



South Tahoe Public Utility District

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Basic services for a complex world

Visit us on the web!
www.stpud.us

The South Tahoe Public Utility District is a special district formed in September 1950, and provides environmentally and fiscally responsible water and wastewater collection, treatment, and recycling for the community of South Lake Tahoe. Special districts are a form of local government that are usually created to provide specific services that are not being provided by other governmental entities. The District is governed by a five-member Board of Directors that are elected in staggered four-year terms. Directors must reside within the service area of the District. Special districts provide focused, specialized service and are considered, by many, the most responsive form of local government. Board meetings are held on the first and third Thursday of each month at the Board Meeting Room located at 1275 Meadow Crest Drive. The District welcomes your attendance and participation.

The District has over 18,000 sewer connections and over 14,000 water connections. Our unique and innovative recycled water export system transports an average of 4 million gallons-per-day of reclaimed water 27 miles to the Harvey Place Reservoir, where it is stored for agricultural land application to ranches, under contract, during the dry summer months. The District is proud of this cutting edge system.



Happy Halloween!

Shower Better

October is Energy Action Month. What is one action you can take to save energy, water, and money every day? Try replacing your old showerhead with a WaterSense labeled model!

Showering accounts for nearly 17 percent of all residential indoor water use, or about 30 gallons per household per day. That's about 1.2 trillion gallons of water every year in the United States! What's more, it takes energy to heat the water when you shower.

This October, the South Tahoe Public Utility District is also celebrating Shower Better Month by encouraging consumers in South Lake Tahoe to replace old showerheads with WaterSense labeled models to save energy, water and other resources.

By replacing a showerhead with a WaterSense labeled model, the average family can reduce its annual energy and water

costs by more than \$70 and save 2,900 gallons of water per year—the amount of water it takes to wash more than 70 loads of laundry. What's more, because it takes energy to heat shower water, that family can save the amount of electricity it takes to power its home for 13 days every year just by switching to a WaterSense labeled



showerhead.

Not sure if your showerhead is efficient? Contact the District's Water Conservation Specialist at (530) 543-6268 to schedule a Water Wise House Call. Dur-

ing the House Call, the Specialist will inspect your showerheads, measure their flow rates and provide a free water efficient showerhead upon request.

For more information and a full list of independently certified WaterSense labeled showerhead models, visit www.epa.gov/watersense/products/showerheads.html.

For more information on water conservation services and rebates available to District customers, visit www.stpud.us/water_conservation.html.

WaterSense, a partnership program sponsored by EPA, seeks to protect the future of our nation's water supply by offering people a simple way to use less water with water-efficient products, new homes, and services. For more information, visit www.epa.gov/watersense.

Water Meters

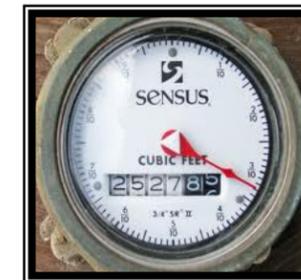
Complying With A State Mandate

On September 29, 2004, California Governor Schwarzenegger signed into law Assembly Bill 2752 authored by then Assembly Member Christine Kehoe. The South Tahoe Public Utility District (District) sought a legislative exemption from the law, but was unsuccessful. Whether agreeing or disagreeing with water meters and water conservation, it is a reality in California. The law requires all water services be billed at a metered rate so that bills reflect water consumed. Until 2010 when the District began installing water meters, residential customers were historically charged a flat rate. The District currently has approximately 45% of its water customers

metered and must meter the remaining 55% by the year 2025.

In addition to Assembly Bill 2572, there are three other pieces of California legislation that directly affect water meters and their timely installation. Assembly Bill 1420 requires compliance to the Best Management Practices of the California Urban Water Conservation Council. Water meters are an integral element of this law. Senate Bill X7-7, commonly referred to as the Comprehensive Water Package, is a far-reaching package of water bills passed by the State Legislature in 2009. One of the most significant provisions of this package of laws is

the "20 by 2020" water conservation requirements that mandates a 20% per capita water use reduction by year 2020, with interim goals set for 2015. Failure to comply eliminates the



Sensus Water Meter

District from all California grant funding and low-interest State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan opportunities.

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Fat Free Sewers—You Can Help!

Sewer overflows and backups can cause health hazards, damage home interiors, and threaten the environment. A common cause of overflows is sewer pipes blocked by grease. Grease gets into the sewer from household drains, as well



as from poorly maintained grease traps in restaurants

and other businesses. When washed down the drain, grease sticks to the insides of sewer pipes (both on your property and under the street). Over time, it can build up and block entire portions of

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Special points of interest:

- Fall Conservation Tips
- Proposition 1 Information
- Shower Better!
- Tips to Survive the Winter

STPUD Shows Support for Proposition 1

The South Tahoe Public Utility District Board of Directors approved Resolution No. 2962-14 on September 19, 2014, in support of Proposition 1 – The Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014. This Proposition approved by Legislature and signed by Governor Jerry Brown is in response to California’s severe, multi-year drought and the growing list of challenges associated with aging infrastructure, climate change, and population growth. Water managers and top leaders including Governor Jerry Brown agree that we need a comprehensive, statewide water plan to create a more resilient water system and meet the coequal goals of improved water supply



reliability and ecosystem health.

The Proposition will appear on the November ballot and is aimed to provide much-needed funding to advance a

statewide comprehensive water plan to secure our water future. If approved by voters, the measure would provide \$7.545 billion in bond funding for new surface water storage projects, regional water reliability, sustainable groundwater management and cleanup, water recycling, water conservation, watershed protection and safe drinking water, particularly for disadvantaged communities.

Fall Into Conservation!

Fall brings lots of changes...the trees begin to change colors, the days become shorter, and cooler temperatures arrive. Fall is here and it’s time to start thinking about what you can do to improve your water efficiency. Follow these water conservation tips to help you make the most of this beautiful season:

- ◆ Assess your lawn and garden watering needs. With the cooler temperatures of fall and increased storms, you should be able to drastically reduce your watering. Newly planted or young trees and grass will need the most attention, since they are still developing a root system, but your lawn can still be hardy without much water.
- ◆ Reset your sprinklers from their summer schedule – the water needs of plants and grass decrease significantly in the fall. Excessive watering can lead to plant disease by flooding the root system and choking off their oxygen.

- ◆ Mulch around trees and flower beds to slow evaporation from your soil and help protect soil and roots from harsh temperatures. Use organic mulch to deliver nutrients to your plants and grass as it decomposes.
- ◆ Plant in the fall when conditions are cooler and rainfall is more plentiful.
- ◆ Sweep driveways, sidewalks and decks. Washing paved surfaces with the hose is prohibited.
- ◆ Fix leaks. A faucet that drips can waste up to 3,280 gallons of water per year.
- ◆ Use the garbage disposal sparingly. Compost instead and save gallons every time.
- ◆ Thaw frozen food in your refrigerator.

- ◆ Use a carwash to wash vehicles, boats and motorcycles.
- ◆ Don’t let water run continuously while brushing teeth, shaving or washing hands.



For more information on how to save water, visit www.stpud.us or contact the Water Conservation Specialist at 530.543.6268.

Enjoy the season!

Ready for Winter...?

Autumn is a beautiful time of year, and a good time to start thinking about winterizing your home. Below are some tips on how you can conserve water, and prevent headaches and extra expenses that might occur when Old Man Winter comes to visit...

- * Insulate exposed pipes & faucets
- * Seal holes & cracks in exterior walls, foundations and around pipes that penetrate exterior walls
- * Temporarily close foundation vents
- * Locate your home shut-off valve and shovel a path to it after each snowfall event
- * Check for leaks in pipes, hoses,

hose connections, and faucets

- * Disconnect and drain hoses from outside faucets, and stow away
- * Turn off and drain irrigation systems
- * When you’re away, keep your thermostat at 55 degrees or higher

What if my pipes freeze? Open a faucet near the frozen point to release water vapor from the melting ice. If you know where the frozen spot is, wrap the pipe with towels and repeatedly pour hot water over the towels. **Never use a flame or a hair dryer to thaw pipes—the risks of fire or electrocution are too great!!!**

If there is no water at all to your home,

the problem may be at the street. If the water service is frozen at the meter or service to the water main, it is the District’s responsibility.

If your pipes break: Shut off your water using your home shut-off valve to control flooding and water damage.

If there is no water to your home, or you cannot turn the water off, call the District at 530.544.6474 and help will be on the way!



Meters—Complying With A State Mandate

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Assisting Customers With The Transition

To help alleviate customer concerns of high water bills, and to help achieve the required 20% decrease in water production by the year 2020, the District has developed various water conservation programs. Water efficiency incentives, services and resources are available to help residential and commercial customers use water wisely. Some of the

programs available include water efficient appliance rebates, water wise house calls, irrigation efficiency evaluations and turf buy back programs.

For those customers with an unexplainable increase in the amount of their water usage, the District offers assistance in detecting leaks

“To help alleviate customer concerns of high water bills, the District has developed various water conservation programs.”

in their homes and/or irrigation systems.

For more information on water conservation and District assistance available, visit the District website at www.stpud.us or contact the Water Conservation Specialist at 530.543.6268.

Fat-Free Sewers—You Can Help!

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your home’s plumbing system.

You Can Help!

Help prevent sewer overflows by following these simple guidelines everyday:

- Never pour grease or oils down the sink drains or into toilets.
- Scrape grease and food scraps into a can or the trash for disposal (or

recycling where available).

- Put baskets/strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and then empty them into the trash.
- Speak with your friends and neighbors about how to keep grease out of the sewers.

By helping to keep grease out of our sewers, you can potentially: avoid an unpleasant and expensive cleanup, prevent an increase in operations and maintenance costs for the sewer system, and protect our fragile environment.

Helping to prevent sewer overflows and backups is easy. It all starts with you!