



# TCPUD QUARTERLY NEWS

A Report to Our Community

January 2007

## Landmark Project Completed at Lake Tahoe

Twenty-eight years ago, the State of California Parks and Recreation Department took a small but visionary action on behalf of its citizens, and in the fall of 2006 this vision became reality.

In October of 1978, the California Department of Parks and Recreation purchased the Truckee River Outlet from Sierra Pacific Power Company with the following Declaration of Purpose: "The primary objective in acquiring the Truckee River Outlet Parcel is for restoring and maintaining one of Lake Tahoe's significant historical sites. Another benefit of this acquisition is to ensure the public's continued use of the property and access to the Lake Tahoe shoreline." Located at the only outlet for Lake Tahoe, the property spans both sides of the historic Lake Tahoe Dam. Although, it had been leased to private businesses for many years and the leases wouldn't expire until 2000, members of the North Lake Tahoe Historical Society, and specifically, William S. Briner, saw the future potential. In 1978 they pushed the State's Department of Parks to acquire the property for the public, despite the decades-long wait.

*Continued on page two ...*

## TCPUD BOARD ADOPTS 2007 BUDGET

At its November 16th, 2006 meeting, the Board of Directors adopted the Capital and Operating budgets for 2007. The \$7.2 million operating budget represents an 11.6% increase over 2006. The increase is attributable to maintenance of new facilities, higher utilities and fuel costs, and increased staff-related costs such as salary, insurance, and pension benefits. Increases in both user rates and property taxes combined for an 11.1% higher revenues received in 2006.

The \$6.8 million Capital Budget reflects \$2 million of District-funded utility projects combined with a \$2.8 million loan from the State Infrastructure Revolving Fund, and \$2 million of grant funds for park facilities. The aggressive list of capital projects

will continue to escalate in the coming years. The projects funded for 2007 will be:

- Harbor Master Pump Station
- Completion of Lakeside Trail IV
- Completion of Heritage Plaza
- Marlette Waterline Replacement
- Initial Phase – Residential Meters

The budget reflects the following rate increases which become effective January 1, 2007:

Water	5%
Sewer	3%
Recreation	10%
Parks	10%

If you would like more information on the TCPUD budget, contact Jim Dykstra, Director of Accounting and Treasurer, at 530-583-3796, x20.

## RIDEOUT ELEMENTARY

Discussions are continuing with the Tahoe Truckee Unified School District (TTUSD) regarding expanding community use of Rideout Elementary School for recreational activities. TCPUD has operated youth and adult recreational programs at the site for many years. Several organizations have expressed an interest in also using the facility including a

new seniors group, Silvertips, and the Tahoe Mothers Club. TCPUD is interested in expanding its existing recreational offerings as well. The TCPUD Board has asked staff to work with local organizations to develop a plan. If you are interested, or would like more information regarding upcoming meetings, contact Laurie Swanson at 530-583-3796, x29.

Continued from page one ...

## Landmark Project

As time grew closer for the leases to expire, the magnitude of the opportunities became apparent to others. A partnership was formed between California State Parks, the United States Bureau of Reclamation who controls the dam, and the Tahoe City Public Utility District, our local agency providing parks and recreational trails in the vicinity. The partnership developed a project that not only opened up the land on either side of the dam for public access, but also built a trail connection along the lakeside of the dam. The trail crossing provides a direct connection between the two parcels of land and gives visitors a tremendous view of both Lake Tahoe and the historic dam structure.

Although many have contributed to the project, Tahoe City Public Utility District gives primary credit to: Former General Manager William S. Briner, for leading the effort in 1978 to acquire the property for the future; Assembly Member Tim Leslie, for supporting the vision with the initial funding; John Knott, former Superintendent with California State Parks, who worked outside the "system" to build partnerships for a unique project; and, The United States Bureau of Reclamation, for allowing the creation of an opportunity that the citizens of this country will have in perpetuity.

Funding for this project was contributed by:

- California Tahoe Conservancy
- State of California Resources Agency, Proposition 12
- California State Parks
- North Lake Tahoe Resort Association
- United States Bureau of Reclamation
- Placer County Department of Public Works
- Placer County Redevelopment Agency
- Tahoe City Public Utility District
- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

*The New Outlet Park opens up views of the Lake and access to the Dam.*

# Employee of the Year: Kevin Ferrell

As a small local government agency, TCPUD takes great pride in its efficiency and responsiveness to the community. District employees regularly go "above and beyond" job requirements to better serve the public. Sometimes these accomplishments are most noteworthy in one year, and, as in this case, some accomplishments span decades.

This year the employee of the year is Kevin Ferrell. Kevin is an Operations Technician - Electrician for the District. He began his service as a maintenance trainee in September 1982 and recently completed his 24<sup>th</sup> year with TCPUD. He did not have formal training as an electrician prior to arriving at the District, but was chosen by his Supervisor for his aptitude, thoroughness and safety consciousness. "It was a wise decision," stated Bob Lourey, General Manager. "Kevin's efforts and abilities have allowed the District to undertake many upgrades and bring maintenance in-house, saving money and emergency response time."

In 1992, the California Water Pollution Control Association recognized Kevin's outstanding. He was honored with the statewide award as "Electrical/Instrumentation Technologist of the Year".



Kevin and his wife, Jodi

"Kevin is an exceptional employee, he is self-motivated, dedicated and an excellent problem-solver," commented Bill Back, Director of Public Works. Kevin's job requires him to work with the complex and delicate electrical operating systems of the District's utility pumps stations, generators, wells and telemetry system. He recently completed the installation of a new generator for the Sunnyside Pump Station, and in 2005 he was instrumental in the completion of the McKinney Surface Water Treatment Plant. He has continued to serve the residents of the area through his exceptional problem-solving and technical abilities.

His dedication is marked by rarely missing a day of work. In 24 years, Kevin has never had an on the job injury, often working in risky situations.

Kevin and his wife Jodi make their home in Truckee.

TCPUD is extremely proud to recognize Kevin's outstanding service to the community.

