



TUOLUMNE UTILITIES DISTRICT

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EPA ANNOUNCES RELEASE OF DROUGHT RESPONSE AND RECOVERY VIDEO FOCUSING ON TUOLUMNE COUNTY

SONORA, CA: Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD) partnered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop a drought response video and outreach guide to help other water utilities nationwide combat drought issues. This week the EPA released the video.

In November of 2014, a specialized crew of Strategic Planners, Engineers, EPA coordinators and video producers filmed a video in Tuolumne County to begin the process of building a drought resilience plan for other water utilities.

Filming locations included TUD, Phoenix Lake, Lyons Reservoir and in Twain Harte near the Section 4 ditch. Community partners that assisted with the video production included:

- Alvin Thoma, Director of Hydro Licensing – Pacific, Gas and Electric Company
- Tom Trott, General Manager – Twain Harte Community Services District
- Dore Bietz, Assistant Planner/Emergency Manager – Tuolumne Me-Wuk Tribal Council
- Mark Luster, Community Relations Manager, SPI
- Mike Spear, Fire Captain, CAL Fire
- Tracie Riggs, OES Coordinator – County of Tuolumne
- Richard Rauschmeier – Tuolumne County Master Gardeners

“Recent droughts have affected operations at a large number of water utilities nationwide. With changing climate and shifting weather patterns, these drought impacts for water utilities are likely to continue for years to come. EPA’s Drought Response and Recovery project engaged seven small to medium-sized water utilities across the country that have responded to severe drought impacts. In visiting Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD), EPA learned about how the utility and community were challenged by drought impacts, and how they were able to successfully respond to and recover from drought. Using these combined lessons learned, EPA has developed national guidance to help other water utilities become more resilient to drought,” remarks David Travers, Director of the Water Security Division in the EPA Office of Water.

“The summer of 2014 was difficult and challenging. With the help of our customers and our community partners, we survived the challenges we faced with our water supply and the drought. The community came together and managed to achieve significant water conservation which was needed at the time. Many state and local agencies still talk about this great accomplishment,” states Lisa Westbrook, Customer and Public Relations Coordinator.

The EPA/TUD Drought Response and Recovery video can be viewed at TUD's website, www.tudwater.com.

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