



## TUOLUMNE UTILITIES DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### TUD TO REPAIR COLUMBIA DITCH FAILURE

SONORA, CA: Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD) crews were alerted to a ditch failure on the Columbia ditch system Friday evening, February 18, 2011. A 60 foot section of the ditch gave way due to the recent snow storm that passed through the area. This section of TUD's ditch distribution system flows water from the Columbia ditch to the water treatment plants that serve residents in Big Hill and Columbia. We are asking customers in Big Hill and Columbia to conserve water until we can get this part of the ditch system restored.

TUD crews have been working in the area clearing snow to get supplies in to repair this section of ditch. TUD has contracted with inmate baseline crews from Vallecito and Tuolumne to assist in the repair which includes hand shoveling an estimated nine miles of snow that is in the Columbia ditch. An estimated two to five baseline crews have been assisting in the repair. Each baseline crew consists of 15 people.



Wednesday a helicopter crew is flying in 100 feet of temporary pipe to the rugged terrain. Each section of 20 foot pipe weighs an estimated 400 pounds. TUD is working to install this pipe and have water back into the Columbia ditch by Friday, weather permitting.

For additional information or questions, please contact Lisa Westbrook, Customer Services Supervisor for TUD at 209-532-5536, x 501.

The Tuolumne Utilities District currently serves over 44,000 Tuolumne County residents. The District currently owns and operates 15 water treatment plants, 71 treated water storage tanks, two wastewater treatment plants, approximately 57 miles of open ditches and 330 miles of treated water pipeline.

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