

TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER AUTHORITY (TMWA)
DOMESTIC WELL MITIGATION WORKSHOP
MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 26, 2014, 6:00 – 8:30 pm
1355 CAPITAL BLVD, RENO, NEVADA

The total attendance at the workshop was approximately 90 people.

Kim Mazeres, TMWA Director of Customer Relations, introduced TMWA staff and committee members who were present. Ms. Mazeres provided an overview of agenda for the workshop. Ms. Mazeres detailed the schedule of the upcoming public meetings, their locations and times.

John Enloe, TMWA Operational Strategies Manager, Project Manager for the Domestic Well Mitigation Program ("Program"), welcomed everyone who was in attendance. Mr. Enloe stated that the workshop is to provide information on the planned water system consolidation and its benefits to the region, the history of Washoe County's ("County") Domestic Well Mitigation Program, the status and schedule for adoption of TMWA's proposed Rule for the Mt. Rose-Galena Fan ("Fan Area") Domestic Well Mitigation Program, and allow for public input, comments, and questions and answers regarding the Program. (see *Attachment A*).

He stated that the comments made at the workshop would be presented to the Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting on Tuesday September 2, 2014, whereby they would provide recommendations to the TMWA Board of Directors meeting on Wednesday September 17, 2014. He stated that the draft Rule 10 is more specific, and TMWA's commitment to not over-pump is that we will abide by what the State Engineer sets as the pumping limit of the wells.

Ms. Mazeres opened the workshop to public comment, which lasted several hours. Several residents voiced concerns / dissatisfaction with the existing Program and had many questions, such as:

QUESTIONS:

- How many Tessa Wells are there?
- What were the water levels at the first Tessa well (originally vs. now)?
- Was drought taken into consideration for future groundwater level projections?
- What are the long-term plans for recharging the Callahan Ranch area and will this be linked to approval of the drought plan?
- What does NRS means?
- To whom is the State Engineer accountable?
- What is TMWA's or County's authority over the development process itself?
- According to the Capital Improvement Plan, will the water lines go up to the Galena Fan area and will it impact the Callahan area? How much recharge will occur once the line is built?
- How quickly will residents see the benefits of recharge?

- Once a property owner deepens their well and it goes dry, are they no long eligible for a waiver to connect to the municipal line?
- If there is a well failure, what is the mitigation compensation and is there an expectation of abandoning the well if connecting to the municipal water system?
- Will TMWA consider a conservation program such as the one in Las Vegas which reimburses the tearing out of lawn?
- What authority does TMWA have on influencing the development process?
- What is the average depth for a well?

COMMENTS:

- County lied about it because they knew they were going to suck the Callahan wells dry
- It is impossible to return groundwater tables to the levels 10 or 20 years ago, but want a commitment from TMWA to stabilize the water levels moving forward
- The County built seven municipal wells in the neighborhood and then they denied that these wells affected the groundwater tables
- Spent over \$24,000 on her well and never got reimbursed
- They were told that they were going to be compensated for the wells, but were not compensated
- Moved to Galena area for the groundwater not surface and that's the quality of water they want to keep
- They feel that surface water is second to what they bought into – having their own wells
- Residents feel municipal pumping is a taking
- Recharging with surface water is not a true mitigation program
- The property owners fought with the County to admit to their mistake and the fact that the municipal wells impacted the domestic wells
- The property owners are receiving the best water possible off of Mt. Rose. TMWA needs to maintain that quality and have the recharge available
- Property owners were misled by the County not TMWA and they need to address the Planning Commission for desired changes in development approvals
- Want to see the projections for recharge
- Saw no action until 2011 when the County started to comply with state law

SUGGESTIONS:

- There needs to be improvement in water resource to stabilize water management and levels
- Would like to see if: "TMWA is going to stabilize the water levels and not continue the overdraft."
- Want to see a commitment from TMWA to stabilize water levels

- Don't give any more water rights and stop building
- TMWA shouldn't add any more wells into the system, the aquifer can't support it
- Request to incorporate language into Rule 10 from Ordinance 1470, Article 7.1 A and B
- Property owners want to see that there is no termination to the program or funding in writing
- Take the word 'average' out of the proposed language for Rule 10

CONCERNS:

- TMWA will not protect the domestic well owners
- Concerns over surface water quality and where it comes from
- Stabilizing water levels
- Drought (including its effect on groundwater levels), water conservation
- Concerns over past land development approvals
- An illegal and unethical taking of their water by the County
- Lack of transparency
- One time only reimbursement for well deepening
- Cost of hooking up to municipal water lines if someone has already been compensated for deepening their well
- Concerns over pumping of the wells and sending the water out of the area
- TMWA will maximize pumping in the Fan Area from day one
- The water plan is based on over appropriated paper water rights

WRITTEN COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC COMMENT CARDS:

James Mack – Tesla Wells

Ken Taylor – Over pumping/sustainable yield

Ron Squatrito – What are the long-term plans for recharging the Callahan Ranch area? Will this be linked to approval of the drought plan?

Victoria Knulsun – Wells

Linda Guy – Prediction of drought before development in 2005

Tim Rhyme – The fact that we were told that we would be compensated for redrilling our well and never were.

Eric Scheetz – 1. Please describe Capital Improvement Plan; 2. You mentioned recharge 4,000 acre feet, where, how to Callahan/Fan?; Clarify turn off production wells, not domestic with surface; and 4. Adopt language in 7.1 A and B as well, legally in acquisition previous agreements will remain.

Kathy Bowling – How does TMWA plan to exist with domestic wells? This is especially important to domestic well owners on west side of Mt. Rose Hwy with no water lines.

Mary Cablk, PhD – The fact that there is no discussion on a program of water conservation. Commit to a limit on pumping by stabilizing the water levels which will force conservation. In addition it is outrageous to state that the agency has always admitted that municipal pumping affects groundwater levels and domestic wells. I was present when such statements were **denied**. I challenge the agency to provide documentation initiated by a well-owner that shows a single person asked to be able to abandon their well in favor of paying the government for their water.

John Sagebiel, PhD – Proposed language to the well mitigation program must include language to stabilize water levels. I appreciate that you want to bring surface water up to the Galena Fan, but are there guarantees that this will happen? Lastly, there has been no discussion of conservation program. We need to reduce water use or none of this is relevant. It is also apparent you underestimated the interest in this with the room crowding.

Amanda McDaniel – I would like access to the model study/report that projects water levels and stability. Regarding modeling, what type of real data is included, over what period of time? And what assumptions and inputs were made. When the models are updated (as indicated it would be in the near future), will it include more recent and multi-year groundwater data? Also, where are the TMWA “recharge” locations? Am I correct in assuming these are permitted injection wells? Are there plans to drill injection wells for recharge in the Mt. Rose-Galena Fan area? Next, the comment by John Enloe about water quality in the area maybe not being so great due to septic systems. Septic tanks and leach fields are within about 20 feet of the ground surface. Wells are about 100 to several hundred feet deep (mine is 500 feet). While there is a potential and eventual interface between the septic impact and groundwater it is remote and currently infeasible with regard to our water quality and impacts. My water quality lab results don’t indicate fecal coliform or other septic related pollutants.

What I want:

1. Commitment to water level stabilization
2. Add language that was in the County Rule, back into TMWA rule



Mt. Rose/Galena Fan Domestic Well Program

Workshop

Presentation by
Truckee Meadows Water Authority
&
Washoe County
Community Services Department

August 26, 2014



Mt. Rose/Galena Fan Domestic Well Mitigation Program

- Discuss the transition of the Mt. Rose/Galena Fan Domestic Well Mitigation Program from the County to TMWA.
- TMWA's new rule will continue the benefits to the property owners under the current Program.
- TMWA's new rule will become effective upon completion of the pending consolidation of the Washoe County water utility into TMWA.





Agenda

- Who is TMWA?
- Background on water system consolidation
- History of Washoe County's Domestic Well Mitigation Program
- Initial feedback
- Status/Schedule for adoption of TMWA's new rule
- Public Input/Questions





Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA)

Formed in 2000 as the result of a collaboration between Reno, Sparks and Washoe County to bid on the water assets of Sierra Pacific Power Co.

Purpose: Retain local control over Water Resources

Financing: Issued \$452.4MM in Revenue Bonds - **Credit Rating AA/AA-**

Source of Revenue: Water User Fees and Charges Only – Enterprise Fund

Governance: A Joint Powers Authority (NRS 277)

Current Members of the Board of Directors:

Mike Carrigan, Chairman,
Sparks City Council

Kitty Jung, Washoe County
Commission

Vaughn Hartung, Washoe County
Commission

Mike Cate, Vice Chairman,
City of Reno Appointee

Geno Martini, Mayor of Sparks

Sharon Zadra, Reno City Council

Neoma Jardon, Reno City Council





TMWA Standing Advisory Committee (SAC)

- SAC currently has 15 members
- SAC is made up of representatives of TMWA's customer classes (appointed by the Board) and four appointments from key stakeholder groups in the region
- Role is to protect interests of customers of combined utility
- Role is to provide recommendations of budgetary and merger related issues to the TMWA Board of Directors

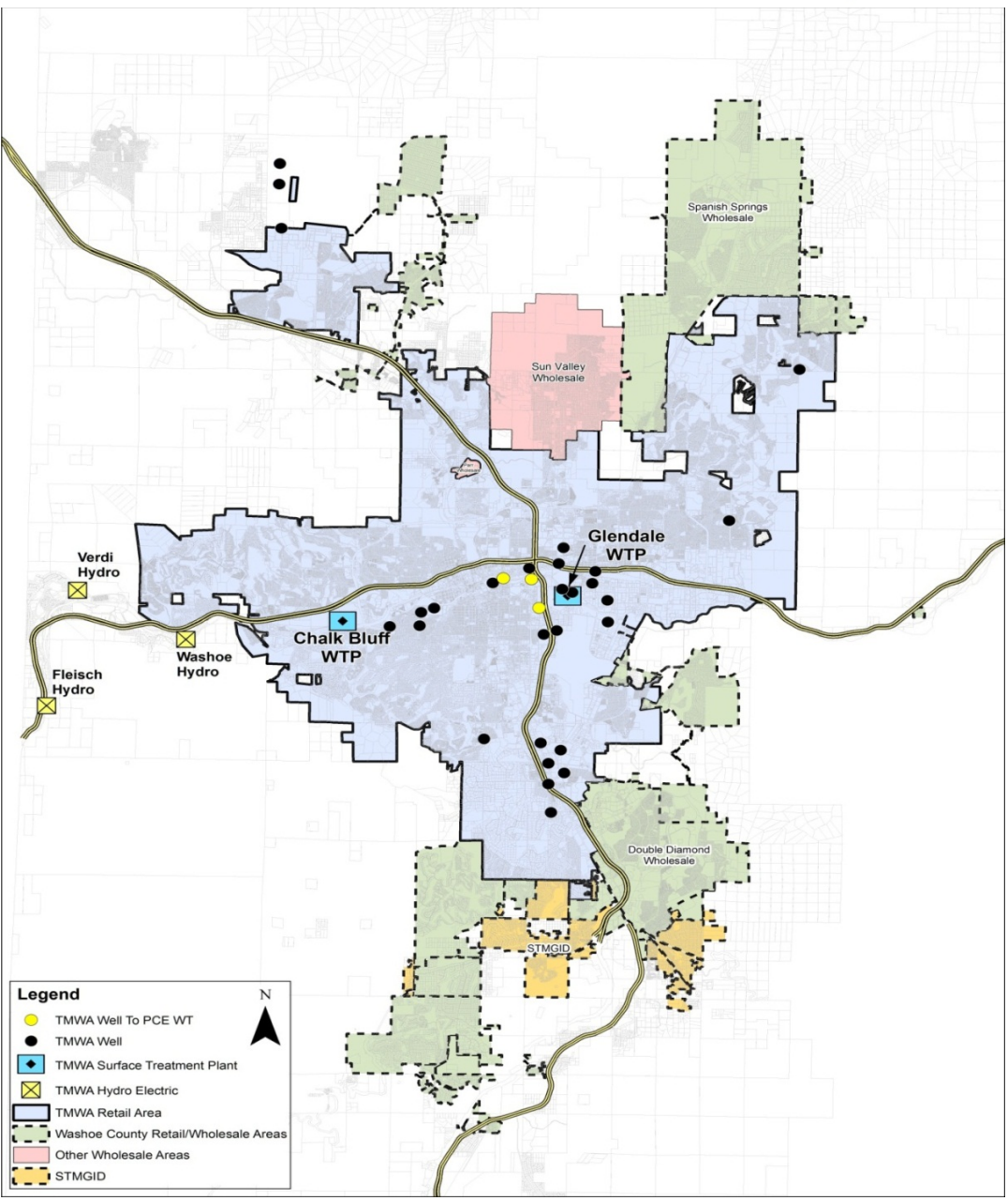


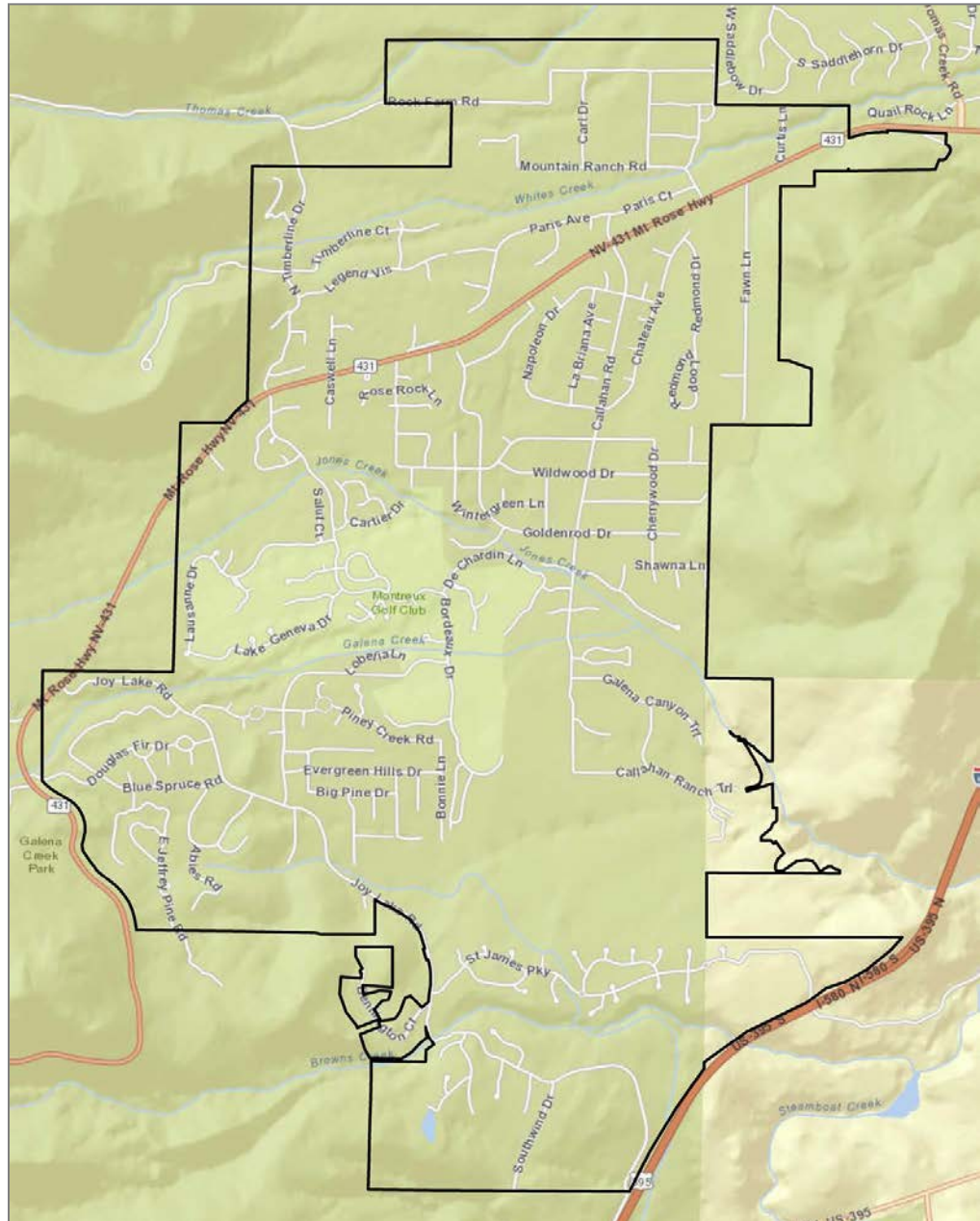


Water Consolidation History and Purpose

- Nevada Legislature passed the Western Regional Water Commission (WRWC) Act in 2007.
- The Act required public water purveyors in the planning area to evaluate consolidation as a potential way to improve management of water resources, improve efficiency, and reduce costs.









History of Mt. Rose/Galena Fan Domestic Well Mitigation Program

- The Program provides an equitable and consistent solution for domestic well owners in the area.
- The Program recognizes municipal well pumping as one of the several factors affecting the local ground water elevation.
- Program developed in 2011 as an outcome of a collaborative public process to meet NRS 534.110 requirement.
- Administration of the Program will transfer from Washoe County to TMWA.





Background

- The Program is specific to Mt. Rose Galena Fan area.
- The Program was developed to mitigate domestic well owners within Program boundary which had experienced adverse impact due to municipal well pumping.
- The Program was developed in a highly collaborative process during multiple meetings with both staff and area residents.
- The jointly developed Program was adopted by the Washoe County Commission on August 23, 2011.
- The Program was incorporated into Ordinance 1470.





Program Overview

- Reimbursement for deepening or drilling a replacement domestic well for eligible properties.
- Waiver of charges for eligible properties connecting to municipal water system.
- Mitigation for eligible properties for prior well deepening or connection to municipal water system.
- Review of other circumstances for possible mitigation.
- Approved mitigations are recorded with Washoe County Recorder and run with the property until exercised.





Program Facts

- Program is fully funded. Mitigation fund will be transferred to TMWA as part of the merger.
- Program does not have a termination provision. Eligible property owners can take advantage of Program at any time.
- Over 800 property owners within Program boundary.
- To date approximately 370 have submitted paperwork.
- Approximately 155 property owners have either deepened domestic well or connected to municipal water system.
- Approximately 120 have received reimbursement for prior connection fee payment or domestic well deepening.





Initial Feedback

Include language from Washoe County Ordinance regarding management and protection of groundwater resources, and over-pumping.

Clarifying Language:

- The Mt. Rose-Galena Fan Domestic Well Mitigation Program (“Mitigation Program”) established in this Rule is created by the Authority consistent with and to continue the efforts of Washoe County to address the management and protection of the shared groundwater resources in the Mt. Rose-Galena Fan area, which include but are not limited to conjunctive use of surface and groundwater resources, reducing long term-average annual pumping in the Mt. Rose-Galena Fan area, and limiting municipal groundwater pumping as permitted by the Nevada State Engineer.





Rule 10 Schedule

- Tuesday September 2, 2014 at 3:00 pm:
Presentation to and recommendation from the TMWA Standing Advisory Committee
- Wednesday September 17, 2014 at 10:00 am:
1st Reading of proposed Rule
- Wednesday, October 15, 2014 at 9:00 am:
2nd Reading of proposed Rule
- Wednesday, December 31, 2014:
Rule 10 effective upon merger

