



TMWA Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 19, 2016

Press Clippings

September 14, 2016 – October 12, 2016



TMWA uses drought reserves to maintain customer demand

By Cassie Wilson Friday, September 16th 2016

TMWA utilizes drought reserves 9-16-16

RENO, Nev. (News 4 & Fox 11) — Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) is dipping into its private drought reserves in order to maintain water demand to keep the water treatment plant online and provide its customers water.

Bill Hauck, senior hydrologist for TMWA, explains this late season demand is not a big concern as TMWA will only be using roughly 10 percent of its privately-owned drought reserves, which were fortified through the Truckee Meadows Operating Agreement (TROA).

This comes months after the Federal Water Master announced the release of additional upstream water from local reservoirs was necessary to maintain the required flows along the Truckee River at the end of June. But in the past week, the river flows dropped too low, and additional support from TMWA is needed.

Since Tahoe is below the rim, water is being pulled from Boca, Stampede and Prosser reservoirs with the recent addition from TMWA of water from Donner and Independence lakes.

As of Friday, Sept. 16, the Truckee River is flowing at 118 cfs, while the normal number for this time of year is 269 cfs.

Master Gardener: Hands-on agriculture event for all ages Sept. 24

Ashley Andrews 2:45 p.m. PDT September 15, 2016



Reno Rabbits 4-H club will display Angora rabbits and conduct a spinning demonstration.(Photo: Photo courtesy of Cooperative Extension)

For botanists, a stem is a plant part. It provides structural support for buds and leaves, and it transports water, minerals and sugars. Plant stems can be long or short. They can be above ground or below. But for University of Nevada Cooperative Extension's 4-H After School club, STEM takes on a whole new meaning.

It refers to science, technology, engineering and math, and After School club members will show us what it is all about. They will lead a hands-on STEM demonstration constructing mini lava lamps to take home. The activity is for all ages. It will take place at Nevada Field Day, held 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sept. 24 at 5895 Clean Water Way in Reno.

The STEM demonstration sounds magical. Samantha Shoupe, a community-based instructor with Cooperative Extension, says "It's better than magic; it's science." Shoupe encourages all to attend Field Day and explore not only the STEM demonstration but other 4-H activities as well.

Merry Milkers 4-H club will be on hand with pack goats. Reno Rabbits 4-H club will display Angora rabbits and conduct a spinning demonstration. High Sierra Riders 4-H club, with a lifelike horse named Jasper, will show us horse markings and play “name that part.”



Merry Milkers 4-H club will be on hand with pack goats. (Photo: Photo courtesy of Cooperative Extension.)

If plant stems are more your style, Cooperative Extension master gardener volunteers will be on hand to answer garden and landscape questions and provide information on second-season gardening.

Nutrition and fire professionals from Cooperative Extension will also be there. Veggies 4 Kids will provide basic nutrition education to youth through fun games and prizes. Play ping-pong toss at the Living With Fire Program’s Ember House to learn about embers and wildfire threat, and how to keep your home safe.

Cooperative Extension will not be the only folks at Field Day. The event is held in partnership with the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources and the Nevada Agricultural Experiment Station. **Field Day is supported by Truckee Meadows Water Authority and the Nevada Agricultural Foundation.**

Other agencies will be there, including Western Nevada College; Nevada Grown; the Nevada Department of Agriculture; the Academy of Arts, Careers and Technology; the Natural Resource Conservation District and more.

Explore the many booths featuring educational information, giveaways and activities. But while you are there, do not forget to eat!

Pamela Van Hoozer conducts drought research at CABNR. She recommends visiting her at a natural resources and environmental science booth. There you will find taste-testing of watermelons and tomatoes.

Food lovers will also enjoy the mouthwatering aromas and flavors crafted by local restaurateur/chef Mark Estee and Battle Born and All Wrapped Up food trucks. Chef Estee will conduct cooking demonstrations featuring healthy and local foods. The food trucks will be open for business.

All in all, Field Day is more than an event. It features opportunities to see, hear, smell, touch and taste the latest innovations in agriculture, horticulture, nutrition, natural resources and the environment. Field Day is an experience. Do not miss it. For more information, visit <http://www.unce.unr.edu/news/article.asp?ID=2334>.

Ashley Andrews is the horticulture assistant with University of Nevada Cooperative Extension. Horticulture questions? Ask a master gardener, 775-336-0265 or mastergardeners@unce.unr.edu, or visit growyourownnevada.com, manageNVpests.info or livingwithdrought.com.

Pollutant made famous by Erin Brockovich flows from taps in Las Vegas, nationwide



The Las Vegas Valley Water District's annual Water Quality Report says tap water in the valley exceeds all federal and state health standards. (Thinkstock)

By HENRY BREAN
LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

A pollutant made famous by environmental activist Erin Brockovich shows up in drinking water supplies across the country, including the Las Vegas Valley, according to [a new report by the Environmental Working Group](#).

The report, released Tuesday, calls on federal regulators to establish a national health standard for chromium-6, a carcinogen that is currently unregulated outside of California but can be found in trace amounts in valley tap water.

Roughly 218 million Americans, more than two-thirds of the nation's population, are being exposed to the compound in their drinking water, according to the Washington, D.C.-based environmental group.

The new analysis is based on water sampling from utilities nationwide. It shows chromium-6 in the tap water delivered by 17 purveyors in eight Nevada counties, but in concentrations well below California's limit of 10 parts per billion. Las Vegas Valley Water District spokesman Bronson Mack called the report "technically accurate but misleading."

"The quality of Southern Nevada's water meets or surpasses all safe drinking water standards," he said, and that includes the Environmental Protection Agency's broader limit on total chromium, which is restricted to no more than 100 ppb.

Chromium-6 turned up at a level of about 0.2 ppb in samples collected between 2013 and 2015 by the water district, Nevada's largest water utility, and North Las Vegas. The average concentration of the compound in Henderson and Boulder City during that time was about 0.06 ppb, according to the report.

One part per billion is roughly the equivalent to one drop of water in an Olympic-sized swimming pool.

Water delivered by the Truckee Meadows Water Authority, which serves the Reno area, showed an average chromium-6 level of 0.5 ppb.

The highest level reported in Nevada was in the Nye County community of Round Mountain, where chromium-6 was found at a concentration of 3 ppb, less than a third of California's limit.

Citing a link between the ingested pollutant and cancer, California became the first state to regulate chromium-6 in drinking water in July 2014.

The move came two decades after Brockovich led her now-famous crusade on behalf of the small desert town of Hinkley, California, where Pacific Gas & Electric is still cleaning up a massive plume of contaminated groundwater left over from its use of the compound to prevent rust in its natural gas distribution system.

Levels in Hinkley spiked to as high as 580 ppb in some groundwater wells and to more than 9,000 ppb right around the compressor station where PG&E once used the chemical compound and then dumped it into unlined waste ponds, according to various media reports.

The Environmental Working Group argues that California's chromium-6 limit of 10 ppb is far too high, a result the group blames on a flawed analysis by regulators and "aggressive lobbying by industry and water utilities."

The environmental group said the legal limit should be closer to the public health goal of 0.02 ppb favored by some scientists in California.

The group said a similar "tug-of-war" between scientists and lobbyists is now being waged at the federal level, stalling regulations the group contends could prevent more than 12,000 cases of cancer by the end of the century.

Mack said the chromium-6 in the local water supply is naturally occurring and not a byproduct of industrial activity. It's found here at such low levels that no additional treatment is likely to be needed when and if the EPA announces a limit for the compound, he said.

Its presence in the valley's drinking water is no secret. The Las Vegas Valley Water District, Henderson and North Las Vegas all report their chromium-6 levels as part of the annual water quality reports they send out to customers. It's generally listed under contaminants that are monitored but unregulated.

Next page for graphic of Nevada results

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

Something in the water

There is no federal safe drinking water standard for chromium-6, but California has set a limit of 10 parts per billion. Scientists in California have also established a public health goal of 0.02 ppb for the pollutant linked to cancer in humans, but that standard is not enforced.

Nevada results, 2013-2015

COUNTY	UTILITY	PARTS PER BILLION
Nye	Round Mountain PUC	2.96
Clark	Virgin Valley Water District	2.5
White Pine	Ely Municipal Water Department	0.928
Elko	City of Elko	0.68
Douglas	Gardnerville Ranchos GID	0.672
Washoe	South Truckee Meadows GID	0.67
Washoe	Truckee Meadows Water Authority	0.58
Lyon	Fernley Public Works	0.54
Lyon	Dayton Valley Water System	0.33
Carson City	Carson City Public Works	0.22
Clark	Las Vegas Valley Water District	0.2
Clark	North Las Vegas Utilities	0.19
Washoe	Hungry Valley (Reno/Sparks)	0.17
Washoe	Double Diamond	0.16
Washoe	Sun Valley GID	0.075
Clark	Boulder City	0.062
Clark	City of Henderson	0.057

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

Potentially cancer-causing metal found in central Ohio water

By Chad Conant/Elizabeth Faugl Wednesday, September 21st 2016

Share Video

Potentially cancer-causing metal found in central Ohio water (5 p.m.)

COLUMBUS — A heavy metal known to cause cancer in animals and humans has been found in Columbus drinking water. Environmental activist group EWG looked a federal data from tests in all 50 states, and found potentially unsafe levels of chromium-6 was found in 75% of tap water.

EWG says testing done between 2013-2015 shows every sample taken from all five water systems in Franklin County tested positive for the carcinogenic chemical. The average level was .203 parts per billion.

Chromium-6 was found to cause cancer in laboratory rats and mice during a 2008 study, according to EWG. This is the same chemical made famous by the movie "Erin Brockovich", which was named after an environmental activist who sued a power company over pollution of tap water. After two studies, Environmental health scientists in California set a public health goal of .02 parts per billion of chromium-6 in tap water.

Twenty samples taken from some Columbus water supplies in 2014 found an average of .21 parts per billion of Chromium-6, according to EWG. The highest concentrations were found at the Dublin Road water treatment plant. The Dublin Road plant has been the site of past issues with nitrate, including a nitrate advisory in June.

Columbus had the ninth highest level of Chromium-6 in the country, according to the EWG data. A spokesman for Columbus Department of Public Utilities said they question the accuracy of the EWG report, saying they test for chromium-6 even though it's not regulated by the EPA.

In a statement, the spokesman said in 2014, Columbus' "highest levels for hexavalent chromium were .35 ppb - or, less than 4% of California's MCL. Again, there are no federal guidelines on which to draw from. " Currently, California is the only state with a maximum level of Chromium-6 allowed in water, at 10 parts per billion.

The Department of Public Utilities also referred the public to their 2015 Consumer Confidence Report, which details more about testing done to public water.

The results also showed Westerville, Reynoldsburg, and Gahanna city water systems tested positive. Delaware, Fayette, Licking, and Union Counties also showed higher levels of Chromium-6 according to EWG. The Ohio EPA told ABC 6/FOX 28 there is no standard for chromium-6 in the state, and they think the story is misleading.

"We take water protection very seriously, I don't have the exact numbers based on them for the state of Ohio, but I would say if the EPA sets a health center for drinking water for this chemical, we would act very quickly to adopt a standard to protect Ohioans," Heidi Griesmer, of the Ohio EPA said.

Chromium-6 is generally produced by industry. It appears in the environment by natural processes and human actions.

TMWA Approves Funds For Restoration, Education Efforts

SEPTEMBER 21, 2016 BY [CARLA O'DAY LEAVE A COMMENT](#)



Image of Truckee River showing tall whitetop outcompeting riparian vegetation. Image: UNR Cooperative Extension.

By Carla O'Day

Funding of projects that include restoration efforts, education initiatives, surveying and invasive weed control were approved unanimously Wednesday by the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) board.

The Truckee River Fund Advisory Committee recommended the TMWA board authorize six projects totaling almost \$400,000:

- Removing invasive weeds along the Truckee River and its tributaries is planned next spring at sites identified by Nevada Land Trust and Truckee Meadows Weed Coordinating Group. Municipal park employees have indicated weed control is the most challenging part of their jobs.

- The stabilization of Donner Creek's bank is necessary because of a slope near an existing railroad culvert that shows severe erosion.

“The project will create final designs to re-profile the bank and stabilize the area with a combination of large wood, rock, erosion control fabric, revegetation with native, drought tolerant grasses and sedges and riparian plantings,” a report to the TMWA board said. “This will stabilize a severely eroding stream bank, thus largely eliminating one of the largest sources of fine sediment to the downstream-most portion of Donner Creek.”

- The Truckee River Watershed Committee's Donner Creek Concept Designs project is supposed to improve water quality and habitat along the creek and decrease sedimentation reaching the Truckee River.

- The Watershed Education Initiative will allow Sierra Nevada Journeys to serve 675 students in 25 area classrooms over a four-week period that includes one field-study experience, pre- and post-assessments, classroom extension lessons for teachers, family and community engagement and citizen science.

- One Truckee River's Phase I implementation will support Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful and Nevada Land Trust with leadership efforts. Two AmeriCorps volunteers will complete a survey inventory of the Truckee River corridor, a watershed survey and provide management support for two additional volunteers. The additional volunteers will complete and implement curricula for schools and generate a watershed education plan.

- Management of the property encompassing Webber Lake, a 220-acre natural lake at the mouth of the Little Truckee River, will address areas of disease and overstock and assist in prevention of wildfires. This will aid in source water protection and reduce amount of sediment entering water due to erosion, which effects water quality. The Little Truckee River is in eastern California and a tributary into the Truckee River.

TMWA Approves Nearly \$400,000 For Restoration, Education

TMWA Budget Adjustments Approved, GM Gets Raise

SEPTEMBER 22, 2016 BY [CARLA O'DAY LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

By Carla O'Day

An amended budget for next fiscal year that contains an additional \$4.3 million, much of it for new projects in the Verdi and Mogul areas, was approved Wednesday by the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) board.

The Verdi main extension is expected to cost \$1.7 million, the Mesa Park subdivision drainage project in southwest Reno is \$800,000 and the Mogul booster pump station is about \$500,000. A construction water fill station and the Spanish Springs nitrate project are expected to cost \$400,000 and \$300,000, respectively. Estimated costs for several other projects have also increased.

TMWA's total annual budget is \$47.8 million.

TMWA board member Jenny Brekhus, also a Reno councilwoman, noted that expanding to outlying areas can be expensive.

"This region needs to be under one straw," she said. "Are we starting to think about those areas and what the costs are?"



TMWA general manager Mark Foree

TMWA general manager Mark Foree said special assessment districts are an option but forming them are the responsibilities of municipalities.

The following projects will be deferred until fiscal year 2018: West Hidden Valley main replacement (\$1 million), Nevada Air National Guard well pumping facilities (\$900,000) and Sunrise well No. 3 replacement near Washoe Valley (\$800,000).

The board also gave Foree a four percent pay raise for the next fiscal year. His current salary is \$186,989. TMWA board members and staff who evaluated Foree anonymously indicated in a survey that he exceeded expectations in most areas.

"TMWA culture promotes cohesive teamwork with the entire management team, Mark provides staff the latitude and responsibility to perform their jobs in a professional manner," wrote one reviewer. "He stays informed of the important details, but does not micromanage."

Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful had 800 volunteers for cleanup



Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful clean up efforts. Photo by Chris Buckley/KOLO.

By Staff |

Posted: Sat 12:15 PM, Sep 24, 2016 |

Updated: Sat 8:07 PM, Sep 24, 2016



RENO, Nev. (KOLO) - Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful reports that 810 volunteers removed 46 tons of trash and invasive weeds during the annual Truckee River Cleanup Day September 24, 2016.

The cleanup spanned more than 20 miles of the Truckee River and its tributaries.

For the first time since 2014 the water levels were so high that kayak teams had to clean up the debris.

Other volunteers stenciled 'No Dumping, Drains to River' on storm drains.

Last year the effort had more than 1,000 volunteers who removed more than 40 tons of trash and invasive weeds.

"Last year the public was very focused on the river because it was so low, which may be why we had such a record breaking year for volunteers then. More people than usual wanted to get out and help and do something for the river." Christi Cakiroglu, KTMB executive director, said in a statement. "But 810 is still a lot of volunteers! And in the end, we achieved the projects we had hoped to."



ONE VIEW
JENNY BREKHUS

Ethics, roles, responsibilities at City Hall

I am optimistic about Reno's future. Our economy and region are growing and this brings opportunities. It also poses challenges. While most of the focus on growth is related to building and land development, we must also consider our governance structure to ensure that we can achieve the success broadly desired for our maturing city.

With an assist from its citizen Charter Committee (the city's charter is analogous to the U.S. Constitution for the federal government), the Reno City Council is poised to move forward. The council will soon be considering ethics reform based on best practices at the local government level. The council is poised to adopt a lobbyist registration program so that the public can know whose interests are being advocated for and to whom. The registration program will allow the public to know if someone is being paid to speak to either a city council member or staff person on behalf of someone who is, for example, looking for a development approval or a contract to do business with the city.

The Reno City Council conducts business year-round. For this reason, the Charter Committee accepted my suggestion and recommended to the council a more robust campaign reporting system than the one geared toward the Nevada Legislature that meets every other year for 120 days. This system would allow the public to know who is making campaign contributions to sitting council members on a timely basis to better understand if these contributions are tied to business before the council. If adopted, Reno will be a leader among Nevada governments in heightened transparency.

Once these reforms are in place, it will be time to examine roles and responsibilities at City Hall. Both the 2014 Nevada Supreme Court decision describing the mayor as "first among equals" of city council members and hiring of a new city manager bring into question if we have the ideal governance structure. Is it desirable to have an unelected executive with broad administrative authority leading the city? Should the mayor's authority be expanded or differentiated from that of a council member? There are many examples of cities functioning well with both a city manager and strong mayor forms of government. This topic should be up for discussion when the Charter Committee reconvenes in 2018.

Reno is at a crossroads. One direction leads to a more vibrant and resilient metropolitan future. The other sends us along a muddling path of unplanned growth and outcomes. Improving how business is done at City Hall is necessary if we are going to address the challenges we face while capitalizing on the opportunities of growth.

Jenny Brekhuis is the incumbent candidate for Reno City Council Ward 1.

THE OPINION OF THE RGJ EDITORIAL BOARD **FIND A WAY FORWARD**

City leaders must work to repair Reno's fractured government

Reno city government spiraled into dysfunction this summer. It could not have come at a worse time as Reno juggles major new development proposals, big population growth and the challenging transition away from its traditional gaming-and-tourism economy.

The problems reached a peak with sexual harassment charges by three female employees against city manager Andrew Clinger. Two investigations ensued. By all accounts, no work was getting done at city hall because of gossip, uncertainty and staff taking sides in the harassment cases.

In an effort to right the ship, on Sept. 14, the Reno City Council voted to pay Clinger \$228,000 in exchange for him agreeing to leave and not sue over his departure.

The vote was not unanimous. Council members Jenny Brekhus and Paul McKenzie opposed the separation agreement. They felt any decisions about Clinger's employment should have waited until the second investigation into harassment claims is completed next month.

The settlement includes \$30,000 for Clinger's attorney fees, which, if the investigation goes against him, he likely would not have received. On the other hand, Clinger could be vindicated. It is understandable to view a settlement as premature.

In an after-hours meeting with the RGJ Editorial Board, Mayor Hillary Schieve and Councilwoman Neoma Jardon made a reasonable case for settling now.

They said it had become increasingly impossible for city staff to focus on its work. Compounding this, they said, is the fact that no matter what the investigation finds, Clinger could not return. He would be open to claims of retaliatory behavior for future personnel decisions, whether against or in support of an employee.

"There was no path back so we took what was the most fiscally responsible path forward and got the staff back on track," Jardon said.

Schieve said, "This could've dragged on for months or years."

City attorney Karl Hall, who was also at the meeting, said the \$30,000 for Clinger's attorney fees was a tiny amount compared to what the city would pay to address any potential legal claims made by the city manager.

The settlement does seem to protect taxpayers from larger legal costs and from a lengthy controversy that would not burnish Reno's reputation. It also gets the city facing forward again.

In about two weeks, Reno will be able to officially seek a new city manager — and this is where it must avoid thinking the hard part is over.

The current drama highlighted flaws in the city's personnel policies. For example:

- » Employee feedback on the running of the city is not always anonymous, causing problems to fester.
- » There is no good mechanism for workers to report issues they have with a city manager.
- » And council members do not receive all of the information they need to give a fully informed performance review of city managers.

There are more cracks in the city's internal workings. Through a public records request, RGJ government watchdog reporter Anjeanette Damon recently uncovered something known as the Olive Grove report. It contains the findings of a consultant hired earlier this year to improve relationships among the city's council members, the city manager and staff. Here are just a few of its insights:

- » City staff is suffering from a pervasive lack of morale.

Executive staff struggles to prioritize important initiatives because of a leadership gap at the city manager level and because individual council members had been going around the city manager and communicating directly with staff to try to accomplish things.

- » And the murkiness of the mayor's ceremonial vs. actual leadership duties has resulted in a "leadership gap."

In consultation with council members, the next city manager will need to deal with these issues quickly yet thoroughly and transparently.

The Clinger separation agreement was a good step but it, perhaps, was the easiest step. The council needs to be clear that the problems at city hall go beyond any current controversy. Further down the path awaits serious work to get Reno's government operating the way its residents expect and deserve.

Upper Truckee River channel project close to completion

Submitted by admin on Fri, 09/30/2016 - 10:30pm



Water now moving through new channels



Paula Peterson

A major restoration project of the Upper Truckee River channel and surrounding meadows is about to be completed, three years and \$7 million later. Known as Reach 5, the U.S. Forest Service project is improving the river channel stability and aquatic habitat along 1.2 miles of the river adjacent to the Lake Tahoe Airport.

Another goal of the project is to restore surface and subsurface channel connectivity to 120 acres of floodplain, increasing deposition of fine sediments and nutrient uptake on the floodplains as well as raising the ground water levels in the meadow.

To meet these goals, USFS crews have created a brand new river channel that is more meandering, one that has a slower water flow, more conducive to healthier plant life and a meadow full of nutrients and home to a healthy animal habitat.

The Upper Truckee is the largest tributary into Lake Tahoe which means it brings in more sediment than any other source and it is one of three watershed focuses for USFS.

Funding for the project came from the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA), which sells public lands in Southern Nevada to fund, among others, Lake Tahoe restoration projects.

Originally budgeted at \$4.5M, extra costs were covered by extended SNPLMA funding.

Theresa Cody, Project Manager for USFS, said their original budget was created in 2010, and costs for the seasonal bridge and an extra river diversion came in much higher than planned.

Crews used the old Sunset Stables as a staging ground for the last four years. They first installed an approximately two acre aggregate base pad, which is designed to prevent the spread of noxious weeds into the project area. Rocks and dirt removed from the Upper Truckee River and meadow were kept here, then put back into the new river bed, thus keeping transportation costs down and keeping the fill natural to the environment. A removable bridge was installed annually from the stable area to the river project area to transport the dirt and rocks.

As of September 29, water has been diverted into the lower channel. The newly created banks are already healthy with vegetation and the river bed is full of gravel, giving it the look that its been there for years. Theresa Cody, USFS hydrologist and lead on the project, said evidence of the dozens of heavy equipment that have been in the area over the last four years will disappear within two years. Some portions of the 1.2 miles of the new channel were revegetated two years ago, while others are just now having plants added. "By next spring this will all look more natural," said Cody. "Ecosystems are very resilient to change."

River Diversion

Years of human intervention in the area created a need to craft a river channel without high banks to encourage flooding, a more stable riverbed, a healthier aquatic environment and reduce the sediment getting into the lake.

Tons of dirt have been removed from the meadow to create the new river channel, with that dirt now filling the old river channel. Water had been diverted through an extensive pipe system as crew members prepare the new river bed ready to be filled.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) had to be involved with the dirt that came back into the meadow and river. They needed to do a wildlife hazard assessment to make sure an increased number of birds weren't attracted to the area adjacent to the Lake Tahoe Airport. After the new river flows, the rate the water will move will be about 375 cubic feet per second. Before the project was started it ran about 700 to 1000 cubic feet per second. The old river had very few areas of shade for fish, and the new river has old trees, roots and other "natural" features to give lots of shade.

Cody said it will take about two more weeks to complete the channel connections, and about one more week after that to do the final tie-in and put the diverted water into the new channel. She said they'll pull out and the public will be welcome to come back in around October 19/20. They don't plan on any construction next year unless heavy snow prevents them from finishing this year, but that isn't expected.

Rafting

The river rafting season this year was shortened due to construction in the area, but rafters should see great results next summer.

"This project should improve rafting conditions," said Theresa Cody, Project Manager for USFS. "It might push the start of the season to a later start date, but the project should result in a much longer rafting season."

The later start would be due to overbanking, a desired result of all the work done on the river channels. It will depend on snowfall and spring runoff as to when rafting seasons can start.

Western Pearlshell Mussels

14,000 mussels have been relocated since the project began in 2014, a much higher number than originally planned. It turned out that Reach 5 had the largest population of the mussel in the Lake Tahoe Basin an unknown fact when they began. [That first year was an experimental one when 925 mussels were tagged, weighed, measured, and relocated](#) to 37 plots in eight reaches of the Upper Truckee River, Trout Creek and the Truckee River. Relocation has been successful though two of the mussels died.

It was found that the mussels thrived in areas of lower cover of aquatic vegetation, lower elevation, and lower minimum and maximum water depth.

The removed mussels will not be coming back, and nature will take care of repopulating them into the river. They reproduce on the gills of fish and are deposited into the river as they swim by.

Flooding/Overbanking

Historically, water from the Upper Truckee River went over the banks every one-to-two years. The meadow was flooded, keeping it green and healthy.

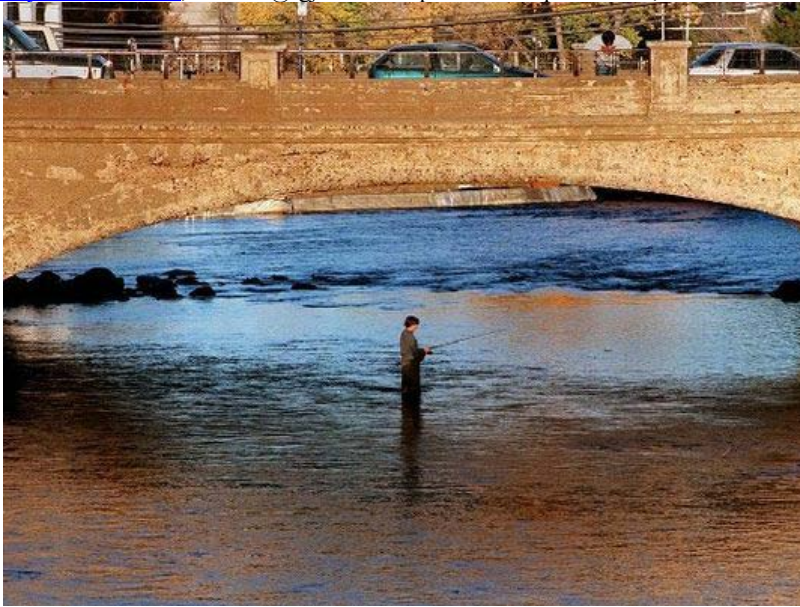
Cody said the new channel will now be conducive to flooding. The overbanking causing deposition of fine sediments and nutrient on the floodplains as well as raising the ground water levels in the meadow.

History

Man was the cause of the Upper Truckee River Reach 5 needing to be rerouted. Farming, grazing, an old gravel pit all led to the decline of the riverbed, but the main cause was the Lake Tahoe Airport. When it was built over 50 years ago, much wasn't known about sediments entering the lake. The river was straightened due to runways being built along the meadow, and it was lined with large rocks on the banks. This caused a larger flow of water, reduced chances of overbanking and hardening of the ground.

Plan to improve, protect Truckee River gets go-ahead

[Anjeanette Damon](mailto:adamon@rgj.com), adamon@rgj.com 9:23 p.m. PDT September 28, 2016



Jeloy Decker fishes next to the old Virginia Street bridge over the Truckee River.(Photo: Andy Barron, RGJ file)

A holistic management plan designed by a coalition of nonprofits, city planners and government officials to improve and protect the Truckee River was given a final go-ahead Wednesday by the Reno City Council.

The One Truckee River Management Plan was crafted by more than three dozen stakeholders after a lengthy community input process. Its four goals include:

- Protecting the river's water quality and ecosystem;
- Creating a safe, beautiful and accessible river;
- Building an aware and engaged community to care for the river;
- Ensuring collaborative and sustainable management of the river.

The management plan is initially focused on the stretch of the river that runs from West McCarran Boulevard in Reno to the reclamation plant in East Sparks. Additional phases will address the river east to the Pyramid Lake and west to the state line.

The plan won approval from the Reno City Council on Wednesday. The Washoe County Commission and the city of Sparks.

Partners in the plan include Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful and the Nevada Land Trust. It also includes the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, Reno Sparks Indian Colony, the National Parks Service and state and approved the plan this week.

Senate Passes the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act

The U.S. Senate has passed the Water Resources Development Act, which include the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act of 2015 (S.1724). We are grateful for the hard work of the Senate delegation: Senators Dean Heller, Harry Reid, Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer.

The U.S. House of Representative must act next for the vital measure to protect Lake Tahoe to advance. The legislation would provide critical funds for environmental restoration projects, the control of invasive species and to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire.

Lake Tahoe Restoration Act

Congress is considering reauthorization of the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act to bring hundreds of millions more in funding for restoration, research and invasive species and wildfire prevention at Lake Tahoe. The Act has been a keystone of the effort to protect and restore Lake Tahoe's clarity. The League strongly supports this legislation, which follows [action by California and Nevada to renew their commitment to cooperation on Lake Tahoe's environmental goals](#), without which continued public funding may have been impossible.

Darcie Goodman Collins, the League's executive director, has been traveling to Washington, D.C. this year to support the reauthorization of the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, which will be co-sponsored by Senators Dean Heller and Harry Reid of Nevada and Senator Dianne Feinstein of California, with support from Senator Barbara Boxer and leadership from Nevada Congressman Mark Amodei in the House of Representatives.

Leveraged with private investments, renewed federal funding would come at a critical time as other sources of public funds wind down. The League was instrumental to the passage of the original act in 2000. The funding has been vital to efforts to restore Lake Tahoe's clarity.

Lake Tahoe's Environmental Improvement Program is one of the most ambitious restoration efforts in the nation. It addresses water quality, air quality, transportation, forest management, recreation and scenic beauty at Lake Tahoe by funding and implementing capital improvement projects targeting these key areas. While improving Lake Tahoe's legendary clarity is a top concern, the program takes a holistic watershed-based approach to delivering a range of environmentally beneficial projects.

Upper Truckee River channel project close to completion

Submitted by [admin](#) on Fri, 09/30/2016 - 10:30p

< >

Paula Peterson

A major restoration project of the Upper Truckee River channel and surrounding meadows is about to be completed, three years and \$7 million later. Known as Reach 5, the U.S. Forest Service project is improving the river channel stability and aquatic habitat along 1.2 miles of the river adjacent to the Lake Tahoe Airport.

Another goal of the project is to restore surface and subsurface channel connectivity to 120 acres of floodplain, increasing deposition of fine sediments and nutrient uptake on the floodplains as well as raising the ground water levels in the meadow.

To meet these goals, USFS crews have created a brand new river channel that is more meandering, one that has a slower water flow, more conducive to healthier plant life and a meadow full of nutrients and home to a healthy animal habitat.

The Upper Truckee is the largest tributary into Lake Tahoe which means it brings in more sediment than any other source and it is one of three watershed focuses for USFS.

Funding for the project came from the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA), which sells public lands in Southern Nevada to fund, among others, Lake Tahoe restoration projects.

Originally budgeted at \$4.5M, extra costs were covered by extended SNPLMA funding. Theresa Cody, Project Manager for USFS, said their original budget was created in 2010, and costs for the seasonal bridge and an extra river diversion came in much higher than planned.

Crews used the old Sunset Stables as a staging ground for the last four years. They first installed an approximately two acre aggregate base pad,

which is designed to prevent the spread of noxious weeds into the project area. Rocks and dirt removed from the Upper Truckee River and meadow were kept here, then put back into the new river bed, thus keeping transportation costs down and keeping the fill natural to the environment. A removable bridge was installed annually from the stable area to the river project area to transport the dirt and rocks.

As of September 29, water has been diverted into the lower channel. The newly created banks are already healthy with vegetation and the river bed is full of gravel, giving it the look that its been there for years. Theresa Cody, USFS hydrologist and lead on the project, said evidence of the dozens of heavy equipment that have been in the area over the last four years will disappear within two years. Some portions of the 1.2 miles of the new channel were revegetated two years ago, while others are just now having plants added.

"By next spring this will all look more natural," said Cody. "Ecosystems are very resilient to change."

River Diversion

Years of human intervention in the area created a need to craft a river channel without high banks to encourage flooding, a more stable riverbed, a healthier aquatic environment and reduce the sediment getting into the lake.

Tons of dirt have been removed from the meadow to create the new river channel, with that dirt now filling the old river channel. Water had been diverted through an extensive pipe system as crew members prepare the new river bed ready to be filled.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) had to be involved with the dirt that came back into the meadow and river. They needed to do a wildlife hazard assessment to make sure an increased number of birds weren't attracted to the area adjacent to the Lake Tahoe Airport.

After the new river flows, the rate the water will move will be about 375 cubic feet per second. Before the project was started it ran about 700 to 1000 cubic feet per second. The old river had very few areas of shade for fish, and the new river has old trees, roots and other "natural" features to give lots of shade.

Cody said it will take about two more weeks to complete the channel connections, and about one more week after that to do the final tie-in and put the diverted water into the new channel. She said they'll pull out and the

public will be welcome to come back in around October 19/20. They don't plan on any construction next year unless heavy snow prevents them from finishing this year, but that isn't expected.

Rafting

The river rafting season this year was shortened due to construction in the area, but rafters should see great results next summer.

"This project should improve rafting conditions," said Theresa Cody, Project Manager for USFS. "It might push the start of the season to a later start date, but the project should result in a much longer rafting season."

The later start would be due to overbanking, a desired result of all the work done on the river channels. It will depend on snowfall and spring runoff as to when rafting seasons can start.

Western Pearlshell Mussels

14,000 mussels have been relocated since the project began in 2014, a much higher number than originally planned. It turned out that Reach 5 had the largest population of the mussel in the Lake Tahoe Basin an unknown fact when they began. [That first year was an experimental one when 925 mussels were tagged, weighed, measured, and relocated](#) to 37 plots in eight reaches of the Upper Truckee River, Trout Creek and the Truckee River. Relocation has been successful though two of the mussels died.

It was found that the mussels thrived in areas of lower cover of aquatic vegetation, lower elevation, and lower minimum and maximum water depth.

The removed mussels will not be coming back, and nature will take care of repopulating them into the river. They reproduce on the gills of fish and are deposited into the river as they swim by.

Flooding/Overbanking

Historically, water from the Upper Truckee River went over the banks every one-to-two years. The meadow was flooded, keeping it green and healthy.

Cody said the new channel will now be conducive to flooding. The overbanking causing deposition of fine sediments and nutrient on the floodplains as well as raising the ground water levels in the meadow.

History

Man was the cause of the Upper Truckee River Reach 5 needing to be rerouted. Farming, grazing, an old gravel pit all led to the decline of the riverbed, but the main cause was the Lake Tahoe Airport. When it was built over 50 years ago, much wasn't known about sediments entering the lake. The river was straightened due to runways being built along the meadow, and it was lined with large rocks on the banks. This caused a larger flow of water, reduced chances of overbanking and hardening of the ground.

Timber Company Tells California Town, Go Find Your Own Water

By THOMAS FULLER OCT. 1, 2016

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The snow-capped dormant volcano Mount Shasta, as seen from Weed, in Northern California. Credit Jim Wilson/The New York Times

WEED, Calif. — The water that gurgles from a spring on the edge of this Northern California logging town is so pristine that for more than a century it has been piped directly to the wooden homes spread across hills and gullies.

To the residents of Weed, which sits in the foothills of Mount Shasta, a snow-capped dormant volcano, the spring water is a blessing during a time of [severe and prolonged drought](#).

To the lumber company that owns the land where the spring is, the water is a business opportunity.

Roseburg Forest Products, an Oregon-based company that owns the pine forest where the spring surfaces, is demanding that the city of Weed get its water elsewhere.

“The city needs to actively look for another source of water,” said Ellen Porter, the director of environmental affairs for Roseburg who led the company’s negotiations with the city. “Roseburg is not in a position to guarantee the availability of that water for a long period of time.”

For the past 50 years, the company charged the city \$1 a year for use of water from the Beaughan Spring. As of July, it began charging \$97,500 annually. A contract signed this year directs the city to look for alternative sources.

[Continue reading the main story](#)

Roseburg has not made public what it plans to do with the water it wants to take back from the city. But it already sells water to Crystal Geysers Alpine Spring, which bottles it in Weed and ships it as far away as Japan. Crystal Geysers is looking to increase its overall supply.

Residents of Weed, including the current mayor and three former mayors, say the water was always intended for municipal and domestic use and should not be sold to the highest bidder.



Bob Hall, a member of the Weed City Council, at Beaughan Spring, a source of Weed's water.
Credit Jim Wilson/The New York Times

"The corporate mentality is that they can make more money selling this water to Japan," said Bob Hall, a former mayor of Weed and currently a member of the City Council. "We were hooked at the hip with this company for years," he said of the timber company, the largest private employer in the area. "Now, they are taking advantage of people who can't defend themselves."

[Continue reading the main story](#)

Bottled-water plants have met with resistance and in some cases protests in a number of places across California, including a [Nestlé plant](#) last year in Sacramento. In the water-rich towns in the shadow of Mount Shasta, residents have raised concerns over proposed bottling plants that they say could severely diminish local water supplies.

A measure on the ballot in the November election in Siskiyou County, where the towns are, would for the first time require that companies obtain permits to export water.

The disputes echo California's broader water wars. Five years of [drought](#) have escalated competition among farmers, factories and residents over water use and have pitted the arid south against the more water-rich north.

"Water is money," said David Webb, a resident of the city of Mount Shasta who follows the water disputes in the area. "If you can get it, you can make money from it."

The mayor of Weed, Ken Palfini, says the value of the city's water was emphasized during a visit several weeks ago by Pierre Papillaud, the founder of the company that owns Crystal Geyser Alpine Spring. In what the mayor and another participant described as a tirade of abuse, Mr. Papillaud demanded that the city give up its spring water so that his company could have more.

"He said if he didn't get his way, he was going to blow up the bottling plant," Mr. Palfini said of Mr. Papillaud's visit. "He said that twice."

Mr. Papillaud's son Ronan Papillaud came to Weed in mid-September to apologize for the brusque treatment and to rescind his father's demands. But Mr. Palfini said it was a lesson on how small municipalities in the area need to protect themselves from water-hungry companies.

"They are just corporations," Mr. Palfini said. "They are not your friend."

10-19-16 BOARD Agenda Item 13.E
Residents of Weed, which is still rebuilding after a [major wildfire](#) two years ago, say they believe that their dispute with Roseburg will end in the courts and that they have a document showing that the previous owner of Roseburg's timber business here, International Paper, handed over water rights to the city in 1982.

But they describe a David and Goliath battle between Roseburg, a wealthy corporation capable of paying for high-powered lawyers, and a relatively poor city with just 2,700 people.

Residents in Weed followed the legal battles of Missoula, Mont., where the State Supreme Court ruled in August that the city could seize water from a private company by eminent domain to secure the municipal water supply.

The alternative to legal proceedings for now is to drill a new well at a cost of around \$2 million, according to Ron Stock, the Weed city administrator.

Roseburg has suggested a site on its property, but city officials say it is potentially dangerous: The well would be located a few hundred yards from a former wood treatment facility that is [contaminated](#) with highly toxic chemicals including arsenic. The facility, which is managed by Roseburg, was fenced off in 1986 and has been declared a [Superfund](#) site.

Because of the complex hydrology of the area, including lava tubes that carry water in various directions under the mountains, the city would not know whether the water was safe until it drilled a test well, Mr. Stock said.

“The city has to be very careful,” he said. “We don’t want a Flint, Mich., situation.”

Ms. Porter, the Roseburg representative, said the proposed well site was “well outside any area of contamination.”

[Continue reading the main story](#)

In an interview at the company's timber plant outside Weed, where logs are spun and shaved into thin sheets used for plywood, Ms. Porter blamed Mr. Hall, the city councilor, and others in the city for casting Roseburg in a bad light.

Photo



Bottles filled with water from the Mount Shasta city spring in a park in Mount Shasta, Calif.
Credit Jim Wilson/The New York Times

“We are becoming the corporate bad guy, and that’s really unfortunate,” she said. The city already has wells that serve around half the population, she said.

Ronan Papillaud, the president of CG Roxane, which owns Crystal Geysers Alpine Spring together with a Japanese pharmaceutical company, Otsuka, was also defensive when asked about his company's plans.

"We do not belong in this story," Mr. Papillaud said. "We are not depriving anyone of anything." CG Roxane has bought water from Roseburg since the late 1990s and dedicates one of its production lines in its Weed plant to bottling water bound for Japan.

Mr. Papillaud described his deal with Roseburg as a simple relationship between a buyer and seller.

"Is this blood water? Are they involved in [child labor](#)?" he asked rhetorically. "We are clients, end of story."

Watching the water dispute warily are members of the Winnemem Wintu, a small Native American tribe that considers the slopes of Mount Shasta sacred.

According to tribal beliefs, one of the springs on the mountain is the place where animals and mankind emerged into the world. Six years ago, for the first time in the oral history of the tribe, that spring dried up, according to Luisa Navejas, a tribe member.

The water around Mount Shasta is not limitless, she said.

"This mountain is calling us now, and we need to listen," Ms. Navejas said of the inactive volcano.

"This mountain will talk," she said. "The time will come."

Official: California water conservation slipping

Posted: Oct 04, 2016 9:38 PM PDT <em class="wnDate">Wednesday, October 5, 2016 12:38 AM EDTUpdated: Oct 04, 2016 9:38 PM PDT <em class="wnDate">Wednesday, October 5, 2016 12:38 AM EDT

By SCOTT SMITH
Associated Press

FRESNO, Calif. (AP) - Regulators say water conservation continues to slip in drought-stricken California after officials lifted mandatory cutbacks.

Max Gomberg, a senior climate scientist for the State Water Resources Control Board, said officials on Wednesday will release the figures for how well Californians cutback their water use in August.

California just entered its sixth year of a historic drought.

Last winter delivered a near-average amount of rain and snow mostly in Northern California, but it wasn't enough to end the long dry spell.

Gomberg says he's concerned by the latest monthly results.

He says that come January regulators in Sacramento will consider returning to state-mandated water restrictions like those last year requiring residents to use a quarter less water.

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Plan to manage Truckee River approved

By *Colin Lygren* |

Posted: Wed 7:11 PM, Sep 28, 2016 |

Updated: Thu 8:54 AM, Sep 29, 2016



RENO, Nev. (KOLO) -- A new plan is in place this to protect the Truckee River for generations to come. The "One Truckee River" management plan has been agreed upon on by Reno, Sparks and Washoe County as an appropriate way to incorporate the river into the city.



"The Truckee is the lifeline of our community. It is worth of our love and care and attention," said Alicia Reban, Executive Director with Nevada Land Trust.

More than just a water source, the Truckee River is a cultural centerpiece, one that is now better protected.

"We will be able to move forward with local city and county staff and start looking at ways we can move forward with some of the action items that were recommended by the plan," said Christi Cakiroglu, Executive Director of Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful.

"There is a lot of momentum here. There is a lot of excitement for what is possible when we all come together," said Reban.

The first step is doing a thorough mapping of the river to learn what amenities are located and what is still needed.

In the long-term there are talks of creating a park that runs the river's entire length.

"Some of the issues that we have been facing along the river are multi-jurisdictional issues, and so if we had a linear park, that would result a lot of our conflicts," said Cakiroglu.

The main purpose of the river plan is to clean it up by reduce pollution, dealing with the homeless problem and making it a place families are more comfortable to visit.

"The end result is going to be better experiences on the river, safer environments, cleaner water, and better management over our regions most treasured resource," said Councilman Dave Bobzien with the City of Reno

Amodei, Evans differ on Trump, medical marijuana for veterans in debate

Ray Hagar, Nevada Newsmakers 2:10 p.m. PDT October 6, 2016



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U.S. Rep. Mark Amodei, R-Nev., faces Democratic challenger Chip Evans during a debate on political affairs show Nevada Newsmakers.(Photo: Seth A. Richardson/RGJ)Buy Photo

Democratic challenger Chip Evans said Rep. Mark Amodei and his Republican Party have done nothing to fix the Affordable Care Act while doing the bidding of multi-national corporations and the wealthy during a debate Wednesday between candidates for Nevada's 2nd U.S. House District.

Evans, a first-time candidate from Reno, also tried to tie Amodei to the presidential campaign of Republican Donald Trump since Amodei serves as Trump's Nevada campaign chairman. The two also differed on the issue of allowing veterans under the care of the Veterans Administration to smoke marijuana to alleviate health problems.

Amodei, who has been Nevada's 2nd U.S. House District representative since winning a 2011 special election, acknowledged the partisan rancor of Washington D.C. but pointed to his work with federal lands transfers to Nevada communities plus work on water and transportation issues.

The debate was held in a studio at KRNV-News 4 in Reno and will be televised Thursday on Channel 4 on Nevada Newsmakers at 12 noon.

"It (Nevada's 2nd U.S. House District) is the only one of the 431 districts in the House where the exclusive reason for getting up in the morning is to represent Northern Nevada," Amodei said. "And I think we have had some success with that, with lands bills that create jobs and wilderness at the same

time, with oversight that helps operations at the (Reno-Sparks International) airport, helps the Truckee Meadows Water Authority bring water to the Truckee Meadows, and also on issues that deal with surface transportation. Those are just a few of the successes... (I've been) open, transparent and would like to keep doing the job."

Evans, the former chairman of the Washoe Democratic Party, said it was "time for a change in Washington D.C.," saying Amodei has paid little attention to the common folk.

Evans said his main philosophical disagreement with Amodei "is where you are raising the concerns of known groups, as opposed to the business community and the wealthy."

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"I've gotten support from working people, from women's groups, from Latino groups and these are people," Evans said. "I want to put people first. Our Congress has kind gotten screwed around. It is working on behalf of the super wealthy. It is working on behalf of multi-national corporations."

Amodei said he has been listening to and working with many of the groups that Evans says he ignores. Amodei added he often breaks from GOP party ranks to represent the people of Nevada.

"We are the first person to have ever held this seat (in Congress) to have Hispanic business town halls," Amodei said. "We're the first one to have regularly scheduled veterans town halls with no agenda. Those are people."

Evans also recalled that Amodei recently said a Trump presidency could be a terrible thing for the nation or a great thing.

"Mr. Amodei has been quoted as saying Donald Trump will either be a 'smoking black hole in the ground or the next messiah,'" Evans said. "Well, I don't expect him (Trump) to be the next messiah. So if he is going to be a smoking black hole in the ground, it is not going to help the people of Nevada."

Trump is showing he is a long way from being a black hole in the ground, Amodei said, praising Trump's choice as his running mate, Gov. Mike Pence of Indiana, after Pence's showing in Tuesday's vice presidential debate.

"Well honestly, either you are going to be all in or all out (with Trump)," Amodei said. "I think he's a long way from that hole in the ground that has black smoke coming out of it. The latest example is the guy he picked to be his running mate (Pence). Last night (during the vice presidential debate), he did a great job, solid performance, a good guy."

Amodei noted Trump was the overwhelming choice of voters during Republican presidential primaries and caucuses across the nation. Trump ran away with the 2016 GOP Nevada presidential caucus, beating second place Marco Rubio by 22 points.

"He got the nomination, more votes than anyone else," Amodei said of Trump. "He got the votes, fair and square. I don't think it is a shock to hear that I'm supporting my party's nominee."

Amodei and Evans also differed when asked if the Veterans Administration should allow veterans to smoke medical marijuana to ease pain and alleviate other medical problems.

Veterans who tell the VA about participating in a state medical marijuana program say they have been forced to choose between their prescription narcotic painkillers or marijuana, said Michael Krawitz, president of Veterans for Marijuana Access, according to USA Today.

Evans said veterans should be able to consume medical marijuana in any form they wish. Amodei said veterans under the care of the VA should be able to use medical marijuana only if it comes in the form of a pill. Smoking is an established health hazard, Amodei said.

"So when you talk about, 'Should it be an option for medical treatment? Yes,' Amodei said. "We established that (legal medical marijuana) in Nevada. I support that. But the caveat is, it needs to be titrated (made into a pill). So if there is a use for it, fine. But let's not be handing people dime bags and telling them to spark it up to smoke their medicine."

Evans acknowledged issues with the Affordable Care Act, which was passed by a Democratically-controlled Congress. Many individual insurance policies available in Nevada through the ACA are expected to jump as much as 15 percent in cost, state officials said. But since the Republicans have held the majorities in both houses of Congress, they have done nothing to fix its issues, Evans said.

"The Affordable Act is old news in a way and the problem is, what have we done to fix it?" Evans said. "Instead of Republican leadership trying to get together and work with folks to correct the problems we know arose in the program, they voted 64 times to repeal it and have made no progress in making it better. There is no piece of legislation that could ever stand up for a long time without needing repair."

Amodei noted the ACA is not the answer to America's health-care need and was passed with no vetting from Congress when the Democrats controlled both houses of Congress.

"There are some good things in it but I want to point out -- do you know how many hearing we had before it was voted on? None. None in the Senate and none in the House."

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TOP VIDEOS

TMWA Says Drinking Water Is Safe, Despite National Report

Posted: Oct 07, 2016 6:11 PM PDT <em class="wnDate">Friday, October 7, 2016 9:11 PM EDTUpdated: Oct 07, 2016 7:13 PM PDT <em class="wnDate">Friday, October 7, 2016 10:13 PM EDT

By Paul Nelson

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producers@ktvn.com



A report by the Environmental Working Group says 218 million Americans have traces of chromium-6 that are above what some believe is safe. The report includes Washoe County, which has an average of 0.459 parts per billion. The Truckee Meadows Water Authority disputes the findings, saying the water supply is perfectly safe.

"There's no information out there, right now, that says this is an issue anywhere," Paul Miller, Manager of Operations and Water Quality for TMWA said. "EPA is in the process of setting a standard for hexavalent chromium, right now."

The Environmental Protection Agency has a standard for overall chromium, which is 100 parts per billion. California is the only state with a set standard for chromium-6, at 10 parts per billion. One part per billion is equivalent to one drop in an Olympic swimming pool. Out of 29 sites, the highest amounts in TMWA's samples was two parts per billion.

"The water quality has been consistent over the years," Miller said. "It's been good. We're blessed from a flow out of Lake Tahoe, with all of our groundwater wells also, and it remains good."

In the 1990s, the amount of chromium-6 in the water supply in Hinkley, CA led to a lawsuit, which the movie 'Erin Brockovich' was based.

California's health goal for chromium-6 is 0.02 parts per billion. While Washoe County has higher amounts than that, it is not a standard, set by the EPA or any state. Officials say the EWG report has the correct data, but is not sure what its agenda is, saying it could be political.

"They may be trying to prove a point that the EPA is not doing enough and they're not doing it quickly enough, but to scare customers into saying the EPA ought to be doing more, I think that harms people and it's not necessary," Miller said.

Chromium-6 can be a byproduct of industrial work, but Miller says it also occurs naturally. Washoe County's drinking water likely gets its chromium-6 from rocks and soil.

"It's just part of the natural elements of the earth," Miller said. "Chromium is an actual element and the water is called the universal solvent. It will pick up what's in the environment and that's how chromium ends up in the water supply."

TMWA tests about 10,000 samples of water for possible organic and inorganic contamination, each year. Miller says those tests have resulted in elevated numbers of chromium or chromium-6.

"The ability to detect is in play, and just because we detect something doesn't mean it's a health issue," Miller said.

Even if the EPA creates a standard for chromium-6, Miller says he does not think it will be any lower than the one set by California. He says TMWA's water will still meet the criteria.

"I don't think anybody cares more about water quality than TMWA and EPA and the other people who are in the water industry, and we feel our water is safe," Miller said. "We believe the regulatory process is robust and results in strong standards for the community."

Note: Kim and I talked with-- two days later-- someone who saw this report. She said what she got out of it is :This is a non-issue here, was impressed we do 10,000 tests here and really brought home the message when Paul finished the report by Drinking a glass of water. All was unprompted. Good job, Paul.

UPDATE: Longley Lane water main break will be fixed by Saturday



By Staff |

Posted: Fri 2:58 AM, Oct 07, 2016 |

Updated: Fri 4:52 PM, Oct 07, 2016



[View Map](#)

RENO, Nev. (KOLO) - A break in an 8-inch water main in southeast Reno will be finished Saturday as a needed part arrives from out of town, the Truckee Meadows Water Authority reported.

The main broke Thursday night near Longley Lane and East Huffaker Lane on Thursday night. Crews worked on the break on Thursday night and Friday, TMWA reported.

“Main breaks are something that happen and we usually cannot determine the cause,” TMWA said in a statement.

Three properties were affected. Crews did a work-around to get an animal hospital back in service and another building was vacant so as of Friday afternoon only one building was affected.

TMWA said there will be minimal traffic control Friday and Saturday

Traffic watch: Water main break in south Reno

[Sarah Litz](#), slitz@rgj.com 8:34 a.m. PDT October 7, 2016



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FILE PHOTO: Traffic makes its way through road construction on Victorian Avenue between Rock and El Rancho on Wednesday, July 15, 2009. Photo by David B. Parker.(Photo: David B. Parker/RGJ, RGJ)Buy Photo

Authorities are urging people to find alternative routes in the area of Longley Lane and East Huffaker Lane after a water main break Thursday night.

Spokeswoman of Truckee Meadows Water Authority Marlene Olsen said no roads were closed in the area, however both sides of the road were reduced to one lane Friday morning.

Olsen said crews worked overnight and will continue to work throughout the day Friday until the break is fixed.

Olsen said it was an 18-inch water main that broke, but the cause cannot be immediately determined.

“Until the crews are able to assess the break, it’s hard to say what exactly caused it,” Olsen said.

Three customers were without service as of Friday morning

TMWA says routine maintenance led to "cloudy water" in a South Reno neighborhood

BY SCOTT MAGRUDER & KENZIE BALES SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9TH 2016



RENO, Nev. (News 4 & Fox 11) — UPDATE - 9:30 p.m.

"Routine system maintenance has led to some brief cloudiness in the water due to air bubbles. This did not occur in the entire Double Diamond area. There is no health risk from this whatsoever but we generally recommend that customers who are concerned allow their water to flow until it runs clearly."

- Andy Gebhardt, Director of Customer Relations

Residents in the Double Diamond area are being asked to run their water for up to 20 minutes by Truckee Meadows Water Authority in order to clear the pipes of "murky water" that some residents are reporting.

According to a resident in the Double Diamond area, TMWA is aware of reports of "cloudy" and "murky" water and a crew is on scene working on the problem.

A call to a TMWA spokesperson confirmed that TMWA is telling residents to run their water in order to flush out the water lines

EWG just released a [groundbreaking new analysis](#) showing the notorious “Erin Brockovich” carcinogen, otherwise known as chromium-6, contaminates the tap water of two-thirds of Americans at levels above those scientists deem safe.

Check out the resources below for some of the top findings from the report, and see what you can do to help:

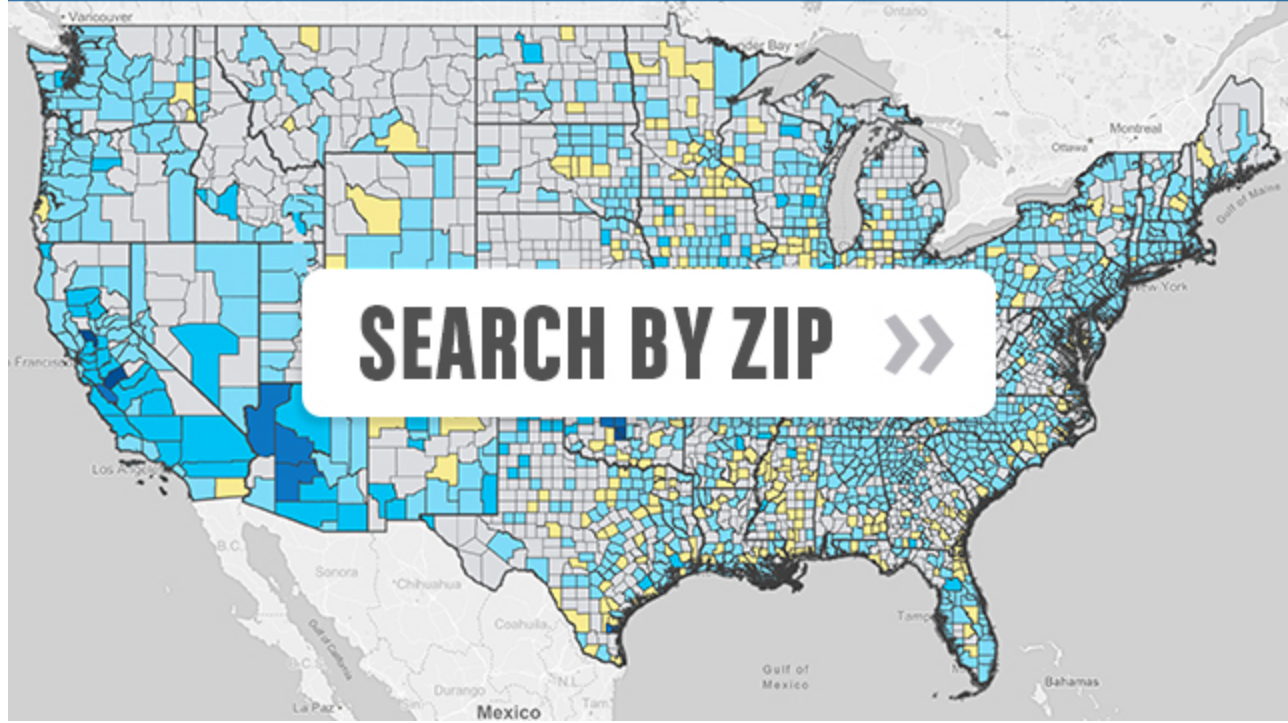


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MILLION AMERICANS IN ALL 50 STATES HAVE WATER CONTAMINATED WITH CHROMIUM-6

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Average Level of Chromium-6 in U.S. Drinking Water



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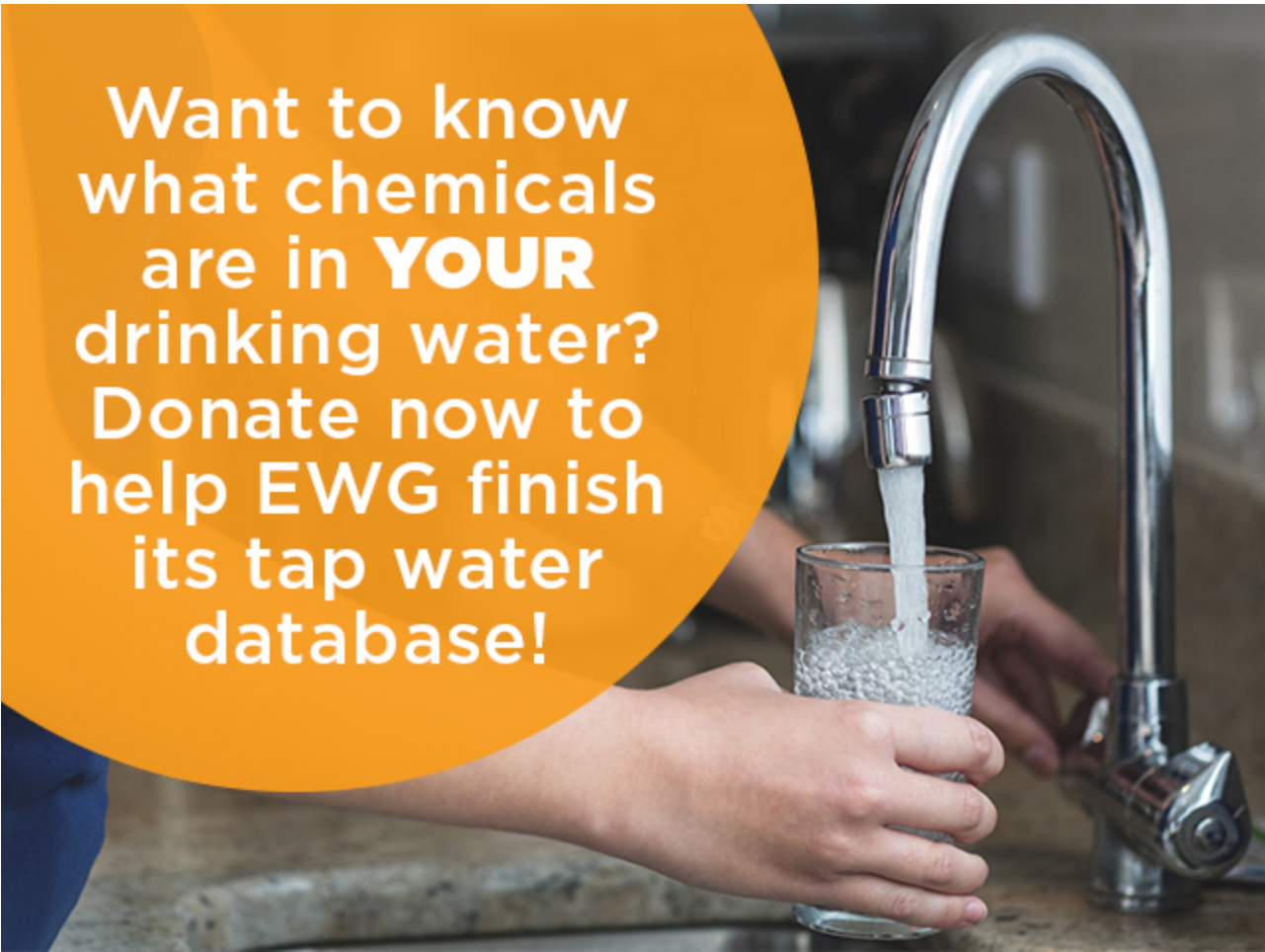
Exposure to chromium-6 can cause:



Reproductive Problems



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EWG's mission is to empower people to live healthier lives in a healthier environment. EWG is a non-profit and non-partisan organization. The EWG Action Fund, a separate sister organization of EWG, is a legislative advocacy organization that promotes healthy and sustainable policies.

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