



ON TAP

TUD NEWSLETTER

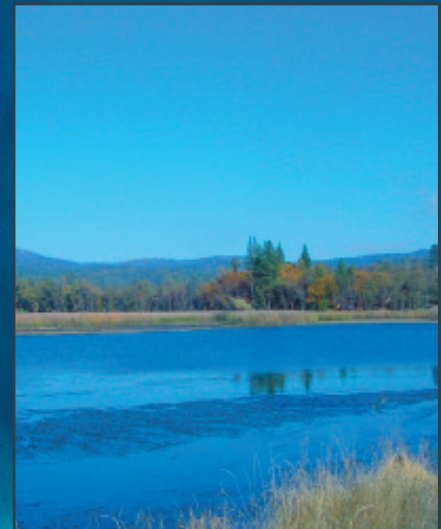
Activity at Phoenix Lake

Phoenix Lake (Reservoir) is the primary water supply reservoir for the East Sonora, Jamestown, Mono Village, Scenic View, and Sonora service areas. The reservoir's original capacity is 850 acre-feet; however, years of sedimentation have reduced that capacity to approximately 600 acre-feet. Despite being dredged at least twice in the past, most recently in the late 1980's, sediment continues to accumulate in the reservoir. The reduction in storage capacity accompanies a degradation in water quality characterized by warm water temperatures, low dissolved oxygen, zones of stagnation, proliferation of invasive aquatic vegetation and the emergence of seasonal taste and odor compounds which can complicate the water treatment processes.

The Phoenix Lake Restoration and Preservation Project

(PLRPR) project restores water storage capacity by removing accumulated sediment, improves water quality through retention of particles, increasing water depth, establishing better circulation patterns, and will enhance aquatic habitat. Preliminary construction activity is scheduled to begin this Spring of 2020, with major construction activity taking place throughout the summer. Residents adjacent to Phoenix Lake may notice the following:

- » Bird deterrents being placed such as owl figurines, orange spheres that look like eyes, and shiny ribbon. These measures will protect the birds by encouraging them to build nests at safer locations.
- » Low lake water levels. The lake is being drained to dry as much as the lake as possible in preparation for dredging operations, with sufficient water storage remaining to



ensure adequate water supply to the Sonora Regional Water Treatment Plant.

- » An increase in the number of people inspecting lake conditions before, during, and following the project.

For project updates and more information, visit TUD's website at <https://tudwater.com/projects/phoenix-lake/>

Unusual Temperatures for Late Winter

The region has received little precipitation since December. Despite the recent dry weather conditions, the area received sufficient early snowpack accumulation to fill Lyons Reservoir and Pinecrest Lake, the two water storage reservoirs supplying Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD) and Tuolumne County. The most recent U.S. Drought Monitor indicates that interior of California, including Tuolumne County is slipping back into moderate drought listed as a D1 category. A persistent ridge of high pressure in the Pacific Northwest region is currently diverting storms away from our region.

As of February, accumulated rainfall for the 2019-

2020 rainfall year is 14 inches as recorded at the Sonora Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. For the same time period the average rainfall for Sonora is 20 inches, but we are faring much better than the rainfall that was received during the drought period of 2014 by comparison when Sonora only received 7.5 inches.

As always, the District reminds customers to practice wise water use. Our region typically receives more precipitation in March and April that we hope will add to the existing snowpack. TUD is carefully monitoring water conditions and will update the community with an up-to-date water supply outlook as the spring unfolds.

Twain Harte Interceptor – Wastewater Collections



Flushing sewer pipelines before assessment

The Twain Harte Interceptor (THI or Interceptor) was constructed in 1975 to bring treated effluent (liquid waste) sewage from the Twain Harte Wastewater Treatment Plant to the Sonora Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant in Sonora. The THI is designed to convey maximum effluent flow at a rate of 972 gallons per minute (GPM) or 1.4 million gallons per day (MGD). The entire length of the Interceptor is 6.9 miles and consists of 10-inch to 12-inch sewer main. Assessing the condition of the THI is a high priority for the District due to its overall age and proximity to Sullivan Creek. The District is currently focusing on improvements to 25,425 lineal feet of THI pipeline from Crystal Falls Drive to Midland Drive on Phoenix Lake Road. Since 2019 the District has cleaned and inspected 1,600 lineal feet of pipe. This Spring, the District plans to assess an approximate 2,350 lineal feet segment of 12-inch diameter pipeline located in the Crystal Falls area. TUD will continue to inspect and maintain this critical facility as it looks toward ensuring sustainable regional solutions to wastewater collections, treatment, and re-use.

General Manager's Corner

With last year's near record setting wet weather, the state's reservoirs are doing well. For Tuolumne County, the combined storage of Pinecrest Lake and Lyons Reservoir at 23,779 acre-feet is small in comparison to the annual average runoff in the South Fork Stanislaus of around 104,000 acre-feet. The important takeaway here is that both reservoirs fill in nearly all but very critically dry years.

With the most recent 2012-2017 drought barely behind California, many questions and inquiries are being raised as to whether or not the state (and the Tuolumne County region) is entering another drought period. The fluctuation in the weather cycle over the past two years demonstrates California's extremes and the uncertainties it creates for managing our most precious resource – a reliable water supply! To that end, TUD is working hard to improve the region's water supply reliability through diversification of water supply sources and diversion points and through making water conveyance and distribution system improvements. Since the last drought, together with our customers, TUD has invested nearly \$16-million in water system efficiency improvements. Moving forward, TUD is

looking to rebuild the Sonora Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, enhance its treated water quality, and expand water recycling opportunities within the region. Further water system improvement efficiencies are being pursued through consolidation of smaller, poor economy-of-scale water treatment plants located throughout the region into more efficient state-of-the-art water treatment facilities. TUD is also working hard to develop long-term water supply planning and investments to include acquisition of water rights, water storage, and water conveyance facilities located in the South Fork Stanislaus River Watershed, as well as securing a long-term water supply contract with the United States Bureau of Reclamation for water stored in New Melones Reservoir.

As TUD works diligently to secure the region's water supply future, we do so by working with our partners within the region and with our state and federal partners. Investing in water supply security is not inexpensive, but through these partnerships TUD's goal is to minimize cost to the community while ensuring a reliable, high-quality water supply for generations to come.

Edwin R. Pattison
General Manager



TUD MISSION:

**"PROVIDE RESPONSIBLE
WATER AND WASTEWATER
SERVICES FOR OUR
CUSTOMERS WITH GREAT
CUSTOMER SERVICE IN A
SOCIALY, FINANCIALLY
AND ENVIRONMENTALLY
RESPONSIVE MANNER AT
A FAIR VALUE."**

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. For more information about TUD, go to www.tudwater.com