

Winter Quarter
2014

District Digest

South Tahoe Public Utility District



Water Meter Update

The District is continuing with the State of California mandated water metering program and has been offered a zero interest loan to pay for it. This loan will need to be paid back over time and is one of the reasons the District is considering a rate increase. In addition, the District has several other capital improvement programs that need to be accomplished.

We have just begun the financial study to determine rates required to pay for the meter loan, necessary system improvements and repairs. We will provide numerous opportunities for the public to learn more and provide input in the coming months. The next public meeting to discuss these issues is scheduled for February 6th at 6:00pm at the District offices. Final decisions will be made in early June, 2014.

The District has created a link on our website to keep customers updated regarding this process and ways you can get involved. Please visit the website at: www.stpud.us and click on "System Upgrade and Rate Review" to learn more. If you would like to receive information via email or regular mail, please send your information to: info@stpud.dst.ca.us or 1275 Meadow Crest Drive, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150.

Fix a Leak Week!

Drip. Drip. Drip. The average American household wastes more than 10,000 gallons each year from easy-to-fix water leaks—that's the amount of water needed to wash 270 loads of laundry. If that doesn't seem like a lot, consider that across the country, easy-to-fix household leaks can add up to more than 1 trillion gallons of water lost every year.

That's why the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is encouraging homeowners to find and fix leaks during the annual **Fix a Leak Week, March 17 through March 23, 2014**. Sponsored by EPA's WaterSense® program, Fix a Leak Week reminds homeowners of the easy steps they can take to help save water in their community now and for future generations.

Fixing household leaks not only saves water but reduces water utility bills—by about 10 percent. Be for water and start saving today with three simple steps: Check. Twist. Replace.

1. Check

First, check your home for leaks. An easy way to start is to examine your winter water use. If it exceeds 12,000 gallons per month for a family of four, you probably have leaks. Walk around your home with eyes and ears open to find leaks, and don't forget to check pipes and outdoor spigots. You can also detect silent toilet leaks, a common water-wasting culprit, by adding a few drops of food coloring to the toilet tank and waiting 10 minutes before flushing. If any color appears in the bowl during that time, your toilet



Customer Service Office
1275 Meadow Crest Drive
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
530.544.6474

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Water Saving Tip of the Quarter

If you use a low-flow showerhead, you can save
15 gallons of water during a 10-minute shower.

Upcoming Board Workshops

All workshops are held in the STPUD Board Room, located at 1275
Meadow Crest Drive, South Lake Tahoe, CA.

⇒ System Upgrade and Rate Review

Thursday, February 6, 2014 at 6:00pm

⇒ Budget and Long Rang Planning

Wednesday, March 26, 2014 at 2:00pm

Fix a Leak Week!

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has a leak. Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for do-it-yourself repair tips or contact a plumbing professional.

2. Twist

Apply pipe tape to be sure plumbing fixture connections are sealed tight and give leaking faucets and showerheads a firm *twist* with a wrench. If you can't stop those drops yourself, contact your favorite plumbing professional. For additional savings, *twist* a WaterSense labeled aerator onto each bathroom faucet to save water without noticing a difference in flow. Faucet aerators cost a few dollars or less and can save a household more than 500 gallons each year—the amount of water it takes to shower 180 times!

3. Replace

If you just can't nip that drip, it may be time to replace the fixture. Look for WaterSense labeled models, which use at least 20 percent less water and are independently certified to perform as well or better than standard plumbing fixtures. Replacing an old, inefficient showerhead with a WaterSense labeled model will shrink your household's water footprint by 2,900 gallons annually while still letting you shower with power, thanks to EPA's efficiency and performance criteria. With less hot water passing through, WaterSense labeled showerheads can also save enough energy to power a television for a year.

Because we want to ensure water supplies last for future generations, the South Tahoe Public Utility District is showing that we're for water by supporting Fix a Leak Week. Stop by the Customer Service Department during the month of March to pick up your Toilet Leak Detection kit. If you are interested in finding more ways to save water in your home, contact the Water Conservation Specialist at anytime to schedule a Water Wise House Call. Also, visit www.stpud.us/water_conservation to learn about rebates available for the purchase of water saving appliances.

Want to do more? Join thousands of your neighbors by supporting the We're for Water campaign, organized by WaterSense. Visit www.epa.gov/watersense and take the I'm for Water pledge or "like" WaterSense on Facebook to share why you're for water and learn more water-saving tips: www.facebook.com/EPAwatersense.

For more information and tips about how to save water during Fix a Leak Week, visit <http://www.epa.gov/watersense>.