



### Why are Second Homeowners Charged the Same as Full-Time Residents?

District staff are often asked why second homeowners are charged the same as full-time residents when they're only here a fraction of the time. To help answer this question, below is a brief outline of the components that determine rates.

District rates are dictated by the actual costs required to provide water and sewer services, with a requirement to assure that each customer class pays their fair share. The District currently uses two structures: a base rate to cover fixed costs and a consumption rate to cover variable costs.

Fixed costs are incurred to assure that water is constantly running and ready to use any time of the day, regardless if it is used daily or once a year. These costs include the operating and maintenance of key infrastructure that include wells, storage tanks, and water mains, in addition to administrative services, and include such expenses as payroll, facilities, fleet, and capital reserves to replace aging infra-

structure and other assets. These costs are considered "fixed" and do not fluctuate based on the volume of services used. These cumulative fixed costs are equitably allocated as a "base rate" to District customers.

Variable costs are expenses that change based on the volume of water produced, and can include expenses such as water treatment and electricity to pump the water. Since these costs are directly tied to the volume of water produced, they are allocated as a "consumption rate" to District customers.

Due to the size of our service district and its corresponding economies of scale, fixed costs are greater than variable consumption costs and often are the larger portion of your utility bill. As these rates need to be allocated equally between customer classes, there is no difference between customers who use water and sewer services year-round and those who use them less frequently.

#### Board of Directors Meetings

Regularly scheduled meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. at 305 Squaw Valley Road, Olympic Valley, California.

#### Board of Directors

- Dale Cox**  
President
- Eric Poulsen**  
Vice President
- John Wilcox**  
Director
- Brian Sheehan**  
Director
- Carl Gustafson**  
Director
- Mike Geary**  
General Manager/Treasurer
- Kathy Obayashi-Bartsch**  
Board Secretary

### Water Supply Assessment – Village at Squaw

As required by state law for large development projects, a Water Supply Assessment (WSA) for the proposed Village at Squaw Valley Specific Plan (VSVSP) was prepared by the PSD on behalf of Placer County with funds provided by the developer, Squaw Valley Real Estate (SVRE). The WSA was completed last July, in 2014.

The WSA concluded there is adequate water supply in the Squaw Valley aquifer to support the proposed VSVSP as well as all other anticipated development in the valley for the next 25 years. There is not now, and there never has been, a shortage of water in Squaw Valley. There is a shortage of wells because the previous owners of the ski area would not allow any additional wells to be drilled on their land, which overlies the most productive part of the aquifer. However, SVRE will allow and cooperate on new wells in support of their VSVSP.

The WSA satisfies requirements of state law (Senate Bill 610) and is intended to support long-term water resource planning and to ensure adequate water supplies are available to meet demand for the project, as well as existing and future water demands. The WSA will be considered for approval by the

Placer County Board of Supervisors along with the project's Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

In response to one of California's worst droughts, the WSA is being amended to reassess the sufficiency of the proposed supply of water. Data used in the District's numerical groundwater model are being updated to include the last three years of drought conditions. The updated data includes precipitation, pumping, streamflow, and groundwater levels in the aquifer. Although this update is not required by law, SVRE, Placer County, and the PSD all agree that it is prudent given the historic nature of the state's current drought. The WSA Amendment is scheduled to be completed and presented to the District's Board of Directors in July 2015.

If the project is approved, state law requires the District verify the new wells can supply the quality and quantity of water needed for the project. The verification process includes pump testing and thorough water quality analyses. The PSD is currently negotiating the terms of a Development Agreement with SVRE to define specific criteria for the proposed new wells.

### SVPSD WINS BLUE RIBBON FOR BEST TASTING WATER IN CALIFORNIA!

Now there's another reason to stop buying bottled water – the Best Tasting Water in the state of California flows right from the tap. The Squaw Valley Public Service District is proud to announce that it serves California's **Best Tasting Water**. In April of this year, the PSD was awarded with this distinction by the California Rural Water Association. The blind taste test was held at the group's 2015 Annual Expo held in South Lake Tahoe. The blue ribbon win qualifies the District to compete in the national competition in Washington DC for the Best Tasting Water in America.

The water served to your tap is relatively young – often less than one-year old. This helps explain

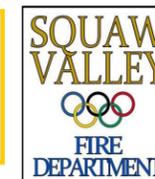


why it's so delicious. With only a short period between the time our water falls as snow and rain and the time it flows through your tap, there is little opportunity for the water to pick up the physical and chemical characteristics associated with bad tasting water.

Of course, protection of our watershed is a critical component to ensuring we continue providing top quality water. Ongoing environmental stewardship and low impact land use contribute to this success. So stop buying bottled water and fill up your own personal bottle with our refreshing tap water. Keep yourself hydrated with the Golden State's Best Tasting Water!



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# Fire and Safety Notes

Summer, 2015

## TRAVEL SAFETY TIPS FROM THE CHIEF

I just returned from a short trip out of town and thought I would share some of my personal safety tips while travelling.

Are you Joe Cool who dons the earbuds and studiously ignores the safety briefing when flying? **Don't.** Statistics show that folks who pay attention to the safety talk are much more likely to survive in a plane crash than those who don't. I prefer to sit near the exit row (or IN it when I can manage that) rather than towards the front of the plane. People tend to leave a space the same way they entered, so knowing alternative exit/escape pathways is always a good idea.

When staying in a hotel, I always locate the closest stairwell and count the doors between my room and the exit. In a fire, elevators are off limits: knowing where the stairwell is and being able to find it in dark, smoky conditions may save your life. I'll also find time to walk down the stairs so that I know that the exit at the bottom is unimpeded.

I never go anywhere without a good flashlight and when staying in a hotel, it's on the bedside table every night. You can buy an amazingly bright, durable LED flashlight for less than \$40 at REI or from Amazon and keep it in your briefcase, purse or suitcase. The Fenix E12 has three levels of brightness, is tough, great looking and is only slightly larger than the single AA battery that powers it.

The main requirement in coping with an emergency - whether at home or away - is the right attitude. The ability to remain calm, think clearly and take prompt, decisive action are the keys to personal safety.

## Apparatus Replacement Tops 2015 Agenda

Squaw Valley Fire Department plans to replace several pieces of apparatus during the coming year - providing improved reliability, lower maintenance costs and expanding operational capabilities. The two pieces of equipment will be our 'first-out' engine: a four wheel drive Type 1 pumper and our water tender. When replaced, the rigs will have been in service for 15 years and 22 years respectively, which is slightly longer than industry standard.

The Fire Department staff formed an apparatus committee which determined the needs and characteristics that would be desirable in the new pieces of equipment and has been working with several vendors to determine whether a new specification or a "tag-on" to an apparatus order placed by another department would be more appropriate. North Tahoe Fire District has several engines on order currently and their vendor offered the opportunity to order additional rigs at a somewhat reduced cost over a stand-alone order. The committee evaluated demo engines from as far away as Anchorage and has spent countless hours poring over detailed specifications and drawings. The cost for the all-wheel drive Type 1 engine is estimated at about \$500,000 and the water tender at about \$200,000. That's about double what the rigs being replaced cost when they were new, although the water tender was constructed in 1994 on a used chassis, which reduced the overall cost for that unit significantly.

It takes 6 to 12 months from the time an order is placed to take delivery, so look for the new engine and water tender to be in service sometime in 2016.

## "We're Class 2" (and why that's good...)

We were delighted last summer when the Insurance Services Office revised the Public Protection Class for our service area from a 5/8 to a 2/2Y. The Public Protection Class rating is the metric that evaluates the capability of a fire department to address the risks specific to its service area - and, perhaps most importantly for homeowners - the primary tool for establishing insurance premiums for properties with that service area. The scale is a simple 1 to 10, with 1 being the absolute best and 10 representing basically no fire protection capability. There are close to 50,000 fire departments in the United States. Only 60 have a Public Protection Class of 1 (0.12%) and 810 fire departments have a PPC of 2 or better, placing us in the top 1.6% of fire departments in the U.S.

The good news for Squaw Valley (and this is truly *great* news from the perspective of a fire chief) is that in addition to being an wonderful achievement for a small operation such as ours, the new PPC rating may result in reduced fire insurance premiums for Squaw Valley property owners. The challenge now is to maintain - or improve - that rating and we're undertaking several initiatives to do so. Third-party testing of apparatus and equipment, improved recordkeeping and statistical analysis, documentation of virtually every aspect of the operations of our Department - these will be the key factors going forward that will allow us to demonstrate that we deserve the excellent rating that we've been assessed.

## Nixle Will Keep You Informed

We continue to be excited about **Nixle** as a way of better communicating emergency information to our residents. The texted information and link allow us to provide rapid and effective notification to our community - it's easy to subscribe and equally easy to unsubscribe if you choose, simply text our zip code - 96146 - to 888777 on your phone - you'll receive a confirmation text immediately.

For more information, see: <http://www.nixle.com/>

## Redundant Water Supply Planning

The Squaw Valley Public Service District continues to plan a project to provide its customers with a redundant water supply source from Martis Valley as an emergency back-up source. This plan is in pursuit to fulfill the District's mission to provide a safe, reliable water supply to our existing customers. Residents and businesses in Squaw Valley currently have only one source of water and without a backup supply, they are unacceptably vulnerable. If our sole source is compromised by extended drought or contamination, there is currently no alternative or back-up supply. Every water provider in this region has a back-up, emergency or redundant, water supply except for the Squaw Valley PSD and two other small water districts, similarly isolated from infrastructure necessary to connect our water systems.

It's important to the District that the facts about our plans are clearly communicated and that the public has accurate information to form opinions.

The PSD's plan to construct a redundant water supply source from Martis Valley is NOT to enable new development.

All new large development in Squaw must provide its own primary source of water; no future development is relying on a supplemental water supply from Martis Valley for its primary source of water. Careful and conservative assessments and modeling show that the proposed Village expansion has sufficient water supply from the aquifer under the land owned by the developer. To verify this, the District had its supply and demand analyses peer-reviewed by a qualified independent third party.

The District does not make land use decisions in Squaw Valley. Placer County has jurisdiction over what is approved for construction in Squaw Valley. Although supplemental water supply can induce growth, it is NOT why the District is pursuing this project; decisions to approve additional growth are made by Placer County - not the PSD.

The District is compelled to provide a safe, reliable water supply in support of public health and safety.

The PSD will NOT construct a water supply project from Martis Valley if it jeopardizes the supply needed by our companion water purveyors in Truckee or if it negatively impacts the natural environment.

We will collaborate with partners to coordinate the project with installation of underground high speed fiber-optic cable and natural gas to homes and businesses in Squaw Valley, along with a Class 1 bike trail connection between Squaw and Truckee.

A water pipeline will allow installation of fire hydrants along the Truckee River corridor, providing significantly improved fire suppression capability for residences along the Truckee River as well as the wildland flanking the highway. Natural gas in Squaw Valley will

improve public safety by eradicating propane tanks and by reducing the risk of transporting propane in / out of the valley.

The District's plan faces many challenges including funding, public outreach / education, assessment of environmental impacts, and the timing of our planning relative to the proposed Village at Squaw Valley Specific Plan. The timing of this project spurs the District to ramp-up its public outreach as groups opposed to development link the need for a redundant water supply source to the proposed Village expansion. The project pre-dates not only the proposal to expand the Village, but also the purchase of the ski area by KSL.

Phase three of the Redundant Water Supply - Preferred Alternative Evaluation is due in December, 2015. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, or need any additional information, please see our website's Current Topics page at [www.svpsd.org](http://www.svpsd.org) or call us at (530) 583-4692.

*A redundant water supply source from Martis Valley is NOT to enable new development.*

## SVPSD'S NEWEST TEAM MEMBER!



The District welcomes Devin Walsh to the Operations Maintenance Department's team.

Devin worked with the Northstar Community Service District as a seasonal worker for five summers and has been with the District full-time since November 2014. He moved to the Truckee area from Pittsburgh, PA in 2008 to snowboard and loves the area so much, he has decided to make this his permanent home.

We are very pleased to have Devin working with us.

## 2014 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE



The Squaw Valley Public Service District is proud to supply safe, reliable and healthy water that meets or exceeds State and Federal public health standards for drinking water. Annually, the PSD publishes a water quality report titled "Consumer Confidence Report" as required by the State Department of Public Health to inform customers about the quality of their drinking water. This report

is based on a culmination of water sample data collected throughout the year from selected sample sites. It can be accessed on our website at the following link:

[http://www.svpsd.org/sites/default/files/documents/Annual\\_water\\_quality\\_report\\_2014.pdf](http://www.svpsd.org/sites/default/files/documents/Annual_water_quality_report_2014.pdf)

# California State Regulators Adopt *NEW* Emergency Drought Regulations

## *Squaw Valley PSD Takes Steps to Comply*



The District is taking action to implement restrictions on outdoor water use as required by law. Compliance is mandatory and there are provisions for penalties and fines. *With this notice, you are required to comply immediately with the mandatory regulations.*

On April 1, 2015 Governor Brown issued a Drought Executive Order which directs the State Water Resources Control Board

(SWRCB) to implement mandatory water reductions across the state to reduce water usage by 25% in potable urban usage through February 2016.

On May 5, 2015 the California Department of Water Resources approved an emergency regulation to ensure water conservation. Smaller water suppliers, such as the District (serving fewer than 3,000 connections) must either reduce water use by 25 percent or restrict outdoor irrigation to no more than two days per week.

### ***The key impacts today to District customers from the SWRCB's 2015 emergency drought regulations include:***

*Prohibitions for all Californians, punishable by a fine of up to \$500 for each day in which each violations occurs, are:*

- *Runoff when irrigating with potable water;*
- *Using hoses with no shutoff nozzles to wash cars;*
- *Using potable water to wash sidewalks and driveways;*
- *Using potable water in decorative water features that do not recirculate the water;*
- *Using outdoor irrigation during and /or 48 hours following measurable precipitation (NEW);*
- *Limiting outdoor irrigation to 2 days a week (NEW);*
- *Restaurants and other food service establishments can only serve water to customers upon request and*
- *Hotels and motels must provide guests with the option of not having towels and linens*

Please visit [www.svpsd.org](http://www.svpsd.org) and keep an eye out for other outreach regarding the additional regulations.

**It is important to note that, although Squaw Valley is in a drought, we are not experiencing a water supply shortage.** However, we must all comply with the mandatory state emergency drought regulations and it is required that we conserve water.

The District is available to help you save water through our leak detection and conservation information. For information on the emergency drought regulations, visit [www.svpsd.org](http://www.svpsd.org). For additional information, call 530.583.4692 or visit the District's office at 305 Squaw Valley Road, Olympic Valley, CA 96146.

# WHAT DOES A 20% REDUCTION in water use look like?



## OUTDOOR WATER

The average Californian uses 196 gallons of water per day and 30-60% of their water outdoors. Here are some easy outdoor tips to reduce water use. Find the right combination for you to reduce by 20% or 39 gallons a day.



USE A BROOM TO CLEAN  
OUTDOOR AREAS

*saves*

**8-18 GALLONS**  
per minute



ADJUST SPRINKLER TO WATER  
PLANTS, NOT DRIVEWAY

*saves*

**12-15 GALLONS**  
each time you water



USE MULCH ON SOIL  
SURFACE

*saves*

**20-30 GALLONS**  
per 1,000 sq. ft. each time



WATER PLANTS EARLY IN  
THE AM

*saves*

**25 GALLONS**  
each time you water



SET MOWER BLADE TO 3"  
(ENCOURAGES DEEPER ROOTS)

*saves*

**16-50 GALLONS**  
per day



PLANT DROUGHT-RESISTANT  
TREES AND PLANTS

*saves*

**30-60 GALLONS**  
per 1,000 sq. ft. each time



INSTALL DRIP-IRRIGATION

*saves*

**15 GALLONS**  
each time you water



INSTALL A "SMART"  
CONTROLLER

*saves*

**24+ GALLONS**  
per day

For more tips on reducing water use, visit [saveourH2O.org](http://saveourH2O.org)!

