

# TCPUD QUARTERLY NEWS JAN-16

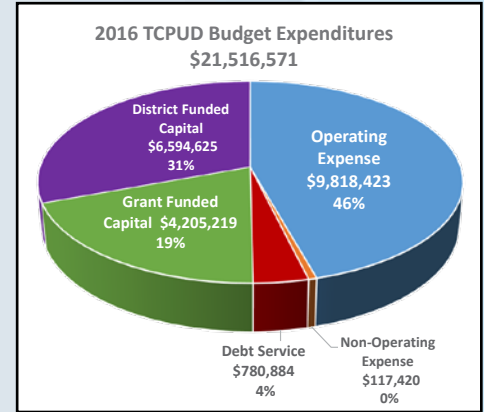


## BUDGET AND NEW RATES

### TCPUD Board Adopts 2015 Budget and New Rates

At the November 20, 2014 board meeting, the TCPUD Board of Directors approved the 2016 annual budget. Budget highlights include: a total operating budget for 2016 of \$9.8 million; a capital budget for new infrastructure projects of \$10.8 million with \$4.2 million coming from secured and anticipated grant funding, and the District will pay debt service of \$780,884 used for past capital projects projects, at very low interest rates.

The Board also approved new water and sewer rates, which included rolling back sewer rates to the 2015 level, rolling back Tier 1 residential water consumption rates to 2015 levels, and a modest increase in the base rate and Tiers 2-4. There were no increases in monthly sewer rates. Unlike many water & sewer districts across the State, the TCPUD Board voted not to increase water rates to the maximum allowable level in order to make up for lost revenue due to conservation. In 2016, a typical household will pay an increase of just \$3.50 for water and no increase sewer per month. Under strict direction from the Board, TCPUD staff continues to keep operating costs as low as possible.



### CA DROUGHT MANDATES - UPDATE

First and foremost the District wishes to thank and acknowledge all customers for a tremendous conservation effort this summer. Even though we were successful in meeting our summer conservation targets, the State's original mandate from April 2015 remains in effect through February 2016. TCPUD recognizes how difficult it is to conserve indoor water which is why we have asked for just an 8% reduction from your 2014/2015 levels for most customers. Furthermore, the State does not recognize nor provide alternate options for seasonal, tourism based regions that have a high percentage of second homes and vacation rentals. Therefore, TCPUD is forced to comply with a "one size fits all" policy while being reasonable and accommodating with customers. We recognize that property use patterns change, ownerships change, and other factors impact water use needs at a home. TCPUD will continue to work with customers to set reasonable conservation targets in light of these circumstances.

Moving forward, TCPUD will monitor the directive from the Governor's office and implement measures as needed to comply with mandates. Despite the anticipation of a strong and wet El Nino winter, it is expected that the drought will persist along with some level of continued mandates and restrictions. By the first of the year, if the State has not seen a significant change in the drought condition, the Governor will likely announce new requirements and restrictions. TCPUD will continue to notify customers to ensure quality communication as we all work together to comply with the State instituted mandates.

In the meantime, let's keep hoping for a big winter and drought relief for the whole State.

### NEW HIRES AT THE DISTRICT

**KRIS VICKERS** - Kris began with the District in October as the Compliance Services Supervisor. He brings over 18 years of experience in the Utilities Industry and comes to the TCPUD from the City of Brentwood where he was the Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor for the past 5 years. In addition, Kris is a graduate of CSU San Marcos and Palomar College, former Board Member for the Crockett Community Service District, and holds numerous certifications relevant to the utilities industry. Kris is married and has a 3 year old son. Originally from Truckee, Kris and his family are very excited to call Tahoe/Truckee home again.

**KAY BERNTSON** - Kay filled the role of Parks Superintendent in November. He has spent the last 26 years in golf course management, most of which was spent at Dayton Valley Golf Club as their Director of Agronomy for Duncan Golf Management. Duncan Golf Manages 6 different golf courses, one of which is the Tahoe City Golf Course. He also helped out with community parks and fields including the local schools. Kay is excited to provide Tahoe City the continued excellence in the park system the community has come to expect and enjoy.

**BRYAN DEWIT** - Bryan joined the District at the end of November as the Ops Tech Electrician. He was born in Pretoria South Africa and moved to Flint, Michigan when he was 5. He moved to the Tahoe area in 2001 to pursue snowboarding and landed a job with Squaw Valley Ski Corp. as an electrical apprentice. Bryan then moved on to work for Rex Moore Electrical Contractors for 8 years before joining TCPUD. He is married with 2 sons; Wyatt 4 and Gavin 10 months. Bryan is excited to be a part of the TCPUD team at the most beautiful lake on earth.



## EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



### **Congratulations to Cirra Mason, TCPUD 2015 Employee of the Year!**

The Employee of The Year recognition is voted on by District staff for the employee who best exhibits the District's Core Values in service, professionalism, teamwork, and initiative. Cirra Mason demonstrated these qualities in an exceptional manner, benefitting all the customers of the District during a very challenging year.

Cirra has been moving up since joining the District in 2011. She was originally hired as an Account Clerk II (Payroll & Accounts Payable) and was quickly promoted to Accountant I in 2012. In 2014 her hard work and skills were recognized again and she was elevated to Senior Accountant. Cirra has consistently exhibited outstanding work for the District and continues to take on more and more responsibility. This year when the State mandated a 20% water conservation reduction from 2013 use, Cirra put in countless hours developing a system to allow customers to view their historical data. She not only provided the past customer usage data, she created the system to allow for individualized tiered targets, monitored consumption data, responded to appeals daily and supervised a temporary employee hired to assist in the effort. Nothing short of phenomenal hours and dedication were required to keep up with water conservation efforts in addition to her critical role as District Accountant. Cirra's demonstrated leadership, commitment, initiative and tremendous work ethic were undoubtedly behind the success of TCPUD reaching its summer conservation goal. In recognition of her outstanding service, TCPUD's employees recognized Cirra Mason as the 2015 Employee of the Year.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Night Out at Rideout** - Family Movie Night - January 23rd - Doors open 6:00pm, Start time 6:30pm. Come enjoy a feature film with the family at the Rideout Community Center!

**Father / Daughter Dance** - Friday, January 29th - 6pm-9pm - Tahoe Biltmore, Crystal Bay. Time for fathers and daughters to hit the dance floor and make memories to last a lifetime! This dance is a collaboration with the Tahoe Safe Alliance along with many other donors and organizations.

**Family Laser Tag** - Saturday, February 27th - 11am-7pm - \$25 per first two family members (+\$5 add'l members) - Rideout Community Center. IT'S TIME! Gear up for this year's Laser Tag spectacular. The Rideout gym will be turned into a one-of-a-kind arena for an afternoon of fun and excitement.

Visit [www.tcpud.org](http://www.tcpud.org) for more information or to register.

## STAY UP-TO-DATE!

For emergency, construction, recreation, general public information or announcements sign up for our E-notices by sending us a request to [info@tcpud.org](mailto:info@tcpud.org).

### **View Board Meetings Online**

Interested in attending the Board Meetings but can't make it in person? No problem! All TCPUD Board of Directors meetings can be viewed online via live web streaming or watch the recorded meeting anytime by visiting [www.tcpud.org](http://www.tcpud.org).

## WINTER SPORTS PARK OPEN

When TCPUD partnered with the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association and Placer County to purchase the Tahoe City Golf Course, we held numerous public workshops on the future of the facility. The public requested additional recreational opportunities at the facility. We have created an innovative public/private partnership with Duncan Golf Management and the Tahoe XC Ski Education Foundation to deliver winter recreation opportunities.

Now the Winter Sports Park is open for its 4th season in downtown Tahoe City, just behind Bank of America. The park did not operate last year due to a lack of snow, but this year the District has added the ability to make snow! The park offers a sledding hill, groomed trails for traditional cross country & skate skiing, as well as a dedicated loop for snowshoers, walkers, & snowbikers. The trails are dog friendly and there are several "clean up" stations to ensure pet owners can help keep the park clean.

The restaurant and bar are open during the park's operating hours and the clubhouse is transformed into a lodge feel. The trails are groomed 7 days per week and donations are encouraged on "closed" days to help offset the grooming costs. With an outdoor fire pit, sledding, cross country skiing, and a lodge, it is definitely fun for the whole family.

### **Schedule of Operations (weather permitting):**

Friday-Sunday, November 27 through March 27, 2016

Trail Grooming 7 days per week

#### **Park:**

Friday & Sunday: 10am - 5pm

Saturday: 10am - 8pm

#### **Restaurant & Bar:**

Friday & Sunday: 9am - 5pm

Saturday: 9am - 8pm

#### **Holiday Schedule:** 7 days a week:

December 18 - January 3rd

February 12-February 21, 2016

*A \$5-\$10 donation is requested for trail use on non-operating days.*

For information on passes, pricing & events call (530) 583-1516 or visit [www.wintersportspark.com](http://www.wintersportspark.com).

#### **Tahoe Cross Country Highlights:**

10 Pack day tickets for just \$195, transferable

Free lessons throughout the winter

\$12 Tuesdays, non-holiday

#### **Tahoe XC Events**

January 31st, Alpenglow Freestyle Races

January 24th, The 9th Annual Tahoe Rim Tour

February 27th, Great Ski Race

Visit [www.tahoexc.org](http://www.tahoexc.org) for more information.



**Did you know?** The boat ramp at Lake Forest is open and staffed year round! The ramp is open from 6:00 am to 4:00 pm 7 days a week in the winter and is staffed by the Tahoe Resource Conservation District.

### **Online and Paperless Billing**

The TCPUD accounting and finance staff has been hard at work making the necessary changes to provide online and paperless billing options. These options, as well as other "green" opportunities such as receiving this newsletter electronically will become available in the 1st quarter of 2016.

Watch your bill, email and our website for announcements.



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