



# ON TAP

TUD NEWSLETTER

## Sonora Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility Project

Tuolumne Utilities District is excited to announce that new construction is underway at the Sonora Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Built in the 1970's, the existing Sonora Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (SRWWTF) is approaching 50 years of service and while it has undergone several process upgrades over the decades, the facility needs replacement. The District Board has awarded a construction contract to Kiewit Infrastructure West, Co., of Fairfield, Ca. in the amount of \$35,025,010.

The Project scope includes constructing a new wastewater treatment facility capable of treating an average of 2 million gallons of wastewater per day that will meet the current California Title 22 Standards for Disinfected Tertiary Treated wastewater. Specific improvements include a new septage receiving facility, new headworks screening and grit removal system, secondary treatment process consisting of extended aeration, secondary clarification, tertiary filtration, disinfection, an emergency storage basin, rehabilitation, and conversion of existing secondary anaerobic digester vessels to aerobic digesters, new sludge screw press for solids dewatering, along with emergency standby power, and a new administrative/op-



Erik Johnson, District Engineer and Don Perkins, Interim General Manager at the Groundbreaking Ceremony, 10/18/2021

erations building. The project site is contained within the footprint of the existing treatment plant located at 1400 Southgate Drive in Sonora.

Most of the project cost will be covered thanks to a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant/loan package that includes over \$8.5 million in grant dollars, and approximately \$24.9 million as a low-interest loan. TUD will contribute approximately \$8.8 million of its own funds from wastewater reserves.

Project partners include Pacific Advanced Civil Engineering, Inc. (PACE), Kiewit Infrastructure West Co. (Kiew-

it), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Mountaineering Engineering, Condor Earth Technologies and Municipal Capital Markets.

Construction is scheduled to be completed within two years. As the project progresses, updates will be posted online at <https://tudwater.com/tud-project/sonora-regional-wastewater-treatment-facility/>.

The District held a ceremony on Monday, October 18, 2021 to commemorate the groundbreaking at the project site and provide members of the public in attendance an overview of the project.

## When Cooking - Trap the Grease!



With the fall and winter holidays approaching, many Tuolumne County residents will be busy cooking in their kitchens. Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD) reminds residents to properly dispose of fats, oils and grease to avoid potential plumbing and sewer problems. Sewer blockages can cause backups into homes resulting in an unpleasant mess that can cost hundreds and sometimes thousands of dollars to clean up.

Listed below are safe disposal tips of waste fats, oil and grease to help you avoid a plumbing emergency:

- Avoid pouring fats or vegetable cooking oils down the drain because liquid fats solidify in the pipes and create clogs.
- After grease has cooled, scrape the grease into a container with a tight-fitting lid.

Solidify in the refrigerator before putting it in the trash.

- Never put hard to grind items in your garbage disposal, including poultry skins, eggshells, carrots, potato skins, celery, pumpkin pulp, banana peels or pasta.



# TUD Taps New General Manager

## Don Perkins General Manager

After serving as the Interim General Manager since June 2021, the Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD) Board of Directors is pleased to announce it has selected Don Perkins as its permanent General Manager to lead the district.

In June of this year, the Board appointed Don Perkins to interim general manager to oversee the general manager duties until the Board could evaluate the district's needs for a permanent General Manager.

After a series of meetings, the Board elected to appoint Don Perkins as the permanent, full-time General Manager for the District. Mr. Perkins has worked for TUD for 21 years, serving as the District's Operations Director for the past six years.

"When it comes to the importance

of water, fire and public safety, Don understands we are all in this together, we have a responsibility to the entire community and our future. We are fortunate Don can hit the ground running, given his experience as TUD operations director," states Board President, Barbara Balen. "I am humbled and grateful to be selected as General Manager for the district. The district and the county are facing some real challenges and exciting opportunities that will fundamentally change the way we operate and serve our community. I take great comfort in knowing firsthand how talented and hard working the staff is here. The TUD Board and staff are committed to making the best decisions to benefit the county now, and forever," states Don Perkins.



The Board of Directors announced their selection of Mr. Perkins at the October 26, 2021 Board meeting.



*Cabin at Pinecrest Lake in Winter*

## Happy Holidays from TUD!

The District's office will be closed on the following days to observe holidays:

November 25th-November 26th

December 23rd-December 24th

December 30th-December 31st

However, in the event of a water or sewer emergency, call the TUD main line at 209-532-5536.

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)