

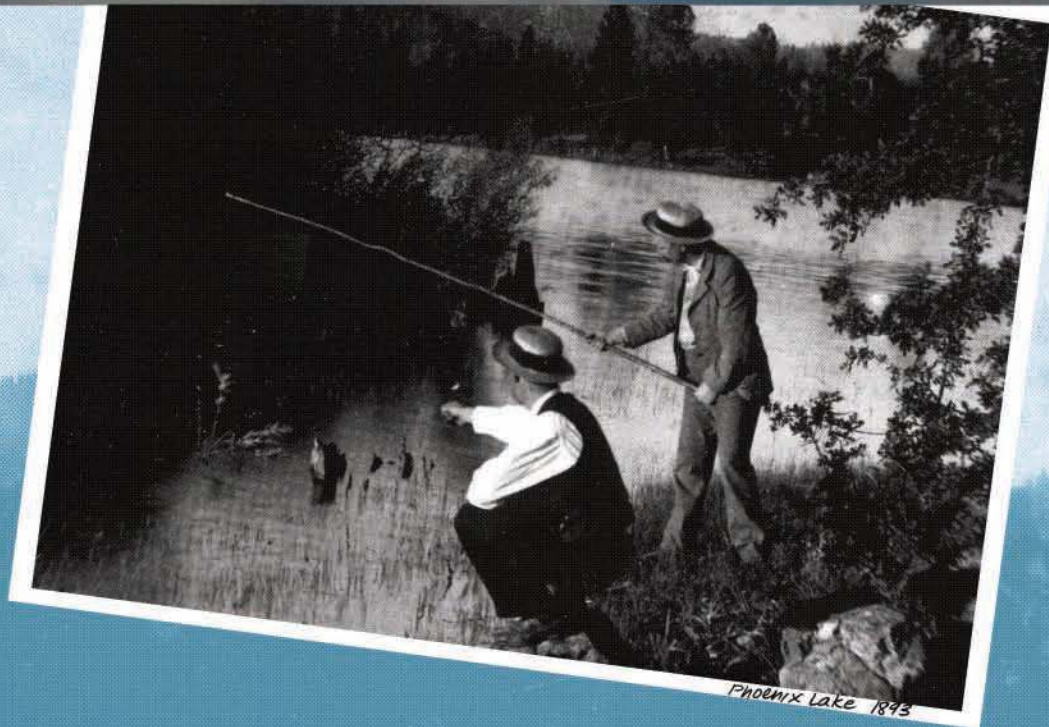
First formed by a dam on Sullivan Creek in 1852, Phoenix Lake now stores drinking water for Sonora, Jamestown, Scenic View and Mono Village. CAL FIRE helicopters fill up here. Wildlife feeds and breeds in this important aquatic habitat.

As development has grown around the lake, erosion rates have increased and sediment is rapidly filling the lake. This impacts water quality and the lake's ability to serve the needs of the surrounding community.

PHOENIX LAKE

CAN YOU IMAGINE PHOENIX LAKE GONE – FILLED WITH SEDIMENT?
If current trends continue, the lake could be lost.
Learn how you can help protect this important resource!

TUOLUMNE UTILITIES DISTRICT
18885 NUGGET BLVD
SONORA, CA 95370

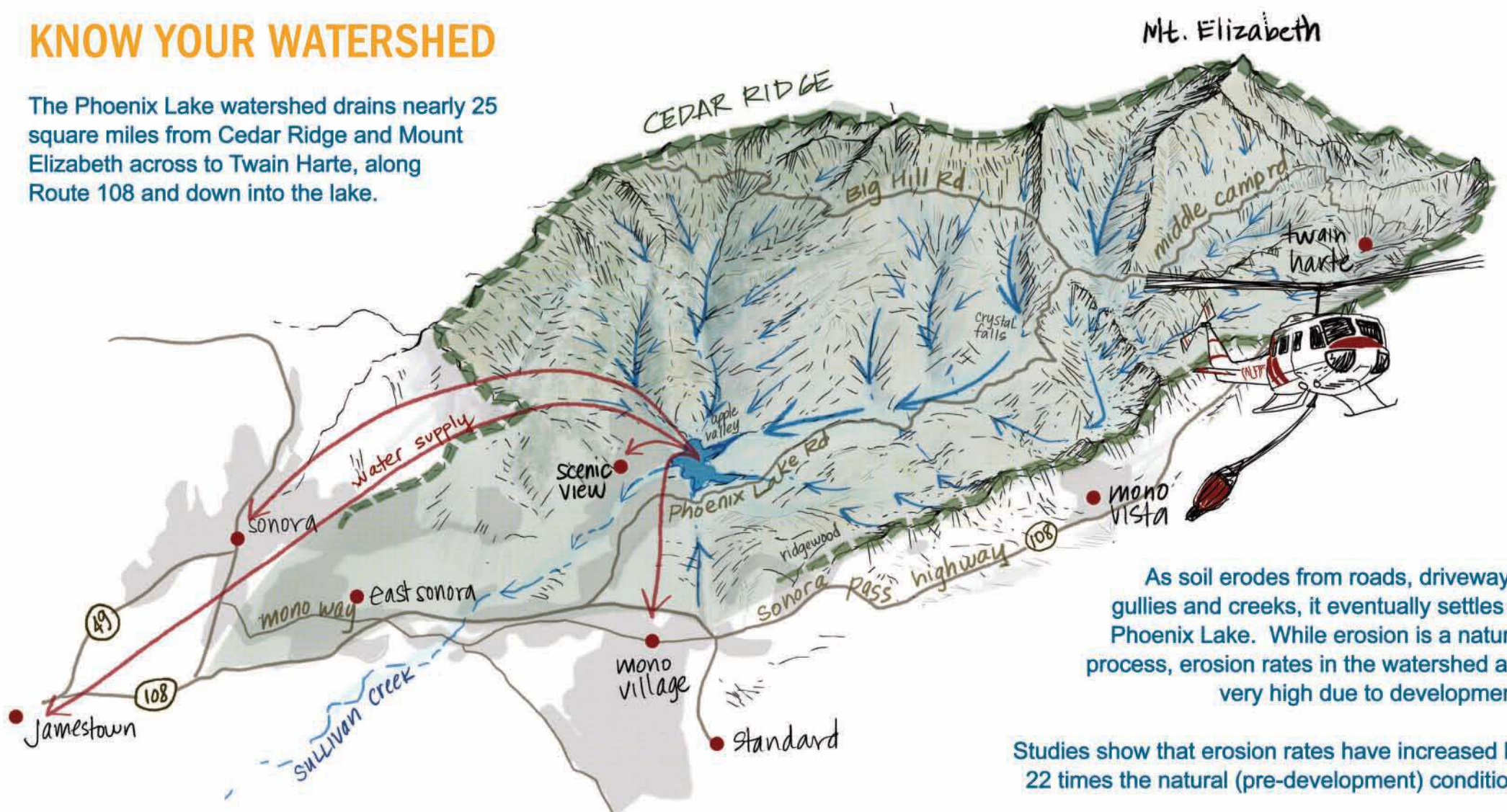


PRESERVING & RESTORING PHOENIX LAKE

The Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD) received a grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to prepare the Phoenix Lake Preservation and Restoration Plan. The plan provides a roadmap to restore and maintain water storage capacity, improve water quality and wetland habitats, and establish public access. For over 100 years, the lake has been a community resource for water supply and recreation. TUD aims to restore and preserve these uses for the next 100 years.

KNOW YOUR WATERSHED

The Phoenix Lake watershed drains nearly 25 square miles from Cedar Ridge and Mount Elizabeth across to Twain Harte, along Route 108 and down into the lake.



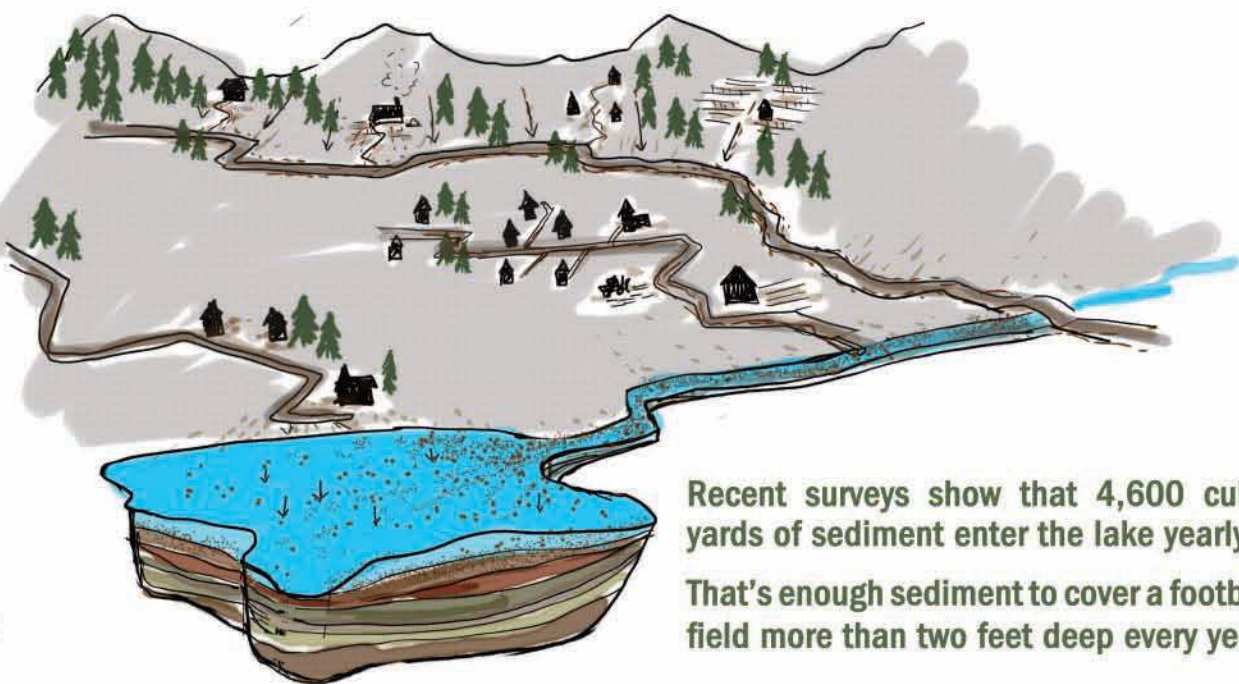
As soil erodes from roads, driveways, gullies and creeks, it eventually settles in Phoenix Lake. While erosion is a natural process, erosion rates in the watershed are very high due to development.

Studies show that erosion rates have increased by 22 times the natural (pre-development) condition.

WHAT FLOWS INTO THE LAKE?

Sediment reduces the lake's water storage capacity. Along with nutrients and pollutants, sediment can degrade water quality and aquatic habitat. Leaky septic systems, fertilizers, and livestock waste deliver nutrients to the lake. Pollutants include pesticides, automotive products, and other household hazardous materials. The more sediment, nutrients and pollutants that flow into the lake, the more it costs TUD to treat the water.

The best way to control sediment, nutrients and pollutants is at their source. That's where you can help!



Recent surveys show that 4,600 cubic yards of sediment enter the lake yearly.

That's enough sediment to cover a football field more than two feet deep every year!

SEVEN WAYS YOU CAN PROTECT PHOENIX LAKE!

1 PREVENT WILDFIRES

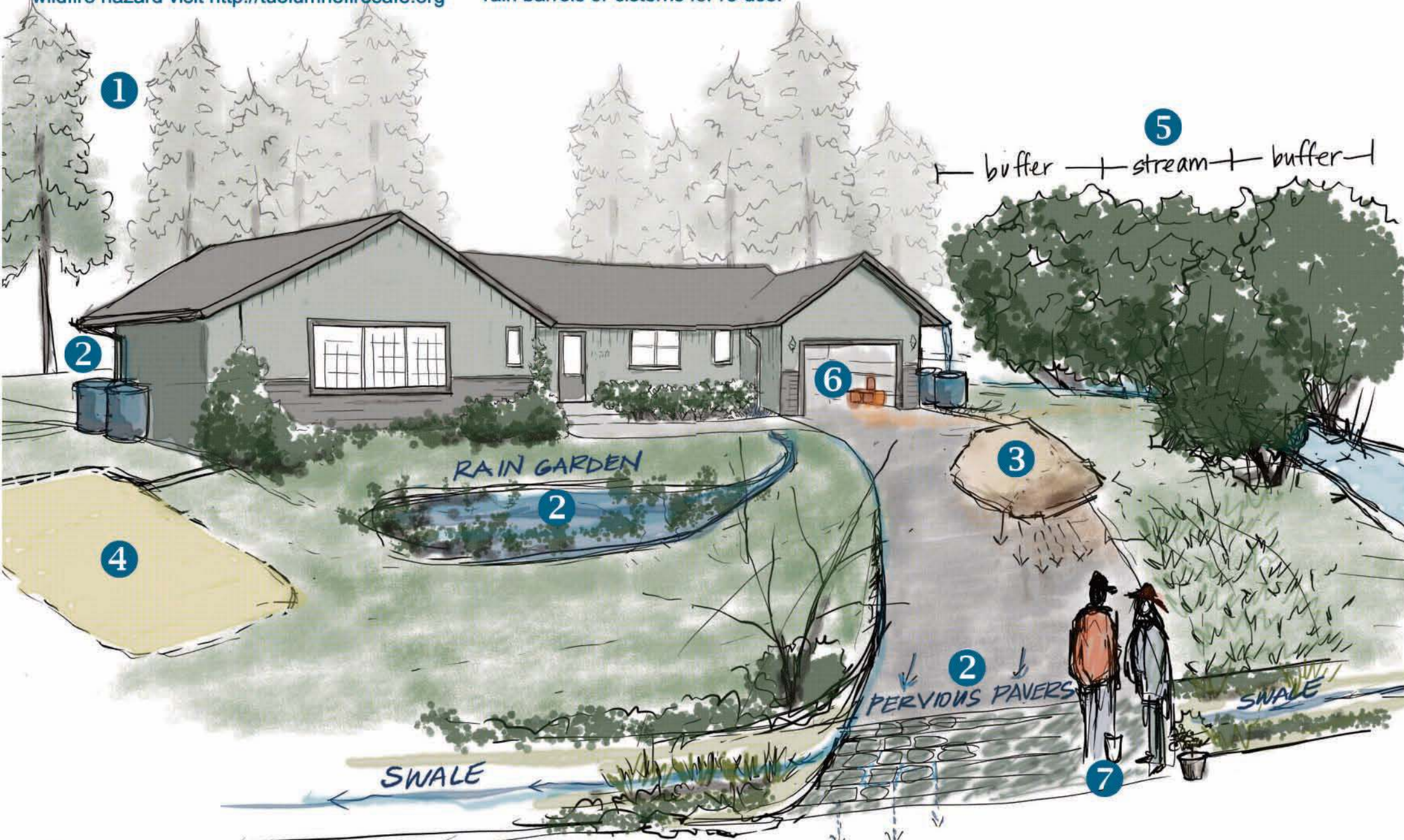
The catastrophic effects of wildfire reach beyond the loss of property. Erosion rates after fires increase by more than ten-fold. Maintain defensible space around your home to protect your property and the watershed. For information on defensible space to reduce wildfire hazard visit <http://tuolumnefiresafe.org>

2 REDUCE RUNOFF

Keep impervious, hard surfaces such as concrete patios and driveways to a minimum. Use pervious paver stones, if possible. Route runoff from downspouts and driveways to pervious areas, such as lawns and gardens, where it can infiltrate. Collect roof runoff into rain barrels or cisterns for re-use.

3 CONTROL EROSION

Avoid grading, construction or land clearing during the rainy season. Don't create steep grades that are vulnerable to erosion. Apply seed and mulch to bare soils. Route runoff from steep driveways.



4 MAINTAIN SEPTIC TANKS

Even the best tanks and systems fail unless sludge is periodically removed from the tank. Your septic tank can leach nutrients and pathogens into waterways. Most tanks need to be pumped every 3 to 5 years. When was your septic system last serviced?

5 BUFFER CREEKS

Maintain buffers around streams. Keep creeks clear of trash and debris. If you have a stream on your property, consider planting native riparian vegetation along the channel. For more information on riparian buffers, contact the Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District.

6 KEEP IT CLEAN

Minimize the use of fertilizers and pesticides, especially around streams and during the rainy season. Properly dispose of household hazardous wastes (e.g., paint, pesticides, herbicides, used oil). Pollutants drain into waterways.

7 GET INVOLVED!

Residents are often first responders to problems in the watershed. Report fire hazards, erosion and pollutant issues to local authorities (see below). Share skills and knowledge with neighbors. Spread the word about protecting your watershed.

CONTACT INFORMATION AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

PHOENIX LAKE INFORMATION
<http://tudwater.com>

EROSION AND SEDIMENT ISSUES

Tuolumne County Department of Public Works: (209) 533-5601
Tuolumne Utilities District: (209) 532-5536

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL

Tuolumne County Solid Waste Division: (209) 533-5588

SEWAGE AND SEPTIC ISSUES

Tuolumne County Department of Environmental Health: (209) 533-5633

FIRE PREVENTION AND DEFENSIBLE SPACE

CAL Fire Prevention: (209) 532-0821

EROSION CONTROL & RIPARIAN BUFFERS

Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District: (209) 984-0500

LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT (LID)

California Stormwater Quality Association's LID Portal:
<http://www.casqa.org/LID/tabid/240/Default.aspx>

California Coastal Conservancy's LID Fact Sheet:
<http://www.coastal.ca.gov/nps/lid-factsheet.pdf>

Truckee Meadows Low Impact Development Handbook:
<http://reno.gov/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=2796>

Roof Water Harvesting For A Low Impact Water Supply:
<http://www.oaecwater.org/education/roofwater-harvesting-booklet>

ALWAYS DIAL 9-1-1 IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY