



# ON TAP

## PROJECT UPDATE:

### State Water Conservation Targets

The State of California is imposing statewide water conservation measures within the next 3-7 years. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is working to implement long term residential water use goals for all water agencies in California in response to SB606 and AB1668 (Water Management Planning) which were adopted by our state legislators and approved by Governor Brown on May 31, 2018. This legislation is a direct result from Governor Brown's Executive Order, B-37-16, "Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life" that was released in 2016.

DWR will be establishing and setting residential water use budget targets for water agencies based on both their indoor and outdoor water use criteria. Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD) staff will be required to report the average residential water use to the state each month. The total average monthly residential water use budget will be based on:

- Total Population served
- Total Residential landscape area within the TUD service area
- System water loss
- ETo: Evapotranspiration locally
- Variances where significant

The legislation has already established indoor water use criteria of 55 gallons per person per day by 2025. DWR is planning to use aerial imagery, land ownership parcel mapping and other technical data to establish the total outdoor residential area to be used to establish the residential outdoor water use criteria. Individual customer or daily water use will not be reported to the state. The total of all TUD indoor plus outdoor residential water use will be reported to the state monthly.

#### Next Steps

- DWR is hiring a mapping consultant to analyze the total residential landscape area for all parcels for each water agency in the state
- After the data has been collected, DWR plans to provide a water budget to each water agency based on their respective total landscape area and populations for review by **January 1, 2021**
- DWR will establish an interim water budget for water agencies to achieve by 2021 and a final budget to achieve by **January 1, 2025**

JULY – AUGUST 2018

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## Keeping Your Water Safe!



Tuolumne Utilities District strives to deliver clean, safe drinking water to your home, schools, and business. Did you know, on average, TUD spends about \$15,000 a month testing its 11 separate water systems for various contaminants? The District tests the water that flows

from our raw water ditch system before it enters the treated water system and again after the water has been treated at our water treatment plants. Some water quality problems (iron, manganese and turbidity) can be treated at the water treatment plant before it is released for distribution. Water quality is defined by analyzing it in terms of its:

- **Chemical Content:** Hardness (calcium + magnesium), metals (iron, etc.), nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus), chloride, sodium, organic compounds, etc.
- **Physical Content:** Turbidity, color, odor, etc.
- **Biological Content:** Fecal coliform, total coliform, cryptosporidium, viruses, etc.

Good quality (potable) drinking water is free from disease-causing organisms, harmful chemical substances, tastes good, is aesthetically appealing and is free from objectionable odor.

The District and public water agencies are required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) to follow regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water that is provided by public water systems. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, the District remains vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education to serve the needs of all our water users.

As part of our commitment, the District is proud to present our Annual Water Quality Report covering all testing performed from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017. In an effort to reduce District expenses, the Annual Water Quality Report (Report) is available for you to download at our website, [www.tudwater.com](http://www.tudwater.com).

## Do You Have Another Source of Water Besides TUD's?



*Backflow Prevention Device*

If you have another source of water located on your property there may be a risk of cross-connection. A "cross connection" is an actual or potential unprotected connection between the potable water system (water that is safe for drinking) and any source or system containing water or other substance that is not safe, wholesome and fit for human consumption. The following are common cross connection risks which require back flow prevention: water wells, raw water (ditch), gray water systems, commercial fire sprinklers, landscaping and private sewer pumps. If there is a cross-connection, the District requires that a backflow prevention device is installed on your private plumbing, near your water meter, to prevent contamination of the public water system. The backflow device prevents contaminants which may exist in your auxiliary water source or system from entering into the District's drinking water supply.

### **Why is this Important?**

Backflow-prevention controls two types of hazards: pollution and contamination of your drinking water supply. A pollutant is any substance which affects the color or odor of the water, but does not pose a health hazard. A contaminant may cause a serious illness when ingested.

### **Why must I install a backflow-prevention device?**

The California Department of Public Health requires TUD to eliminate cross-connections by maintaining a cross-connection control program. The program mandates the installation of backflow-prevention devices by the consumer where TUD determines they are needed.

### **I believe I may have a cross connection. What next?**

Contact the District to confirm a cross connection risk is present. If there is a risk of cross-connection on your property you will be required to arrange for the installation a backflow device. We will provide you with a Standard Detail for the construction of the device and the District will need to inspect the installation.

### **I already have a backflow device. What's next?**

If a backflow device is already present on your property you will need to arrange for a TUD-approved, Certified Backflow-Prevention Device Tester to test the device annually. In June, the District mailed out notices if your device needs to be tested. A list of **TUD approved certified testers can be found on our website:** <https://tudwater.com/customer-service/water-services/>. The certified tester will test your backflow-prevention device to ensure that it works correctly and will then complete TUD's Backflow-Prevention Test form and forward the results to TUD.

## Habitat Gardening Basics

By UCCE Master Gardener Wendy Weidenman of Tuolumne County



Habitat gardening is easy, no special skills required. However, there are basics one should keep in mind when considering a habitat garden.

Water is an essential need for birds in the garden. There is nothing more delightful than to watch the hummingbirds and finches bathing and drinking in my recirculating waterfall and pond. Moving water is especially attractive to birds. Not only does my wildlife pond and stream attract birds, but it also draws in frogs, dragonflies, foxes and nocturnal animals. Water in the habitat garden can be provided in numerous ways, from very simple to elaborate (such as the recirculating stream and pond above). A simple saucer can be carefully placed where birds can quickly escape to a bush or tree for safety, or high enough and inaccessible

to feral and domestic cats. Placing a few stones in a shallow saucer of water is also a great way to provide water for butterflies and other insects. It is important to keep birdbaths, saucers and other watering holes clean and filled with fresh water daily to prevent mosquito breeding.

When planting your habitat garden keep in mind that you want to imitate nature. Provide different layers of ground covers, shrubs and trees to provide shelter, nesting and foraging sites for birds. Manzanita ('Howard McMinn'), ceanothus (California Lilac) and Oregon grape are perfect examples of native plants that birds use for shelter and foraging sites. Brush piles and woodpiles are essential for quail to nest and retreat to. Remember to diversify. Try to provide a wide variety of regionally appropriate food and nectar plants that flower at different times of the year. Remember that native plants have evolved with the different wildlife in the area, so it is important to emphasize native plantings. Don't be so eager to prune and clean up. Again, you're trying to imitate nature. Let trees and shrubs reach their normal size, flower, and set fruit. Allow flowers, such as Rudbeckia (Black-eyed Susan) and yarrow, to go to seed for a food source during the winter.

Wildlife gardens are easy to maintain, conserve water and require no fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides. Try to recycle plant material as compost, leaf mulch, or small brush piles. Remember, nothing comes into the garden that is toxic; nothing leaves the garden that is organic.\*

Upcoming articles will discuss the specifics of habitat gardening with regards to the plants that work best in habitat gardens, and the needs of specific birds, amphibians, reptiles, and beneficial insects in the garden.

*UCCE Master Gardeners of Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties can answer home gardening questions. Call 209-533-5912 or go to: <http://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=7269> to fill out our easy-to-use problem questionnaire. Check out the Master Gardeners website at: [http://cecentralsierra.ucanr.edu/Master\\_Gardeners/](http://cecentralsierra.ucanr.edu/Master_Gardeners/) Find their page on Facebook.*

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

## General Manager's Corner by David Andres

### Meet Interim General Manager – David Andres, Email: [dandres@tudwater.com](mailto:dandres@tudwater.com)

I have recently returned to Tuolumne Utilities District to fill in as the Interim General Manager as of June 18th, following the retirement of Thomas Haglund, General Manager. A little about myself, I have over thirty years of management experience working with elected Boards in California Special Districts and County government, especially in the areas of financial administration, personnel and labor relation issues and water and wastewater utility management.

I am also working part-time locally as General Manager at the Tuolumne City Sanitary District to work on grants, special projects and other issues.

So you may be asking what my intentions are stepping in as Interim General Manager at TUD. First of all, I would like to continue to support the staff here and plan to keep operations running as smoothly as possible. The second issue is to help the Board of Directors in the process of hiring a successful permanent General Manager for the District. The District has obtained the services of Barber & Gonzales Consulting Group to facilitate stakeholder meetings and to work with the Board and staff to the desired attributes of the District's next General Manager, and Wendi Brown Creative Partners to conduct the Executive Recruitment for the next General Manager. The District is planning to have an active recruitment in place by the end of July with the anticipation of having a General Manager selected by October, time permitting. Thirdly, I want to make sure we remain on track with our Capital Improvement Program. These important projects will improve operational efficiencies, reduce overall costs and provide better service delivery to our customers.

Until a permanent General Manager is selected, I believe in being candid with an open-door policy. If you have an issue or concern that needs attention, please contact me or a member of the staff.

