

On Tap

Understanding the Water Supply

Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD) relies on the Sierra snowpack for its water supply, fed to reservoirs by the South Fork Stanislaus River. The most important watershed for the District is the area above Pinecrest Lake. This watershed flows comes from snowpack that melts and fills the reservoir for water supply throughout the year. Pinecrest Lake and Lyons Reservoir are part of two hydro-electric power generation facilities owned, maintained and operated by Pacific Gas and Electric (PG & E). In an agreement with PG & E, TUD receives its water supply from Lyons Reservoir through the 15.7 mile Main Canal. 95% of the water used by TUD customers comes from this stored water supply and is then fed through TUD's ditch system.

Who uses the water from Pinecrest? The water is shared between environmental river flows, domestic water supply (TUD), recreation at Pinecrest Lake and power generation (PG & E). TUD in the past was allowed to request of PG & E that water be delivered, if needed, from Pinecrest to Lyons Reservoir prior to Labor Day. However, now mandated by the State of California as of June 2009, Pinecrest Lake must be held at or above a minimum lake elevation of 5,608 feet through the Labor Day weekend. If Pinecrest Lake is forecast to fall below the minimum lake elevation at Labor Day, then no water withdrawals are allowed prior to Labor Day even if it is needed by TUD customers. Past hydrologic records indicate that water from the Pinecrest storage will certainly be needed periodically by TUD in future years. TUD is diligently working with the State, PG & E, and the Forest Service to see if exceptions can be made if the District faces a low water supply year, like the one we are experiencing now.

In This Issue

- Save Water - Save Money
- Staff Spotlight
- Prevent Sewer Overflows
- Gardening Tips
- General Manager's Corner



Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD)



Save Water – Save Money

Saturday, June 9th from 9am to 1pm

We had such a great turn out to our Save Water, Save Money Fair last year that we are going to make this an annual event. Do you know all the ways that you can save water and also reduce your water bill? Stop by TUD for your chance to learn water-wise techniques. Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD) and the University of California Cooperative Extension Natural Resources Program proudly co-host the “**Save Water, Save Money**” Fair. This **free** event is open to the public and will be held on **Saturday, June 9th**, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the TUD facility on Nugget Boulevard off Tuolumne Road in Sonora. The fair will feature kids’ activities, information booths, guided tours of water-wise plantings, how to detect leaks at your home, local vendor coupons and drawings, demonstrations of drip irrigation and sprinkler testing, fire-safe landscaping and much more.

To find a certified local professional to design, install, maintain or audit your irrigation system, visit www.irrigation.org/hirecertified. For tips on how to use water wisely, go to www.smartirrigationmonth.org or to www.tudwater.com or <http://cetuolumne.ucdavis.edu>



Save Water, Save Money Fair.

Free event
Saturday, June 9th
9:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

TUD facility
on Nugget Boulevard
off Tuolumne Road in Sonora.



Staff Spotlight – Inside TUD

Each newsletter we will introduce you to an exceptional TUD staff member. This newsletter we are proud to highlight: Glen Nunnelley – Associate Engineer

Glen joined TUD in June 2008. Prior to coming to TUD, Glen worked at Condor Earth Technologies, Inc. of Sonora for over 18 years. Glen works on varied projects including monitoring the water supply and also is involved in:

Hydrologic analysis of the South Fork of the Stanislaus River and monitoring the District’s water supply and providing updates to the Board of Directors and public.

Water Contamination Detection Project (Grant Funded, \$350,000) Administration and management includes the installation of 26 separate flow stations designed to help monitor and provide TUD with data to more efficiently operate the open ditch system.

General engineering for ditch operations by supporting field operations through water supply balancing and design for various ditch components requiring repair or renovation in order to maintain water supply to the water treatment plant’s and ditch customers.

Certifications-Education:

- Registered Professional Civil Engineer
- Bachelor’s of Science in Mechanical Engineering from California State University, Sacramento

Personal: Glen is married with two children and has lived in the Sonora area since 1990.

FPO

Pic of Glen?



California Friendly

Plant of the Month

Each newsletter TUD will feature a recommended plant that does well in the Sierra Foothills. This month the featured plant is **Toyon**, *Heteromeles arbutifolia*, a California native also known as Christmas Berry or California Holly. It grows at almost all elevations in Tuolumne County. It's an evergreen small tree or large, branching shrub that bears white flowers in early summer and bright red berries all winter long. It grows well on slopes and other well-drained soil, likes to be with oaks and pines, and is very drought-tolerant, once established. It may be too late to plant it now, but could be planted in the fall. Once settled in, it's reputed to be a fast grower. Good for informal hedges and screens, and a great addition to a bird and butterfly garden.

Toyon or Christmas Berry

Size:	6-8 ft. high
Color:	White flowers in the summer and deep green leaves with red berries in the winter
Water:	Low – drought tolerant
Exposure:	Full sun



Gardening Tips from Rebecca Miller

Cripps of the University of California Cooperative Extension Natural Resources Program

As the temperature warms, we start thinking about irrigating our landscapes, lawns, and gardens. Half of California's residential water is used outdoors, most of it to irrigate landscaping. Saving water outdoors will also save money in your budget. Here are some tips for saving water in your lawn and garden:

- It's time to plant a summer garden. As you plant those prolific zucchinis and enticing heirloom tomatoes, set up a drip irrigation system to deliver water right to their roots. You'll reduce water-splashed diseases and help control weeds.
- Observe your irrigation system while it's running. Check the sprinklers for leaks, broken heads, misaligned spray

patterns and run-off. If you're getting run-off, schedule your sprinklers to run more often for shorter periods of time (cycling).

- Consider reducing the size of your lawn. This is not England with its damp, foggy weather pattern that reduces transpiration. Turf is one of the biggest water losers around. If you like the look of a lawn, try inter-planting with buffalo grass plugs that only require a quarter inch of water per week and can be left unmowed for a meadow look, or mowed once per season for a neater, trimmed look. Or replace corners of your lawn with rounded beds planted with small sedums or one of several varieties of thyme.



General Manager's Corner

by Peter J. Kampa,
pkampa@tudwater.com



May 2012

You will notice, we hope, our improved efforts on keeping the public informed regarding District activities. This newsletter is just one step we will be taking in the coming months to improve our overall communication with you, our customer. We welcome your questions and input for future editions of this newsletter and for me to address in the General Manager's Corner.

As we move into the summer season, Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD) is looking ahead. One of our most important responsibilities at TUD is to ensure that our customers have a reliable, adequate supply of clean, safe water. We take this very seriously and work hard with our partners, such as PG&E, to ensure we can deliver the water you need. Unfortunately, our State officials have been working diligently on policies, permits, laws, fees, etc. to make it more difficult and costly to access and use water that originates in our county! Recently, the State Water Board limited our mid-summer access to water in Pinecrest Lake. What does this mean to you?

Due to the State's action, TUD may have to enact even stricter water conservation measures to reduce water use in the mid and late summer. This is absolutely not something TUD wants to do, because it costs our customers more money to pay for increased water conservation programs and when we sell less water, we have less money to fix leaks, make repairs and system improvements.

The new State restriction requires that Pinecrest Lake be kept at a high elevation all summer, which restricts our ability to ask PG&E to deliver water for use in our system. Please understand that PG&E and TUD are working closely to loosen this restriction so that our customers do not suffer with reduced water and increased costs every year. Historically, the State has been VERY slow to act on our requests. Meanwhile, please understand that if we ask for increased water conservation this summer that this is solely due to State restrictions.

We can tell that many of you are taking steps to reduce your water use inside and outside your home. This summer is predicted to be a warm one and we will ask you to please continue to conserve. Thank you all for your water conservation efforts.



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On Tap is published to keep Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD) customers informed about issues and upcoming events. If you have any story ideas or suggestions, please mail them to Lisa Westbrook, at 18885 Nugget Blvd., Sonora, CA 95370 or email at lisaw@tuolumneutilities.com.

