



Frequently Asked Questions

CONSOLIDATION OF TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER AUTHORITY, SOUTH TRUCKEE MEADOWS GENERAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT AND THE WASHOE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Why is consolidation of the water utilities taking place?

The Western Regional Water Commission Act of 2007 (WRWCA) of the Nevada State Legislature required public water purveyors in the planning area of Reno and Sparks to evaluate consolidation as a possible way to improve management of water resources, improve efficiency and reduce costs. As a result of extensive studies, infrastructure evaluation and hearings were undertaken. Following adoption of the WRWCA, on January 29, 2010, the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) Board of Directors and the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) entered into an Interlocal Agreement providing for the merger of the Washoe County Water Utility into TMWA.

On December 11, 2013 TMWA and the South Truckee Meadows General Improvement District (STMGID) entered an Interlocal Agreement providing for the merger of STMGID into TMWA.

At a joint meeting on March 19, 2014, TMWA and Washoe County approved the remaining procedures to implement consolidation, including the transition plan and implementation schedule.

What are the goals of consolidation?

The goals are to achieve lower cost of service while also allowing for a “conjunctive use” approach to area water-resource management. This minimizes groundwater pumping and places an emphasis on using surface water whenever available, including “banking” reserves via recharge of municipal wells. TMWA, STMGID and the BCC also specified that no customer group would be negatively impacted. More specifically, the goals include:

- Improved management and use of water resources
- More efficient infrastructure utilization and development
- Better service to customers due to coordinated rules of service and fees
- Long-term efficiencies and economies of scale



What are the major steps that have been taken?

The agencies have finished all due diligence efforts including the completion of updated five-year financial forecasts to determine that merging the water utilities is financially feasible. The consolidated utility would produce results acceptable to the capital markets and would not have a detrimental impact on any customer group.

How many customers will be involved?

When combined with TMWA's existing 94,000 customers, STMGID (3,800 customers) and Washoe County (19,000 customers), the three consolidated utilities will serve approximately 117,000 homes and businesses.

When will this happen?

The merger is underway and scheduled to be completed by the end of 2014. Customers of STMGID and Washoe County can expect to become customers of TMWA in early 2015. STMGID and Washoe County customers will be alerted of their water utility account transition in the month prior to the change.

Will I see any difference in my water or water service?

No. The goal of the transition is that customers will see no difference in their water service.

Will my rates be any different?

No. Though former STMGID and Washoe County customers will become TMWA customers and receive a TMWA bill, one of the main goals of consolidation is that customers will see no difference in their water rates.

What are the next steps?

Major elements of the transition plan are related to employees, operations, financial, and customer services/communications efforts. STMGID and Washoe County customers will see communications from their respective utilities soon. TMWA will be communicating with new customers later in 2014.

For more information and staff reports: tmwa.com/consolidation .

If you have questions, please email: consolidation@tmwa.com. All inquiries will be answered within one business day.