



ON TAP

TUD NEWSLETTER

Curtis Creek Elementary School Water System Consolidation Project

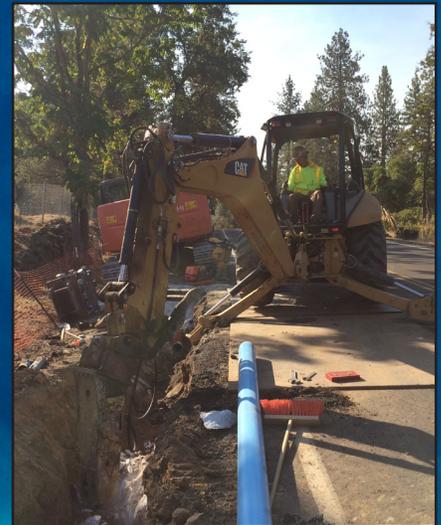
Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD) received grant funding to install a new water pipeline to supply Curtis Creek Elementary School with potable drinking water.

The project involves installing approximately 5,535 linear feet of 12-inch potable water pipeline and appurtenances. A 12-inch diameter pipeline is needed to deliver Curtis Creek Elementary School the required fire flow of 1,500 gallons per minute (gpm) for a duration of two hours while maintaining a system pressure of at least 20 psi. The project also includes installing seven (7) new fire hydrants along Standard Road, three of which will be converted from raw water to potable water.

The school has been relying

on well water, which has been inadequate for several years. Issues range from water source and storage capacity, to water quality. The school is currently purchasing bottled water and will continue buying water until the connection to TUD is complete and operational.

The District received five bid submissions from contractors to complete the project. The Board of Directors awarded the project to Mozingo Construction, Inc. on February 22, 2022. TUD received grant funding for this project through the California State Water Resources Control Board in the amount of \$2,329,116 and includes costs associated with project design, inspection and testing, and construction



TUD crews installing a mainline pipe.

management and administration. The project is scheduled to begin in April or May 2022, weather permitting, and conclude in June or July 2022.

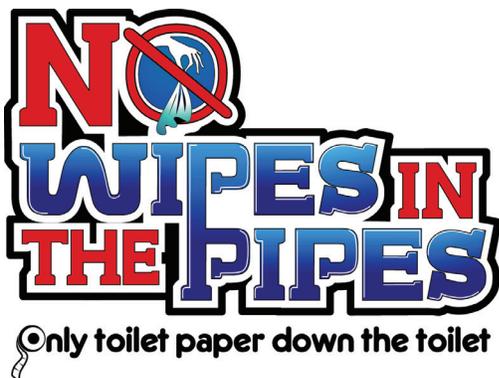
No Wipes in the Pipes

Although a package of wipes may be marked as “flushable,” that is not the case in most instances when traveling through a sewer system. The highly marketable premoistened personal wipes cause problems for

wastewater plant managers throughout the United States, including TUD’s Regional Wastewater Treatment facility in Sonora.

Unlike toilet paper, which is usually made from natural or recycled cellulose fibers, most wet wipes are made from cellulosic or synthetic fibers, depending on its intended use. Many studies have concluded that after 24 hours, most “flushable” wipes do not dissolve and remain in the sewer system.

“Our collections department spends many hours each month unclogging sewer lift stations due to these so-called flushable wipes clogging our pipes and our 29 sewer lift station pumps,” states Don Perkins, General Manager. TUD would like to ask all sewer customers to avoid flushing any type of wipe, “flushable” or otherwise, down the toilet to prevent costly clogs and environmentally damaging overflows.



Join TUD at the Home and Garden Show – April

Our reliance on water connects us, and in the Mother Lode, water is highly visible. It is present in our streams and rivers and ditches, but it's also in your home as you wash your clothes, in the bathtub where you bathe your kids, and it's in your vegetable garden that nourishes your family.

In 2019, Tuolumne County was listed as the number one County at risk of wildfire by the California Department of Insurance. More recently, a Union Democrat website poll confirmed the top two community concerns remain the risk of wildfire and concerns around water.

It is for these reasons and others that TUD continues negotiating with PG&E to acquire valuable senior water rights and water system infrastructure. In our wildfire and drought-prone region, local ownership and control of these assets will provide greater water security and certainty, benefitting everyone who relies on us for water.

Join us April 23-24 at the Annual Home and Garden Show booth at the Mother Lode Fairgrounds. We'll be on-hand to discuss our vision for future water security, ongoing water infrastructure construction projects and any other water-related issues that our customers care about. See you there!

General Manager's Corner

It's easy to see how in our wildfire and drought-prone region, the gold in our streams isn't buried in the plunge pools – the real gold is the water itself.

I hope by now you have heard that TUD has been in negotiations with PG&E to acquire valuable water rights and key components of the complex system of ditches and reservoirs that collects and stores Mother Lode snowmelt. Unlike most water providers, TUD does not own the rights to the water we provide our customers; PG&E does. Before the pandemic they approached TUD to discuss transferring ownership, and those conversations continue.

Over the next several months, as details of the acquisition agreement come into greater focus and are finalized, TUD will be more visible in the community. We will work proactively to help our customers understand this opportunity, the value we see in acquiring these assets, and the costs associated with it. Most importantly, we'll be listening to your input and feedback to help inform our locally-elected Board of Directors, who will ultimately vote on the final agreement late this year.

For now, I wanted to use this space to discuss two core topics – first being, why securing the pre-1914 water rights is so critical to the future of our customers and Tuolumne County as a whole. And,

secondly, why this has taken so long.

Owning these pre-1914 water rights guarantees that Tuolumne County will have the highest priority, meaning we'll always be first in line for water. Local ownership and control of these assets will provide greater water security and certainty, benefitting everyone who relies on us for water.

I've also been asked why the process is taking so long, and I understand that sentiment. I also understand our customers' concerns about how this will impact rates.

It is certainly true that the pandemic has impacted the pace of the negotiations. In a sense, however, we are grateful for the slower pace, as it has given us the chance to perform necessary due diligence. It has also given us the necessary time to carefully evaluate various PG&E assets and real estate to assemble an agreement that is most advantageous to our customers' long-term interests. These variations have an obvious impact on how your water bills will be impacted, so it is still too early to roll these out. I do commit to you, however, that as soon as I am confident with all the figures in the coming weeks, TUD will share this information so you can make up your own mind on the value this opportunity holds for us all.

Don Perkins
Tuolumne Utilities District
General Manager



TUD MISSION:

“PROVIDE RESPONSIBLE
WATER AND WASTEWATER
SERVICES FOR OUR
CUSTOMERS WITH GREAT
CUSTOMER SERVICE IN A
SOCIAL, FINANCIALLY
AND ENVIRONMENTALLY
RESPONSIVE MANNER AT
A FAIR VALUE.”

On Tap is published to keep Tuolumne Utilities District customers informed about issues and upcoming events.

If you have any story ideas or suggestions, please mail them to Lisa Westbrook,
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For more information about TUD, go to www.tudwater.com