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# ON TAP

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### **RECOGNITION OF MS. SHARON E. SMITH, FORMER DISTRICT SECRETARY AND TREASURER**

At the November 20, 2013, Regular Board Meeting, a moment of silence was held in memory of a former District employee that has left an indelible mark on the organization. Ms. Sharon E. Smith, who worked as the District Services Supervisor, which included the roles of District Secretary and District Treasurer, for Trabuco Canyon Water District from 1988 to 2010, passed away on October 25, 2013. Ms. Smith was 66 years old. She is survived by her two children and a newborn grandson.

Ms. Smith was an integral part of the District throughout her twenty-two year long career. Her role as both the District Secretary and District Treasurer required the preparation of monthly public meeting notifications, agendas and meeting documents, as well as the permanent mark of her signature on all District ordinances, resolutions, and agreements during that time. She was formally credited in spring 2007 as the Project Manager of the District California Friendly Garden Project at the Administrative Facility. She was closely involved in the hiring of each District employee up until her date of retirement on February 13, 2010. Ms. Smith is a friend who will be missed greatly by the Board of Directors and District Staff.

### **WATER EFFICIENT GARDENING TIPS FOR WINTER**

As the autumn season closes, it is important for customers to remember to continue to cut back on outdoor watering. By the end of December, plants will need as little as one-third the amount of irrigated water which they needed in the warmer months, and

even less if we receive normal rainfall levels this winter.

Most outdoor plants are now continuing to slow their growth rate, which is the opposite of the spring growth phase. To make sure you are applying the adequate quantity of needed water, watch for signs of stress. The typical symptoms of stress in plants and bushes are when the leaves droop or start to turn color, and lawns show stress when grass blades do not pop back up when stepped on. In order to determine if you are applying enough water, check the moisture of the soil three to six inches below the surface. Even in heavy clay soils, the clay remains moist beneath the surface even though the surface appears to be dry. Also, shrubs and trees require about half the water that turf needs.

Most importantly, don't forget to turn off your sprinklers when it rains; there is nothing more wasteful than an irrigation system in operation during the rain. If this presents difficulty, consider installing an automatic rain shut-off device to the irrigation system. As a final tip, add to your New Year's Resolution list to change out the irrigation timer battery. These small batteries have a tendency to fail at the most inopportune time, which in turn, could play havoc with your personally designed irrigation schedule.

Finally, remember that we are currently in the Cool Months period of the Conservation Encouragement Rate Program, or what is more commonly known as the tiered rate structure. The Cool Month period

began in October and carries through to March. An explanation of the tiered rate structure can be found on the District website at [www.tcwd.ca.gov](http://www.tcwd.ca.gov). If you have any questions concerning efficient watering, please contact Customer Service at (949) 858-0277.

### THE IMPACT OF HOLIDAY MEALS

During the holidays, many of us plan to cook special meals to share with our families. Unfortunately, there is a potential hidden danger to the sanitary sewer infrastructure in these meal preparations, which include both residential sewer pipes and TCWD's sanitary sewer mains. This hidden danger is grease.

Grease needs to be handled carefully all year round, but especially this time of year. It is important to know that larger quantities of grease created by cooking a turkey, ham, or roast can result in problems within your home's sewer pipes, as well as within your neighborhood, if not disposed of properly.



***TCWD'S Vactor Truck is routinely used to clean the District's sewer main lines as preventative maintenance.***

Never pour grease down your sink drain, toilet, or garbage disposal unit. Instead, pour the grease waste into a can and refrigerate or freeze until solid, and then dispose of it on trash day. An empty soup can works well for everyday cooking. However, you may want to save an empty coffee can to hold the grease waste for larger holiday meals. Finally, when cleaning up after the meal, wipe the excess grease from pots, pans, and utensils with paper towels before washing. Grease poured down kitchen sinks and other drains can be a great contributor to odors, residential

sewage blockages, as well as larger sewage spills. These few simple steps can make a difference in helping TCWD protect the environment by preventing sewer spills.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board of Directors Regular Meeting is scheduled for the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the District's Administrative Facility, which is located at 32003 Dove Canyon Drive, Trabuco Canyon. The public is encouraged to attend.

### REGULAR BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following items are highlights or matters discussed at the November 20, 2013, Regular Board Meeting:

- Approval of the District's Arbitrage Rebate Calculation
- Recognition of Ms. Sharon Smith, Former District Secretary and Treasurer
- Status update on District Website Upgrade Project
- Status update on District OPEB Obligation Trust
- District Financial Audit Report for Fiscal Year 2012/13
- Status update on Alternate Raw Water Transmission Line Project
- Status update on Baker Regional Water Treatment Facility Project.
- Status update on Shadow Rock Detention Basin Facility Project.
- Approval of Agreement for Contract Services for the Golf Club Sewer Lift Station Upgrades and Rehabilitation
- Status update on the proposed Independent Special Districts of Orange County (ISDOC) Bylaws Amendments.

**ON TAP** is published and distributed by Trabuco Canyon Water District. We welcome your comments, suggestions and questions. Please call or write Michael Perea at  
**Trabuco Canyon Water District**  
 32003 Dove Canyon Drive  
 Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679  
 Phone: (949) 858-0277 | Fax: (949) 858-3025  
[www.tcwd.ca.gov](http://www.tcwd.ca.gov)