



*Quality. Delivered.*

## Memorandum

1355 Capital Blvd. • P.O. Box 30013 • Reno, NV 89520-3013  
 P 775.834.8080 • F 775.834.8003

TO: SAC Members  
 FROM: Bill Hauck  
 DATE: March 1, 2016  
 SUBJECT: Water Supply Update and Preliminary Outlook

- Snowpack: The month of February has been rather warm and dry and this is reflected in the slightly below average snowpack numbers. The Truckee Basin is now at 85% of average and the Tahoe Basin is at 97% of average as of this morning.
- Reservoir storage remains virtually unchanged since last month. The elevation of Lake Tahoe is 0.75' below its natural outlet. Boca Reservoir is at 39% of capacity. Stampede Reservoir is at 17% of capacity, and Prosser is at 26% of capacity (which is normal for this time of year). Independence and Donner Lake storage is also about normal for this time of the year at 88% and 45% of capacity, respectfully.
- The latest projected runoff for Lake Tahoe was 92% of average, and 86% of average for the Truckee River at CA/NV state line. It is likely that these numbers will be downgraded further since the last two weeks have been warm and dry.
- Feeding this information into the models means we will likely see “normal” Truckee River flows through just about the end of summer (through August) which gets us past our *peak customer demand season*.
- The winter to this point has unfortunately set up to keep us in another “drought situation” as defined under TROA. This means that we will likely be using reserve supplies once again to meet customer demand in September and October.
- It *is* only the beginning of March however, and according to the NWS things are “looking very active storm-wise this weekend and much of the next with model simulations showing at least 2-3 atmospheric river events moving in California”. So it is too early to write this winter off just yet and we are still hopeful that things will turn around and the snowpack building season will end on a positive note.

*Truckee Meadows Water Authority is a not-for-profit, community-owned water utility, overseen by elected officials and citizen appointees from Reno, Sparks and Washoe County.*

**TRUCKEE RIVER Time Series Snowpack Summary**  
 Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Feb 29, 2016

