents safer by sending the closest fire response unit regardless of jurisdiction. Progress has stalled on implementing this obvious and necessary policy.

Speaking of fire, Reno has no fire chief. For that matter, it has no permanent police chief either. These are not minor job positions that are no big deal if months pass without change. More urgency is needed in filling them.

As mentioned, also released this week was the EPIC study, so named because it was commissioned by the Economic Planning Indicator Committee. The group is comprised of people from public and private entities including the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada, NV Energy, Reno Tahoe Airport Authority and the University of Nevada, Reno's Center for Regional Studies.

The report investigated growth in Northern Nevada. Its "mid-level" projection puts job growth for the region at more than 50,000 additional positions by 2019.

The areas with the biggest employment growth — in the range of 7,501 to 10,500 new workers — are expected to be southeast Reno and Storey County. The next biggest area is projected to be downtown Reno, which should add 5,001 to 7,500 employees.

Again, this is great news but it's also fraught with dangers. The growth is going to hit the region quickly, and there does not seem to be an urgency in the halls of government to prepare for this.

Intense planning cannot start too soon, and the city needs to get ahead of the curve.

After an RGJ investigation into a lack of city action on drought, the Reno City Council voted unanimously last month to craft an aggressive drought response plan that would give it authority to declare drought conditions on its own and require certain actions by the public.

This was a good turn of events that should benefit the community when implemented. Now the city needs to craft additional aggressive plans regarding how all of this growth is going to affect roads, fire protection, police, homelessness and more.

These are big issues, but currently minor problems will also have the potential to metastasize in a boom environment. As one example, Reno is already near the limit of nitrogen from treated sewage water that it puts back into the Truckee River. A population surge will push us over that limit and put the city on a collision course with the federal government that could prove costly.

The expected influx of new residents will also put pressure on city services before increased tax revenues are felt that can help the city better manage the larger population. Specific operating procedures can be developed based on the experiences of other boom communities. These procedures should be nailed down now rather than created in reaction to a media investigation or — let's hope not — a tragedy.

These criticisms are not intended to rain on Reno's parade. Rather, they are intended to point out that this good news can easily be turned into calls to action that will situate Reno even better to take advantage of the coming boom and avoid its pitfalls. We should not miss this opportunity.

CONNECT [TWEET](#) [LINKEDIN](#) 1 COMMENT [EMAIL](#) [MORE](#)

TMWA reports 9% drop in water use in August; 13 percent overall reduction in summer months

- [Images](#)



[Print Story](#)

Published: 10:50 am

Share

Updated: 2:51 pm

RENO, Nev. (MyNews4.com & KRNV) -- Water conservation numbers for the month of August were released by the Truckee Meadows Water Authority on Tuesday; and while August's reduction in use slipped slightly, overall conservation efforts exceeded desired targets.

In an official statement, TMWA officials said customers reduced their water usage by nine percent system-wide for the month of August, compared to August 2013. Officials went on and said customer demand has fallen an average of 13 percent since May 2015 when TMWA began asking its customers for a voluntary 10 percent reduction in water use.

“We set a savings goal of 5,000 acre feet of water for this season, which we are storing in upstream reservoirs for later use, if needed” said Mark Foree, TMWA’s general manager, in a statement. “With our customers’ continued focus on water conservation, I’m confident we will exceed that goal in September. Please keep up the good work and finish strong through this irrigation season. Remember, every gallon you save now can be held in upstream reservoirs, and will put us in good shape for next year,” he added.

Factoring in the nine percent savings in August, approximately 4,800 acre-feet or 1.5 billion gallons of water has been saved by customers through the first four months of TMWA’s conservation campaign, official said.

Water Conservation Efforts Continue in Truckee Meadows

Posted: Sep 08, 2015 2:36 PM PDT <em class="wnDate">Tuesday, September 8, 2015 5:36 PM EDT Updated: Sep 08, 2015 3:07 PM PDT <em class="wnDate">Tuesday, September 8, 2015 6:07 PM EDT

By Paul Nelson

[Email](#)

[Connect](#)

producers@ktvn.com



Throughout the summer months, the Truckee Meadows Water Authority has asked its customers to voluntarily save cut back on water usage by 10%, compared to what was used in 2013 - the baseline year. Four months in, it has been a successful campaign.

"Customers are responding," Bill Hauck, TMWA Senior Hydrologist said. "They're doing their part. They've met or exceeded our expectations."

August was a hot and dry month. Still, customers saved 9% on water usage. Overall, they have saved 13% since outdoor watering began in the late spring.

"We want to continue to encourage our customers to water, responsibly, and keep doing what they're doing," Hauck said. "They've done a great job, so far, and we're on the home stretch, so to speak."

September is still a high-demand month for water, considered to be part of the summer months when water usage is highest. While demand is not expected to drop yet, the cooler nights and shorter days could play a role in how much people water.

"As it does get cooler, you want to take a look at your times," Andy Gebhardt, TMWA Manager of Customer Services said. "Just as in the spring, you didn't water as much as you do in the heat of the summer. Well, the fall is the same thing."

Despite four years of drought, Hauck says drought reserves are in pretty good shape, but it has taken its toll on area reservoirs.

"Stampede is lower than it's ever been since it was originally built and constructed," Hauck said. "Stampede's never been lower."

A wet and heavy winter could help recharge those reservoirs, but water savings now could go along way if that does not happen.

"Every drop of water we save right now, every gallon that's saved is being held upstream and being reserved for next year," Hauck said.

Outdoor water usage normally begins to taper off during the second and third weeks of October. By November, most people have turned off their irrigation systems. Until then, Hauck says he hopes conservation efforts continue.

"We're well on our way to achieving our goal of saving 5,000 acre feet, upstream," Hauck said. "We're about 95% of the way there."

Learn About Your Water: Tour TMWA's Water Treatment And Hydroelectric Plants

SEPTEMBER 6, 2015 BY [THISISRENO](#) [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)



RENO'S NEW BUSINESS DIRECTORY
FIND AND REVIEW LOCAL BUSINESSES | FREE LISTINGS, LINKS & PHOTO GALLERIES FOR BUSINESS OWNERS

SPONSORED BY **bizyhood**

- Tweet
- Share
- Pin
- Share
- +1



SPONSORED POST

Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) invites customers and the public to learn about water by touring two of its facilities. Residents can learn what it takes to get water from the Truckee River to your tap, and all the tests that are conducted to ensure high-quality water, by touring TMWA's **Chalk Bluff Water Treatment Plant**.

TMWA's water operations staff will explain the water treatment and distribution processes, as well as answer your questions. Chalk Bluff has been recognized with a Presidents Award by the *Partnership for Safe Water*. Only 18 utilities across the country have achieved this distinction.

Sign up for any of the following tours: Tuesday, Sept. 8 at 1 p.m.; Tuesday, Sept 15 at 3 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 22 at 1 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 26 at 10 a.m.; or Tuesday, Sept. 29 at 1 p.m.

Ask the RGJ: Air Races dumping barrels of water?

Mark Robison mrobison@rgj.com 8:02 a.m. PDT September 1, 2015



A course official watches the start of the T6 gold race at the Reno National Championship Air Races in 2014.(Photo: Marilyn Newton/RGJ file)

4 CONNECT [8 TWEETLINKEDIN](#) 1 COMMENTEMAILMORE

This week's question is on whether the Reno National Championship Air Races dumps barrels of water onto the tarmac.

Short answer: Yes. The event's CEO says temporary water barrels are the most cost-effective and feasible method of anchoring vendor tents.

Full question

A reader signing his email "Reno Citizen" writes: "Each year I work several special events around Reno. It is the Air Races event that needs some looking into. Each vendor that has a booth is anchored on the corners with 35 gallon barrels. The barrels are filled with water to keep the booths steady in the winds. After the event the barrels are kicked over on the tarmac to drain by Sani-Hut employees, then loaded onto trucks for the next event. Hundreds of barrels, probably enough to fill Virginia Lake."

Full response

It turns out the barrels actually hold 50 gallons.

That is according to Mike Crowell, CEO of the Air Races. I asked him whether barrels of water are used to anchor vendor tents, if they are dumped afterward and if he has an estimate on how many barrels (or how many gallons of water) are used.

He responded by email:

“Yes, vendor booths at the Air Races are secured with approximately 700 to 800 50-gallon barrels filled with water. This method has proven to be the most cost effective method of securing the booths to ensure complete safety.

“Each year various changes are made to the location of the vendor booths. While there are some larger tents that are secured with permanent anchors that are approved by the Airport Authority, it is not feasible to install 700 to 800 permanent anchors. Not only would this be an expensive proposition at \$100 per anchor, it reduces the usable area by the Reno Stead Airport.

“The barrels are filled with water to secure the tents in the event of strong gusts of wind that could create a safety hazard. The barrels are used as efficiently as possible. In other words, where tents are side-by-side, one barrel is used to secure both tents, and the tents that are behind the grandstands are secured to the grandstands requiring no barrels in the back. So there are not necessarily four barrels for each tent, although the freestanding tents do require four barrels.

“The total amount of water used is approximately 35,000 to 40,000 gallons of water, and this is used in the barrels over the entire week of the National Championship Air Races, which works out to roughly 5,000 gallons of water per day. To put this amount in perspective, according to the Truckee Meadows Water Authority the demand for water in our community is 120 million gallons of water per day.”

The reader had said the water that is poured out would “probably” fill Virginia Lake. I was curious if that’s true.

According to the [“Bodies of Water” section on the Nevada Department of Wildlife website](#), Virginia Lake covers 24.5 acres, is 12 feet deep when full and “has a fairly flat bottom.”

[RENO GAZETTE JOURNAL](#)

[Ask the RGJ: Bath vs. shower? Car wash vs. hose?](#)

To fill Virginia Lake, then, would take about 96 million gallons of water — nowhere close to the 37,500 or so gallons used by the Air Races to hold down vendor tents.

Perhaps toilet flushes are a better comparison for people to wrap their heads around how much water is used at the Air Races for anchoring vendor tents. [Federal plumbing standards now limit toilet flushes to 1.6 gallons](#); 37,500 gallons works out to 23,438 flushes spilled on the tarmac.

[Read more stories by Mark Robison here.](#)

4 CONNECT [8 TWEETLINKEDIN](#) 1 COMMENTEMAILMORE

From: Hartung, Vaughn [<mailto:VHartung@washoecounty.us>]
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2015 9:37 AM
To: Foree, Mark
Subject: Fwd: [REDACTED] Sparks

----- Original message -----

From: Grace Butler [REDACTED]
Date: 8/24/2015 9:22 AM (GMT-08:00)
To: newconstruction@tmwa.com
Cc: "Martini, Geno" <gmartini@cityofsparks.us>, Neoma Jardon <jardonn@reno.gov>, Jenny Brekhus <brekhusj@reno.gov>, duern@reno.gov, "Hartung, Vaughn" <VHartung@washoecounty.us>, "Herman, Jeanne" <JHerman@washoecounty.us>, "Smith, Ron" <rsmith@cityofsparks.us>, tmwaboard@tmwa.com
Subject: 2821 Hawks View Court, Sparks

Hello,

My name is Grace Butler and I own and reside at [REDACTED] Hawks View Court in Spanish Springs. I am hoping for a resolution to an issue which I am currently having with the Truckee Meadows Water Authority.

I purchased my home in August, 2014 at which time I was a customer of the previous water authority in my area. I became a customer of TMWA when the new contract arose for my area. This past April I was having some irrigation work done for my yard and a plumber noticed that we could not shut off the water main to my house as the box for it was built too close to the shut off valve (see attached photo).

I called TMWA and was told that they would send someone out to look at the problem and fix the issue while I was away on vacation. I had expressed that my neighbor across the street had the same issue and the previous water company corrected the error by installing a larger box.

When I came home, I noticed that it was not completed, and was not notified of anyone even being at my residence. I called TMWA and was told that they went out and there was nothing wrong with the valve. I merely needed to twist and bend the valve to get it to shut off...but if I break it, then it's my responsibility to pay for it. I asked for an appointment to meet someone out at my house to assess the situation so that I could shut it off myself. I was told that I would need to be available for them to show up, as they don't schedule regular appointments. Since I have a full time job, I would need some type of notice as I only work ten minutes from home. I was assured that they would make an exception and call me so that I could come out to the house and understand the system.

I came home from work that night and found a note on my door from TMWA stating that the valve was fine and all I needed to do was buy a key from Home Depot to shut it off. They also spray painted the box with a bright blue paint (unknown for what reason, I knew where it was).

I then called TMWA and spoke to a supervisor, Brett, who told me that they were in no way going to help with my situation as it is fine and that it would cost TMWA money. I just need to bend it...but if I break it...I asked him if that made any sense that I have to manipulate a product to make it work, as it was installed improperly. He said that it wasn't their issue and they just acquired the houses, not the problems.

It absolutely makes no sense that I have to twist and bend something that is incorrectly installed and that TMWA is not taking any responsibility. TMWA has no problems cashing my checks monthly - I want to assume that they don't just want the profit, but the issues have to come with it as well.

This is also not my first home that I have owned. It is however the first time that I have seen a shut off valve not installed properly. This weekend I had a drip in my shower that required new plumbing and the plumber was unable to shut off the water to reinstall the plumbing. He (nor I) want the responsibility of possibly breaking something that will cost \$5,000.

At this point, I am obviously very frustrated. I have several options, I can 1) contact my Home Owner's Association to see if anyone else has had this problem and have it on the next agenda, 2) contact the media to be sure that no one else has the problem or 3) contact my representatives. Easiest is for TMWA repair my box.

I'm a Native Nevadan and love where I live and am very involved in my community. I cannot believe the customer service (or lack thereof) that I have received. I apologize for the length of this letter, but it has been an ongoing issue for several months which I would love to have resolved in a short amount of time.

Thank you for your time and listening to my problem. I can be reached at (775) 843-3329. Grace



From: Foree, Mark
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2015 3:49 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: [REDACTED] Hawks View Court, Sparks

Dear Ms. Butler,

Coming from another native Nevadan, I really like your email name! Thank you for your inquiry. After talking to my supervisor and manager, I don't believe anyone is really wrong here. It is true that the meter facility including the valve belongs to the utility company and is generally not intended for the customer's use. Although the valve tab rubs on the PVC box when operated, we do not have a problem operating our valve, and it is not uncommon for this type of meter box to have that issue.

Typically the customer has their own shutoff valve (required by the Uniform Plumbing Code I believe) located very close to the house that can be operated by the homeowner without having to access the utility's meter box. I couldn't tell by your email if you have a shutoff valve near your house or not. Every house I have owned has had its own shut off valve and I have used them successfully in situations such as yours.

With that being said, customers or their plumbers sometimes access the utility's meter box to shut off the water. I think there is a way that we can modify the meter box so that the tab does not rub on the PVC meter box riser. I believe we have scheduled a crew to work on that tomorrow. Even after that is done, when the valve is operated things still will move a bit and that is because there is coiled flexible pipe in those types of meter boxes – i.e. it is not a ridged pipe installation. After the modification is done, I can have someone meet you there (we have someone who works until 6:30 if it needs to be after work) to look at it if you would like. We also could spend a little while trying to locate your shutoff valve near your house if you would like us to do that.

Please feel free to give me a call at the number(s) listed below.

Sincerely,

Mark Foree
General Manager
Truckee Meadows Water Authority
1355 Capital Blvd. | Reno, NV 89502
O: (775) 834-8009, M: (775) 722-2341
mforee@tmwa.com | www.tmwa.com

From: Clifton, Tom
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2015 1:53 PM
To: Foree, Mark; Mazerres, Kim; Gebhardt, Andy; Smith, Brent; Nielson, Pat
Subject: [REDACTED] Hawks View Ct

Mueller pit adjustment at this address has been completed. Attached are two videos. Video 1 was before adjustment, Video 2 after. Pics 1-5 are how we found it, what we found, and how we left it. Pics 2,3,and 5 are the customer house valve Bubba found, dug up, and made accessible. In pics 1 and 4 you can see the key that was being used to operate TMWA's angle stop, this key is intended for hand wheel type valves not angle stops, however, they twist and do not work very well. Bubba left a key of this type on the house hand wheel valve for the customer to use in the future. The one he left is of heavier gauge steel and will work better than the one that was there. Unfortunately the one he left is taller than the valve box is deep so it sticks out of the box, if we hear back from the customer she can be told to remove the key until needed if it is preferred. If you have any question feel free to contact me or Bubba.

Tom Clifton
Supervisor Distribution Maintenance
Truckee Meadows Water Authority
1355 Capital Blvd. | Reno, NV 89502
O: (775) 834-8212, M: (775) 750-3941
tclifton@tmwa.com | www.tmwa.com

Picture 1:



Picture 2:



Picture 3:



Picture 4:



Picture 5:



From: Foree, Mark
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2015 4:40 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: gmartini@cityofsparks.us; jardonn@reno.gov; Jenny Brekhus (brekhusj@reno.gov); Naomi Duerr (duerrn@reno.gov); Ron Smith; vhartung@washoecounty.us; Jeanne Herman (jherman@washoecounty.us)
Subject: FW: [REDACTED] Hawks View Ct

Dear Ms. Butler:

I am forwarding some information and pictures from the crew that was out this morning to modify TMWA's meter box to make it more convenient for you and/or your plumber to turn off the water to your home. As you will see below, they were also able to locate your private water shutoff valve and make it accessible to you and or/your plumber to use to shut off water to your house without having to access TMWA's meter box. I think the pictures and description below are self-explanatory so I am not thinking we will need to meet you onsite, but if you would like us to do that we will be happy to. Please let me know if you have any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mark Foree
General Manager
Truckee Meadows Water Authority
1355 Capital Blvd. | Reno, NV 89502
O: (775) 834-8009, M: (775) 722-2341
mforee@tmwa.com | www.tmwa.com

From: Tell the Board <[REDACTED]>
Date: August 27, 2015 at 2:54:26 PM PDT
To: M Olsen <molsen@o-apr.com>, R Charpentier <rcharpentier@tmwa.com>, "K Mazeres" <kmazeres@tmwa.com>
Subject: Tell the Board Submission

Name: Cheyenne Graham
Email: [REDACTED]

Comments: I moved into my new home on April 24, 2015 and did not have my water turned on until the 29th and when I got my first bill I was charged a hefty amount (\$700) in damages that the previous owner had accumulated. I tried to dispute this with the lady with all the pine ones on her desk and she said I had to pay for it and that she would set me up on a payment plan. I recently lost my job and can't make these payments, that I shouldn't even have to make in the first place and now I'm without water. I wish your company wasn't the only water company in the area. Please tell me what I should do next so I can a little water at my home. This sucks extremely. Thanks.
Cheyenne

From: Westlake, Marci
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 4:40 PM
To: Mazeres, Kim
Cc: Gebhardt, Andy; Charpentier, Robert; Olsen, Marlene
Subject: RE: Tell the Board Submission

I spoke to Cheyenne regarding the Tamper fees that were added to the account. The prior tenant, Dennis Graham, called earlier today to let us know that Cheyenne is his ex-wife and that she and his children were without water. Dennis was very angry, stating that those fees should have been his and he wanted them transferred back to his inactive account. Without proof of who really cut themselves back in when the water was shut off due to non-payment earlier this year, I have removed both fees from Cheyenne's account. Cheyenne agreed to pay \$80.00 today to get her water turned back on.

Marci Westlake
Office Supervisor
Truckee Meadows Water Authority
1355 Capital Blvd. | Reno, NV 89502
O: (775) 834-8074
mwestlake@tmwa.com | www.tmwa.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Tell the Board [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2015 2:26 PM

To: Marlene Olsen <marlene@goodstandingoutreach.com>; R Charpentier <rcharpentier@tmwa.com>;

K Mazeres <kmazeres@tmwa.com>

Subject: Tell the Board Submission

Name: Rick Mayer

Email: [REDACTED]

Comments: Your property located at 1265 s 21st street/Parcel # 034-010-61 has being overrun by homeless people-I use that bike path oftern and every week more and more camps have been established. What plans do you have to control the filth crime that is ruining our city? When one of the homeless start a fire on your property will you say it was an accident? Since you are responsible for water quality, are you not concerned with these people defecating and washing in the river? Its a mess-go take a look for yourself!

From: Miller, Paul

Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2015 2:09 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Response to Rick Mayer email

Rick

Again – I would be happy to discuss your concerns by telephone if you like.

I do know that this is an issue that has a lot of emotion around it. I am respectful of all positions that I hear.

A couple of points I want clarify so that my position is clear:

1. I do appreciate your concern for our water supply and treatment facility. But please know that nobody is more interested in protecting our water supply and facilities than I am or anyone else working for TMWA. They may be equally interested, as I believe you might be, just not more. Please be assured, that we are aware of this situation, and others, that may impact WQ in the Truckee River, operations of our treatment facilities and the water that we deliver to our customers. We are actively working with our local partners to protect WQ in the Truckee River.
2. Nobody is trespassing or camping on TMWA property. The property is completely fenced and nobody has entered the fenced area. We are aware of all of the camps along the river.
3. The campers that you are referring to are not impacting WQ coming into the plant and are not impacting plant operations. We did have a bag of refuse thrown over the fence in one location, we contacted Sparks PD, discussed the issue with the campers, and it has not occurred since.

4. We have been in touch with the City of Sparks. To the best of my knowledge they are the appropriate agency to work on this.

Regards

Paul Miller/TMWA

Disagree- portions of your property are being trespassed upon and used for camping and refuse disposal. The other aspect is your corporate responsibility to protect the water supply that these people are contaminating. For example- if people are dumping oil into a public sewer that is reaching the water supply- TMWA is involved in enforcing that violation of the law. Be assured, I am also contacting local law enforcement. That does not change the fact that TMWA property is being used as a campground for the homeless- go see for yourself--

Rick:

Appreciate your email.

Agree that there are a number of camps along the Truckee River and bike path that runs near our property.

These camps lie outside of our property boundaries, and as such, we have no enforcement authority over this.

I recommend you bring your concerns to the attention of the City of Sparks. We have done so. If you would like to discuss this please call me.

Regards

Paul Miller/TMWA

Paul J. Miller, P.E.
Manager, Operations and Water Quality
Truckee Meadows Water Authority
1355 Capital Blvd. Reno, NV 89502
O: (775) 834-8106, M: (775) 813-4116
pmiller@tmwa.com | www.tmwa.com

----- Original message -----

From: Marlene Olsen <marlene@goodstandingoutreach.com>

Date: 08/25/2015 2:45 PM (GMT-08:00)

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: "Paul Miller (pmiller@tmwa.com)" <pmiller@tmwa.com>

Subject: FW: Response to Rick Mayer email

Rick:

You probably have noticed that Paul's emails are coming from me. I am a contractor with TMWA and help manage Public Comment, (to have a neutral party). Anyhow, there is an IT problem at TMWA that they are trying to iron out and your emails have bounced back. So, in the interest of a speedy response,

Paul has asked me to forward these to you. I hope you don't mind. Every submission to the Tell the Board function is put into the Agenda packet for each board of directors member for their next meeting, this one will be September 16.

Marlene Olsen
GoodStanding Outreach
775-829-2810
775-772-0020-cell

From: [REDACTED]
Date: August 25, 2015 at 3:12:24 PM PDT
To: Marlene Olsen <marlene@goodstandingoutreach.com>
Subject: RE: FW: Response to Rick Mayer email

Thank you for your attention to this unfortunate situation. There are many members of this community who are digusted by the condition of the river. Having worked with TMWA on various projects for the last 25 years, there is no doubt in my mind you share my concerns.