

# We should pay fair share for water

The time has come for everyone to pay a fair share for the water they use.

The time has come for everyone to pay the metered rate.

So far, the Truckee Meadows Water Authority and local governments have been more than patient with those who have avoided moving from flat-rate service to metered service.

As a result, some residents in the Truckee Meadows have been letting their neighbors pick up the tab for their water instead of paying what they rightly owe.

At one time, that might have been

acceptable.

Water meters relatively are new in Northern Nevada. They've been installed in new homes for 30-40 years, but older homes, built when no one cared how much grass a homeowner planted or how much water ran down the street because of inefficient sprinkler systems, didn't have them.

As of about a year ago, however, TMWA finished a meter retrofit program — usually at no cost to the homeowner — and now can claim that every single-family home in its service area has a meter. All that's

needed now is to convert those homes from flat rate (generally \$74.90 for all the water a homeowner can use).

Most customers already are paying the metered rate, and that's had a positive effect on the consumption of water. It also saves the authority — and, therefore, its ratepayers — money by lessening the need for new facilities.

There are, however, many who still pay the flat rate. Some are using incredible amounts of water and paying little for the privilege. That's clearly unfair. It's time for us all to pay our fair share.