



# ON TAP

## PROJECT UPDATE :

### Phoenix Lake Preservation and Restoration

The Phoenix Lake Preservation and Restoration Project reached a milestone on November 14, 2017 with the adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration by the District's Board of Directors as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The process leading to the adoption included extensive studies and research of the potential impacts to the environmental and cultural resources effecting Phoenix Lake. The adoption of the CEQA documents cleared the way for the District to apply for the necessary permits with the State and Federal resource agencies, which include the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACOE), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and the California State Water Resources Control Board. These applications and permits were submitted to the agencies in January 2018 and are currently under review. Due to the complexity and nature of the project, the District has been informed by the entities that an extensive review of the applications will be necessary. The District must acquire necessary permits prior to initiating the bidding process and contract award for the construction phase of the project.



*Phoenix Lake*

lake as a primary drinking water source for the communities of Sonora, Jamestown, Scenic View and Mono Village. The District has received over \$4.5 million dollars of grant funding towards this project.

The District started the Phoenix Lake Preservation and Restoration Project (PLPRP) with the release of its plan in July 2012. While the original storage capacity of Phoenix Lake was approximately 900 acre-feet (ac-ft), the current capacity is only 600 ac-ft. Water quality at Phoenix Lake is marginal at times due to nutrient inputs, sedimentation, and invasive aquatic vegetation. The goal of the Phoenix Lake Preservation and Restoration Project is to improve the water quality and restore storage capacity. Phoenix Lake is an 88-acre water storage reservoir located approximately 3 miles east of the City of Sonora. Phoenix Lake water rights and facilities, as well as portions of the lake, are owned by the TUD. The TUD uses the

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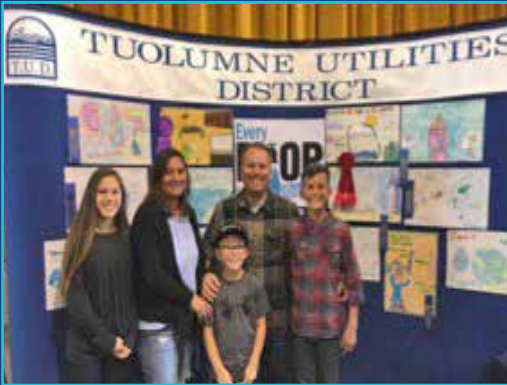
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## Every Drop Counts – Third Grade Poster Contest



*Esai Vasquez (center) with his family at the Home and Garden Show poster display.*

Each year the District visits third grade classrooms throughout Tuolumne County to educate the youth on water, the water cycle, water conservation and future water needs.

Becky Miller-Cripps, a Tuolumne County Master Gardener, is our program coordinator who visits the third-grade classrooms and explains water conservation to the students. The third-grade program includes a video, worksheets, work booklets and student participation, all of which provide information on water systems, water quality, the water cycle and water conservation. This year, Becky had over 17 classroom visits, which totaled influencing nearly 338 students about the importance of water. The students enjoy this informational program and the District appreciates the wonderful interaction that Becky Miller-Cripps has with the students.

Most of the students participated in our "Every Drop Counts" poster art contest which was on display at TUD's Home and Garden Show booth in April. Our Grand Prize winner this year is **Esai Vasquez of Mother Lode Christian School** and our second-place overall winner is **Madison Kaiser of Soulsbyville Elementary School**.

## Water Supply Outlook

Thanks to a series of storms and well above average precipitation in March, the accumulated snow pack has now bumped watershed conditions up to a Normal-Dry water year for the Stanislaus River. Lyons Reservoir and Pinecrest Lake, the District's primary water supply storage on the South Fork of the Stanislaus River, are full and will be full into June making this a manageable water year.

The District monitors daily precipitation accumulations from the rain gauge at our Sonora Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant located at Southgate Drive in Sonora. Listed below is the rainfall accumulations by year for the month of March.

### Rainfall Totals at the Regional Plant 1749' elev. Month of March

Year	Total Rainfall - inches
2018	11.25
2017	3.35
2016	8.09
2015	.37
2014	4.33

The District does not plan to implement water restrictions at this time. We do encourage all of our customers to continue to use water wisely. For water conservation tips, go to the TUD website at <https://tudwater.com/conservation/>

## How to Grow a Green Thumb

*By Francie McGowan, a Master Gardener of Tuolumne County*

Most people think a green thumb is a special gift, like an ear for music or a talent for painting. But this is just a myth. There is nothing magical or special about people who are known as green thumbs. Beautiful gardens are the result of solid research, trial-and-error, and years of experience. Anyone interested in gardening can develop a green thumb.

The usual reason people have failures in the garden is because they put plants where they think they will look prettiest, rather than where they will thrive because of the proper light, soil conditions and water supply to nurture them. Here are three things to consider before planting a garden:



### **WATER**

It is essential that a plant be given enough, but not too much, water. Plants with the same water needs should be planted together. Many plant tags in a nursery will give water and light needs of the plant you are buying. If a tag doesn't provide growing information, you will need to look it up online or in books, such as "Sunset Western Garden." Too little water for a plant makes it conserve what little water it has by keeping the stalk green and the roots moist, but the leaves will turn yellow and wilt, eventually drying up. Too much water will result in root rot and stunted slow growth with yellowing leaves.

### **SOIL**

Soil is either acidic or alkaline. To find out what kind of soil you have, a simple test kit can be purchased in nurseries. Compost is the best fertilizer for garden soils. This keeps the soil moist, inhibits bugs and weeds, and slightly adjusts the pH in the soil. If the soil lacks nitrogen, coffee grounds can alleviate the problem. Adding organic matter also helps with drainage by adjusting the structure of the soil.

### **LIGHT**

Full sun, partial sun or shade information is an absolute for growing plants. Too much sun will burn and cause wilting in a plant. Too little sun will cause plants to be tall, spindly and pale. Knowing the plant's sun exposure needs will help you decide where to put the plant for it to thrive.

Now that you have considered these steps before planting a garden, you are well on your way to developing a green thumb. The rest is trial-and-error. Finding plants native to the area will also help you have a beautiful and thriving garden. As the seasons go by, your thumb will get greener and greener.

*Francie McGowan is a University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardener of Tuolumne County*



## General Manager's Corner by Thomas J. Haglund

### Statewide Water Bonds to Appear on June and November Ballots

Two separate water related bonds will appear on the statewide ballot in June and November respectively. The June ballot will contain the **California Parks, Environment and Water Bond Act of 2018** (hereinafter "Parks & Water Bond") and if approved by voters, will provide funding for a variety of park, environmental and water projects.

The Parks & Water Bond will provide \$4 billion in funding directed at a number of statewide goals including investment in environmental and social equity through enhancing California disadvantaged communities with respect to parks; investment in protecting, enhancing and accessing California's local and regional outdoor spaces; restoring California's natural, historic and cultural legacy; trails and greenway investment; rural recreation, tourism and economic enrichment; various river and waterway improvement programs; state conservancy funding; ocean, bay and coastal protection; climate preparedness, habitat resiliency resource enhancement and innovation; clean drinking water and drought preparedness; and flood protection and repair.

The second ballot initiative will appear on the November ballot and is known as the **State Water Supply Infrastructure, Water Conveyance, Ecosystem and Watershed Protection and Restoration, and Drinking Water Protection Act of 2018** (hereinafter "Water Bond"). This bond measure is broad and seeks approval for more than \$8.87 billion in funding and has been crafted to fund safe drinking water and wastewater treatment projects for disadvantaged communities; wastewater recycling projects; groundwater desalination projects; urban water conservation projects and programs; agricultural water conservation projects; Central Valley flood management and floodplain restoration; San Francisco Bay wetlands and flood improvements; data management improvements and expansion; watershed improvement; land management for water yield; fisheries restoration; implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA); water and specific habitat improvements for fisheries; completion of fish screens in the Central Valley; San Joaquin River fisheries restoration; waterfowl habitat; Bay Area regional reliability interconnections for drought resiliency; improvements to the Friant Kern Canal; and Oroville Dam spillway repairs.

Both bonds contain specific provisions for the expenditure of a large portion of the available funding in disadvantaged communities (DAC). The District serves DAC areas within its service territory and will have the opportunity to compete for this funding in accordance with grant terms. The goal of the proposed water bonds is to improve water infrastructure, and embark on a sustained program of water and wastewater management that will provide greater efficiencies in the use of water, and promote resiliency in the water supply itself as one component of addressing future droughts and other stressors on California's water supply.

### Phoenix Lake Preservation and Restoration Project Update - *Continued from page 1*

The project will involve dredging approximately 400,000 cubic yards of sediment. The proposed dredging will provide access to approximately 170 acre-feet more of water. Construction of a sediment forebay will remove most of the sediments transported to the lake via the Sullivan Creek watershed. The District previously anticipated to bid and award a contract this Spring of 2018 with construction starting Summer of 2018. The current anticipated contract award is Spring 2019 with construction starting the Summer of 2019.

The District appreciates the community's interest and involvement with the project to help further improve the conservation, resiliency, and quality of our water. More information and details related to the Phoenix Lake Preservation and Restoration Project, can be found at TUD's website <https://tudwater.com/projects/phoenix-lake/>