



ON TAP

Capital Improvement Projects 2019

In 2015, the District adopted a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) that outlined over \$14 million dollars in water system improvements and \$5.5 million dollars in sewer system improvements.



Completed in 2018 - The Rehabilitation of the 500,00 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.

Saratoga sewer pump station with a new facility. A sewer pump station is a facility designed to pump wastewater from lower to higher elevation so that it can eventually flow to the treatment facility. The improvements include a new electrical service, new pumps, valving, and sumps to improve reliability and reduce maintenance costs. Material and equipment has been procured and TUD has this project scheduled to construct this Summer.

This coming year, the District will undertake an aggressive CIP involving \$3.7 million in water projects and \$2.2 million in sewer projects to improve reliability and support operations. Two important projects that are scheduled to be completed this upcoming year are a new water tank in Mono Vista and replacement of the improvements to the Saratoga sewer pump station.

The Mono Vista Water Tank Project will replace a 420,000-gallon tank in poor condition with a new 600,000-gallon water tank. The new tank will serve water customers in Upper Crystal Falls, Soulsbyville, Willow Springs, Sonora Vista, and Ridgewood areas. A contractor for the project should be selected this Spring with completion scheduled by the end of Summer. In addition, the District plans to replace the aging

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Is Your Home Ready for the Cold?

In the Sierra foothills the weather is unpredictable, especially in the winter months; however the coldest temperatures typically occur in the months of January and February. And while the average low temperature in Sonora in January is 33 degrees, there have been many years that the temperatures have dropped below freezing which can result in broken pipes and customers without water.

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Continued... Home Ready for the Cold?



If you have not taken steps to prepare for freezing temperatures we would like to remind you some simple precautionary steps that will help you protect your home and property

from cold winter conditions and prevent pipes from freezing.

Insulate Exposed Pipes, Faucets and Pipes Prone to Freezing:

Outside pipes and faucets, and pipes in unheated garages and crawl spaces are most vulnerable to freezing weather. To prevent pipes from freezing, wrap them with insulating material. Cover them with plastic and secure with tape, string, or wire. Also, remember to disconnect garden hoses.

Locate Your Main Shut-Off Valve:

Don't wait for an emergency. Find your main water shut-off valve now! If a pipe breaks, you can stop excessive water loss and flooding by turning off your main water shut-off valve. It is commonly located next to the meter, in the garage, or outdoors by the foundation. Test the valves by turning the handle to be sure it is working properly and identify it with a tag. If a main shut-off valve does not exist, it is worth having one installed now by your plumber.

What to do if a Pipe Freezes?

Never thaw with an open flame. Open the faucet first. Start by warming the pipe as close to the faucet as possible working toward the coldest section of the pipe. Apply heat slowly with a light bulb or a hair dryer set on low. Keep the heat moving in that general area, but never concentrate heat on one spot. If that doesn't work, call a plumber.

If you suspect a water main is broken, immediately contact TUD's 24-hour Customer Service at (209) 532-5536 so it can be repaired as soon as possible. Visit the TUD website at www.tudwater.com for more tips on how to protect your home in the winter.

Rate Increases for Water and Sewer

The District recently sent out a postcard to all its customers to notify them that there will be a rate change to water and sewer billings effective January 1, 2019. The Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD or District) continues to carry out capital improvements in support of upgrading the District's water and sewer infrastructure. In 2015, the District Board of Directors approved a 5-year capital improvement program (CIP) that identifies critical improvement needs. The approved 5-year CIP was accompanied by a 5-year rate plan, with increases to treated water, raw water and sewer rates over that term. To view a listing of current projects and those that have been completed go to the TUD website, <https://tudwater.com/about-us/capital-improvement-plan/>

The District will implement the fourth year of the rate plan effective January 1, 2019. Billing statements issued after January 1st will reflect water and sewer rate increases according to the approved rate structure. Please visit our website to learn more about the water and sewer projects completed and the raw water, treated water and sewer rates.

Avoid Pruning Apricots and Cherries in Cool Season

By Chuck Ingels

Most people think about pruning fruit trees during the winter since the branch structure is most visible and winter is considered the traditional time to prune deciduous trees. Actually, pruning fruit trees mainly during the growing season is a good practice and with some species such as apricots and cherries, pruning between September and March in northern California could lead to detrimental canker diseases.

Cherries, apricots, and a few related species are particularly susceptible to fungal and bacterial canker diseases, including *Eutypa* dieback, *Botryosphaeria* canker, and bacterial canker. Pathogens can be spread by rain or tree wounds – such as pruning wounds – during wet weather; subsequent infections spread through the wood for several years and may eventually kill the tree. When trees are infected, limbs or twigs may wilt and die suddenly in late spring or summer with the leaves still attached. Bark may be darkly discolored and amber-colored gumming may ooze.



Infected areas in the interior of the wood are discolored brown, sometimes in wedge shapes; with bacterial canker the cambial area will turn red or speckled red and then brown. To remove such infections, cut infected limbs at least one foot below any internal symptom of the disease, preferably during the dry season when infection risk is lowest.

The best practice is to avoid pruning these susceptible species during the typical rainy period from September through mid-March. Rains after March can still lead to infections although tissue susceptibility to disease decreases with warmer weather. However, it is best to avoid pruning altogether until at least late spring.

If growth is very vigorous, the first summer pruning can be done in late May or June, at which time many strong upright shoots can be removed to allow sunlight to reach lower fruiting branches. Doing the final pruning in July leads to excessive regrowth later that summer. The main or final pruning should be in August, but heavy pruning, especially at that time of year, may lead to sunburned branches, so leave spurs and some other shoots to provide some shade. Alternatively, whitewash west- and south-facing branches with a 50:50 mixture of interior, white latex paint and water to prevent sunburn.

Chuck Ingels is a former University of California Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor for Sacramento County.

General Manager's Corner by Edwin R. Pattison, email: EPattison@tudwater.com

Greetings from your new General Manager at the Tuolumne Utilities District. My hope is that you are enjoying this winter season, staying warm, and that precipitation in our watershed is robust. I began serving in this position late November 2018 and look forward to humbly serving you, your Board of Directors, staff, and the community at large in the years ahead.

As long as there's been leaders, transitions in leadership have occurred. The changing of the guard and the challenges it poses for new leaders are as old as human society. Those challenges have not gotten any easier given the complexity of modern organizations, laws, challenging budgets, and the speed at which business gets conducted.

Leadership transitions are critical times when small differences can have disproportionate impacts on results. Good leaders, regardless of their abilities, are most vulnerable in the first few months as they lack detailed, institutional knowledge of the challenges the organization is facing and what it will take to succeed in meeting them. New leaders also have not yet developed a network of relationships to sustain them. Failure to create momentum



Jeff Kerns, Bob Rucker, Barbara Balen, Ron Kopf and Ron Ringen

during the first few months virtually guarantees an uphill battle for the remaining tenure in the job. My goal, therefore, is to build credibility with you the ratepayer, the taxpayer, the elected official, individual staff members, leaders in community, and our representatives within state and federal governments. I hope to build relationships with all to achieve some early wins and lay a firm foundation for long-term success. I cannot serve effectively without building this strong team. As a result, I hope to hear from you, good or bad, or if you simply want to talk.

Our mission at the Tuolumne Utilities District is "To responsibly manage District resources in order to provide our community with reliable, high quality water, wastewater, and other utility services." As your General Manager, I intend to carry out this mission as a servant leader in a responsible, ethical manner and work toward developing a high-performing organization. From what I've seen of your elected Board of Directors and staff, you are well served, and I look forward to making a good organization even better!

Ed-

