



TUOLUMNE UTILITIES DISTRICT

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TUOLUMNE UTILITIES DISTRICT WILL MOVE FORWARD ON THE PHOENIX LAKE PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION PROJECT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SONORA, CA: Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD) plans to advance on the next two phases of the Phoenix Lake Preservation and Restoration project. The District has recently received grant approval totaling over \$4.5 million dollars for funding of this project.

Phoenix Lake is an 88-acre water storage reservoir located approximately 3 miles east of the City of Sonora. Phoenix Lake water rights and facilities, as well as portions of the lake, are owned by the TUD. The TUD uses the lake as a primary drinking water source for the communities of Sonora, Jamestown, Scenic View and Mono Village. While the allowable storage capacity of the lake is approximately 900 acre-feet (ac-ft), the current capacity is only 600 ac-ft. Reduced lake capacity affects the water quality at Phoenix Lake, which is marginal at times and is declining due to nutrient inputs, sedimentation and invasive aquatic vegetation.



Phoenix Lake, Sonora, CA

Phase II

In March of 2013, TUD along with Murphy's Sanitary District (MSD), USFS-Stanislaus National Forest, Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD), Groveland Community Services District (GCSD), Tuolumne River Trust, Amador-Tuolumne Community Action Agency (ATCAA), and Calaveras County Water District (CCWD), all members of the Tuolumne-Stanislaus Integrated Regional Water Management Authority (T-S IRWMA) submitted a joint application for the Proposition 84 Round 2 IRWM Implementation Grant. In February of 2014, 100% funding was approved by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). The total grant amount is for \$3,640,000.

On September 22, 2014 the Funding Agreement between the DWR and TCRCD (acting as the grant administrator) was executed. This phase of the Phoenix Lake Preservation and Restoration project – Phase 2, will receive \$1,598,000 in grant money. This grant will be used to complete the engineering design, regulatory compliance and permitting. The design of the project will be completed based on technical opportunities and constraints, as well as input received from the public and resource agencies.

Phase III

It was announced on Tuesday, November 4th that the Tuolumne-Stanislaus Integrated Regional Water Management Region (T-S IRWMR) has been awarded \$8.1 million dollars in funding for its Drought Grant Proposal which was submitted to the Department of Water Resources in July 2014. The grant will fund five projects in the Region over the next five years once contracts have been signed.

The largest project award will go towards Tuolumne Utilities District's Phoenix Lake Preservation and Restoration, Phase III in the amount of \$3,150,000.

The Phoenix Lake Preservation and Restoration (PLPR) - Phase III project will improve the water quality and restore storage capacity in Phoenix Lake and the Phoenix Lake watershed. Phase III will provide access to approximately 170 ac-ft of water that currently does not exist. The construction of the sediment forebay will remove a majority of the sediments transported to the lake via the Sullivan Creek watershed. Sediment removal is key for improving water quality conditions in the lake and the long term health of the lake and its storage capacity.

More information on the Phoenix Lake Preservation and Restoration Plan can be found on the District's website at http://www.tudwater.com/projects-development/phoenix_lake_plan.

About the T-S IRWM Region

The regional organization is managed by a group of more than 25 local water supply, wastewater treatment, land use management, public interest, agricultural, and ecosystem-focused organizations and tribes all with interests in the management of water resources of the region. Members began meeting in 2005 to develop working relationships. The T-S Regional Water Management Plan, which was completed in August 2013, was developed through a two-year process utilizing state and local funds and in-kind resources. The planning document includes projects that will benefit the Stanislaus and Tuolumne watersheds.