

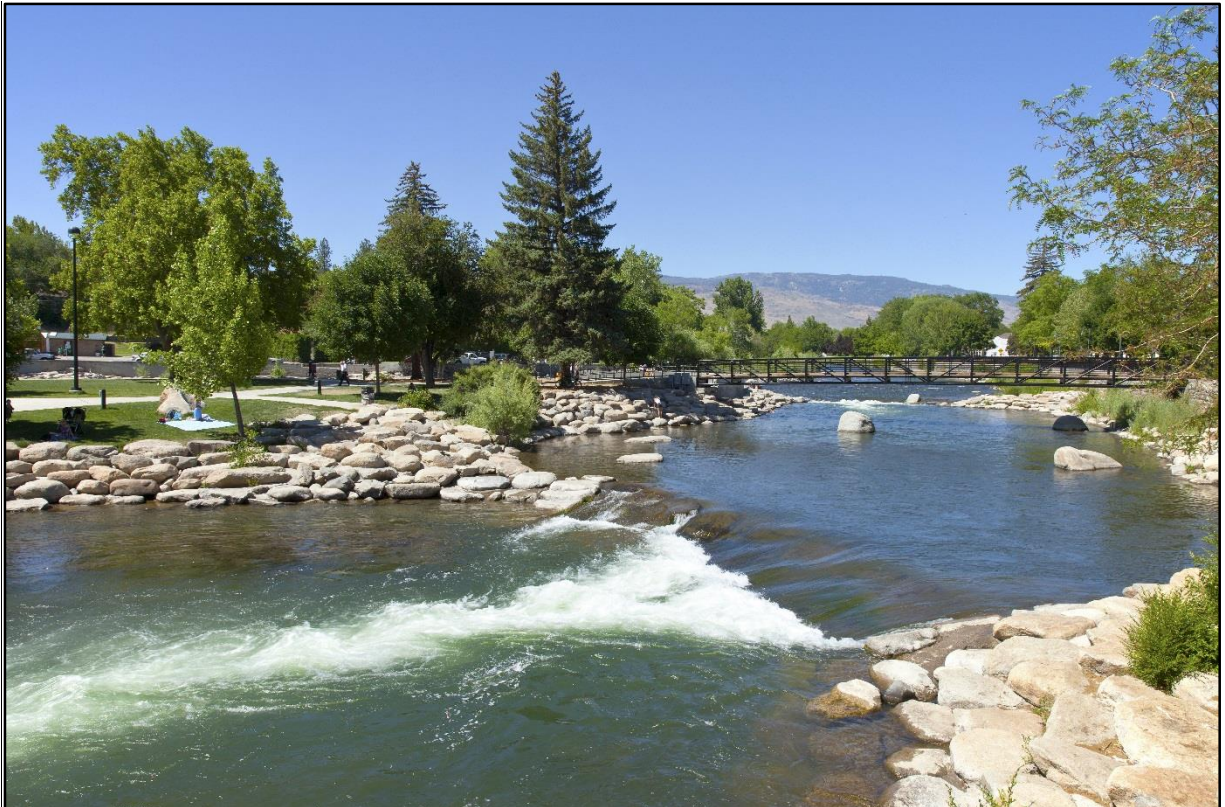


TMWA Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

Press Clippings

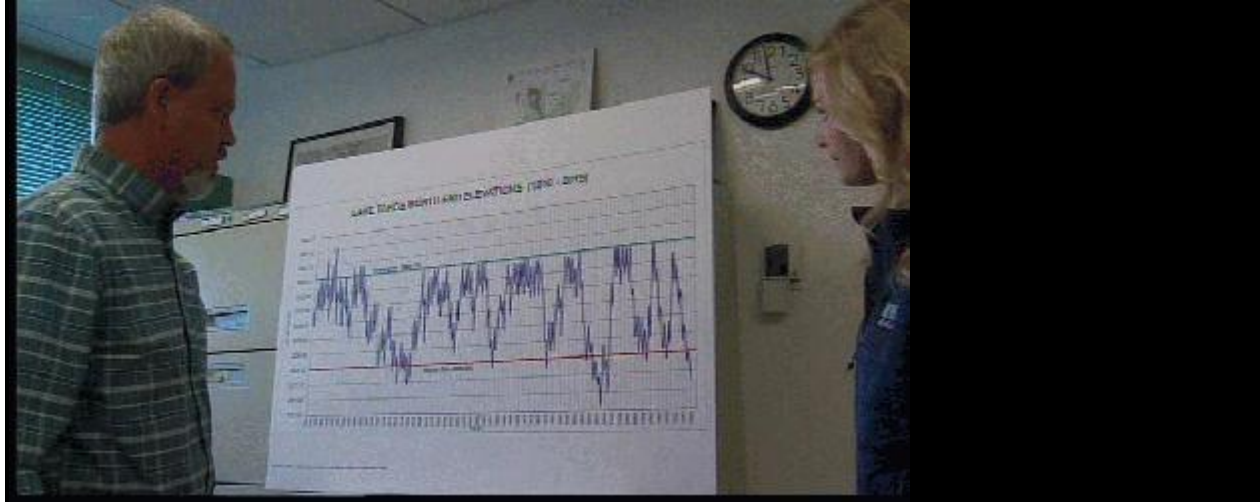
April 13, 2016 through May 11, 2016



Truckee River, downtown Reno

Weather Blog: Update on Truckee River flow

Updated: Thursday, January 14 2016, 12:07 PM PST



0

Weather Blog from Meteorologist Cassie Wilson

RENO, Nev. -- Today, I sat down and nerded out with Water Master Chad Blanchard about where we stand with the Truckee River. Blanchard noted that, "right now, we are 164,000 ac-ft below the natural rim so we would have to have enough water to either cover 164,000 football fields 1 foot deep or 1 football field 164,000 feet deep."

Check out my saved search for some historic stream gauge data by [clicking here](#).

We've seen a lot of snow, but most of this snow fell on top of dry soil. The best case scenario for a healthy Truckee River is to have a wet late fall and early winter so the soil moisture can build up. Then come early winter through the spring, we want purely snow so it locks in the layer of moisture and builds a reserve on top of it.

Why is this layer of moisture so important?

Well, because once the snow melts come spring, we want that water to stay in our basin, so if the soil is moist, you can think of it as being prepped for holding the water.

If it is dry then we lose a lot of that mountain melt water. One of the biggest keys to hydrology is not just how much snow and rain we've gotten, but soil capacity, or how well the ground can hold onto that moisture.

Now for the good news: We are operating at around average for snow pack, so this year we are heading into the spring on a good note, and - wait for it - we have an atmospheric river setting up Sunday through Tuesday!

So you can think of the atmosphere as a fluid; it moves and behaves similar to water. An atmospheric river is simply just a long band of moisture that floods on shore, bringing with it heavy and persistent rain/snow for an extended period of time.

We are still watching this event closely; model confidence is still shaky on where exactly on the West Coast it is going to land. If it shifts too far north, then it will pass us and mostly impact Oregon. But if it's staying more south, we should see snow levels around 5500 feet.

TMWA won't ask customers for a 10% water cut this year

 [Brian Duggan](mailto:bduggan@rgj.com), bduggan@rgj.com 4:01 p.m. PDT April 20, 2016



TMWA says its average water customer uses 20,000 gallons a month during the summer in large part because they are watering outdoors. (Photo: Getty Images/iStockphoto)

Unlike the last two summers, Reno-Sparks residents won't be asked by their water utility this year to cut their water use by 10 percent.

That's thanks to the wet winter that dumped enough snow to ensure a "normal flow" for the Truckee River through September, according to a [water supply report](#) delivered to the Truckee Meadows Water Authority Board of Directors on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, both Donner and Independence lakes — reservoirs in the local water system — will be refilled this spring, which will push TMWA's total water storage to 44,000 acre-feet. That's about 60 percent more storage compared to last year.

The increase in storage got a big boost because of Truckee River Operating Agreement that was finalized late last year. As a result, if the region needs to tap its reserves this year, it may not have to happen until October, which is past the peak water-use season, according to the TMWA report.

"It's the best in the last four years," said Bill Hauck, TMWA's senior hydrologist, at the water utility's Wednesday board meeting. "We're in a much better water supply shape this year."

Despite the good news for the region's water supply, Western Nevada [is still facing extreme drought conditions](#), according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

Andy Gebhardt, TMWA's director of customer relations, said TMWA will still ask customers to be water wise despite not asking for a voluntary reduction in water use.

"While we're not going to call for any additional conservation, we still want to get the message out that efficient water use is still important," Gebhardt said in an interview Wednesday.

Reno-Sparks residents cut their water use by 20 percent last year, doubling the 10 percent request made by TMWA. Gebhardt said surveys of water users indicate many of the measures taken to reduce water usage last year were permanent and will continue to benefit the system this year.

Sparks starting to address the Truckee River homeless PRESS CLIPS

By Paul Harris |

Posted: Tue 7:41 PM, Apr 12, 2016 |

Updated: Tue 10:58 PM, Apr 12, 2016



SPARKS, Nev. (KOLO) The homeless problem in our community is not an easy one to solve but the City of Sparks is starting to address the issue.



Friday, April 13th a fire broke out near the Grand Sierra Resort on the Sparks side of the river. Sparks Fire [Department](#) says they have not been able to determine the cause of the fire. The City believes it is incidents like this one is why they passed an ordinance banning unregulated camping alongside the river on March 28th.

“Post signs which could equate to a verbal warning component... up to physically making an arrest if that is appropriate,” said Adam Mayberry, City of Sparks.

Timothy Henson is homeless living in a tent down by the river and is not happy with that policy.

“Well it seems woefully unconceived,” Henson said. “A sign that tells people to get out does not tell people where to go. What are you going to do with the people that come out of here?”

The former medical technician says many of the homeless have [food](#) stamps but what they need is help to get a job.

“I’d say in lieu of a [banana](#) and a water why not give them a bus pass so they can go down to the temp agencies down by the welfare department there by the Peppermill. Pretty far walk from here,” Henson said.

If the City of Sparks does decide to start cracking on homeless down by the river, Reno might not be an option for Henson.

“I doubt it, I wouldn’t because the Reno side would arrest you immediately,” he said.

Mayberry said a policy on how to enforce the ordinance is in the works.

“The notion of just kicking somebody out of public property is not that simple. These folks they have their own personal belongings. We can’t confiscate their belongings. Fundamentally those that are and have been living along the river, have rights as well,” Mayberry said.

Henson hopes a compromise can be reached.

“You wouldn’t want the police coming along chopping down your tent at midnight and kicking you out into the snowstorm any more than people here will and it is something that could just happen to anyone. So I guess think kindness first,” Henson said.

One solution being offered by joggers and the homeless down by the river is adding portable toilets. Mayberry said the City is not opposed to the idea but would be concerned about future [health](#) issues that solution might present in the future.

. A river is reborn after Lake Tahoe reaches milestone

Truckee River flowing for first time in 18 months

UPDATED 11:13 PM PDT Apr 15, 2016

TAHOE CITY, Calif. (KCRA) —For the first time in 18 months, the Truckee River has begun flowing after Lake Tahoe's water level reached a milestone.

Water managers said melting snow pushed the lake above 6,223 feet of elevation last Saturday. That is the elevation of the lake's natural rim, above which the lake begins to empty into the river at Tahoe City.

Buster Hines, who was visiting from Contra Costa County, said the lake's outlet looked much different than the last time he saw it.

"There wasn't any water in it at all from here back to the lake. Completely dry," he said.

At first a trickle, the river has grown into a small stream over the last six days.

"It's good. I'm glad to see a little water. But quite frankly, with all the rain we've had, I thought there would be more water running than this," Hines said.

Because it is so big, with a surface area of more than 191 square miles, Lake Tahoe falls and rises slowly.

Jeff Anderson, a water supply specialist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, said melting snow is currently adding about 390 million gallons of water to the lake each day.

Anderson said the lake is forecast to rise another foot by sometime this summer.

When the lake fell below the natural rim in October 2014, it generated headlines across California and questions from potential visitors.

"We actually did get questions if there was water in the lake," said J.T. Thompson, North Lake Tahoe's tourism director.

The dropping lake level also created wide, rocky beaches and shut down some boat ramps.

However, Thompson said the north shore's overall tourism business continued to grow.

He predicted the lake's rise and the river's return will draw even more visitors.

"(That) is a good thing. Great for the restaurants and the bars and everybody that wants to come out and enjoy the lake," Thompson said.

Paul Miltner of Tahoe Whitewater Tours said he is also looking forward to a better season.

Thanks to smaller creeks entering downstream from the lake, much of the Truckee River did not go completely dry.

However, Miltner said last year's whitewater rafting season on the river lasted only a couple of weeks.

"This season, it's looking very up for us. We look like we're going to have a full season on all of our rivers," Miltner said.

Anderson said the river's return will also be good news for the city of Reno, which relies upon it for much of its drinking water supply.

He said the river will likely continue to flow until at least this autumn.

Michigan governor to drink Flint water for at least a month

By DAVID EGGERT, Associated Press Monday, April 18th 2016



Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, left, fills jugs with filtered Flint, Mich., tap water alongside Cheryl Hill at Hill's house where he drank his first glass of the local water Monday, April 18, 2016, on the city's east side. Gov. Snyder says he will drink Flint's water for roughly a month to show residents it is safe. (Jake May/The Flint Journal-MLive.com via AP)

LANSING, Mich. (AP) Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder will drink Flint water at home and at work for at least a month to show to residents it is safe with the use of a faucet filter, he said Monday.

The Republican governor, who has apologized for his administration's role in the city's lead-tainted water crisis, visited a house owned by Cheryl Hill and Todd Canty that was confirmed to have high levels of lead. Snyder, who left with five gallons of filtered water, said he understands people feel that if officials say the water is OK, then he should drink it, too.

"What better way to help show support," said Snyder, who will get refills from other homes as needed.

Hill and Canty told The Flint Journal that they appreciate the governor's visit but still have a lead service line running to their home and don't know if and when it will be replaced.

"I wouldn't want to be in his position right now," Canty said. "I believe this is just one of those cases where personally he just has a lot of work to do."

For nearly 18 months, Flint residents drank and bathed with improperly treated water that had coursed through aging pipes and fixtures, scraping away lead. By the time Snyder announced in October that Flint would return to its earlier source of treated water, the Detroit municipal system, dangerously high levels of the toxic metal were detected in the blood of some residents, including children, for whom it can cause lower IQs and behavioral problems.

On Monday, Snyder again urged residents to drink the water as long as a filter is in place. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, however, says bottled water is safest for children under age 6 and pregnant or breastfeeding women.

Meanwhile, a state water-quality official who told the city of Flint that a chemical wasn't needed to prevent lead corrosion from pipes has taken a different job in the state Department of Environmental Quality.

Mike Prysby, who was a district engineer with the Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance and had been responsible for Genesee County, home to Flint, began working in the Water Resources Division's Transportation and Flood Hazard Unit on March 28. That was the day before a supervisor at Flint's water plant, Mike Glasgow, testified at a legislative hearing that Prysby told him before Flint switched to a local river for water in 2014 that phosphate wasn't required.

DEQ spokeswoman Melanie Brown said Prysby took a position that opened up when someone was promoted, and his switch was not a forced transfer.

"The department continues to cooperate with internal investigations regarding staff actions in Flint," she told The Associated Press in an email.

A message seeking comment was left Monday for Prysby, who has declined previous requests for an interview.

Snyder has blamed "career bureaucrats" in state and federal governments. A task force appointed by Snyder has said the DEQ was the primary culprit because regulators misinterpreted a federal rule in telling Flint water officials not to treat the Flint River for corrosion until after two six-month monitoring periods.

The DEQ's director and communications director resigned in December. Snyder fired the department's top drinking water official, and a district supervisor is on paid leave after being suspended five days without pay in January for actions related to the Flint crisis the maximum allowed under civil service rules.

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California water districts say drought emergency has ended

Posted: Apr 20, 2016 12:21 PM PDT <em class="wnDate">Wednesday, April 20, 2016 3:21 PM EDT Updated: Apr 20, 2016 12:39 PM PDT <em class="wnDate">Wednesday, April 20, 2016 3:39 PM EDT

By SCOTT SMITH

FRESNO, Calif. (AP) - California water districts large and small urge regulators to toss out or significantly relax emergency drought orders requiring residents to take shorter showers and let their lawns turn brown.

The State Water Board on Wednesday is holding an informational workshop to determine the future of urban water conservation in the state. California cities are under orders to use at least 20 percent less water.

Dave Bolland of the Association of California Water Agencies says in a letter to the board that it is time to end the restrictions statewide.

He says the huge savings Californians have made no longer reflects the state's improved water supply.

California is in a fifth year of the drought emergency; a near-average winter for rain and snowfall has eased the drought.

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An Invitation: Celebrate Arbor Day and Launch #ReLeafReno with the City of Reno

On Friday, April 29, the City of Reno will commemorate Arbor Day 2016 and the City's 34th year as a [Tree City](#) with a proclamation and ceremonial tree planting at Powning Veterans Memorial Park. During this special occasion, the City will launch *ReLeaf Reno*, an initiative aimed at increasing the number of trees in our city. This not only supports beautification efforts, but also helps support economic development, fights blight, and addresses sustainability issues. We hope that you can join us for this exciting announcement and find out how you can get involved!

Event: ReLeaf Reno Launch

Date: Friday, April 29, 2016

Time: 11 a.m.

Location: [Powning Veterans Memorial Park](#) (150 South Virginia Street)

Parking: Street parking is available in the area. You can also park in the parking garage at City Hall; it is a short walk to the park.

We encourage you to use #ReLeafReno across social media outlets.

We look forward to seeing you next week!

California loosens water cutbacks in drought

Posted: Apr 21, 2016 4:31 PM PDT <em class="wnDate">Thursday, April 21, 2016 7:31 PM EDTUpdated: Apr 21, 2016 4:31 PM PDT <em class="wnDate">Thursday, April 21, 2016 7:31 PM EDT

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) - California water managers say they're easing cutbacks as spring storms boost reservoirs in the state's five-year drought.

The state Department of Water Resources announced Thursday it will provide its clients with 60 of the water they requested this year. It's the fourth such increase in recent months, starting in December at 10 percent.

Water managers say March storms soaked Northern California, nearly filling key reservoirs.

The state provides water to two-thirds of California's nearly 40 million people and roughly 1 million acres of farmland.

Officials say, however, that Southern California and San Joaquin Valley reservoirs remain low; it will take several years to recover from the recent dry spell, and California remains in drought.

Department of Water Resources Director Mark Cowin urges residents to conserve, helping to stretch water supplies.

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Northern Nevadans take water conservation seriously



Ángelo González / Dodro / Wikimedia Commons / CC BY 2.0

By Terri Russell |

Posted: Thu 4:33 PM, Apr 21, 2016 |

Updated: Thu 5:18 PM, Apr 21, 2016



RENO, Nev. (KOLO) - With a rainstorm on its way, you probably aren't thinking about saving water. That certainly wasn't the case in 2015 when residents were asked to conserve water during a fourth year of drought. Did all the asking, urging, and pleading [work](#)? Northern Nevadans saw water conservation as a duty, not a request.

It's spring here in northern Nevada, which means the gardeners are out. At Rail City Garden Center, there are plenty of fruit and vegetable plants from which to choose. But the owner knows plants won't be the only reason customers go see him. Water timers, soakers, and meters will also be on [shopping lists](#).

"Say for the last 10 years, the water provider, whether it was Sierra Pacific or TMWA, promoted twice a week, three times a week watering. Being done by noon, we have healthier plants, healthier turf, by not watering at night. These things have been coming about for a long time," says Paul Hollis, owner of Rail City [Garden](#) Center.

Hollis says most northern Nevadans know and appreciate the fact water is a precious commodity here. Over the last four years that message was really underscored as we experienced a severe drought. In 2015, TMWA asked customers to cut their water usage by 10-percent.

"They reduced their use by almost 20. It just shows what we already know, our community is very aware of water and you know we live in a desert," says Andy Gebhardt from TMWA.

Gebhardt says with the snowpack at about 100% in 2016, the conservation message will stay the same. Severe restrictions will be removed. But watering days and even water conservation cops will be in play this summer.

TMWA expects residents to continue conserving water because it wasn't an undue burden, and it's the right thing to do. While TMWA doesn't expect northern Nevada conservation efforts to change this summer, they do say there will be a change to the Truckee River. It will be flowing through September

Reno residents asked to take part in national



Ángelo González / Dodro / Wikimedia Commons / CC BY 2.0

By Staff/News Release |

Posted: Thu 11:35 AM, Apr 21, 2016 |

Updated: Thu 5:18 PM, Apr 21, 2016



RENO, Nev. (KOLO) - Reno Mayor Hillary Schieve is joining fellow mayors across the country in asking residents to make a commitment to conserve water by taking part in a national contest designed to [help](#) residents change their water use habits. In return, residents can enter to win a new Toyota Prius, water-saving fixtures, and hundreds of other prizes.

The National Mayors' Challenge for [Water](#) Conservation runs during Earth Month, April 1-30, 2016. Mayor Schieve encourages residents to make a series of pledges online and begin to reduce water and energy use.

"We live in a high desert, arid climate where water is a limited [resource](#)," Schieve says. "The City of Reno is proud of our efforts to conserve through operational efficiencies, and we applaud residents and businesses for exceeding a community-wide goal of reducing water use by 10 percent in 2015. Please join the City of Reno and Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) in continuing responsible water use in 2016 by pledging to take actions that are easy, from checking and fixing leaks and installing water-efficient fixtures to installing drought-tolerant plantings and employing water-efficient irrigation."

In 2015, residents from more than 3,900 cities in all 50 U.S. states pledged to reduce their annual consumption of freshwater through 391,325 water conservation actions pledged, resulting in 1.5 billion gallons in water savings. Participants also pledged to reduce use of single-use plastic [bottles](#) by more than 4.6 million bottles, as well as other conservation actions.

"Reno residents can visit mywaterpledge.com and commit to the small things that you can do," Schieve adds. "Together, we can continue to protect our precious water resource."

To participate, visit mywaterpledge.com to make a series of [online](#) pledges to conserve water on behalf of the City of Reno and TMWA. Reno will compete in the "100,000-299,999 residents" category.

Cities with the highest percentage of residents who take the challenge in their population category are entered into drawings for hundreds of eco-friendly prizes, including home improvement [gift cards](#), home irrigation equipment, and a Grand Prize Toyota Prius. The challenge also features additional resources for residents to take their commitment of conservation even further with cost-saving tips.

The 5th National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation is presented by the Wyland Foundation and Toyota, with support from the U.S EPA WaterSense, The Toro [Company](#), National League of Cities, Conserva Irrigation, and Earth Friendly Products (makers of ECOS).

Poll Shows Californians Plan to Use Less Water After Drought Ends

Submitted by Emily Allshouse on Thu, 04/14/2016 - 9:59am in

- [Conservation](#)
- [Water News](#)



The complete survey findings are available [here](#).

The latest Field Poll shows an overwhelming majority of Californians plan to continue using less water both indoors and outdoors even after the current drought is over.

The poll, conducted March 24 to April 3, in partnership with the Save Our Water program, found that while public perceptions about the seriousness of the state's water shortage have eased since the last poll in October, the level of concern remains higher than it was in the midst of another major drought in 1977. Even after a winter of near average precipitation, 62% of registered voters continue to see the water shortage as extremely serious.

Fully 74% of voters said it is important for residents to continue reducing water use both inside and outside their homes, while nearly nine in 10 voters (86%) said they plan to continue doing so on a permanent basis even after the drought ends.

About half (52%) of voters also said replacing toilets and appliances with water-efficient models was "very important," while fewer voters (45%) ranked turf removal and permanent landscapes changes as "very important." However, a majority of voters (59%) say local water district rebates for high efficiency toilets and appliances or turf removal are "very important" when making these types of upgrades.

The polling also reveals some regional variations. Other findings from the polling include:

- A slightly higher percentage (87%) of Southern California residents plan to permanently reduce water usage even after the drought is over, while 84% of Northern California and Central Valley residents also plan to make permanent water use reductions.
- While a majority of voters in all major regions of the state say they've been affected by the current water shortage, a somewhat larger proportion of Central Valley voters (64%) report this.
- A slightly higher percentage (56%) of Northern California voters identified replacing toilets and appliances with water efficient models as "very important" for reducing water use. Similarly, more (52%) Northern California voters said permanent landscape changes were also "very important."

"Even though winter storms have eased drought conditions in some parts of the state, water conservation remains an important priority for Californians," Field Poll Director Mark DiCamillo said. "This prolonged drought has started to change the way Californians look at their water usage – whether the state is in drought or not."

ACWA Deputy Executive Director for External Affairs and Member Services Jennifer Persike said the poll findings

show the public understands the importance of saving water on an ongoing basis.

"Conserving through fours of drought has changed the way Californians think about water," Persike said. "They get it,

and they are making permanent changes to keep saving water." The poll was conducted among a statewide random sample of 800 registered voters.

Ask Joe: (Follow-up) Where will Slide the City get its water?

By Joe Hart Friday, April 22nd 2016



tweet now!

RENO, Nev. (News 4) — This is a follow-up to an earlier question about an event coming to Reno this summer: Slide the City.

Some of our viewers had written in asking where the water will come from for the Slide the City.

Here's what I found out:

Slide the City is coming to Reno on June 4, 2016. We're told the event will use between 8,000 and 12,000 gallons of water for the slide. It is a giant water slide that will be set up on Ralston Street. There's been a little confusion because the folks at Slide the City told me they were getting the water from TMWA, the Truckee Meadows Water Authority, and that's what the city of Reno said too.

In fact, the city of Reno asked TMWA if they could use their water for this project. But TMWA said no, according to Andy Gephardt with TMWA.

So to set the record straight, TMWA says they are not involved. They say the water will come from a city of Reno water service line and it will be transported by a company called Quick Space. To put it in perspective, the total amount of water that will be used is less than you would use to fill up a swimming pool. But it is still important to know where it's coming from and now we finally do.

By the way, if you want more information, you can buy tickets to the event by going on the website www.slidethecity.com.

component-story-more_media_horiz-v1-01

TMWA Eases Off Water Conservation Cuts This Summer

By JULIA RITCHEY · 18 HOURS AGO

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Credit Eric Norris / CC BY-SA 2.0

The Truckee Meadows Water Authority will not ask its customers in the region to cut back on water this summer.

Last year, TMWA customers were asked to cut back 10 percent on their water use amid concerns over the lingering drought. Overall, residents responded well, cutting back by double that amount.

This year, however, strengthened by a wet winter and extra reserves, TMWA's board is easing off.

Andy Gebhardt is with TMWA.

"We don't anticipate using any of our drought storage through the summer, so we're just going to ask customers to be water conscious, be responsible, be aware, be efficient, but we're not going to ask for additional conservation measures."

The utility is going into this summer with 60 percent more in storage than last year and they don't anticipate having to use any of it.

Gebhardt says the regional Truckee River Operating Agreement, implemented late last year, allowed the agency to finally begin storing water that would've gone downstream before.

Tags:

[truckee river operating agreement](#)

[TROA](#)

[Drought](#)

East Bay water district will stop fining water guzzlers

Kurtis Alexander | April 26, 2016

The hefty drought fines that hit many East Bay residents this past year, and outed a number of unsuspecting celebrities as water hogs, are soon to be no more.

The Bay Area water agency that blazed the concept of drought-shaming determined Tuesday that financial penalties for those who exceed the district's conservation quotas are no longer necessary. Supply shortages in the East Bay Municipal Utility District, as in much of the state, have eased with the wet winter and stepped-up conservation efforts.

The agency is asking residential customers to continue abiding by last year's 20 percent cutback, acknowledging that the state's historic drought is not over. But by a unanimous vote of the agency's board, the district will do away with its monetary hammer, and fines upward of \$1,000, starting Tuesday.

"Why would we continue penalizing customers when we have enough water?" said Sherri Hong, district manager of customer and community services. "We feel that conservation is going to continue regardless. We think that our customers have acquired great habits."

The agency's punitive water policy is among the first and the most progressive of its kind to emerge during California's current dry spell, which is pushing into a fifth year. Residential customers who flouted the district's rationing rules were socked with a cumulative \$596,878 in fines since July, and their violations made individual water use — something that is normally kept private — a matter of public record.

RELATED STORIES

- California barely misses 25% water-savings drought goal
- Water-hog list includes Giants' Buster Posey, Motley Crue singer

Accordingly, the names of violators were widely broadcast, prompting such notables as Oakland A's executive Billy Beane, retired Golden State Warriors center Adonal Foyle, and San Francisco Giants pitcher Matt Cain to pledge to do better.

Few other water agencies passed policies that required disclosure of big consumers.

12,578 gallons a day

Among the biggest users in the East Bay was Chevron Vice Chairman George Kirkland, who guzzled an average of 12,578 gallons a day at his Danville estate during one billing period.

The average household, by comparison, uses about 300 gallons a day.

Another prodigal user was Kumarakulasingan "Suri" Suriyakumar. The president and chief executive of ARC Document Solutions, a Walnut Creek software company, consumed an average of 9,612 gallons a day during one billing period at his eight-bedroom home next to Mount Diablo State Park. He continued to exceed the cap in a later billing cycle, too.

The district policy requires residents to average no more than 1,000 gallons of water a day. A \$2 fine is levied for every unit, or 748 gallons, above the limit of 80 units for a 60-day billing period.

The district, the largest in the Bay Area and serving 1.3 million accounts, reported a total 7,081 violations through March. The breaches were committed by 5,627 residences or about 1.7 percent of customers, according to agency records.

[Read Full Article](#)

Many violators contacted by The Chronicle said the overuse was merely the result of cracked pipes or a leaky swimming pool — and not intentional. Some water experts were skeptical, however, calling leaks a convenient excuse for what simply amounted to too much outdoor watering.

Many of the biggest water users maintained emerald-green lawns, even during the driest months of the year.

Surpassed goal

While not everyone changed their ways, the East Bay water agency recorded a 24 percent drop in water use since last summer, compared with the same period in 2013. The level of conservation exceeds the district's 20 percent goal — as well as the 16 percent reduction mandated under the state's tiered conservation policy.

The State Water Resources Control Board next month is looking to relax its unprecedented rationing program rolled out in June. How much so remains to be seen. The East Bay Municipal Water District, which continues to charge residents a drought surcharge to make up for revenue lost to conservation, plans to revisit its higher rates after the state water board updates its policy.

The district's water supplies, generated mainly from runoff from the Mokelumne River watershed in the Sierra Nevada and piped into the region, are currently at 72 percent of capacity. That's about 88 percent of where they normally stand this time of year.

District operations and maintenance manager Eileen White said the supply is plenty to get the region through the coming year, regardless of weather, and beyond.

"For East Bay MUD, it's been a great year," she said. "Our customers continue to do an exceptional job cutting back on their water use."

Kurtis Alexander is a San Francisco Chronicle staff writer. Email: kalexander@sfchronicle.com Twitter: [@kurtisalexander](https://twitter.com/kurtisalexander)

Nevada officials discuss water ahead of legislative session

By Daria Sokolova
Pahrump Valley Times

LAS VEGAS — The state's Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to Study Water continued discussions about potential bill draft requests ahead of the Nevada Legislature session that begins in less than a year.

Some of the day-long discussion included proposals that could impact domestic well owners in the state, including in Pahrump.

"This committee is our chance to influence changes to law that can benefit Pahrump and allow us to include protections for current domestic wells in the groundwater management plan," Nye County Water District General Manager Darrell Lacy said.

The third meeting of the subcommittee was held at the Grant Sawyer Building in Las Vegas and brought five members of the Nevada Legislature together on Friday.

Nye County representatives state Sen. Pete Goicoechea and state Assemblyman James Oscarson were in attendance.

The subcommittee has been gathering information from different groups and will work on recommendations for future legislation during its final meeting in August.

Fifty-six of Nevada's water basins are severely over-allocated, according to Great Basin Water Network. That means that there isn't enough water to meet the water rights that the state has dished out.

"One of the big questions is how to get those basins back in equilibrium," said Howard Watts, communications specialist with Great Basin Water Network, an organization that was formed in 2006 to protect rural water at its source and promote sustainable and transparent water policies.

The Pahrump Valley currently has 60,000 acre feet of paper water rights to pump water issued by the state, which is now overseen by Nevada State Engineer Jason King. The valley has approximately 20,000 acre feet of recharge annually.

Lacy said Pahrump has the largest concentration of domestic wells in Nevada, yet most of those wells are junior in priority to water rights in the valley.

"The large number of domestic wells make Pahrump unique so we may need exceptions to the general rule," Lacy said.

Under state law, the domestic wells would be the first pumping to be curtailed.

The state law focuses on water rights, seniority and proof of beneficial use.

Greg Dann, chairman of the Nye County Water District Governing Board, declined to comment on the meeting, but said it was "very educational."

In a letter, King encouraged the subcommittee to consider legislation to provide an exception to the current law that would require complete curtailment of junior priority domestic wells if curtailment by priority was required in a groundwater basin.

"The state engineer encourages this committee to consider legislation that continues to refine Nevada water law and provide flexibility in the development and acceptance of groundwater management plans, whether in a Critical Management Area or not," the letter said.

Several other issues considered by the subcommittee include surface water and groundwater, perennial yield or the amount water that a basin can provide each year without decreasing, and beneficial use of water rights.

Meanwhile, Watts said Great Basin Water Network hopes for a few things.

"(First), we want to make sure that the laws aren't weakened by those who would like to see more unsustainable growth or gain from a weakening of senior water rights," Watts said. "Second, we think some stronger legal language needs to be put into place to emphasize the water rights of natural water features and plants, which provide many benefits to the state."

The subcommittee plans to hold a meeting in Pahrump in July.

Contact reporter Daria Sokolova at dsokolova@pvtimes.com. On Twitter: @dariasokolova77

L.A.'s water wasters will soon face heavier fines and audits



L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti, left, and the DWP's head of operations, Marty Adams, right, discuss the city's response to the drought at the Tujunga Spreading Grounds in Arleta in 2014. Garcetti signed new water-saving measures this week.

(Al Seib / Los Angeles Times)



Matt Stevens Contact Reporter

As regulators mull softening the state's drought restrictions amid outcry from some Northern California water districts, water wasters in Los Angeles will soon face stiffer fines and water audits under a plan approved this week by Mayor [Eric Garcetti](#).

Under the city's amended water conservation plan, which will take effect Tuesday, the Department of Water and Power will be able to fine residents between \$1,000 and \$40,000 a month for what it deems "unreasonable use" of water when the city is in an elevated phase of its emergency drought plan.

Currently, the department can fine only customers who violate a specific provision of the city's water ordinance, such as watering at the wrong time of day or using a hose to wash down a driveway. The fines are relatively small, ranging from \$100 to \$300 while the city is in any phase of its conservation plan. Under the new proposal, fines for those types of violations will increase to as much as \$1,200.

The customers who find themselves chronically in the highest water-use tier will also be subject to a water-use analysis by the DWP, in which utility staff members will need to be given access to a customer's property.

Staff members will then prepare a conservation plan that spells out ways to reduce water waste, as well as the reasonable amount of use for the specific property. Failure to meet any of the requirements of the plan could result in a penalty.



[The revelation was as shocking as it was incomprehensible: Someone in Bel-Air used 11.8 million gallons of water in a single year.](#) Appalled officials had no choice but to react when they found out last fall. Councilman Paul Koretz called the consumption "a slap in the face to neighbors" who had... (Matt Stevens)

DWP officials have said the first fines are not likely to appear until the middle of the summer. All the money generated by the fines would go back into the utility's conservation programs, they said.

In a statement, Marty Adams, the DWP's senior assistant general manager in charge of the water system, said the changes will "improve our ability to respond to ongoing [drought conditions](#) by reaching out to and working with our customers on the higher end of the water use spectrum."

"These changes address our city's highest users to ensure that we keep our momentum going during this historic drought," Garcetti added in the statement from his office.

City officials became alarmed last fall when [a report from the Center for Investigative Reporting](#) disclosed that a Bel-Air homeowner had used 11.8 million gallons of water in a single year, even as the state battled a record drought. They called on the DWP to figure out how to combat such profligate water use and the utility unveiled its plan in March.

Garcetti's decision to sign off on the tougher rules comes the same week that officials at the East Bay Municipal Water District in Northern California decided to suspend the agency's "Excessive Water Use Penalty Ordinance," citing "a wet winter that restored reservoirs to healthy levels." The water agency had gained acclaim from some corners of the water world for publicly identifying some of the heavy users it fined under the ordinance.

Some water districts have [publicly called](#) on the State Water Resources Control Board to significantly soften California's drought restrictions in response to improved hydrology. Water board staff members could publish a draft of proposed modifications as early as next week.

Garcetti's office also announced that he signed an ordinance that updates the city's Green Building Code. Effective June 6, the updates will require that new buildings, additions or alterations valued at more than \$200,000 incorporate a variety of water conservation measures that have the effect of reducing water use by 20%.

Only on RGJ: \$1.2B downtown Reno redevelopment vision revealed, explained

Exclusive look at major downtown redevelopment project

[Mike Higdon, mhigdon@rgj.com](mailto:mhigdon@rgj.com)



A timelapse of the ideal phased build out of the West 2nd District. Mike Higdon/RGJ; Cathexes, provided to the RGJ

The largest downtown Reno redevelopment project ever proposed would cost more than \$1.2 billion, take about 10 years to build and include the tallest building in the city, a self-contained water reclamation system, three acres of tree canopy, gigabit internet, a central park, public art and everything needed to make a completely sustainable district.

"We want to reshape what Reno is," said Susan Clark, principal for the development. "The tallest building defines your city."

Right now, the Silver Legacy Casino Resort is the tallest building in the city at 42 stories tall, according to Silver Legacy officials.

Principal developer, Don Clark, said he wants the billion dollar [West 2nd District](#) project to turn Reno into a city others compare themselves to instead of Reno always comparing itself to other cities. Not without a sense of optimism, the holding company for the West 2nd District project is Secundo Vita LLC, which means "second life" in latin.

"This is our home, we want to build the best home for us and everyone else," he said. "We've got one chance to make this a great city and it's now."

[The Don J Clark Group](#), an architecture and development firm, will present their enormous plan for West 2nd District to Reno City Council for two hours today. The Clarks are requesting a due diligence report on them, their partners and land acquisitions. They are also asking the city for a development agreement. At the same time the first phase of the project, a 28-unit condominium, is breaking ground at 235 Ralston St. this week.

[RENO GAZETTE JOURNAL](#)

New downtown Reno housing starts construction soon

The requested development agreement includes a unique tax increment fund that would allow them to spend about \$49 million on infrastructure improvements in the surrounding neighborhood right away instead of in a few years. If their project builds and performs well, at their estimated \$100 million property tax increase over the next 8 to 10 years before the Reno Redevelopment Area expires, they would expect the city of Reno to reimburse them at the end of the project. If it does not perform, they would not receive reimbursement.

"We want to develop a project that reimagines how the city works with developers," said Colin Robertson, partner and the director of communications and strategy at Don J Clark Group. "(Reno) has suffered from hodgepodge development."

Those proposed infrastructure improvements include:

- Streetscape and amenities
- Water
- Sewer
- Power
- Landscaping
- Relocation of UNR Nelson Building and Greyhound bus station
- Storm drainage

"We're not putting that money toward our bottom line," Susan Clark said.

RGJ reporter Anjeanette Damon explains the tax increment funding and financial trade offs in greater detail in her story:

[downtown Reno Developers to ask for \\$100 million tax subsidy to help redevelop](#)

In an exclusive interview with the RGJ, the Clarks and Robertson broke down their proposal into all of its pieces.

Scope and height

Get a sense of its size

While the entire project only takes up 17 acres of west downtown Reno, the height of the various condos, hotels, apartments and office buildings match or rival the city's current skyline.

For reference, Park Lane Mall, recently purchased by Chip Bowlby, is 47 acres. The entire casino core of downtown Reno takes up a similar 47 acres. On the [Las Vegas Strip, the CityCenter complex](#) with similar mixed use takes up 67 acres and includes eight times more square footage. So the footprint of West 2nd District is relatively small by comparison to other projects.

http://www.rgj.com/story/news/2016/04/11/park-lane-mall-pit-preparing-redevelopment/82891418/RENO_GAZETTE_JOURNAL

[Park Lane Mall lot preparing for redevelopment](#)

But, in downtown, no other development has approached this price tag. The Silver Legacy, the most expensive development in the last 25 years, reportedly cost \$230 million in 1992 (approx. \$390 million adjusting for inflation today). The price tag, including construction, labor and land, might be closer to \$1.4 billion, according to calculations by the University of Nevada, Reno's Center for Regional Studies.

Robertson said these numbers are subject to evolve, but as the proposed project stands, these are the important stats that would increase density in downtown:

- 2.3 million square feet of residential space
- That equates to approximately 1,900 residential units, including 500 apartments, condominiums and various types of affordable housing
- 450,000 square feet of office space
- 250,000 square feet of retail
- Two non-gaming hotels
- 5,000 parking spaces spread out across several parking garages

If approved, the Clarks said they plan to roll this development out in six phases over the next decade. They want to watch the market and evolve the concepts, buildings, use mix and overall vision. Robertson said the above numbers come with a huge caveat that everything is subject to change depending on the market's needs over that decade. They would not give a final number of buildings, though a count of the renderings shows almost 30 separate structures.

The tallest building is slated for a [towering 40 stories](#) — though the developers reserve the right to tack on a few more to overtake the Silver Legacy's 42 when construction

What's inside the district?

Ways to make Reno the city to look up to

Clark said the entire West 2nd District would use four major sustainable technologies: a central heating and cooling plant, water reclamation, solar panels and seismic engineering to improve earthquake safety. Don Clark said his team has been developing this idea since the recession with a focus on sustainability, live-work-play, walkability, green space and future-proofing technology. Most importantly, he said he is not pioneering any new technology, but taking the best practices from other successful projects in other cities.

Central Plant

The central plant will be built during phase two when the tallest building is constructed. The central plant is a multi-story heating and cooling center meant to provide hot and cold water for the entire district. The purpose is to significantly reduce energy costs for residents and wrap their heating and cooling bills into one energy bill.

Water Reclamation

During the same phase, a central park would be constructed where the current Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and its parking lot sit now. Underneath the park, a large-scale water reclamation center will recycle and reclaim grey and brown water into potable water. It will work similarly to a city-sized water treatment plant. The Clarks have not yet determined how much water can stay in the system and how much will need to recharge the Truckee River, but the goal is to create a significantly reduced water footprint and return clean water to the river midstream instead of downstream. The water can be used by residents, but also to irrigate the many green spaces throughout the district.

Solar Panels

Through the district, Robertson said they plan to build up to four acres of solar panels to help offset energy needs.

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Aerial render of the complete street and green space and park concept for West 2nd District.
Click to enlarge.
(Photo: Cheryl Barton, provided to the RGJ)

Complete Streets

The Clarks are requesting several alley and street abandonments from the city. The plan for the district is to convert those to walking, sitting, retail areas with ample tree coverage. What is now Stevenson Street would become a no-car walkway leading north to the central park from the Truckee River in front of the [Lear Theater](#).

They've completed traffic studies and worked with the Regional Transportation Commission to determine best ways to adjust east-west traffic on First and Second streets.

Seismic Engineering

Miyamoto International, a seismic engineering company from Japan, opened an office in Reno to help with construction of the district.

“In areas of high seismic vulnerability like Los Angeles and Reno, we can engineer buildings that perform much better very cost effectively,” CEO Kit Miyamoto said in a [March 9 interview with the RGJ](#). “If you follow minimum code, it essentially gives you a ‘one earthquake’ building. We design buildings to remain operational after the event.”

Each building, particularly the tallest, would be built with this state-of-the-art engineering.

Technology

Robertson said fiberoptic gigabit-speed internet will be built into the entire project from day one by CC Communications. Portions of downtown Reno already include gigabit internet for businesses, such as the Reno Collective. Gigabit-speed internet is about 10 times faster than current broadband internet. Most importantly, it allows simultaneous high-speed access — an important part of a dense district with a single connection.

The entire rest of the district would use smart technologies to connect people to each other and their work and live spaces. The parking garages, for example, assume the growth of autonomous vehicles will lesson the need for parking, so they can be converted to urban agricultural spaces if that happens.

Public Art

Robertson will focus on creating programs for public art acquisition and commission throughout the district. As part of the project, the Clarks want to help rehabilitate the Lear Theater after that restoration project stalled.

Panoramic of West 2nd District skyline

Panoramic of West 2nd District skyline from the perspective of Wingfield Park facing north.

Gentrification

The growing concern over gentrification

The project does not include, and purposely works around, the two churches in the area: Saint Thomas Aquinas Cathedral nor First United Methodist Church.

Much of western downtown is undeveloped, empty land. To build this project over time, the Clarks are consolidating all 17 acres of land into one ownership. This includes the [OLLI school](#), Castaway Inn, Town House Motor Lodge, Seven Eleven Motor Lodge, Greyhound bus station, Reno Riviera Motel, Gibson Apartments, Whitewater Park Apartments, Easy Market and several houses and other residential buildings.

In total, the Clarks tallied 237 residential units between weekly motels and apartments that would be torn down to make way for the redevelopment.

The purpose of the tax increment fund is to increase property taxes to generate money for the city. A development of this size that tears down residential buildings and forces low-income residents to move to replace them with middle or high-income earners is the very [definition of gentrification](#).



Renderings of the proposed West 2nd District from at final completion showing multiple buildings in west downtown. Facing northeast. Click to enlarge.
(Photo: Cathexes, provided to the RGJ)

Of the residential properties, Secundo Vita owns the Town House Motor Lodge so far, according to Washoe County Assessor records. Susan Clark said they own or control 94 percent of the properties and the records are behind. While an agreement with the city would require Secundo Vita to relocate all displaced residents, the Clarks said they planned to do that and more.

Within the first year of the project, the Clarks said they would relocate a third of those residents as the weekly motels start to come down.

They also want to include three types of affordable housing in their project: subsidized affordable housing, workforce housing made affordable through pricing and active senior housing.

Another 70 percent of the condominiums are expected to qualify for [Nevada Home is Possible](#) program — a down payment grant. Their presentation to the city lists a breakdown of 20 percent apartments for those earning 80 percent of the region's median income. That median income is slightly below \$45,000 per year in Reno-Sparks.

[Cathexes](#), an architecture company within the redevelopment area owned by Don Clark, hosted the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's affordable housing forum April 7. The main takeaways from the forum were that very little public money is available in Northern Nevada to support affordable housing and the region is in severe shortage of affordable housing. The Reno Housing Authority and HUD are both looking for private partnerships to help fill the gap.

The forum demonstrated new tools to finance workforce housing and create [inclusionary zoning](#) — a way to combine various income types within a master planned housing development. It also demonstrated the incredible need to support the chronically homeless and people earning 60 percent of the median income.

While the Clarks did not list step-by-step plans for their approach to solving these complex issues, they said they were committed to incorporating these tools into their project vision.

They are also aware that even the announcement of their idea today could immediately cause rising rents and property values in the surrounding neighborhoods and the rest of the city. As the economy continues to improve, Reno grows and the housing inventory in the region shrinks. The inevitable affect is increasing rents and home prices.

An Urban Land Institute presentation showed severe mismatch in Reno's housing and rental types, with a high level of class C apartments in terrible shape. Presenters said the Reno-Sparks rent prices are alarming, since those same class C apartments cost more than \$800 per month.

The Clarks said, for this reason, they plan to listen to residents in the area to find out their needs.

Don J Clark Group Public Open Houses at 250 Bell St. (Cathexes)

Thursdays, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.:

- **April 28:** Overview
- **May 5:** Design
- **May 12:** Infrastructure
- **May 19:** Community
- **May 26:** Technology
- **June 2:** West 2nd Life

Saturdays, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

- **April 30:** W2 Walking Tour
- **May 7:** W2 Walking Tour
- **May 14:** W2 Walking Tour
- **May 21:** W2 Walking Tour
- **May 28:** None Memorial Day Weekend
- **June 4:** W2 Walking Tour

Mike Higdon is the city life reporter at the RGJ and can be found on Instagram [@MillennialMike](#) and on Facebook at

Down by the river

Charles Albright

By [Jeri Chadwell-Singley](#)

This article was published on [04.28.16](#).

The Reno River Festival takes place on the Truckee River May 7-8. This year, the festival has been chosen to host the 2016 U.S. National Whitewater Freestyle Championships. Charles Albright is a local kayaking aficionado and instructor who played a part in getting the whitewater park built in downtown Reno more than a decade ago. The 65-year-old has been paddling on the Truckee for 40 years.



PHOTO/JERI CHADWELL-SINGLEY

Advertisement

When you Google Charles Albright, it comes up with “Godfather of Reno kayaking.” Can you tell me how that got started?

Well, I started paddling in '71, and I moved to Nevada in '72, and then I started paddling here in Reno—lived in Reno—in '76, end of '76. And then the first thing I did was get introduced to what few local paddlers there were, and I ended up basically teaching kayaking to the public for 21 years straight, for free, every week at pools—either at Northwest or Moana, and then I also went to pools up in South Lake Tahoe, Truckee and Carson to help teach kayaking up there too. But that's how it started. I sold gear and just arranged for people to find gear. And I do all kinds of competition. So I have lots of boats, and I'm willing to give them to anybody that wants to use them.

One of the last times we spoke with you, in 2004, the park was pretty new. Are you still kayaking here?

Oh, yeah. A good year's at least 100 days of paddling here, or on the Truckee some place. The best year was 272 days of boating.

So, you're out here in the winter and the summer.

All year 'round.

Last year the pro whitewater events were canceled because the river was just too low. How do you think it's looking this year?

It's looking a lot better. It'd be nice if there was a little more snow up there, and if we had a warm spell just before the competition, that would help immensely. It'd be ideal to have a 1000 cfs [cubic feet per second—a measurement for the rate of flow in a river]. Yesterday, it was at 800.

Very cool. That makes it so holes and eddies and stuff are really nice to get into?

Yeah. Well, these guys are throwing ends [flipping and rolling the kayak], so they have to have waters deep enough for the boats not to hit the bottom when they're doing their tricks. And they're the primary—what's really the main attraction for the festival this year is the national championships.

Have you competed in the whitewater events?

I do the slaloms and the downriver races and boatercross quite often. I run the slaloms. I'll help with boatercross—running it. I don't do the freestyle. I have a bad shoulder, and I don't do play boats like that, because I want to keep my shoulder as bad as it is, and not worse.

Anything else you want to say?

Well, it's not just paddling. There's going to be—there used to be the run. There's no longer the run, but they're having a bike ride for burner bikes. There's yoga. There's all kinds of music, lots of music. There's going to be a craft beer thing for the public. There's always food. There's all kinds of vendors. It's just going to be a really fun time. There'll be a lot of stuff for kids to do. It's going to be very enjoyable this year, and they're linking it to several other things that are going on, like the Burning Man art thing that will be on the ReTRAC thing the same weekend.

\$4.5M OFFICE SUPPLY SCHEME INSIDE LAS VEGAS WATER DISTRICT DRAWS FBI INQUIRY

\$4.5M office supply scheme inside Las Vegas water district draws FBI inquiry



[Buy Photo](#)

The Las Vegas Valley Water District headquarters at the intersection of South Valley View and West Charleston boulevards is seen on Thursday, April 28, 2016. (Erik Verduzco/Las Vegas Review-Journal Follow @Erik_Verduzco)

\$4.5M office supply scheme inside Las Vegas water district draws FBI inquiry

The Las Vegas Valley Water District headquarters at the intersection of South Valley View and West Charleston boulevards is seen on Thursday, April 28, 2016. (Erik Verduzco/Las Vegas Review-Journal Follow @Erik_Verduzco)

At least one former employee of the Las Vegas Valley Water District is under FBI investigation on suspicion of bilking the public agency out of \$4.5 million.

The scheme, which unfolded over three years, involved an employee in the district's purchasing division who fraudulently ordered office supplies through the water utility's vendor, then sold the items to a company in New Jersey and kept the money.

The employee reportedly used the mailing system at the water district's headquarters on Valley View Boulevard to ship the ill-gotten items and tried to conceal the purchases by using different accounts and arranging direct shipments from the vendor instead of going through the water district's warehouse.

District General Manager John Entsminger sent a message to employees Thursday explaining what happened and what the agency was doing in response.

"All of the individuals involved in this matter are no longer District employees," Entsminger said in the message.

The scheme was apparently uncovered when another employee noticed some unusual purchases and reported them to a manager.

Entsminger said his agency launched an internal investigation late last year and quickly notified the FBI after discovering that the fraudulent purchases went to “a wider network of individuals,” namely a New Jersey company called Symm Distributors Inc.

Entsminger said the district is “fully cooperating with the FBI’s ongoing criminal investigation” and will “aggressively pursue all available legal remedies.”

Bureau spokeswoman Bridget Pappas declined to comment, noting by email that “the FBI does not ordinarily confirm or deny the existence of an investigation.”

The district did not release the name of the employee Thursday. When asked if any criminal charges had been filed, district spokesman Bronson Mack said: “None that I’m aware of yet.”

Mack said no one has been fired in connection with the fraudulent purchases, but at least one person was placed on administrative leave and has since left the job.

It’s unclear how many others could face criminal charges or workplace discipline.

In his message, Entsminger noted that “certain employees” — including supervisors — failed to perform necessary reviews, follow up on questionable purchases or otherwise react to “numerous warning signs” of improper activity.

Entsminger also outlined a slate of new purchasing and reporting procedures. Employees will need additional approvals for every order, and office supplies must be delivered to a central warehouse location to be verified and distributed by the district’s shipping and receiving personnel.

“It is important for all employees to remain diligent that work processes are properly implemented,” Entsminger wrote. “Please inform your supervisor or management if you witness anything unusual related to work activities or processes.”

Contact Henry Brean at hbrean@reviewjournal.com or 702-383-0350. Follow him on Twitter: [@RefriedBrean](https://twitter.com/RefriedBrean)

Letter: New homes feature lush, water-wasting grass

Reno Gazette-Journal 1 a.m. PDT May 1, 2016



TMWA said a [10 percent reduction in water use won't be needed](#) this year [News, April 20]. The West is still in severe drought and water is our most precious resource. As the Great Basin gains population it's imperative to focus on daily water savings. One of the biggest ways to conserve would be changing our residential front lawns to drought tolerant landscapes. When you drive around, pay attention to all the fresh water runoff from over-watering of front lawns (if you see this, report to the TMWA website). Nobody spends time in their front yard, so why have lush green lawns wasting fresh water? The newer residential developments are saturated (pun intended) with lush grass instead of drought tolerant landscapes.

We live in a desert, not the Midwest where grass grows naturally. What if the local/state government gives an incentive to replace front lawns with drought friendly landscapes? We'd save money and water!

Jay Lawrence, Reno

Who's Proposing 2nd Street development?

Don Clark says he's altruistic. But he also has an ego.

"There's a lot of ego going around here but it's a healthy ego," said Clark, owner of Don J Clark Group, a development agency in Reno. "It's not an easy thing to take on what we're taking on."

Last week, the group announced the largest downtown Reno redevelopment project ever proposed. [West 2nd District](#) would cost more than \$1.2 billion by the time its finished in about 10 years and include the tallest building in the city. It would also include a water reclamation system, three acres of tree canopy, gigabit internet, a central park, public art and everything needed to make a completely sustainable district.

RENO GAZETTE JOURNAL

Only on RGJ: \$1.2B downtown Reno redevelopment vision revealed, explained

They asked the city of Reno for a tax increment funding model that puts the risk of improving infrastructure and the neighborhood on them.

But before their dream can move forward, they'll need to overcome a city that's been burned by developers in the past.

Over the last couple decades, those developers have shown up like a white knight, promising new developments and improvements to the city. While there have been successes, many projects have failed to live up to expectations despite the costs to the city and its taxpayers.

That's why Clark and his partners are flipping the public subsidy plan around, taking on the risk upfront before getting any public help.

If they successfully improve the property values of the area, they want a \$100 million tax reimbursement at the end of the project for the infrastructure improvements they made to the city. If the project fails or doesn't increase the values, they won't receive reimbursement.

Colin Robertson, partner and director of communications and strategy, said the group wants to show Reno a different way to do business.

For example, most private developers keep their investors secret and their costs even more secret, he said. But after seeing social media requests to reveal their investors, Robertson said they might reveal them publicly to show the community they are committed to transparency.

"I'm trying to find ways that we can do the opposite of the status quo," he said.



Buy Photo

Don Clark, left, leans back in his chair after explaining West 2nd District. Sal Ariganello, right, walks into the office full of books and drawings. (Photo: Mike Higdon/RGJ)

But who are they, really?

The people working at the Don J Clark Group combine more than 100 years of experience in architecture, design, construction, business management, technology, real estate and engineering.

Clark started the architecture firm, [Cathexes](#), in 1985. He designed Victorian Square in Sparks and The Bunker in Midtown (1420 Holcomb Ave.) among others in and out of Reno. The focus has always been urban fill projects.

Clark bought the current office on 250 Bell St. in 2006 right before the recession. It's a colorful building hidden in a corner of west downtown easily missed if driving too fast. Inside, stacks of architectural drawings tower over drawing tables and spill onto adjacent desks. The ground floor houses meetings for Cathexes and other groups in the community.

During the recession, the Cathexes staff shrunk from 20 to three people. Clark's partner went bankrupt and left the company. Other development partners also went bankrupt and left him with debts. Don Clark fell behind on taxes while he tried to keep Cathexes afloat. The Internal Revenue Service still has several tax liens against Cathexes, according to Washoe County Recorder records.

"I got behind on stuff," he said. "I watched a lot of friends go out of business. I watched people get financially ruined."

Clark said he paid his employees instead of his taxes and has almost paid off all the liens. For that reason, Cathexes is not the financial manager of the West 2nd District project.

David Clark, founder of [Clark and Sullivan Construction](#) and former board member of [Bank of the West](#), is instead. No relation to Don Clark, David Clark helped bring the Palladio condominiums in downtown Reno out of financial trouble in 2006, according to RGJ archives.

To keep the business alive during the recession, Don Clark filled the Cathexes building with other start ups, such as the [Reno Collective](#), [Traffic Works](#) and the [Reno Bike Project](#).

Colin Loretz, owner of the Reno Collective, said he knew about Clark's vision since 2008, when Clark first started putting together his plans. The Reno Collective moved into the Cathexes building in 2009 through 2010 before later moving to California Avenue and now in the bottom of Arlington Towers.

"They were the only landlords willing to take us in because they had a giant building with no people anymore," Loretz said.

Cathexes has grown back to normal size since the recession and still shares their space with other startups and businesses.

Reno residents are skeptical of developers because the city has been burned by previous dreamers promising redevelopment.

In 2009, the proposed \$360 million Tessera project would have created a downtown block for nightclubs, restaurants, offices, parking garages and student housing. Cathexes has a [Tessera drawing on its website](#). The project never materialized after the recession devastated it and now the city is close to tearing down the entire block of closed down weekly motels for the developer.

[RENO GAZETTE JOURNAL](#)

Tessera developers push for longer Reno tax break deal

But Don Clark owns his mistakes. He has the eyes of a dreamer, but someone passionately committed to a cause.

The Clarks' optimism is infectious. The first phase of the project, at [235 Ralston St.](#), will break ground this week.

"They're real, it's not hype." Loretz said of Clark's team. "Everything is true. It all comes from a good place. Obviously they're also doing things to generate new wealth and a new future, which is very admirable and different than what other people are trying to do."

At the April 27 City Council meeting, Christopher Harper, structural engineer at TLCP Structural, Inc., gave public comment that he had not been contacted by the Clarks and had plans to develop the area, too. Harper owns land and historic buildings within the 17-acre proposed development area closest to Cathexes.

By April 29, Harper said he was excited for the project and wished he had commented after the Don Clark Group gave their presentation on West 2nd District instead of before. Turns out, Clark had contacted Harper's family members, so Harper just wasn't in the loop yet, Clark said.

[RENO GAZETTE JOURNAL](#)

Reno council to downtown developer: Show us what you got

"I want to applaud the Don Clark Group and the investments and sacrifices they're willing to make," Harper said. "It's impressive through and through. As a structural engineer, I understand the significance of his efforts. I've been in the industry 25 years and know the politics and financing challenges he faces."

They started working together already, though Harper isn't sure what they will come up with. But he's happy to be part of the project now.

"It's a great group with perfectly honest intentions," he said "There's a lot to iron out but it's impressive. I'm excited for it and the city of Reno."

Project Team

Secundo Vita is the name of the LLC for West 3rd District

- **Don Clark:** 35 years in architecture, development, planning and investment. Managing member of Secundo Vita
- **David Clark:** 50 years in construction, development, real estate, finance and investment. Managing member, Secundo Vita
- **Ed Friedrichs:** 45 years in architecture and development at Gensler Architecture, Design and Planning Worldwide. Investor, managing member, Secundo Vita
- **Susan Clark:** 20 years in business management and vertical integration. Board member, Secundo Vita
- **J.P. Menante:** 20 years in real estate and development
- **Sal Ariganello:** 35 years in construction, construction management and development management including Koll Construction & Staubach
- **Joe Martinez:** 30 years in construction, construction management and development management including Harrah's Resort and Casino
- **Antonio (Tony) Rucci:** 32 years experience in information technology and technical security integration and oversight
- **Colin Robertson:** 15 years of experience in education, cultural affairs, community engagement and fundraising

TMWA Saves \$15 Million With Bond Refinancing

MAY 3, 2016 BY [THISISRENO LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

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TMWA's Mark Foree

Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) refinanced its 2006 bonds and eliminated \$22.8 million in outstanding principal. The refunding will achieve a \$15 million in savings, the water purveyor said in a statement.

As part of the refunding effort, TMWA's credit rating was upgraded by Standard and Poors from "AA- (positive outlook)" to "AA (stable outlook)."

According to TMWA, the success of the consolidation of the Washoe County and the South Truckee Meadows General Improvement District water utilities into TMWA, together with implementation of the Truckee River Operating Agreement, helped with TMWA's credit ratings.

"The order interest in our bonds was overwhelming, attracting nearly six times as many offers on the table than we had bonds available" said TMWA's general manager Mark Foree. It allowed TMWA to negotiate a lower interest rate and save \$800,000 on the day of pricing.

"TMWA was able to successfully differentiate itself from other western water utilities in terms of drought resiliency, which was recognized by the credit rating agencies as well," Foree said. "Our drought management practices were well received

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Average Snowpack Means Washoe Won't Have To Cut Back Water Use

May 03, 2016

Snowpack and water storage are up in Washoe County, so the water authority won't require residents to cut back by a specific amount. Why does one good year of snowfall allow for relaxed conservation?

- [Add to Playlist](#)[Listen](#)

One View: Region's water future has never been more secure

PRESS CLIPS

Geno Martini 8:13 a.m. PDT May 6, 2016



Geno Martini(Photo: Submitted)

As summer approaches, many people are wondering about the status of our water supply. We had a moderate recovery this winter and spring thanks to numerous storms. The good news is that we do not anticipate using our upstream reserves this year, meaning Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) will not be asking our customers for any additional conservation. Please continue to use water responsibly, but rest assured, we are saving all the water that we are legally permitted to store in our upstream reservoirs.

During last summer and fall, following the driest winter on record, TMWA used only 40 percent of our upstream reserves. Thanks goes out to the community for responding so well to our request for a 10 percent reduction in water use. That water-savings goal was nearly doubled, with our customers reducing their use by nearly 20 percent. We stored that saved water in upstream reservoirs. In addition, the long-anticipated Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA) went into operation last December. For the first time ever, TROA allows us to store water in upstream reservoirs during the winter. This means we will go into this summer with about 65 percent more upstream reserves than we had going into last summer, or about 44,000 acre feet (over 14 billion gallons). If you would like to check out the status of our upstream reserves, please visit tmwa.com/reserves.

[RENO GAZETTE JOURNAL](#)

[Water deal called major milestone for Truckee River](#)

Our water future has never been more secure than it is today. However, those of us currently in the water business can't take all of the credit, as smart management of our water resources started decades ago when our predecessor purchased Independence Lake in the 1930s. Generations of long-term planning for dry conditions is what makes us different from many communities in the West who are still suffering water supply shortages. Living in the desert requires the need to plan ahead. Careful management of our water supply has been passed down from generation to generation and is the major reason why our region's water system is different and difficult to compare to other systems.

TROA, implemented late last year after nearly 30 years of planning, negotiation and legal challenges, brings immense benefits to the Truckee Meadows water supply. This is an absolute game-changer for our region. During droughts, TMWA now has the legal right to hold back and store more drought reserves in upstream reservoirs than ever before. Over time, our upstream drought storage will nearly triple TMWA's previous storage capacity. Credit must be given to Senator Harry Reid, who convened the major parties on the Truckee River and started discussions on how to change the operation of the river and provide multiple benefits for all river users. Today, TROA is the biggest and most important piece of TMWA's Water Resource Plan. View the entire plan at tmwa.com/plan.



The Truckee River Operating Agreement was finalized in 2015 after 27 years of effort. (Photo: Getty Images)

In addition to the crucial and timely implementation of TROA, we are also proud to announce that the purchase of additional storage rights in Donner Lake is complete. The Truckee Carson Irrigation District recently sold their half of the Donner Lake water right to TMWA. This will enhance our community's water resource portfolio and further expand our ability to store water upstream for use during droughts.

Another important piece of TMWA's water supply program is to maximize the use of Truckee River water when it is available and reduce pumping of groundwater wells. During the winter months we turn off as many groundwater wells as possible and serve customers with treated surface (river) water. In addition, we also store treated surface water in underground aquifers during the winter months for use during droughts. TMWA has recharged 21 wells over the past seven months, storing nearly 887 million gallons of water underground. We are also in the process of expanding this program as 26 additional wells are being evaluated that could be added to our aquifer storage and recovery program.

All these things add up to a very robust and resilient system that will provide a reliable water supply to our community even during extreme droughts. We ask you to please continue to use our precious resource responsibly and enjoy the summer.

Geno Martini is Mayor of Sparks and the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Truckee Meadows Water Authority

Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) is a not-for-profit water utility, overseen by elected officials from Reno, Sparks and Washoe County. TMWA employs a highly skilled team who ensure the treatment, delivery and availability of high-quality drinking water around the clock for more than 385,000 residents of the Truckee Meadows.

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The Latest: California beats conservation target in drought

*Posted: May 03, 2016 11:44 AM PDT <em class="wnDate">Tuesday, May 3, 2016 2:44 PM EDT Updated: May 03, 2016 11:44 AM PDT <em class="wnDate">Tuesday, May 3, 2016 2:44 PM EDT *

FRESNO, Calif. (AP) - The Latest on California's drought (all times local):

11:35 a.m.

Officials say residents of drought-stricken California beat their goal for saving water in March by turning off their sprinklers when the rain fell.

The State Water Board announced Tuesday that cities and businesses conserved water by more than 24 percent compared to the same time in 2013. That's double the saving from the dry month of February.

March is the first month under relaxed conservation requirements. Californians are now expected to use at least 20 percent less water, a break from the previous order of 25 percent.

Felicia Marcus, chair of the State Water Resources Control Board, called the March results stunning and welcomed news.

Officials say the cooler, wet weather helped, but they also credit Californians with changing their habits for using water.

They warn, however, that California remains in drought.

8:20 a.m.

Californians will learn how much water they saved by taking shorter showers and turning off sprinklers in the rain-soaked month of March.

The State Water Resources Control Board on Tuesday will release its most recent conservation report. March is the first month under relaxed requirements.

Residents are being asked to use at least 20 percent less water than they did in 2013. That's down from the 25 percent reduction begun last year.

Max Gomberg, a senior climate scientist for the state water board, says the March savings are encouraging.

Water regulators, meanwhile, are busy writing new regulations to save water since winter rain and snow has eased drought.

Many local water districts say they want to set their own conservation targets. Other say the state should drop the emergency orders.

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Just Add Water: Reno River Festival Is Back

By PERSON: JULIA RITCHEY · 2 HOURS AGO

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Credit Antoine Debroye, Flickr (CC by SA-2.0)

The 13th annual [Reno River Festival](#) is welcoming the return of its most critical element: water.

The gushing water of the Truckee River is a sound for sore ears as kayakers return for the annual River Festival in the heart of downtown Reno.

Jess Horning is with Liquid Blue Events, one of the organizers of the festival. He says last year the kayakers couldn't compete...

"Because the river levels were the lowest that it's ever been. This year, the river is back and so is the kayaking competition — and better than ever because we are hosting the U.S. Freestyle National Championship."

This is a big deal, according to Horning, because the championship is typically held along the East Coast.

"We competed against eight different locations, and Northern Nevada won the bid. We did so because the Truckee River is one of the premiere white water parks in the country."

River Fest usually draws about 60 athletes, but because of the added prestige of the Freestyle Championship, about 100 competitors will be visiting from across the globe.

It's not all for the kayakers, though. Horning says they'll also be zip-lining, food and beer trucks and live music at Wingfield Park from Saturday through Sunday

Sustainable landscaping can cut your water bill by 75%

By Meteorologist Cassie Wilson Thursday, May 5th 2016

Reno, Nev. (News 4 & Fox 11) — Most American households are still hanging on to the societal standard of the lush green lawn, but living in a desert you start to appreciate the subtle colors and unique plants. There is an alternative to traditional landscaping that you might not have heard of-- it's called xeriscaping.

Much of Northern Nevada sits in the rain shadow of the Sierra Nevada. And Reno on average only receives 7.5 inches of rain in a given year. With 3,637 hours of average sunshine, this area is classified as a cool temperate desert biome. And the grass in your lawn, just doesn't naturally exist here and it could be costing you.

Green Lizard Landscapes has been specializing in sustainable landscape designs for 10 years now, and co-owner Travis Unruh explains xeriscaping is not just lava rock and juniper,

"We use a mix of native plant material and landscape appropriate material because it makes landscaping easy and fun. It's about the appropriate use of lawn, like for example, this homeowner has a dog and they both enjoy playing on it, so that's a perfect use for it. But if the only time you walk on it is to mow it, you probably don't need it."

Carson City resident, Tom Crawford decided to xerscape his lawn and explains why he chose the change,

"We live in a dry climate so I wanted to get something that was a little bit more water friendly, as well as birds bees and butterfly friendly. and the way it was landscaped it addresses all those needs. and definitely cut down on the water bill."

And the savings are huge, you can cut your bill by 75%! Truckee Meadows Water Authority focus is to promote wise and efficient use of water, and they advise you water less and frequent. Some tips from their conservation site include:

- Running your sprinklers Weather-Wisely on your Assigned Days. (Odd households: Wednesdays, Fridays and Sunday --- Even: Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays)
- Learn how to read your meter and about finding and repairing leaks.
- Search for plants and learn about the principles of xeriscape at one TMWA's free workshops or by visiting our Water-efficient Landscape Guide.
- Fill out our online form to report water waste.

The Latest: California will consider lifting drought cuts

Posted: May 09, 2016 12:31 PM PDT <em class="wnDate">Monday, May 9, 2016 3:31 PM EDT Updated: May 09, 2016 12:31 PM PDT <em class="wnDate">Monday, May 9, 2016 3:31 PM EDT

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - The Latest on California's drought conservation measures (all times local):

12:10 a.m.

California will consider lifting a mandatory statewide water conservation order for cities and towns as the state's drought eases.

The state Water Resources Control Board will decide May 18 whether to lift a conservation target, most recently for at least 20 percent water cutbacks by urban users statewide. It has been in place since last year.

"We got a reprieve" from El Nino storms that brought snow and rain to Northern California this winter, water board chairwoman Felicia Marcus said. She says the state needs to use the reprieve to prepare for the years ahead as California moves into a drier future from climate change.

California Gov. Jerry Brown ordered the mandatory statewide conservation last year, at the height of the driest four-year spell in history in California. Nearly 90 percent of California remains in some stage of drought.

Water officials are proposing lifting the mandatory conservation target for cities and towns that can prove they have enough water to get by should the drought persist another three years.

11:15 a.m.

Gov. Jerry Brown is ordering California to permanently follow some conservation measures taken during the state's drought.

Brown's order on Monday came as water officials considering whether to ease a 20 percent conservation order for cities and towns. The order does not set a mandatory percentage for saving water.

Brown's executive order requires cities and towns to continue monthly reporting of water use. In addition, bans on overwatering lawns will become lasting.

Brown's executive order also requires better drought planning from cities and farmers.

The state is also required to prepare emergency water restrictions for 2017 in case the five-year drought persists.

10:30 a.m.

Drought-stricken California was set Monday to announce new conservation measures after a welcome rainy winter in parts of the state.

State water officials could ease conservation rules that initially called for a 25 percent savings and were later eased to 20 percent.

The latest call for changes came after El Nino storms left a healthy snowpack and brimming water reservoirs in Northern California.

Southern California remains firmly locked in a fifth year of drought.

Officials say Californians have saved a year's worth of water for 6.5 million residents since Gov. Jerry Brown imposed the conservation mandate.

The conservation orders apply to cities and water districts supplying most of the state's nearly 40 million people.

California last year marked its driest four-year stretch in history.

The winter El Nino storms brought near-normal snow and rainfall to Northern California, filling major reservoirs. The storms largely missed Southern California, however, and overall nearly 90 percent of the state remains in drought.

The easing drought has prompted many water districts to say they want to set their own conservation targets. Others say the state should completely drop the drought emergency.

Officials, however, say the bruising drought has not ended, and nobody knows how much rain and snow will fall next winter.

Any changes proposed on Monday would likely go before the State Water Resources Control Board on May 18.

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Southern California water wholesaler ends drought cutbacks

Posted: May 11, 2016 7:37 AM PDT <em class="wnDate">Wednesday, May 11, 2016 10:37 AM EDTUpdated: May 11, 2016 7:37 AM PDT <em class="wnDate">Wednesday, May 11, 2016 10:37 AM EDT

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Southern California's water wholesaler for cities and districts serving 19 million people will see water deliveries restored to their previous levels in another sign that the state's deep drought is easing.

The Metropolitan Water District, which sells imported water to more than two dozen local agencies including Los Angeles, last year slashed regional deliveries by 15 percent.

On Tuesday, 10 months after the cuts took effect, the MWD voted to rescind them.

Board Chairman Randy Record said in a statement that the public's support and diligence in cutting back on water use made the restorations possible. The revised plan still calls for conservation.

At the state level, members of the Water Resources Control Board will decide May 18 whether to remove their own 11-month-old order for mandatory water use cuts.

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City Council Highlights: 20 Acres in North Valleys Annexed By Reno

MAY 11, 2016 BY [CARLA O'DAY LEAVE A COMMENT](#)



Image: Google Maps.

Two parcels totaling 20 acres in the North Valleys were approved Wednesday for annexation into the city, along with a zoning change, by the Reno City Council at the request of the property owners.

The properties at 9325 and 9355 Pan American Way, west of the street's intersection of Terra Court, currently have one house on each parcel and was zoned for mixed-use residential, but it was switched to single family residential. Both are owned by Cleveland and Doris Pipkin.

City staff told council members the properties met the annexation criteria, including that for planned water and sewer use. Reno's sanitary sewer interceptor is located south of the site. The city and Washoe County are working on a joint wastewater facilities plan for the North Valleys. No correspondence was received by the city and nobody showed up to comment. It passed 6-0. Councilwoman Naomi Duerr was absent.

“**The Truckee Meadows Water Authority** has started construction of the Vidler pipeline extension along Lemmon Drive near the properties proposed for annexation to its current system on North Virginia Street,” a report to the Council said. “This extension will be capable of serving the water needs of future development and the subject site abuts existing TMWA service areas to the south and west.”

Other Council Highlights

The following are from the city of Reno

An agreement was approved with EKAY Economic Consultants for a \$11,900 study to determine the feasibility of a ice rink for a minor league hockey team at the Reno Events Center. Funds for the study would come from the Capital Projects Room Tax Surcharge.

An ordinance amending the Reno Municipal Code that deals with public peace, safety and morals in area parks was approved.

A resolution repealing language related to a Board Up Program established pursuant to the 1997 Uniform fire Code was approved to create a new Board Up Program established pursuant to the International Fire Code.

An ordinance was passed that amends electrical certificate requirements for people employed in relevant trades.

An interlocal cooperative agreement between the city and Regional Transportation Commission was approved for the upcoming fiscal year, including RTC's program of projects.

Letter: Growth will lead to uninhabitable conditions

Reno Gazette-Journal 1:02 a.m. PDT April 23, 2016



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Letter to the Editor(Photo: RGJ, RGJ)Buy Photo

One thousand homes for Cold Springs to Red Rock. Some 250 homes for Rancharra. Some 300 homes to be built by Boomtown and Verdi. Politicians and water masters tell us to conserve water, yet they allow more growth. We are starting a fifth year of drought in California and Nevada. Nevada is the driest state in the U.S.A. Where is the water for all this growth? If we don't stop this growth, Reno and Western Nevada will become uninhabitable. Why? No water.

Derek Stephans, Reno

POLL OF THE DAY: Should TMWA continue to ask for voluntary cutbacks on water use?

By News 4 Digital Staff Friday, April 22nd 2016



The poll question on Friday, April 22, 2016 was: Should TMWA continue to ask for voluntary cutbacks on

RENO, Nev. (News 4) — Although we are still in a drought, some mitigation efforts are providing relief in northern Nevada.

The Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) made a big announcement recently about water restrictions.

The Truckee Meadows Operating Agreement went into place last December and it has allowed TMWA to save 60 percent more water this year.

Reservoir storage is still rebounding, but summer river forecasts are expected to stay near average.

"You know we aren't using any of our upstream drought storage, and we don't anticipate using the drought storage," said Andy Gebhardt, TMWA's director of public relations. "There won't be any call for an additional 10 percent. We would just ask the residents to continue to do like they've always done: be responsible, be efficient and care about your water."

Experts say our drought severity is expected to continue to decrease.

Should TMWA continue to ask for voluntary cutbacks on water use?

News Feed



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KRNV News 4
on Friday

POLL OF THE DAY: TMWA made a big announcement recently about water restrictions. The Truckee Meadows Operating Agreement went into place last December and it has allowed TMWA to save 60 percent more water this year. Reservoir storage is still rebounding, but summer river forecasts are expected to stay near average. Should TMWA continue to ask for voluntary cutbacks on water use?

RESULTS154 Votes

- Yes 86%
- No 14%

TMWA projects no water cuts this summer

By Meteorologist Cassie Wilson Friday, April 22nd 2016

tweet now!

Reno, Nev. (News 4) — Although we are still in a drought, some mitigation efforts are providing relief in northern Nevada. Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) made a big announcement recently about water restrictions.

The Truckee Meadows Operating Agreement went into place last December, and it has allowed TMWA to save 60 percent more water this year. Reservoir storage is still rebounding, but summer river forecasts are expected to stay near average.

Andy Gebhardt, Director of Customer Relations, explains what TMWA is expecting this summer,

"We don't anticipate using the drought storage, so there won't be any call for an additional 10 percent [reduction]. We would just ask the residents to continue to do like they've always done: be responsible, be efficient, and care of your water."

Now we are still in a drought, and TMWA urges customers to continue to be efficient with water use. For a list of water conservation tips, [CLICK HERE](#).

Tim Bardsley, Hydrologist, NWS Reno, explains where we stand drought-wise,

"This year has been a near-average year snowpack year and actually a bit above average for rain and snow in lower elevations here around Reno. We still have a pretty big deficit; we are still in a drought even though some of the impacts are being mitigated."

He provided this updated list of reservoirs storage, in terms of percent of average:

- Boca 61%
- Donner 69%
- Independence 99%
- Lahontan 32%
- Tahoe 3%
- Prosser 30%
- Stampeded 36%

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MORE TO EXPLORE

Tell the Board Submission: William W.

From: Marlene Olsen
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2016 1:37 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 4/28/16 watering/ irrigation/construction

Thank you. If you have questions, please direct them to me and I will forward to someone who might be able to answer your questions.

And please know that if you provide public comment, your comments will be written into the record, and if action is required, the board will direct staff. Because we meet under the Nevada Open Meeting law, dialog and questions back and forth are not permitted during public comment..

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2016 7:56 AM
To: Marlene Olsen <marlene@goodstandingoutreach.com>
Subject: Re: 4/28/16 watering/ irrigation/construction

Dear Marlene,

Thank you for your reply to my letter to the BOD's of the Parkwood HOA.

Also thank you for the information and invite to TMWA's Board Of Directors's meeting, I will do my best to attend their next meeting in May. I'm sure I will find it informative, and a opportunity to ask questions and offer any suggestions I may have as well.

I have one question for now, and that is, what email address is best to CC TMWA when, and if, I write an email to the Parkwood BOD's with concerns regarding water usage? I don't want to feel I'm being excessive with emails, however, when a copy is included to TMWA, they tend to listen better..

Thank you again,

Bill [REDACTED]

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

From: Marlene Olsen <marlene@goodstandingoutreach.com>
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thu, Apr 28, 2016 11:05 am
Subject: RE: 4/28/16 watering/ irrigation/construction

William:

Thanks for your concern and for copying us on this email. I will make sure that it is included in the board of directors agenda packet for their next meeting on May 18th. You are always welcome to attend any of our Board of Directors meeting in person. Public comment is always first and last on the agenda for the convenience of our customers. See this page for details.

http://tmwa.com/about_us/meeting_center?news_id=3 The agenda is posted five working days before the

next meeting.

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

From: william [REDACTED] <>>

Date: April 28, 2016 at 1:22:54 AM PDT

To: <board@parkwoodreno.org<mailto:board@parkwoodreno.org>>

Cc: <tmwaboard@tmwa.com<mailto:tmwaboard@tmwa.com>>, [REDACTED]>>

Subject: 4/28/16 watering/ irrigation/construction

I'm disappointed to see the irrigation systems running this 12:01AM (4/28/16) with the resent showers on (Monday and) Wednesday evening(s), with fresh concrete poured 4/27/16 on Anne Marie Court, an empty ditch on Sarah court that will fill and be soaked with irrigation water through the morning hours, and as the asphalt project is in progress over the next several days, but I'm not surprised. The water systems seem to run whether or not it is raining on a water day or not, as seen the last several seasons.(the daily watering cycle costs of a watering day use I believe is from @ \$85.00 to over \$200 depending on the percentages set on the clocks) Perhaps the new sprinkler heads are saving water, but regulating the system clocks during rain , snow, and construction, will save even more. Please also note that a high water content in the sub-surface materials will affect the life of both the concrete and the asphalt.

Also, the replacement of the speed bump would be more desirable to the residents on Henry Court if it were moved several feet to the East and slightly smaller. (the speed bump near Rose Garden Court is still too large and scraps the underside of cars as they pass over it)

Tell the Board Submission: Michelle B.

From: "Gebhardt, Andy" <agebhardt@tmwa.com>

Date: May 6, 2016 at 2:39:10 PM PDT

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Summer Water Conservation

Hello Michelle-

In a nutshell, we are currently storing every drop of water we are legally allowed to store. We quite literally are not allowed to store any more. Consequently, any water-use cutbacks you may do at home will not benefit upstream reservoir levels or our reserves. We ALWAYS ask our customers to use water responsibly and ONLY ask them to cut back when water is being released from our upstream reserves—because that is truly the only time that water conserved can be stored for future use. If we are not releasing from our reserves—and we will not be this year—cutbacks will provide zero benefit to upstream reservoirs and our reserves. The good news is that because of the recent implementation of the Truckee River Operating Agreement, we currently have a record amount of upstream reservoir storage.

Below are a few links to different articles that may help in my explanation:

<http://tmwa.com/news/press-releases/05-01-2016/summer-conservation-faqs-mdash;what-tmwa-is-asking-for-this-year>

[Geno's One View](#)

[Average Snowpack Means Washoe Won't Have To Cut Back Water Use \(audio\)](#)

If you have any further questions, or would like to discuss this in greater depth, I would be happy to do that. Just let me know.

Thanks again for your interest and your concern for our community.

Respectfully-

Andy Gebhardt

Director Customer Relations

Truckee Meadows Water Authority

1355 Capital Blvd. | Reno, NV 89502

O: (775) 834-8007, M: (775) 230-3699

agebhardt@tmwa.com | www.tmwa.com

From: Michelle [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 05, 2016 9:36 AM
To: Gebhardt, Andy
Subject: Re: Summer Water Conservation

Hello Andy,

Thank you for your email.

I would like to discuss this but it seems for the next several weeks I am extremely busy with work and then my son's lacrosse practice.

Is it possible for you to email me the reasoning behind the decision? I do receive a lot of calls based on this subject so any information I can pass a long for them, and my information, I would appreciate it.

Many thanks,

Michelle

From: "Gebhardt, Andy" <agebhardt@tmwa.com>
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 5, 2016 7:38 AM
Subject: FW: Summer Water Conservation

Hello Michelle-

I don't know if you received my previous e-mail below, but the offer stands to meet with you and anyone else you feel would benefit from this discussion. Please let me know.

Thank you.

Andy Gebhardt
Director Customer Relations
Truckee Meadows Water Authority
1355 Capital Blvd. | Reno, NV 89502
O: (775) 834-8007, M: (775) 230-3699
agebhardt@tmwa.com | www.tmwa.com

From: Gebhardt, Andy
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2016 10:22 AM
To: 'm_breckner@yahoo.com'
Subject: Summer Water Conservation

Hello Michelle-

Thank you for reaching out and requesting more information regarding our decision to not ask for additional water conservation this year and the reasoning behind the decision. I would like to set up a meeting with you and anyone else that you feel might be interested to discuss this issue.

If you are interested in a meeting, please let me know a couple of times next week where you may be available. We could meet here at our offices, or if you have more people that you work with that would like to meet and it would be more convenient to come to you, that would work as well.

Please let me know your preference.

Thank you again.

Andy Gebhardt

Director Customer Relations

Truckee Meadows Water Authority

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From: Michelle [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2016 2:57 PM

To: __conservation; tmwaboard

Subject: Decision to not ask for the 10% water cut

Hello, I heard on the news and also read a newspaper article regarding the cut back.

I have to say, I am extremely disappointed in this decision and would like to understand why.

I am writing as a citizen of Reno and climate of the Western states if my career. I may not completely understand how it all works, therefore I am asking the reason why was this decision made.

Currently, the 2015-2016 water year, shows Tahoe ONLY at 104-115% of normal and Northern Nevada at 113-120% of normal. This is not reason to celebrate. We have been in a drought for over 4 years, one average year is not going to fix that and we should be aware. Having extra water is a good thing, why waste it? <http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/snotelanom/basinpren.html>

Please, reconsider the 10% water cut. NV is well below the average in reservoir storage. Even with snow melt, which a lot has melted already, we might not even meet the average for the year.

Michelle

Tell the Board Submission: Bruce W.

From: Tell the Board [REDACTED]

Date: May 8, 2016 at 10:24:10 AM PDT

To: M Olsen <molsen@o-apr.com>, R Charpentier <rcharpentier@tmwa.com>, "K Mazerres" <kmazerres@tmwa.com>

Subject: Tell the Board Submission

Name: Bruced W [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Comments: Thanks to Chairman Gino Martini for his excellent article in Sunday's RGJ. It sounds like he and the Board have done a stellar job in navigating the drought and putting the Truckee Meadows water needs in a stable position for years to come.

Bruce Wallace