



ON TAP

P R O J E C T S P O T L I G H T :

Tank Rehabilitation Project Completed

The 500,000 Gallon Columbia Clearwell Rehabilitation Project has just been completed. This important project was identified as part of the Water Capital Improvement Project (CIP) to be completed this fiscal year. The Board of Directors awarded the contract in August 2017 to West Coast Industrial Coatings Inc. to move forward with improvements to the Columbia Clearwell. A clearwell is an enclosed tank that is associated with a treatment plant. Clear wells are used to store filtered water of sufficient capacity to prevent the need to vary the filtration rate with variations in demand. The Columbia Clearwell Rehabilitation Project consisted of making the following tank improvements: minor structural modifications/repairs, adding appurtenances, and the removal and replacement of internal and external coatings. During the rehabilitation process, TUD staff observed that the current roof structure of the tank had endured heavy corrosion which reduced the structural integrity of the roof, and rendered the tank unsuitable to store treated water in its current condition. It was determined that the project scope of work be expanded to include removing and replacing the current roof.



The 500,000 Gallon Columbia Clearwell is a component of the Columbia water treatment system and serves approximately 4,300 people in the Columbia, Gibbs and Big Hill areas. With regular maintenance it is estimated the extended life of the tank is approximately 30 years. The cost of the project was \$525,593.

The Rehabilitation of the Columbia Clearwell Tank

MARCH – APRIL 2018

IN THIS ISSUE

[Tank Rehabilitation Project Completed](#)

[TUD at the Home and Garden Show in April](#)

[BE SEWER SMART!](#)

[Don't Flush Unwanted Medications Down the Toilet](#)

[Habitat Gardening](#)

[Regional Water Conservation Program](#)

[Two Ways to Stay Informed](#)

TUD at the Home and Garden Show in April



2017 Poster Contest Winner: A.J. Hupp from Summerville Elementary School

Mark your calendar! Stop by and visit the TUD staff and Board members at the **37th Annual Home and Garden Show** located at the Mother Lode Fairgrounds in Sonora on **Saturday, April 14th and Sunday, April 15th.**

At the TUD booth you will have the opportunity to view the colorful third grade water conservation artwork from our local schools, find information about TUD's latest projects, learn more about water conservation, the toilet and showerhead rebate program, and find out the latest update on our water supply. We look forward to visiting with you at the Home and Garden Show.

BE SEWER SMART!

No Wipes in the Pipes

"Flushable" wipes, cotton pads and swabs, and other personal hygiene products should not be flushed. While "flushable" wipes infer that they can be flushed down the toilet, these wipes and other personal hygiene products get hung up on pumps and in pipes which cause major blockage in sewer systems. The wastewater department responds monthly to many sewer related issues due to "flushable" wipes that do not disintegrate and clog pumps and sewer pipelines. **Please do not put any Wipes in the Pipes.**



Don't Flush Unwanted Medications Down the Toilet

Unwanted, unused or expired prescription drugs present substantial risks to our community by either falling into the wrong hands, or by damaging our environment through improper disposal. It is this awareness that has resulted in the Tuolumne County Sheriff's Office providing a safe alternative method to dispose of unwanted pharmaceuticals.



Flushing unused prescription medications down the toilet has consequences to the wastewater process and the environment. "Unfortunately, many residents are not sure how to dispose of old prescription pills that are in their medicine cabinets. And flushing them down the toilet is **not recommended** and can harm the environment," states TUD Wastewater Superintendent, David Boatright. "If customers could get in the habit of proper disposal of their prescription medication it ultimately could save the District and its customers thousands of dollars in the future when regulations become more stringent on the removal from both wastewater and drinking water," continues Boatright.

Over the years the Tuolumne County Sheriff's Office and the YES Partnership have participated in prescription drug "take-back" days in which the public can turn in unwanted medication at specified sites. Unfortunately, these events are only held a few times a year. The Sheriff's Office has recently installed a secure collection drop-box at the main office in Sonora. The public is encouraged to come to the Sheriff's Office and dispose of any unwanted medication **twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.** The drop-box is located in the lobby at 28 N. Lower Sunset Drive, in Sonora.

Habitat Gardening

By Wendy Weidenman, a University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardener of Tuolumne County

When I moved into my present residence, I was told by the previous owner the landscaping of the property was created to embrace wildlife. This was somewhat new to me. Previously I had planted a few perennials to entice hummingbirds and pollinators, but that was about the extent of my wildlife habitat gardening. After living here and learning more through observing the activity in my garden, I now recognize the importance of the practice of habitat gardening.

Daily, we love to observe the birds, squirrels, amphibians, reptile and insect activity in our garden. However, besides our personal enjoyment there are other reasons to grow and maintain a wildlife garden. A prime example is the butterfly population. Many species of butterfly are exhibiting a decline in numbers. The decline is not only being observed in urban and suburban gardens, but also in wildlands. Along with the butterfly populations, toads, frogs, bees and some songbird species are declining as well. Though the cause of the decline cannot be narrowed down to one specific reason, the rapid loss and degradation of habitat in California is a chief concern. Perhaps now we need to change our view on gardening. We, as the urban and suburban gardeners, have to come to the rescue of our wildlife.

We can help to restore a small part of what has been lost. When we create habitat we're helping to restore a small part of what has died out. These creatures clean up excess seeds and bugs pollinate our fruits, vegetables, and flowers prevent disease in the garden and fascinate us with their relationships to each other and with the plants they depend on for survival.

Regardless of the wildlife focus, it is abundantly clear when you plant for one you plant for all. A diversity of plants brings insects, who supply feed for birds, toads, frogs, lizards, and the predaceous and parasitic insects we call "beneficials." Nectar flowers bring in hummingbirds, bees, butterflies, and other pollinators.

Turning your garden into a wildlife habitat takes no special training or skills. All animals need shelter, foraging sites, and places to nest and breed. Nature will give us the cues. Wilderness areas that contain the most diverse animal species also contain the most diverse plant species.*

* Bauer, Nancy *The California Wildlife Habitat Garden*, University of California Press 2012. Wendy



Regional Water Conservation Program

Tuolumne Utilities District is partnering with the Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District to offer a Regional Water Conservation Program to all Tuolumne County residents.

Low Flow Toilet and Showerhead Rebate Application

If you are a Tuolumne County resident you may be able to be reimbursed if you have recently purchased a low flow toilet or showerhead.

- Each resident may receive \$100 for 1 low-flow WaterSense toilet. One application per household.
- Each resident may receive \$25 for 1 WaterSense showerhead. One application per household.
- ***The toilet or showerhead must be a WaterSense product.***
- The program is applicable to all receipts dated as of January 1, 2017 that have not already participated in a rebate program.
- To be eligible, all applicants must complete the rebate application form and attach all receipts to the application in order to receive a rebate. TUD will review the application and upon approval will issue a check to the address listed on the application.
- For more information on this program and to download the application, visit the TUD website Conservation page, <https://tudwater.com/conservation/>



Two Ways to Stay Informed

1 Get Involved – TUD Board Meetings

The public is encouraged and invited to attend the regularly scheduled District Board meetings which occur at 2pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. The Board Room is located at 18885 Nugget Blvd. in Sonora. Check our website regularly for the latest Board meeting dates at <https://tudwater.com/board-of-directors/board-meetings/>.

2 Follow us on Facebook

Stay up to date with the latest activities at TUD by following us on Facebook. We post weekly updates on traffic alerts, projects, tips from our local Master Gardeners, weather updates and other interesting topics. Follow us today! <https://www.facebook.com/TUDWater/>

