



TUOLUMNE UTILITIES DISTRICT

18885 NUGGET BLVD • SONORA, CA 95370
(209) 532-5536 • Fax (209) 536-6485
www.tudwater.com

DIRECTORS
Barbara Balen
Robert M. Behee
Joseph Day, PhD
Ralph Retherford, MD
Delbert Rotelli

PRESS RELEASE

TUOLUMNE UTILITIES DISTRICT SECURES OVER \$4 MILLION DOLLARS FOR BIG HILL WATER PROJECT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Peter J. Kampa
General Manager, TUD

The Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD) received notice today that it will receive a \$4,083,790 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funds for the reconstruction of a water distribution system serving 131 connections in the West Big Hill area. “With a total project cost of \$10 million, of which \$5.8 million has been completed with grant funds over the past 4 years, this is a huge undertaking for the community”, stated TUD general manager Pete Kampa. “These grants have saved every customer of the District over \$3.50 per month for up to 40 years; a savings of \$1,600 for every District customer”.

TUD was forced by the courts in 2000 to acquire the privately owned Big Hill and Monte Grande water systems when the previous owner was unable to keep up with state and federal drinking water requirements. Since that time, TUD has worked diligently to complete design, funding and construction of the replacement water systems, which consists of (2) new water treatment plants, (4) new tanks, (3) new booster pump stations, and over 12.3 miles of distribution pipeline in the Big Hill and Monte Grande areas. “It has been very costly and time consuming to keep up with maintenance of the systems, which were built with substandard materials and were deteriorating rapidly. Water outages were common in the Big Hill area,” stated District Engineer Tom Scesa.

“Our engineering team has done an outstanding job in securing 95% grant funding, through four separate state and federal programs, for completion of this important project”. “The remaining 5% of the project cost is funded with a 0% interest loan for 30 years. It is unheard of in the industry to have such a costly project grant funded at 95% and this is an example of the resolve of TUD to provide reliable, high quality services at the most reasonable cost”, added Scesa. “TUD further saved its customers hundreds of thousands of dollars by completing construction of the new water treatment plant with its own design and construction crews, who completed a top quality work product”, stated Scesa. This federal grant funding is intended to stimulate the local economy through the creation of jobs and reduction in local costs. “In addition to the construction cost savings, completion of this project will also result in over \$100,000 in annual operation and maintenance cost savings”, stated Kampa. The project will be competitively bid within the next month and construction will start as soon as possible.