



Understanding Your Water Supply



Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD) receives water supply from the Sierra Snowpack, as illustrated in the graphic below. This water is delivered to TUD starting at the South Fork of the Stanislaus River at Lyons Reservoir via the Tuolumne Main Canal by agreement with Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E). PG&E owns and operates Pinecrest Lake, Lyons Reservoir and the Tuolumne Main Canal. In the summertime, TUD normally receives stored water first from Lyons Reservoir, then second from water stored in Pinecrest Lake. Approximately, 95% of TUD's customers receive water supplied through the Main Canal into the ditch conveyance system, 5% of water is supplied through wells.

“End of Spill”

You may hear the term, “End of Spill”. What does this mean to you? “End of Spill” is a point in time that occurs after the snow has melted and flow in the River has subsided to where the flow out of Lyons Reservoir exceeds the flow into it. The “End of Spill” occurs at the end of the spring snow-melt runoff which typically occurs about July 1st or later. At this point in time, water stored in Lyons Reservoir is relied upon to supply Tuolumne County through the summer. However, Lyons Reservoir is relatively small and only holds enough water to support normal Tuolumne County water needs for about 65 days. This span of time normally stretches between about July 1st and Labor Day of each year. After Labor Day, water is normally drawn down from Pinecrest Lake to supplement Lyons Reservoir through the fall and early winter.

