



ON TAP

TUD NEWSLETTER



Tuolumne Main Canal from Lyons Reservoir
(Photo credit: PG&E)

O'Neil Tunnel Improvements Project

Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD) has started the O'Neil Tunnel Improvements Project with improvements to the O'Neil Tunnel, which is located on the historic 1852 Table Mountain Ditch, one of thirteen ditch conveyance systems the District operates. The O'Neil Tunnel is located at the end of the Table Mountain Ditch at O'Neil Reservoir near Jamestown. The District owns and operates a total of 71 miles of ditch, flume, pipe, and tunnel infrastructure that diverts water from the Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) system at various locations.

Overtime the O'Neil Tunnel has shown significant degradation. The total length of the tunnel is approximately 476 feet. In 2017, Condor Earth Technologies, Inc., hired by TUD, investigated the downstream 206 feet of open tunnel section and prepared a hazards study. The hazards study revealed several concerns and risks about the tunnel and the level of deterioration that has taken place since it was constructed in the 1850's. The O'Neil Tunnel Improvements Project, consists of the installation of approximately

Ditch Outage Scheduled for October - Please Conserve!

The Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) Tuolumne Main Canal that conveys 95% of Tuolumne Utilities District's water supply will be shut down for PG&E's regular maintenance from Monday, October 14th through Sunday, October 20th, 2019. With this in mind, the District asks that you limit your water use during this timeframe while PG&E undertakes repairs and improvements.

Without water flowing in the ditches, the only water available is what remains in storage tanks and from groundwater wells. Conservation during this period will help provide

adequate water supply for drinking, sanitary usage and fire protection.

Here's how you can help:

- » Limit outside watering
- » Do not wash vehicles
- » Turn off automatic lawn and sprinkler timers
- » Repair water leaks

Please continue to conserve one week after the outage in order for water storage to recover. For irrigation/agricultural ditch customers, periodic outages will continue from October through December for annual maintenance. For complete ditch outage information, visit www.tudwater.com

200 linear feet of 24" High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) pipe and 40 linear feet of 30" steel pipe inside of the O'Neil Tunnel. The Board of Directors awarded a contract to the Sierra Mountain Construction, Inc. (SMCI) in the amount of \$236,315.00 to complete the project. Most of the project work will take place during the annual Ditch outage at the end of October. The project is estimated to be completed by January 1, 2020, weather permitting.



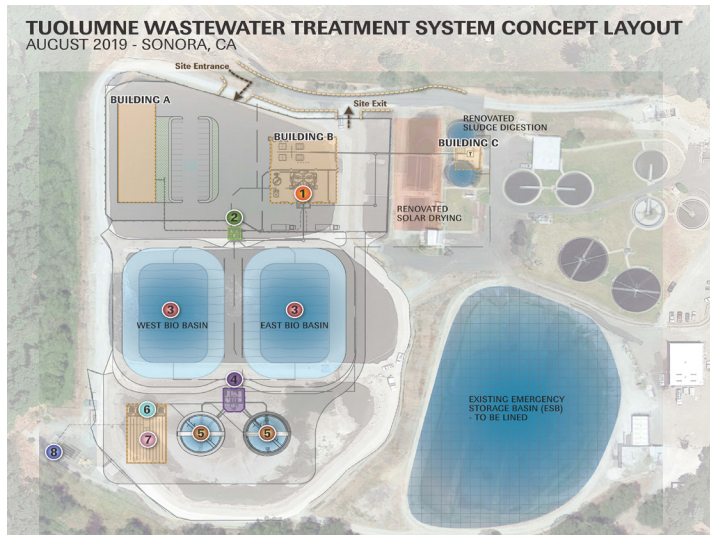
The O'Neil Tunnel Improvements Project

Sonora Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrades

The Tuolumne Utilities District provides wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal services to much of the population of Tuolumne County. The District also receives and processes septage from the greater Tuolumne and Calaveras County areas. The District's Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility was constructed in the mid-1970's to consolidate treatment facilities

in Columbia, Sonora, and Twain Harte. While various upgrades have occurred over the last four decades, the facility is in need of a complete overhaul to meet current treatment standards and to utilize technologies that will increase efficiency and reduce labor.

The District has contracted with PACE Engineering to do preliminary design of a new facility that will include process improvements such as, new septage receiving and screening, extended aeration basins, expanded clarification, a more robust chlorination system, as well as, upgraded solids digestion and dewatering equipment. The facility will also be designed so that filtration can be added in the future. Access and circulation through the site will be improved and a new operations building is being proposed. District staff is diligently looking to secure grant funding for the estimated \$15 million dollars needed to proceed with constructing the facility.



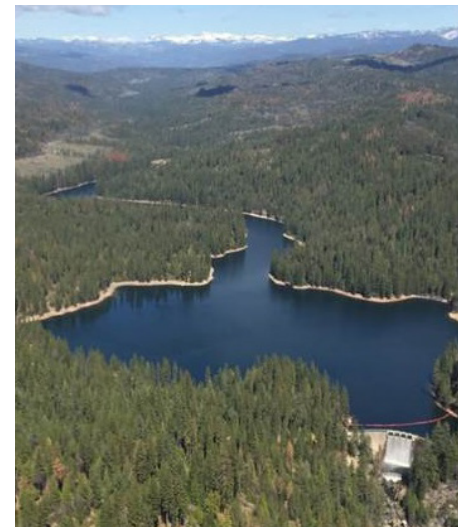
General Manager's Corner

Ed Pattison, General Manager

Infrastructure replacement continues to be a priority for Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD) as it works hard to improve reliability and service to all TUD customers. Since its founding in 1992, TUD has facilitated the consolidation of eighteen (18) additional water systems in Tuolumne County. With over one-hundred (100) private and mutual water companies regulated by the CA Division of Drinking Water still remaining in Tuolumne County, TUD estimates that over half of all new service connection growth to TUD will be under a state action plan to further consolidate these smaller systems into TUD. History has proven that small, rural, water systems have a high rate of system failure due to substandard design and construction, insufficient rate revenue, and an inability to recruit skilled labor to manage and operate the facilities. TUD staff does a great job operating, maintaining, and improving its inherited collection of

11 water treatment plants, 320 miles of water pipelines, 80 water storage tanks, 133 Pressure Reducing Valves, 26 groundwater wells, 71 miles of water conveyance facilities and small storage reservoirs, not including the sewer collection, treatment, and recycling side of the business. These are the day-to-day operations that keep water flowing to your tap and wastewater properly collected, treated, and conveyed to its end use.

Separate and complementary to these day-to-day operations are the long-term plans to build water supply reliability. Many are not aware that the TUD water system is vulnerable to annual water supply fluctuations due to small storage reservoirs (Pinecrest Lake and Lyons Reservoir) in our watershed currently owned by the Pacific Gas & Electric company. As a result, Tuolumne County is highly reliant on a good snowpack like we received this last winter. After



Aerial view of Lyons Reservoir

Lyons Reservoir is nearly depleted at the end of summer, water is then supplemented from Pinecrest Lake. Past records show that TUD received stored water from Pinecrest Lake, prior to Labor Day, in 12 out of the last 45 years. TUD closely monitors the watershed and river flows and works with PG&E to ensure a reliable water supply is available to Tuolumne County.

On Tap is published to keep Tuolumne Utilities District customers informed about issues and upcoming events.

If you have any story ideas or suggestions, please mail them to Lisa Westbrook, at 18885 Nugget Blvd., Sonora, CA 95370 or email at lwestbrook@tudwater.com.