

ROUND HILL GENERAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
NEWSLETTER
April 27, 2009

PHARMACEUTICALS

You may have heard recent news reports about pharmaceuticals being found in drinking water supplies. While this is an issue nationally, here in the Tahoe basin we are uniquely protected. Pharmaceuticals in drinking water supplies are a direct result of discharges from sewage treatment facilities. The pharmaceuticals in question are ingested in people's homes, disposed of in the sewage system, travel through the sewage treatment facility and are discharged back into the ground water or surface water supplies which are then used as a drinking water source.

Here in the Tahoe basin, all sewage water is discharged outside the basin after treatment, and therefore the cycle is broken, the pharmaceuticals cannot get back into the source waters. While the possibility exists that some pharmaceuticals could accidentally find their way into the basin, the probability is extremely remote. There is little doubt that the water from Lake Tahoe is some of the finest source water available anywhere in the country, perhaps even the world.

ASIAN CLAM REMOVAL PILOT STUDY

The Asian Clam is a non-native species of clam that resides in Lake Tahoe. The clams can become a nesting habitat for other, more serious non-native species such as the Zebra and Quagga Mussels. Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, in conjunction with UC Davis and other agencies has begun conducting an Asian Clam removal pilot program.

The pilot project will evaluate different methods of eradicating the clams from the Lake. The pilot project commenced in Marla Bay in March. Later in the summer, additional work will be completed for the project. Round Hill residents may notice barges, divers and other equipment in the Marla Bay area associated with the pilot project.

Additionally, the study will attempt to determine if the existing clam populations were in any way responsible for the algae bloom last summer in Marla Bay.

WATER STORAGE TANK

The District is in the process of securing a land transfer at our office facility to accommodate the construction of a new water storage tank. The tank, once completed, will augment the District's fire suppression capabilities and allow us to take our existing tank off line for rehabilitation and repairs. We will be hiring an Engineering firm to design and oversee construction of the new tank. Ideally, the design will be completed this year and will be constructed during the 2010 construction season.

QUESTIONS / CONCERNS

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call the District. Our business hours are Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. till 12:00 noon, then again from 12:30 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

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