



PHOTO BY NIOBE BURDEN

# TCPUD

## QUARTERLY

# NEWS

A Report to Our Community

January 2010

### Why Do I Pay a Base Rate for Water?

*Recently a number of seasonal residents asked about the District's monthly "base" water rate and why they were being charged for a service that they may not use for periods of time during the year.*

The Tahoe City PUD, like other municipal water systems, charges rates to cover costs that exist year-round, whether a home is occupied or not. Very little of the "cost of water service" is the water itself. The vast majority (over 90%) of the costs for service is incurred year-round and include: on-going repairs and maintenance to main transmission lines, pumps, tanks, equipment and telemetry systems; required water quality testing, reporting and monitoring; and around-the-clock staffing 365 days a year. Whether someone uses their home or not, consumes water or not, these costs for delivery are incurred in order to have water service and fire protection available throughout the year.

TCPUD has structured its rates to encourage conservation with 20% of the rate revenue coming from consumption and the remainder coming from base rate income.

If you have additional questions regarding your water service please call 530-583-3796, x21.

## A New Year, A New Budget

At its regular meeting November 20, 2009, the Tahoe City Public Utility District Board of Directors approved the 2010 Operating Budget of \$8.6 million and enacted the Proposition 218 approved water and sewer rate increases. The new rates will take effect April 1, 2010.

As with so many businesses, agencies, and organizations, the TCPUD is facing challenging economic times. The 2010 budget provides a balance between the continued goal of superior customer service, critical infrastructure reinvestment, and seeking the greatest operational efficiencies. After reviewing 2009 results and analyzing several options, the Board voted to enact the Proposition 218 water and sewer rate schedules approved last year. This allows for \$4.5 million in capital projects and an additional \$2 million in grant-funded projects, for a total of \$6.5 million in infrastructure investment. While there will be no salary or benefit increases in 2010, other costs such as utility increases, and state and regionally mandated permit and program fees have caused a slight increase in operations costs over 2009. Projects included in the \$6.5 million capital expenditure are the rehabilitation of the Tahoe Tavern Well and Booster Pump Station, the Highland subdivision fire hydrant project, and the repair of the District's West Shore effluent export line. Grant funds received from the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association - Placer County and the California Tahoe Conservancy will be used to begin construction of Lakeside Trail Phases V, VI and VII.

### GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR PUD

Your involvement in the public process is very important to the TCPUD. Here is a list of regularly scheduled TCPUD Board and Committee meetings held at the District's 221 Fairway Drive Administrative Center. Dates or times may be rescheduled due to weather, so please call the District Clerk, 530-583-3796 x15, to confirm, if you are interested in attending – or sign up for our email blast and you will be automatically updated!

- Board of Director - January 22, February 19, March 19 - 8:30am
- Parks & Recreation Committee - generally the 3rd Wednesday of the month - 1:30pm
- Sewer & Water Committee - generally the 2nd Thursday of the month - 7am
- Finance Committee - generally the 2nd Friday of the month - 8:30am

## 2010 Rate Increases Based on Infrastructure Needs

As was reported extensively last year, the Board of Directors adopted a comprehensive rate study to address current infrastructure needs and long term rehabilitation of aging infrastructure. The overall goal was to develop water and sewer rates to support critical investment in infrastructure and to promote conservation. The result was a five-year water and sewer rate schedule approved through the Proposition 218 process.

During 2010 budget deliberations the Board reviewed the needed capital projects and the funding necessary to invest in the forty-year-old infrastructure. Enacting the approved 2010 rates continues to fund the necessary infrastructure projects and keeps TCPUD rates lower than other local agencies.

Beginning with the April 1, 2010 billing cycle the monthly cost of service based on TCPUD average year-round residential consumption is estimated to be \$60.82 per month. Residential sewer service fees will be \$26.48 per month.

Below are the adopted residential water rates for 2010, a comparison of a typical TCPUD monthly water service charge with other local water providers, and a comparison of TCPUD Proposition 218 monthly water rate estimates with current consumption estimates.

TCPUD 2010	
Residential Water Rates - 3/4" Service	
Base Rate	\$50.00
Consumption Rate	Per 1000 Gal
0 - 8k gallons	\$1.05
8k - 20k gallons	\$1.35
20k - 40k	\$1.80
40k gallons +	\$3.60

Local Agency Rate Comparison *	
Tahoe City PUD	\$60.82
North Tahoe PUD	\$77.56
Truckee Donner PUD	\$70.73
Alpine Springs Co. Water Dist.	\$89.62

TCPUD Residential Water Charges	
'09 Prop. 218 Notice	\$56.30
'09 Actual *	\$52.03
'10 Prop. 218 Notice	\$63.40
'10 Current Estimate*	\$60.82

\* Comparison of average monthly water charges based on TCPUD average current consumption, 112,000 gallons / year.

## Welcome New Faces at TCPUD

The family of dedicated TCPUD staff welcomed some new faces last year with the addition of Jess Weigel and Coral Lochridge, who replaced staff members that had retired or relocated.

### Jess Weigel Administrative Assistant

Jess recently joined our team as Administrative Assistant in the Governance and Support Services Department. Jess was previously the go to office assistant at Geney/Gassiot general contractors in Truckee. Jess, her daughter Renee and significant other JJ McMillion live in Tahoma. Her hobbies include four-wheeling, cooking, reading, and spending time with her family.



### Coral Lochridge Technical Services Supervisor

Coral joins the TCPUD as Technical Services Supervisor after seven years as an Associate Engineer with North Tahoe PUD. Coral is a professional engineer and graduate of University of Nevada, Reno. A native of Nevada, Coral has lived in the area for seven years and currently resides in Kings Beach with her husband Jessie. In her spare time Coral enjoys snowboarding, cross country skiing, and a good book.



## Grant Funded Lakeside Trail Phase V, VI, VII

Construction will begin in the summer of 2010 on the missing link to Tahoe City's Lakeside Trail. From the base of Grove Street through the Tahoe State Recreation Area campground, these three phases will hug the shore of Lake Tahoe providing a breathtaking option to State Highway 28. Funding partners for this beautiful addition to Tahoe City include the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association, Placer County, and California Tahoe Conservancy.

## U P D A T E S

### • TC Dog Park Still Needs Your Support

With the support of residents, visitors and the North Lake Tahoe Kiwanis Club TCPUD is close to reaching the \$6,000 goal for the construction of a dog park. Commitments and contributions to date total over \$4,500! That's right! We only need 15 dog lovers to commit to \$100, or 30 to commit to \$50, and the goal will be met and construction will begin in the Spring of 2010!

### • Go Green!

Help TCPUD go "Green"! You can receive your monthly utility statements via e-mail saving paper and postage! Get electronic invoices, notifications of water outages and water leaks, Rec Department program announcements, Rideout Community Center activities, and the District's quarterly newsletter. To sign up call 530-583-3796, x16.

### • Olympic Heritage Celebration

Starting January 8, 2010, the 50th Anniversary of the 1960 Winter Olympics will be celebrated at venues from Sugar Pine Point State Park to Squaw Valley USA. Did you know that the cross country ski track at Sugar Pine Point State Park was the site of the first Olympic Biathlon? West Shore activities include a re-enactment of the first Biathlon, a Cross Country Ski Expo and Demo, an Elementary and Middle School Cross Country Ski Day, and CNISSF Nordic Race all at Sugar Pine Point. On Friday, January 15, Granlibakken will hold the "1960 Nordic Olympian" Dinner.

For more information contact [OHC1960@gmail.com](mailto:OHC1960@gmail.com).

## RECREATION ACTIVITIES

- Ski & Skate Week Holiday Camp  
February 16 - 19; grades K - 5
- Birthday Party Packages & Special Events at Rideout Community Center
- Spring Girls Softball League  
Registration begins 3/1; grades 2 - 9
- Little Lakers Sports Camp; ages 3 - 5

Check out [www.tcpud.org](http://www.tcpud.org) for activity updates and program registration.

