

Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA)

Public drinking water utility serving approximately 440,000 customers in Reno, Sparks, and Washoe County in northern Nevada

Governance: A Joint Powers Authority (NRS 277)

Current Members of the Board of Directors:

Kristopher Dahir, Chair
Naomi Duerr, Vice-Chair
Paul Anderson
Jenny Brekhus
Devon Reese
Alexis Hill
Clara Andriola

2015 Merger of Washoe County Water Utility and South Truckee Meadows General Improvement District into TMWA to form a consolidated regional water utility.



TMWA Facts and Figures

Population Served

- Retail > 440,000 (>130,000 active connections)
- Wholesale > 15,000 (Sun Valley GID)

Statistics

- Current demand – **86,000 AF (2022)**
- Peak Day Demand – **144 MGD (2022)**
- Peak Day Capacity >200 MGD

Sources

- Truckee River - 2 water treatment plants (≈ **80%** of total supply)
- Groundwater - 80+ production wells (≈ **20%** of total supply)
 - Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR)
 - Fish Springs Ranch – Additional 8,000 AF groundwater supply (importation)
- Creek Water – Whites Creek (Mt. Rose Water Treatment Plant)

Renewable Energy – 3 operating hydroelectric plants

Truckee River Operating Agreement

Stakeholders

- State of Nevada
- Reno, Sparks, Washoe County
- Pyramid Piute Tribe
- State of California
- U.S. Government

Beneficial Use Credits

- Drought Storage
- Conservation
- Fish & Environment

FUTURE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Strategies for managing change and increase the region's resiliency:

- Conservation
- Water Recycling
- Source Water Protection
- Groundwater Storage
- Partnerships

CONSERVATION

- TMWA cannot use water from permanent conservation to meet future water supply needs
- For every acre foot of surface water rights needed for new development, an additional 11% of water rights must be dedicated to TMWA for drought storage
- Prioritize strategies that increase flexibility in demand

WATER RECYCLING

Benefits:

- Providing a local, reliable, drought-proof water source
- Diversifies the region's water supply to build resilience for future uncertainties of climate change, such as longer growing seasons, snowpack changes, and water runoff timing

Timeline— Drought Forum (2015), Indirect Potable Reuse (2016), Direct Potable Reuse (?)

OneWater Nevada is a regional collaborative exploring the feasibility of innovative water management strategies in the Truckee Meadows

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

Signed MOU in 2022 with goal to treat 62,000 acres of US Forest Service land over the next 10 years:

- US Forest Service - Tahoe National Forest
- Truckee River Watershed Council
- National Forest Foundation
- The Nature Conservancy
- Truckee Meadows Water Authority

INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT

- Coordinated use of surface water, groundwater and recycled water
- Build up large quantities of water for drought protection and to help meet demand during the peak summer-use season
- Sites like Palomino Farms with large storage potential could provide TMWA greater flexibility and resilience for water supply

REGIONAL COLLABORATION

- Helping implement return flow to enable delivery of treated effluent to TRIGID
- Keeps higher quality water in the river for environmental benefits and other water users
- Helps reduce customers sewer rates by reducing treated effluent discharge
- Forming regional partnerships and exploring opportunities to work with the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe on water issues