



ON TAP

 TUD NEWSLETTER

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 drinking water supply will be shut down for PG&E's regular maintenance from Sunday, October 15th through Sunday, October 22, 2023.

Without water flowing in the ditches, the only water available is what remains in storage tanks and from limited capacity groundwater wells. Therefore, we ask that you limit your water use during this timeframe while PG&E undertakes repairs and improvements to ensure adequate water supply for drinking, sanitary usage, and fire protection during this period.

Please continue to conserve water during the ditch outage and the week following, by limiting outside watering, avoid washing vehicles, turn off automatic lawn and drip sprinkler timers, and repair water leaks. For irrigation/agricultural ditch customers, periodic outages will continue from October through December for annual maintenance. For additional ditch outage information, visit www.tudwater.com.



Tuolumne Main Canal
(Photo credit: PG&E)

TUD RECEIVES TWO GRANT AWARDS - COMMUNITY WILDFIRE DEFENSE GRANT AND CAL FIRE WILDFIRE PREVENTION GRANT

Tuolumne Utilities District was recently announced as a recipient of the USDA Forest Service Community Wildfire Defense Grant. TUD is set to receive \$249,927 in grant funding to assist with planning for and lowering wildfire risk in our high-risk community. The goal of this funding is to create a Wildfire Risk Mitigation Plan- a key roadmap for addressing local wildfire risk as well as create a Wildfire Protection Draft Points Plan which will take steps in identifying raw water fire draft points. Additionally, TUD received notification of a Cal Fire Wildfire Prevention Grant award for \$160,522 to protect critical and vulnerable district infrastructure from the threat of wildfire. This funding will be used to perform hazardous fuels reduction treatment on 33 acres at the Twain Harte Wastewater Treatment Facility. "It's always exciting to receive grant funding for important district projects. The District aggressively seeks grant funding in order to fund much needed projects minimizing the impact to our ratepayers," states Don Perkins, TUD General Manager. "The funding from these two grant awards allows us to take significant steps towards preparedness and reducing wildfire risk to protect our community's precious water system."



HOLIDAY GREASE DISPOSAL

With holiday gatherings, out-of-town guests arriving, baking, and cooking, TUD would like to remind its residents to properly dispose of fats, oils, and grease (FOG) to avoid potential plumbing sewer problems.



Approximately 60% of all sewer blockages are caused by grease in the system. These blockages cause backups into homes resulting in an unpleasant mess that can cost hundreds and sometimes thousands of dollars to clean up.

Below are some 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 can create clogs.
- Once cooled, pour oil and scrape grease into a sturdy container, and throw it in the trash.
- Wipe out greasy pots and pans with a paper towel before washing them.
- Never put hard to grind items in your garbage disposal, including poultry skins, eggshells, carrots, potato skins, celery, pumpkin pulp, banana peels or pasta.
- **Tuolumne County Solid Waste now offers used cooking oil disposal at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility located in Jamestown. To make an appointment, call (209) 533-5588.**

*Little known fact: The holiday season is the busiest time of the year for plumbers.

PUBLIC INVITED TO ATTEND MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING

Tuolumne County is updating its Local Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan and needs your input. TUD is just one of the many jurisdictions with its own annex in the Plan which identifies the hazards threatening the community's water and sewer systems and proposed actions to mitigate those hazards. Mitigation projects are costly, and the district seeks grant funding to pay for them. Currently the district has applications for approximately \$6M for raw water storage and for protection of wooden flumes. Without an updated hazard mitigation plan, the district would not be eligible to apply for these grant funds or future hazard mitigation grant funds. Tuolumne County will be hosting community meetings for members of the public to comment on the plan on November 16th, December 14th, and January 11th, 2023. For times and more details, visit: [Office of Emergency Services | Tuolumne County, CA - Official Website](#). Let's work together to keep our community safe!



GENERAL MANAGERS CORNER- CIP PROGRESS

Each year, the District evaluates and updates the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP is a rolling five-year plan that involves meticulous planning and rigorous assessment, and carefully identifies and plans for necessary improvements to ensure the safety, sustainability, efficiency and reliability of the District's water and wastewater infrastructure. This fall, as staff works to update and adopt the District's CIP, I am pleased to share the progress we have made over the past year with some of our critical CIP Projects:

The Sonora Water Treatment Plant Modernization Project

Built in 1920, the Sonora Water Treatment Plant is one of the oldest water treatment plants that the District operates. Serving the greater Sonora area, this plant serves TUD's largest customer base. Since this facility is over 100 years old, it required upgrades and modernization. This year, as part of the CIP, the plant received modernization improvements including a new chemical building, chemical tanks, lines and pumps, controls on valves and an updated monitoring system that upgraded the plant to a "smart plant."

The Ridgewood Water Transmission Line Improvement Project

The Ridgewood Water Transmission Line Improvement Project eliminated two water tanks in poor and failing condition, consolidated two water treatment plants, four pump stations, and the costs associated with operation and maintenance of those facilities. This consolidation project included installing approximately 13,000 lineal feet of 8-inch main pipeline that will serve as the water transmission line interconnecting the Upper Basin/Cystal Falls and Phoenix Lake/Scenic View water systems and has the potential to provide potable water service to all adjacent parcels along Phoenix Lake Road. With the completion of this project, the District is be able to deliver water from the Twain Harte area all the way to the Sonora area.

The Crystal Falls/Cedar Ridge Water Treatment Consolidation Project

This project intertied the two crucial water systems, resulting in improved efficiency, substantial cost savings and the elimination of the Cedar Ridge Water Treatment Plant. The project also included installing a new pump station at the Crystal Falls Water Treatment Plant which pumps water into the Cedar Ridge system, enhancing the reliability and efficiency of water supply and distribution within the region.

Parrotts Ferry Sewer Lift Station

One of the most critical sewer lift stations in the TUD system is the Parrotts Ferry Sewer Lift Station. An extremely high flow rate comes into this station; however, the main sump and overflow sump were severely undersized. The building, generator and panel all needed replacement. The station has been completely rebuilt so there will be ample storage in extreme conditions.

Don Perkins
Tuolumne Utilities District
General Manager



TUD MISSION:

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

Mill Villa Sewer Lift Station

The Mill Villa Sewer Lift Station collects wastewater from approximately 285 residences in Mill Villa Manor and the Mill Villa Mobile Home Park. The lift station, sump pumps, pumps, check valves, generator, and equipment all needed to be replaced and the facility no longer met the District's strict safety and operation requirements. Additionally, access to the site was extremely limited and difficult to maneuver. In order to perform routine maintenance, a crane was required, consequently deferring maintenance. The District has relocated piping and valves around the lift station in order to more easily access and perform maintenance. Additionally, a new sump pump, pumps, vault, piping, generator, and electrical equipment have been installed. This project is nearly complete; the improvements will greatly increase the efficiency and reliability of this lift station and decrease operational costs.

These vital Capital Improvement Projects not only streamline operations, increasing efficiency of our water and wastewater treatment processes, but they ensure the safety and reliability of the District's water and wastewater infrastructure. Capital Improvement Project achievements are not just upgrades but investments in the longevity of our services and the protection of our system.

As we look forward to 2024, addressing aging and failing infrastructure continues to be a priority for TUD and we will continue to work diligently to improve system reliability and service to all TUD customers.

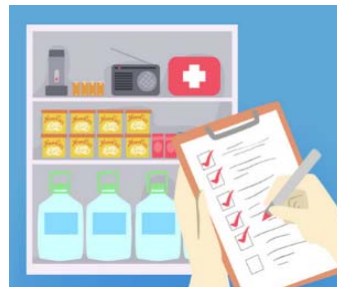
THIRSTY FOR MORE INFORMATION?



Explore TUD's current & completed CIP Projects.



Find out what goes into your bill.



Tips to prepare for an emergency.



Find out where your water comes from.

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