



## TUOLUMNE UTILITIES DISTRICT

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### Is There a Drought in the Foothills?

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Although last month the Governor of California, Arnold Schwarzenegger, had proclaimed a statewide drought for the state, the water outlook is better in Tuolumne County than the rest of the state. “We are fortunate enough to rely on the storage facilities of two of our reservoirs that are still in great shape even though we are entering the hot summer season,” explains Pete Kampa, General Manager for Tuolumne Utilities District. TUD relies on the snow pack run off above Pinecrest and Lyons Reservoirs for the county’s natural water storage. Tuolumne Utilities District has a contract with P.G. & E. which provides water supply for TUD from the South Fork Stanislaus River. This water is stored at Pinecrest Lake, Lyons Reservoir, Phoenix Lake and other small reservoirs on the TUD ditch system.



Photo: Lyons Reservoir, June 2008

Should you conserve water? Yes. “The short answer is that conserving water will save TUD customers money,” states Kampa. There are some simple steps that homeowners can do to save water at their home:

- Fix leaks. Check your indoor water using appliances and devices for leaks. Studies have shown homes can waste more than 10 percent due to leaking, which costs both you and the environment.
- Replace your old toilet, the largest water user in your home. If your home was built before 1992 and the toilet has never been replaced, then it is very unlikely that you have a water-efficient low-flush toilet.
- Replace your clothes washer, the second largest water user in your home. Energy Star rated washers that also have a Water Factor at or lower than 9.5 use 35 to 50 percent less water and 50 percent less energy per load than a standard washer.
- Plant the right plants with proper landscape design and irrigation. Consider purchasing drought resistant plants.
- Water only when your plants need it. Most water is wasted in your garden by watering when your plants do not need the water or by not maintaining the sprinkler system. Use a timer when watering by hand. Water early in the morning or late at night.



More water conservation tips can be found at [www.cadroughtprep.net/index.htm](http://www.cadroughtprep.net/index.htm) or by stopping by the TUD office in Sonora.