



# ON TAP

TUD NEWSLETTER

## WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

Due to this season's series of steady storms, the District's water supply forecast looks good. Pinecrest Lake and Lyons Reservoir will fill nicely due to the abundant snowpack and rainfall, and the District anticipates an end of spill date in July or as late as August this year. Currently precipitation and snow accumulation are at approximately 200% of average in early March for the Motherlode Region. While the rain and snow certainly position our local water supply to be in better shape than prior years and Tuolumne County is no longer in a drought, the State drought declarations will likely remain in effect. For drought status updates, please visit us at [www.tudwater.com](http://www.tudwater.com).



## RESERVOIR STORAGE

March 3, 2023	Storage Reading (acre-feet)	% Capacity	% Avg. this date
Pinecrest	10,800	59%	159%
Lyons	4,000	73%	110%

## CRYSTAL FALLS/CEDAR RIDGE EMERGENCY INTERTIE PROJECT COMPLETED

The District recently celebrated the completion of the Crystal Falls/Cedar Ridge Emergency Intertie Project. This project intertied the Crystal Falls and the Cedar Ridge Water Systems to increase water delivery reliability and resiliency. The Cedar Ridge Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Clearwell Tank had reached the end of its useful life and needed replacement. Many other components in at Cedar Ridge WTP needed modernization as well. The Crystal Falls WTP, which is also located in Cedar Ridge, had the capacity to supply water to the Cedar Ridge area. An intertie between the two systems allows the District to eliminate the Cedar Ridge Water Treatment Plant providing significant savings in operational costs. Approximately 4,500 linear feet of 6" water mainline, and four (4) new hydrants were installed, adding increased fire protection to the area.





## JOIN US AT THE HOME AND GARDEN SHOW



Stop by and visit TUD staff and Board members at the 40th annual Home and Garden Show at the Mother Lode Fairgrounds in Sonora on Saturday, April 15th and Sunday, April 16th. At the TUD booth you will have an opportunity to learn about TUD's latest projects, find out more about the District and ask questions to staff and Board Members. We hope to see you there!

## IS YOUR TOILET TRYING TO TELL YOU SOMETHING?

A leaky toilet can have a big impact on your water bill before you even detect there is a problem. Toilets are one of the biggest water users in your home and a leaky toilet can waste about 200 gallons per day. TUD offers free toilet dye tablets for you to check if your toilet is leaking; just stop by our office to pick some up. And, if your home was built prior to 1992, you could be eligible for an upgrade with our Toilet Rebate Program.

For more information, visit us at [www.tudwater.com/conservation](http://www.tudwater.com/conservation).



## GENERAL MANAGER'S CORNER BY DON PERKINS



Weeks of heavy rain and pounding storms in December – January, and heavy snow in February and March hit Tuolumne County this winter and our local reservoirs will fill and spill. However, despite our current water outlook with the snowpack at over 200% of average in early March, and the US Drought Monitor recently changing Tuolumne County to a no drought designation, California state officials report that the drought is not over. The truth of the matter is that although wet seasons fill up our reservoirs, replenish groundwater levels and benefit the environment, much of it simply “goes down the drain,” as TUD and the majority of Tuolumne County lacks the ability to capture and store valuable water for later use. The District currently relies on two reservoirs (Pinecrest Lake and Lyons Reservoir) to store water and sustain our customers each year. For perspective, these two reservoirs’ combined capacity is 1% of the capacity of New Melones Reservoir sitting downstream of our water system. Any extra precipitation via rain or snow that cannot be captured and stored in these small reservoirs is released back into the environment and sent down stream out of the county. As we continue to experience the effects of climate change and more intense periods weather, we need to take serious

steps to better capture and store our winter water to last through future and multi-year dry seasons. Expanding our current reservoirs to boost storage and increase water supply flexibility and reliability and building more upstream reservoirs close to where the snowpack melts are all solutions that are worth considering. Pursuing new or expanded water storage reservoirs is challenging and not cheap but may be what is needed to withstand future climate and weather fluctuations that surely affect our community’s water resiliency now and in the future.

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