Spring Newsletter 2014

Drought conditions

As is continually being reported in the media, California and Nevada are experiencing historic drought conditions. Drought conditions can stress the District's resources. While Lake Tahoe is a very large body of water, it also feels the effects of drought conditions.

RHGID's Board of Trustees has developed a conservation plan. Currently, that plan restricts landscape watering in the District between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00.p.m. While individual homeowners attempt to keep their landscaping alive, there are things that can be done to minimize any negative impacts to the District and Lake Tahoe. For example, irrigation sprinklers should be used only as much as is necessary to keep flora alive. Do not overwater.

All home owners and business owners will be notified prior to implementation of any additional restrictions.

Remember, RHGID restricts all outside irrigation between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

RHGID reserves the right to resort to odd/even water restrictions.

Please avoid wasting water and over irrigating.

2013 Lead and Copper Testing

Per US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations, RHGID is required to test the water in homes for the presence of lead and copper every three years, and we did so as required in 2013. RHGID tested the water in eleven homes within the District. The EPA requirement is that the "90th percentile" home be below the "action level" assigned for lead and copper. For lead, the action level is 15 parts per billion (ppb) and for copper, that level is 1.3 parts per million (ppm). In other words, ten out of the eleven samples must be below 15 ppb for lead and 1.3 ppm for copper.

Lead was only detected in one of the eleven samples, at 3.8 ppb, well below the action level of 15 ppb. All other lead samples detected no lead. The 90th percentile was ND (none detected), certainly below the action level. The District's copper results ranged from 0.0052 ppm to 0.054 ppm and all samples were below the action level of 1.3 ppm. The 90th percentile was 0.048 ppm, well below the action level.

Thank you to all homeowners that continue to participate in this sampling and testing process. We will be conducting lead and copper sampling again in 2016.

In This Issue:

The District's 2013 Water Quality Report is also available online at **http://www.rhgid.org/flipbooks/CCR2013**

www.RHGID.org

Upper Water Storage Tank

The 500,000 gallon concrete water tank that serves the District's upper pressure zone has deteriorated through the years and must now be replaced. The tank was constructed by Crom Nevada in 1966. The new tank will be constructed of welded steel and should last the District between 75 and 100 years into the future. The new tank will be constructed on the same footprint as the existing tank and will maintain the District's fire-fighting capabilities as it too, will be 500,000 gallons.

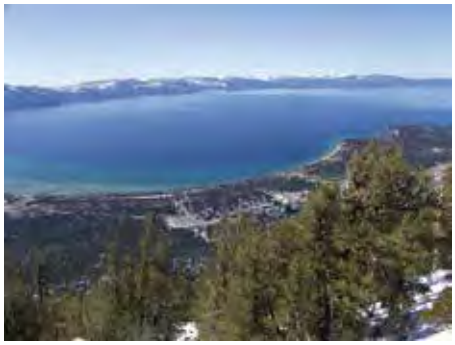
The District will utilize a 50 / 50 matching grant from the US Forest Service to help defray the costs of construction. No additional debt will be incurred to finance the project. The project was designed by Farr West Engineering and the tank is being designed and constructed by Resource Development Company (RDC). RDC and the District worked together to construct the other 500,000 gallon welded steel upper water storage tank in 2000. The District expects another successful project with Farr West and RDC in 2014.

Construction began on May 1st and should be complete by October 15th. During demolition of the existing tank and construction of the new tank, there will be construction vehicles travelling into the District and through the end of Paiute Drive. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Helping Keep Our Lake Clear

Cleaning the storm drain systems is an important activity in helping to eliminate the introduction of fine sediment particles (FSP) in Lake Tahoe. These FSPs are responsible for the degradation of Lake Tahoe's famed water clarity. To help protect that clarity, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) and other water quality agencies with jurisdiction at Lake Tahoe have developed a regulatory process known as the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).

The TMDL process establishes a baseline (based on the 2006 estimated load) of the amount of FSPs entering Lake Tahoe. Then, to ensure protection of the Lake's clarity, NDEP established a reduction in the amount of FSPs that can be discharged to the lake over time. The ultimate goal is to reduce the FSPs entering the Lake to a level that will restore the clarity to the levels of the 1960's, or 105 feet.



RHGID continues to work with all area agencies to determine the most appropriate methods to employ to assure compliance with current and future TMDL requirements at the most cost efficient means possible for the residents of Round Hill.

Herbicides and Pesticides in Lake Tahoe?

The Lahanton Regional Water Quality Board adopted a basin plan amendment in 2012 that included a provision to allow pesticide and herbicide applications in Lake Tahoe and to develop a permitting process for the introduction of herbicides and pesticides in the Lake. RHGID and the Tahoe Water Suppliers Association (TWSA) continue to oppose the introduction of herbicides and pesticides in Lake Tahoe.

Lake Tahoe is a Tier 3 National Water Resource and both the TWSA and RHGID believe it should be treated as such. It is our position that pesticide and herbicide applications in Lake Tahoe are counter to that Tier 3 classificiation, and counter to the utilization of Lake Tahoe as a source of drinking water for more than 60,000 people every day, and therefore should not be allowed.

RHGID and TWSA encourage all Lake Tahoe residents to get involved in the care and protection of your drinking water source.

Source Water Protection Tips

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides — they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to Lake" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

WATER QUALITY REPORT

Does my tap water meet all drinking water standards?

Absolutely. Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. Round Hill GID vigilantly safeguards its water supply and once again we are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or other water quality standard.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Source water assessment and its availability

A source water assessment has been completed by the Nevada Bureau of Safe Drinking Water and is available upon request by calling (775) 687-9520.

Where does my drinking water come from?

The water that you use in Round Hill comes from Lake Tahoe. Your water is treated with filtration, then it is chlorinated and delivered through a seven mile distribution system to your home. The water from your tap meets all requirements set forth by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection.

Why does drinking water have contaminants?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses; organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

WATER QUALITY TABLE

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range Low	Range High	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Disinfectants & Disinfectant by-Products (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Chlorine (as Cl2) (ppm)	4	4	0.62	0.26	0.62	2013	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Organic Carbon (% Removal)	NA	TT	0	NA		2013	No	Naturally present in the environment
TTHMs [Total Trihalometanes] (ppb)	NA	80	3.54	NA		2013	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants								
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.012	NA		2013	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (optional) (ppm)		MPL	6.8	NA		2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
Microbiological Contaminants								
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	0.3	100	NA		2013	No	Soil runoff
100% of the samples were below the TT value of 0.3. A value less than 95% constitutes a TT violation. The highest single measurement was 0.26. Any measurement in excess of 1 is a violation unless otherwise approved by the state.								
Radioactive Contaminants								
Uranium (pCi/L)	0	30	0.11	NA		2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Synthetic organic contaminants including pesticides and herbicides								
Dioxin (2,3,7,8-TCDD) (ppq)	0	30	0	NA		2013	No	Emissions from waste incineration and other combustion; Discharge from chemical factories

Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Radioactive Contaminants							
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.048	2013	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	0	2013	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

UNDECTED CONTAMINANTS

The following contaminants were monitored for, but not detected, in your water.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Your Water	Violation	Typical Source
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	ND	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	ND	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	ND	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Asbestos (MFL)	7	7	ND	No	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; Erosion of natural deposits

UNIT DESCRIPTIONS

Term	Definition
ug/L	ug/L : Number of micrograms of substance in one liter of water
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
ppq	ppq: parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter
MFL	MFL: million fibers per liter, used to measure asbestos concentration
NTU	NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

IMPORTANT DRINKING WATER DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances & Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

Lead in Drinking Water

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Round Hill General Improvement District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791 or visit their website at **www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.**

Cross Connection Control Survey

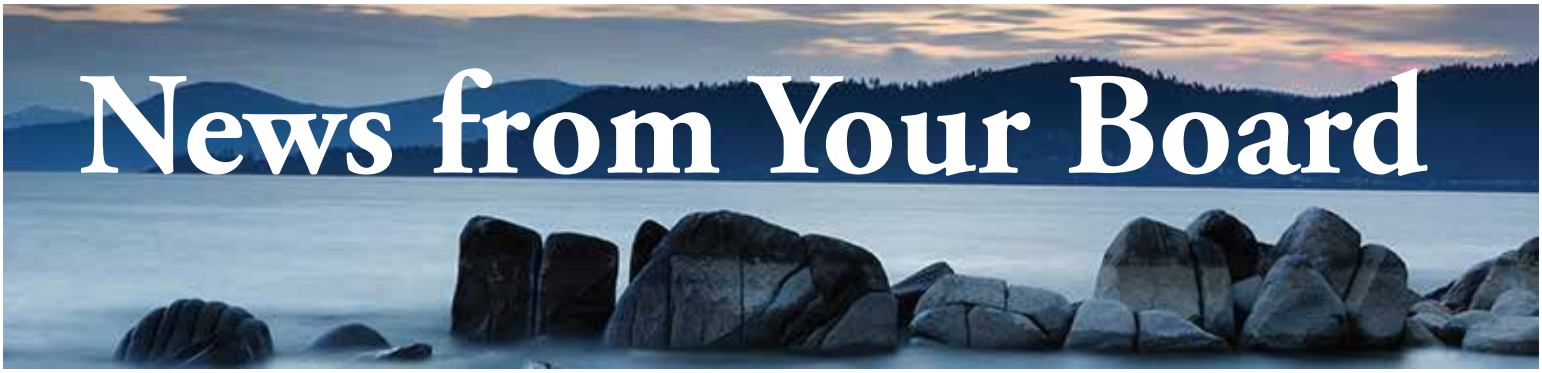
The purpose of this survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and ensuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below that are connected to the water system, please contact us so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

- Boiler/ Radiant heater (water heaters not included)
- Underground lawn sprinkler system
- Pool or hot tub (whirlpool tubs not included)
- Additional source(s) of water on the property
- Decorative pond
- Watering trough

Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference – try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit **www.epa.gov/watersense** for more information.



News from Your Board

Your Trustees

RHGID Trustee Wesley Rice was recently recognized by Douglas County for his 15 years of service to the Constable's Office. Wes' public service in the Constable's Office is but one aspect of his dedication to the community. He has been an invaluable Trustee at RHGID for eight years. We welcome his input and dedication to our Board.

Steve Teshara has been a RHGID Trustee since being elected for the first time in 2002. Steve's final term expires in 2014. It has been a pleasure having Steve on the Board and his guidance and local knowledge have been instrumental in the success of the District. We will miss his presence on the Board and appreciate his many contributions to the District over the past 12 years. Steve owns a locally-based consulting company and holds a number of leadership positions in the community so we know he will remain active as a resident.

In addition to Steve Teshara's term expiring, Trustees Chuck Fagen and Steve Seibel were also up for re-election in 2014, bringing the total number of open positions to three. Both Chuck and Steve Seibel submitted paperwork for re-election and new Round Hill resident Keith Fertala submitted paperwork to run for the first time, replacing Steve Teshara. Since there were three open positions and three candidates, there will be no election for RHGID Trustees in 2014, and each of the three candidates will be validated at the Douglas County canvass. We welcome back each of the two incumbents and look forward to working with our newest Trustee, Keith. Glen Smith and Wes Rice will complete their terms in 2016. The Trustees are your representatives. Please let them know if you have any questions or concerns.

A Decade of Service to RHGID

Patrick McKay, the District's Chief Operator, celebrated his tenth year anniversary at the District in 2013. He has dedicated himself to providing Round Hill residents with his talents and service for over a decade. Without Pat, the District would be less than it is today. Through his efforts, the District has succeeded. We look forward to the next decade with Pat as your Chief Operator. Pat, John, and Andy are responsible for providing Round Hill residents with safe drinking water and with maintaining District infrastructure, including the roads. The Operators work ample overtime, especially when plowing in the winter. If you see Pat, John, or Andy in the District, thank them for all their efforts.

Ad Valorem Tax implemented

In developing the 2014 / 2015 budget, the Board of Trustees voted to implement an Ad Valorem Tax. RHGID has always had the authority to create an Ad Valorem Tax and we are one of the last GID's to do so. The funds generated by this newly created tax will be used to continue the District's road reconstruction projects. McFaul Way was reconstructed and paved in 2010 and Elks Point Road was redone in 2013. The District's 20 year pavement maintenance plan calls for additional paving in 2016 and 2019 and every three years thereafter. Had the District been unable to secure additional revenue through the Ad Valorem Tax, we would not have had sufficient resources to continue future paving projects. The revenues received by the Ad Valorem Tax will be used to complete the 20 year paving projects. The Ad Valorem Tax must be evaluated and approved by the Board on an annual basis. While nobody likes new taxes, these taxes will stay within Round Hill and they will be used to improve your roads.

How can I get involved?

The Round Hill Board of Trustees meets regularly on the third Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. at the Round Hill Fire Station on Elks Point Road. Please join us at our meetings, as it is important to get your feedback to assist us in operating the District according to our customers' needs. Call us at (775) 588-2571 or check us out on the web at **www.rhgid.org**.

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We Welcome Your Feedback

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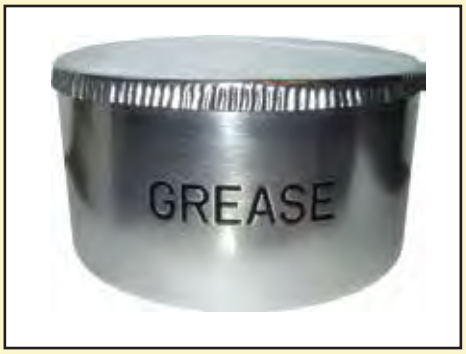
F.O.G. Prevention



Fats, Oils and Grease from cooking areas can enter the sewer system creating backup problems.

Sewer Overflows Can be Expensive

Sewage backups and overflows are often the result of grease buildup, which can cause property damage, environmental problems and health hazards. Keep Fats, Oils and Grease out of the sewer system.

It is common for sewer blockages in the sewer lines to be caused by grease buildup. The problem is not isolated to Lake Tahoe and has become so large on a national scale that it has gained its own acronym, the FOG Program, standing for Fats, Oils and Greases.

The main cause of sewer line blockages has been grease buildup that restricts the flow in the wastewater collection system. All too often, Fats, Oils, and Grease from cooking and food preparation are washed into the plumbing system when hot, and stick to the insides of sewer pipes both on your property and under the streets as the grease cools. Usually FOG enters the plumbing system through kitchen sinks in homes and restaurants and floor drains found in food preparation areas of restaurants. Eventually this grease buildup can block pipes completely, causing raw sewage to back up into homes and businesses or sewage spills from line cleanouts or public manholes.

Please collect your grease and dispose of properly. Do not pour grease down drains.