



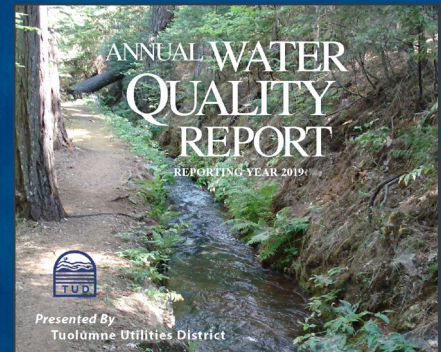
# ON TAP

TUD NEWSLETTER

## Annual Report Available on Your Drinking Water

Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD or District) has released its Annual Water Quality Report (also known as the Consumer Confidence Report) covering all testing of treated drinking water performed from January 1st through December 31, 2019. The water quality report covers the District's treated water service areas; 11 surface water treatment plants, and 12 active wells. TUD's surface water comes from the South Fork of the Stanislaus River at Lyons Reservoir via the Tuolumne Main Canal by agreement with Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E).

The Annual Water Quality Report (Report) is available for the public to view or download at the District's website <https://tudwater.com/customer-service/water-services/>. TUD's dedicated staff is working hard under enhanced safety precautions to supply safe, reliable and plentiful water to homes and businesses. Over the years, District staff maintains a strong commitment to producing drinking water that meets or exceeds all State and Federal standards. The District strives to adopt new and efficient methods for delivering the best-quality drinking water to its customers.



As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, TUD remains vigilant meeting the goals of Source Water Protection, Water Conservation, and Community Education while continuing to serve the needs of all water users.

## Phoenix Lake Project Has Begun

After many years of meetings and careful planning, TUD is excited to announce that the Phoenix Lake Preservation and Restoration Project (Project) is finally underway! The District was awarded a \$6.3 million grant from the Tuolumne-Stanislaus Integrated Regional Water Management Authority (T-S IRWMA) in 2015 and, after permitting the Board of Directors awarded a \$4.1 million construction contract with Steve Manning Construction, Inc. (SMCI) for the construction phase of the Project in May 2020. Residents adjacent to the Phoenix Lake area will notice heavy equipment being moved into the area soon with actual construction activity in the reservoir beginning in early August. SMCI will remove at least 60,000 cubic yards of sediment material from the reservoir increasing storage capacity and re-align the major stream inlets this season.

A great deal of work is happening behind the scenes in the early phase of construction. The District will conduct bird surveys to ensure no nesting is occurring in the construction zones. SMCI must submit construction schedules and dewatering plans to TUD and to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

for review before equipment can be operated in the reservoir. The contractor works cooperatively with TUD and PG&E to maintain uninterrupted water service to the community. Careful planning, coordination, and communication among multiple stakeholders and landowners is well underway in order to ensure a successful project.

The reservoir level will remain low throughout the summer and will be further drained when the dewatering bypass is constructed allowing the lakebed to dry prior to heavy equipment entering the lake. Drier soils are more easily placed and compacted and will be relocated to the apple orchards to the north of the reservoir. SMCI will return after the winter and finish removing the remaining material.

Phoenix Lake is an 88-acre surface area water storage reservoir with a current volume of 650 acre-feet located approximately 3 miles east of the City of Sonora. Prior to sedimentation over time, Phoenix Lake contained a useable capacity of 850 acre-feet. TUD owns Phoenix Lake, the water rights associated with the lake, along

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## Phoenix Lake



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with facilities that serve as the primary drinking water source for the communities of Sonora, Jamestown, Scenic View and Mono Village. The District is very excited that the project is moving forward this year. The completion of the Project will provide for a healthier lake, better water quality, a more resilient water supply to the community, and improved aesthetics and environment for the region. For more information and updates to this project, visit <https://tudwater.com/projects/phoenix-lake/>

## General Manager's Corner

As of this writing, the nation, along with the world, is experiencing its first modern day pandemic crisis that has wrought along with it an economic crisis with numbers not seen since the great depression. In response, federal, state, and local government is working hard to safely and effectively continue to provide services to the community consistent with its mission. For the Tuolumne Utilities District, this means continuing to provide the lifblood of the community: vital high-quality water supplies and wastewater services, both safely and reliably, while doing so at a fair value.

Achieving this goal is not a simple task. Beneath the surface is a vast array of aging infrastructure, deferred capital improvements, and unfunded regulatory mandates that must all come together to make this system work 24/7 each day of the year. The current system is comprised of numerous components spread across the county: twelve treatment plants, hundreds of miles of pipelines and water conveyance facilities, hundreds of water storage tanks, pump stations, wells, valves, and systems to control the diversion, treatment, and delivery of high-quality, reliable water to each household. In turn, TUD collects the wastewater, conveys it to treatment plants, and reclaims the wastewater for its beneficial end use – recycled

water. The system is old, failing, and in many cases, beyond repair. Under current laws and cost of replacement, these expenses are huge, and without partnerships, difficult if not impossible for TUD to keep rates down while working under a poor economy-of-scale (i.e., small number of connections per mile of pipeline). TUD has largely been successful in keeping rates down through partnerships, grants, and careful, prudent decision-making.

The recently adopted Board of Directors Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget represents a delicate balance to achieve the many goals and objectives as outlined in the District's strategic plan. These efforts include attracting and maintaining a hard-working employee workforce to carry out the day-to-day mission, continued investment in funding priority infrastructure replacement, and implementing strategic initiatives, such as regionalizing, consolidating, and interconnecting water treatment plants and systems, diversifying water supplies and diversion points, and acquiring senior water rights and water and hydropower systems that serve Tuolumne County from the Pacific Gas & Electric. The overarching goal of these strategic initiatives is to promote water security, to provide certainty, and to keep rates as low as possible. Balancing these initiatives

**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."**

represent an enormous effort by the organization to acquire the necessary information to assist the Board of Directors and the community make wise, informed, balanced decisions.

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 [lwesbrook@tudwater.com](mailto:lwesbrook@tudwater.com). For more information about TUD, go to [www.tudwater.com](http://www.tudwater.com)