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VISIT US AT
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.

Sprinkler Spruce Up!

It's been a long, dry winter for your yard. While your plants go dormant to cope with the colder weather, your sprinkler system can feel the effects of winter, too. Cracks in the pipes can lead to costly leaks, and broken sprinkler heads can waste water and money. You could be losing up to 25,000 gallons of water or more over a six-month irrigation season!

Now is the perfect time to spruce up your irrigation system before you ramp up your watering efforts this spring and summer. To get started, follow these four simple steps—inspect, connect, direct, and select:

- **Inspect.** Check your system for clogged, broken, or missing sprinkler heads. If you're not the do-it-yourself type, go with a pro—look for an irrigation professional certified through a WaterSense labeled irrigation program.
- **Connect.** Examine points where the sprinkler heads connect to pipes/hoses. If water is pooling in your landscape or you have large wet areas, you could have a leak in your system. A leak as small as the tip of a ballpoint pen (1/32nd of an inch) can waste about 6,300 gallons of water per month.
- **Direct.** Are you watering the driveway, house, or sidewalk instead of your yard? Redirect sprinklers to apply water only to your lawn or prized plants.
- **Select.** An improperly scheduled irrigation controller can waste a lot of water and money. Update your system's schedule monthly, or select a WaterSense labeled controller to take the guesswork out of scheduling.

Don't forget to add "sprinkler spruce-up" to your spring cleaning list this year. The South Tahoe Public Utility District offers FREE Irrigation Efficiency Evaluations to assist you with your Sprinkler Spruce-Up!

Visit www.stpud.us/water_conservation.html or call 530.543.6268 for more information. You can also learn more about maintaining a water-smart yard by visiting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense website at www.epa.gov/watersense/outdoor.

Spruce Up Your Sprinkler System

Inspect sprinker heads. A broken one can waste 25,000 gallons of water in six months!

Connect hoses and pipes well. A leak as small as the tip of a pen can waste 6,300 gallons of water per month!

Select a WaterSense® labeled irrigation controller and water smarter.

Direct spray on landscapes, not pavement!

look for WaterSense

DISTRICT DIGEST

SOUTH TAHOE PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

State Mandated Water Restrictions In Effect



There is never enough water to waste in the Sierra!

With our typically wettest winter months behind us and our snowpack at historic lows, it's time to prepare for another very dry summer. While thinking about your spring and summer gardening plans,

please remember that we are in a severe drought and State-mandated water restrictions are currently in effect.

The CA State Water Resources Control Board recently adopted an expanded emergency water conservation regulation to protect California's remaining water supplies. The District also has restrictions in place to protect our water supply here in South Lake Tahoe.

Listed below are the current restrictions for our service area:

- Watering outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes excess runoff is prohibited
- Water users must repair all leaks in plumbing and irrigation systems.

tion systems.

- The irrigation of non-landscaped, natural vegetation or undeveloped property is prohibited.
- Washing down sidewalks, driveways or other impervious surfaces is prohibited
- Always use an automatic shut-off nozzle on hoses. Continuous discharge from a hose is prohibited.
- Irrigating turf or ornamental landscapes during and 48 hours following measurable precipitation is prohibited.
- Designated watering days are in effect, so water the right day and the right way.

The Right Day is...

Even No. Addresses:

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

Odd No. Addresses:

Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday

NO LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION ON SATURDAY

The Right Way is to properly amend the soil before planting, and to water the appropriate amount for the vegetation type and soil conditions.

Once approved by the Office of Administrative Law, there will also be new prohibitions in place for commercial businesses.

Continued on Page 3

Upcoming Community Events

Every year when Spring and Summer come around, great things start happening in our community!

Here are a few events coming soon to South Lake Tahoe :

- ◇ **South Tahoe Earth Day**
4/25/15 - 10 to 3pm - Bijou Park
- ◇ **Turf Buy Back Workshop**
5/6/15 - 6:00pm - STPUD Board Rm

◇ **Get Ahead or Get Parched: Six Ways to Survive the Drought**
6/5/15 - 7:30am - LTCC

◇ **UCCE Master Gardeners of LT: June Day Jamboree and Plant Sale**
6/12/15 - 9 to 2pm - LTCC Demo Garden

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Water Wise Gardening

By Jennifer Cressy, Tahoe RCD



According to the EPA, experts estimate that up to 50 percent of water used for irrigation is wasted due to evaporation, wind or runoff caused by overwatering. Converting to a water efficient landscape through proper plant selection and design can reduce outdoor water use from 20 to 50 percent. There is a growing appreciation in Tahoe to preserve and enhance our native landscapes and natural resources. Gardeners are turning to low water and fertilizer use garden designs and have been thrilled with the results.

Make the leap and replace your resource hungry or erosion prone landscape with an attractive and drought resistant garden. Read on for an introduction on how to improve the water holding capacity of your soil, choose plants adapted to dry conditions, design for water conservation and use water wisely.

Soil Improvement: Tahoe soils are primarily sandy and nutrient poor. Water quickly moves through this type of soil past the root zone of plants. Most soil will benefit from generous additions of organic material. Organic material in soil increases soil moisture retention, improves soil struc-

ture and feeds the soil organisms which are responsible for releasing plant available nutrients, nature's own fertilizer factory. Understanding the importance of improving garden soils is the first step in achieving a water wise garden. Don't forget to use mulch to help retain soil moisture by reducing evaporation, prevent water hungry weeds and to reduce erosion. Mulching with organic materials such as wood chip, compost, bark mulch and pine needle also returns organic matter and nutrients to the soil.

Native and Drought Resistant Plants: Native plants have an advantage in the water wise landscape because they are adapted to our nutrient poor sandy soil and Tahoe's variable climate. Matching plant selection to the site condition and intended function of your yard will save you much time and grief. First assess what grows in the natural environment adjacent to your yard and choose plants with similar characteristics. Local resources such as the *Home Landscaping Guide for Lake Tahoe and Vicinity* has an entire chapter dedicated to good plant choices for Lake Tahoe. This guide is availa-

ble for free through the Tahoe RCD. Do your research and choose plants that will meet your landscape goals and esthetic preference.

Planning and Design: Before filling your car with plants with the prettiest blooms, take the time to assess your yard for conditions such as sun, shade, wind, soil type and available water. Size up your landscape areas on graph paper and plan your plantings based on size and spread at maturity. Don't forget to taking into consideration fire defensible space, opportunities to capture and infiltrate storm water such as rain gardens, and matching plant light, drainage and irrigation needs. Limiting turf areas to functional areas with efficient irrigation systems can make a big difference in your resource consumption and maintenance schedule.

More Resources: The UC-CE Master Gardeners lead workshops and presentations in your community to keep you informed on research based horticulture and Tahoe friendly landscaping practices. Visit their website to learn more, <http://cecentralsierra.ucanr.edu/MasterGardeners/LTMG/>.

“Make the leap and replace your resource hungry landscape with an attractive and drought resistant garden.”

2014 Consumer Confidence Report



The 2014 Consumer Confidence Report, which contains valuable information regarding your drinking water, will be available for viewing at www.stpud.us/2014_CCR.pdf on July 1, 2015.

If you do not have access to the internet, you may have a hard copy mailed to you after July 1, 2015 by contacting the Customer Service Department at 530.544.6474

Habitat for Humanity: A Brush With Kindness

Are you a homeowner who needs a little help with the exterior of your home, and are you unable to do it yourself or pay someone else to do it? Do you need exterior paint, minor exterior repairs, or basic landscaping or yard clean up? If so, Habitat for Humanity has a program called *A Brush with Kindness* for qualified homeowners.

A Brush with Kindness is a program of El Dorado County

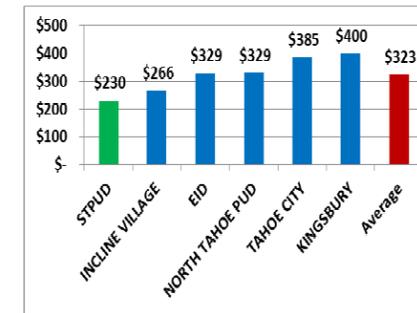
Habitat for Humanity that helps low-income homeowners by offering exterior home improvements. Volunteer teams work to improve the condition of homes by painting, landscaping, and performing minor exterior repairs at minimal costs to homeowners who would otherwise be unable to complete these repairs on their own. Able-bodied homeowners are encouraged to work alongside the volunteers in a cooperative effort.

For more information on the program, or to find out if you qualify, contact April Stinson at 530.544.2620 or by email at sltahoehabitat@yahoo.com.



STPUD 2015/2016 Budget Preparation

South Tahoe Public Utility District is in the process of preparing the 2015/16 budget and the community is invited to participate in a public meeting scheduled for May 7, 2015, at 6 p.m. located at the District offices. The 2015/16 budget includes rate increases of 6.5% for water and 6% for sewer, as stated in the Proposition 218 notice last year. By Ordinance, the Board of Directors adopted the rates in year one of the schedule, but on an annual basis must con-



Current Combined Water & Sewer Quarterly Rates

firm the rates in each of the remaining four years.

For more information, please visit the District website at www.stpud.us – Budget and Capital Improvement Project Planning. Several documents can be viewed online as well as a PowerPoint Presentation detailing the rates and planned Capital Improvement Projects.

State Mandated Water Restrictions (Continued from Page 1)

These new prohibitions will require the following:

- Restaurants and other food service establishments to only serve water to customers on request.
- Operators of hotels and motels must provide guests with the option

of choosing not to have towels and linens laundered daily and prominently display notice of this option.

To learn more about the current water restrictions in effect, or to learn about the District's Water Conservation Program, please visit www.stpud.us. You can also

contact the Water Conservation Specialist at 530.543.6268 or dmorse@stpud.dst.ca.us

Thank you for working together to protect our most precious resource, pure clean water!

