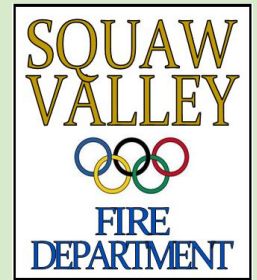




# WINTER NEWSLETTER 2020



## Update on the Completed Truckee River Siphon Project

**Y**ou may have seen some construction activity near Highway 89 and the Squaw Creek bridge this summer. That was the District constructing the Truckee River Siphon Replacement Project.

Until the mid-seventies, there were three sewage treatment plants in operation in Squaw Valley. In 1976, when the Tahoe-Truckee Sanitation Agency (TTSA) was formed, a trunk pipeline, known as the Truckee River Interceptor (TRI), was constructed along the Truckee River to convey sewage from Tahoe City, Alpine Meadows, and Squaw Valley to a new regional wastewater treatment facility in Truckee. Installed at the same time was the Squaw

Valley Interceptor, a pipeline ranging in size from 10 to 15 inches in diameter, running from the Village to the TRI on the east side of the Truckee River. The District has been responsible for the line in Squaw Valley since its construction in 1978. Part of the Squaw Valley Interceptor includes the Truckee River Siphon (Siphon). The Siphon begins approximately 0.5 mile north of the entrance to Squaw

Valley on the west side of Highway 89 and extends under the highway and under the Truckee River, terminating on the east side of the Truckee River.

The Truckee River Siphon is arguably the most critical asset in the District's sewer collection system and is the final segment of the Squaw Valley Interceptor. Unlike other sewer pipelines in the Valley, maintenance and repair of the old siphon posed major challenges to the District's operations staff, requiring sewer bypass piping with difficult access.

Recent inspections indicated that the Siphon was reaching the end of its useful life. A high-resolution, 360

-degree, panoramic television inspection was performed on the Siphon in 2016 which revealed multiple areas of lining failure. As the Siphon's coating continued to deteriorate, the pipe's likelihood of failure increased.

As a matter of public health and safety, it was imperative that the Truckee River Siphon be replaced to provide the necessary reliability and redundancy to support the needs of the residents of Olympic Valley.

The project included installing two sewer pipelines under Highway 89 and the Truckee River. The parallel pipelines provide the District with redundancy and reliability to handle all of the flow conditions in the Valley

from now into the future and improve the ease of operations and maintenance activities. In order to minimize disturbance to the Highway and Truckee River bed, the District chose to construct the project using Horizontal Directional Drilling which greatly minimized the environmental and traffic impacts of the project (horizontal drilling equipment pictured at left).

This method steered a drill bit across and below the highway and river bottom to produce a small diameter pilot hole which is then

reamed out to accommodate the size of the new pipe. Low-pressure drilling fluid (bentonite clay) was used to maintain the bore hole and prevent frac-out. The pipelines were laid out above ground and pulled through the hole to their final location. The construction activities for drilling/reaming and subsequent installation of the new pipes occurred outside of the river channel and 100-year floodplain, back from each bank of the river.

The District awarded a construction contract in February 2019 for \$1,711,000. The project was successfully completed in November 2019 and came in under budget with a final construction cost of \$1,650,000!



## Squaw Valley Public Service District

305 Squaw Valley Road, P.O. Box 2026  
Olympic Valley, CA 96146

(530) 583-4692  
<https://www.svpsd.org>

# Fire and Safety Notes

Winter 2020

## FIRE DEPARTMENT STAFF NEWS

Congratulations to Part-time Firefighters Michael Brixey and Mitch Nelson. They were hired on as full time firefighters at Truckee Fire, as well as Part-time Firefighter Ethan Manseau who joined Sacramento Fire full-time, we are sad to see you all go!

Congratulations to Keith Erickson and his wife Emily who are expecting their first child this winter.

For the third winter, in partnership with Squaw Valley Resort, the fire department will be staffing the old fire station at 1810 Squaw Valley Road during the day on weekends and holidays.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT REMINDERS

A reminder to all homeowners to keep your propane tanks, regulators, and heater vents clear of snow during the winter months. Also see the Adopt a Hydrant program to help keep our hydrants accessible to the FD during the winter.

## AVALANCHE SAFETY RESOURCES

Parts of our community are in Avalanche prone areas. You can keep yourselves informed through the Sierra Avalanche Center, [www.sierraavalanchecenter.org](http://www.sierraavalanchecenter.org) an excellent resource for avalanche information, including advisory by elevation, current avalanche problems, conditions, observations and weather. There is also a recorded avalanche advisory at: 530/587-3558 X258.

We will continue to update the community through Nixle when concerns are high. If you have not yet subscribed, see the next column.

Remember if skiing in the backcountry to always ski with a (trained and equipped) buddy, carry a beacon, shovel and probe and let someone know where you're going and when to expect you back.

## Adopt a Hydrant

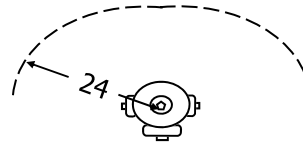
During winter months, maintaining access to fire hydrants is very important. It's also a real challenge. In Squaw Valley, access is generally maintained by the water purveyor, sometimes with assistance from the fire department. Sometimes, the job is practically overwhelming, requiring the better part of a week before all of the hydrants have been shoveled out.

This is an area in which citizen involvement and assistance are most welcome. Do your firefighters and yourself a favor by adopting the hydrant closest to your home - make it **your** hydrant.

The time that it takes to locate and dig out a hydrant seem like an eternity during a fire, but it won't take long to shovel out your hydrant before it is needed. No complicated paperwork is required and you can do your bit for neighborhood fire safety under cover of darkness for anonymity or at high noon to earn the approval and gratitude of your neighbors.

Do your part for winter fire safety in Squaw Valley, adopt a hydrant today!

When digging out a hydrant, please keep in mind that we need at least 24" clearance in all directions from the center of the hydrant - see the diagram below for an ideal job!



STREET

## Summer Wildland Fires and Defensible Space

SVFD had a very quiet wildland season, spending only ten days outside of our local region. For comparison, last summer (2018) SVFD sent engines and crews to several wildland fires throughout the State of California as part of the mutual aid system, and our Type III engine spent over 70 days out of the District!

We are thankful to not have had any wildland fires in our own District, and we are proud of our Defensible Space Program. Please get your defensible space work done early this spring prior to our first inspections, and make sure to maintain it throughout the summer, when fire danger increases.

## Notification Systems to Keep You Informed

We continue to encourage people to sign up for **Nixle**, a tool for better communicating emergency information to our residents. The texted information and link allow us to provide rapid and effective notification to our community - it's easy to subscribe and equally easy to unsubscribe if you choose. Simply text our zip code - 96146 - to 888777 on your phone - you'll receive a confirmation text immediately. We texted information a few times the last few winters with avalanche advisories and will continue to notify residents of emergency notifications. We try to limit the amount of notices that go out to maintain a level of importance when you receive a text. For more information, see: <http://www.nixle.com/>. Squaw Valley Fire Department also has a Facebook page where more routine FD info is posted. We also encourage people to sign up for **PlacerAlert** through the Placer County website at [placer.ca.gov](http://placer.ca.gov). This system enables Placer County to provide you with critical information quickly in a variety of situations, such as severe weather, unexpected road closures, missing persons and evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods.

## Olympic Meadow Deal on Hold, Partners Still Committed to its Conservation

The campaign to conserve nearly 30 acres of creek and meadow in the heart of Olympic Valley is on hold, but Squaw Valley Public Service District and the Truckee Donner Land Trust are still committed to seeing the land conserved and made available for the community to enjoy.

A public financing package was slated for consideration by voters in Olympic Valley on the November 5<sup>th</sup> ballot but the measure was withdrawn due to technical concerns with the measure.

Additionally the Poulsen Family Trust (the sellers) and the buyers ran into unexpected complications with the purchase process that need further clarification.

The Public Service District, the Land Trust and the Poulsen Family Trust all remain steadfast in the importance of this property for conservation, outdoor recreation and community benefit. The property, at the intersection of Squaw Valley Road and Squaw Creek Road, contains the foot of Olympic Meadow and a stretch of Squaw Creek, and is the first sweeping view residents and visitors alike are greeted with when entering the valley.

"The Land Trust is confident that after this legal wrinkle is ironed out, this iconic property will be preserved," said Perry

Norris, Executive Director for the Land Trust. "There's no other opportunity like this in the Valley."

The Land Trust and Public Service District began working together in the winter of 2019 to put a down payment on the property and to create a fundraising strategy.

"The District's Board and staff carefully evaluate opportunities to improve services for our constituents who have been requesting park services for years. We hope to expand our parks services by creating public access to Squaw Creek and the meadow as well. We are confident the opportunity remains to deliver this recreational asset to our community and its visitors" said Mike Geary, Public Service District General Manager.

The developable portion of the land could be built up to nearly 300-bedroom units under another buyer, which would forever impact the property, the potential for public access, and the incredible viewshed. The Land Trust and Public Service District envision trails, benches and picnic tables giving the public access to the open space, with the potential for limited construction of a to-be-determined community asset within the footprint already developed as the Poulsen family home.

To learn more, go to [www.svpsd.org](http://www.svpsd.org) and [tdlandtrust.org](http://tdlandtrust.org).

## Newly Appointed Board Member: Katy Hover-Smoot



**K**aty Hover-Smoot was appointed to the District's Board of Directors in September 2019 to fill a seat vacated by the resignation of Eric Poulsen.

Hover-Smoot works as an Art History Professor for Sierra College, Sierra Nevada College, and Cerro Coso College, offering courses to students living on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada from Nevada County to Kern County. She is passionate about providing students in

remote, underserved areas of the state with diverse educational opportunities that empower them to continue their studies at the undergraduate or graduate level.

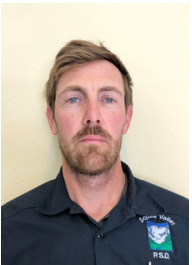
Prior to moving to the basin, Hover-Smoot attended school at UC Santa Cruz (BA), Williams College (MA), and UC

Berkeley (PhD), and worked for both national and international arts organizations including SF MoMA where she contributed to the exhibition, The Steins Collect: Matisse, Picasso, and the Parisian Avant Garde. Hover-Smoot has also served as a Development Coordinator for FRAME, The French Regional Museum Exchange—a cultural diplomacy group of 24 French and American museums—which facilitated exhibitions on Caravaggio and Courbet. She has held curatorial and research roles in other organizations, including, The Clark Art Institute, The Musée D'Orsay, The Bedford Gallery, and BAM/PFA.

An avid skier, trail runner, and cyclist, you can often find her and her husband, Andy, walking their Australian shepherd, Queso, around Squaw Valley in the late afternoon. Hover-Smoot is proud to be a fifth-generation Californian and hopes to be a fiscally responsible, but environmentally sensitive, steward of our local and natural resources.

## SVPD Welcomes Two New Operator Trainees

### Tyler Livezey



Tyler (Ty) was hired as an Operations Specialist Trainee in August 2019 after the retirement of longtime District employee, John O'Neal. Prior to working at the District, Ty worked at the Forest Service for 16 years as a wildland firefighter.

Ty is married and has two beautiful girls, Evie, 8 months, and Lilly Dell 3 years old. When he's not working on the water and

sewer systems in the valley, you can find Ty fly fishing, snowboarding, surfing, mountain biking, and hanging out with his family!

### Nicolas Massetani

Nicolas (Nic) Massetani was also hired on as an Operations Specialist Trainee in August 2019. Nic has been living in the Tahoe area since 2010, and previously worked as a wildland firefighter for the US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management since 2012. Nic lives in Truckee with his wife, Adelaide, and in his free time enjoys fly fishing, snowboarding, surfing and mountain biking. Can you tell Nic and Ty are friends? If you see them out in the Valley, make sure to say hi!





## **Last Chance to Claim your Toilet Rebate!!!**

**O**ur Toilet Rebate Program is only open until April 30, 2020. The District received a grant to replace up to 200 water wasting toilets by offering participants a \$100 refund on a qualified purchase of a new 1.6 Gallon per Flush (GPF) WaterSense compliant toilet. The process is simple— just contact the District prior to replacing your existing toilet, fill out an application and we'll send someone over to make sure you qualify! To qualify, your house must have been built prior to 1994, and your old toilet must use more than two gallons per flush. Each house may receive a rebate for up to 2 toilets.

### **IS YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION CURRENT?**

If you would like to provide us with your updated information, please visit our website at [www.svpsd.org](http://www.svpsd.org) and select the "CONTACT US" tab at the top of the homepage!  
Or call the office at (530) 583-4692 x207.

## **Consumer Confidence Report Now Available Online**

The Squaw Valley Public Service District is proud to supply safe, reliable and healthy water that meets or exceeds State and Federal public health standards for drinking water. Annually, the District publishes a water quality report titled "Consumer Confidence Report" (CCR) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The purpose of the CCR is to raise customers' awareness of the quality of their drinking water, where it comes from, what it takes to deliver water to their homes, and the importance of protecting drinking water sources.

In recent years the District has mailed its customers a printed copy of the CCR to comply with the SDWA. The California Department of Public Health has expanded its interpretation of the SDWA to allow for electronic delivery of the CCR. To view our 2018 Consumer Confidence Report and learn more about your drinking water, please visit the following URL: <https://www.svpsd.org/sites/default/files/2018CCR.pdf>

If you would like a paper copy of the 2018 CCR mailed to your mailing address or would like to speak with someone about the report, please call (530) 583-4692 x207.

