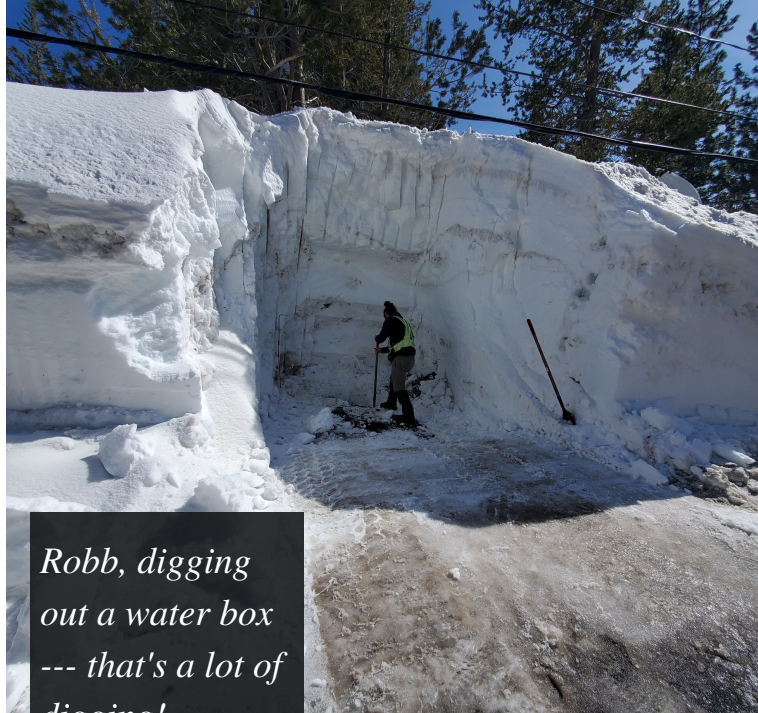


DIRECT FROM THE DISTRICT

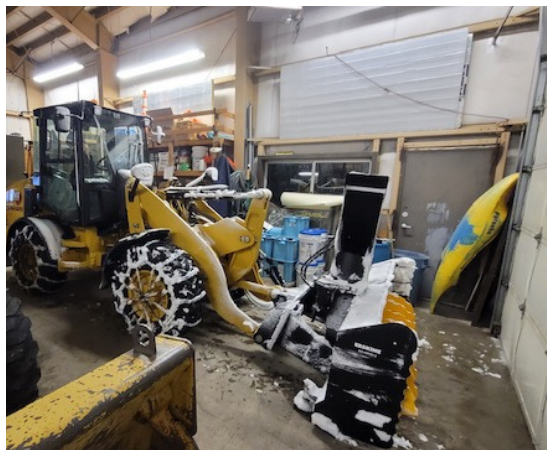
GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Spring is here --- finally! Wow, what a winter we had. I want to send out big kudo's to our team here at ASCWD. Miguel and Robb worked extra hard this winter to help shovel out from the feet of snow that fell continuously. They not only had to keep our facilities cleared and accessible, but also the water boxes and utility access areas, as well as shoveling off the tops of the water tanks. A lot of hard work and they did such an awesome job keeping everyone safe and our facilities operating. Great job guys!



Robb, digging out a water box --- that's a lot of digging!

Also, a great big thank you to our Board and community for supporting the purchase of our new tractor with a snowblower attachment. Our new equipment arrived in late November - just in time for the big snow. I am not sure how we would have operated this winter without this new piece of equipment!



Enjoy your spring and summer, all of the winter melt has led to some beautiful greenery and wildflowers! As always, feel free to stop by the District offices anytime if you have questions or concerns! All my best for a fun and safe summer season! Joe



What goes best with coffee -- great conversation! Our 2nd annual Coffee & Conversation will take place on Friday, August 25th from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. I hope you will join the General Manager and ASCWD team at the District office for a cup of coffee and to learn more about what is going on in your community - what capital projects are planned, how the summer season is going, winter readiness preparations and also to let us know how we are doing! We look forward to seeing you on August 25th! If you have any questions, you can always contact Joe Mueller, GM, anytime at joe@alpinesprings.org or at 916-826-3912



save the date

Coffee & Conversation
August 25th: 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.
District Office



OPENING DAY - JULY 1ST!

Have you experienced our community park? Whether you are a regular visitor at our park or new, we hope you will come out and enjoy the park starting July 1st! Yes, we are a bit delayed with opening day - with all of the winter weather we had to wait for the snowmelt to begin park clean up and preparations for the summer! Now, with most of the snow melted your ASCWD team is hard at work preparing the park for you!



In celebration of opening day and weekend, we would like to invite our entire community out to enjoy this great asset we have. The District will be waiving the park pass requirement for opening weekend - July 1st and 2nd. So, if you are new to our community or haven't checked out our park yet, we

“
IN A WORLD THAT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY
VIRTUAL, THE PARKS REMAIN PLACES OF
VISCERAL BEAUTY. PLACES WHERE WE CAN
REMEMBER THAT WE ARE BUT A SMALL PART
OF THE LIFE ON THIS PLANET, AND THAT
IT IS A TRULY WONDERFUL PLANET AND
THE ONLY ONE WE'VE GOT.
”

— NEVADA BARR

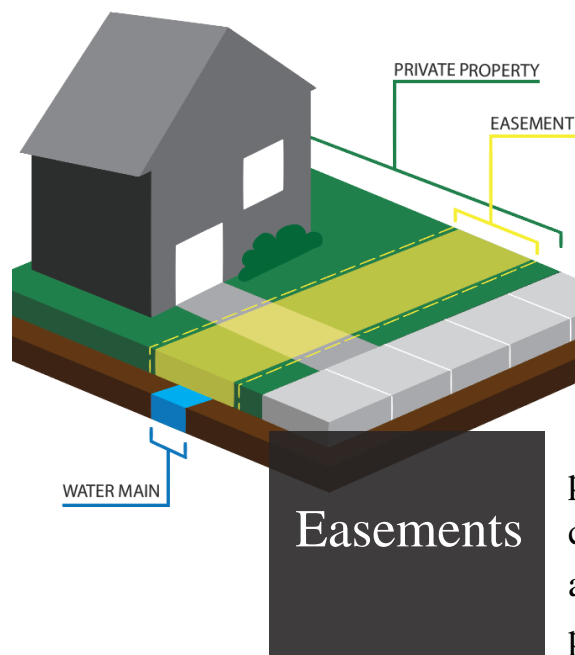
welcome you to enjoy the park over the 4th of July weekend and if you would like to purchase a park pass for the remainder of the season you can do so by visiting our website at alpinesprings.org.

www.alpinesprings.org

Easement Maintenance - Summer 2023!

ASCWD operations staff is starting its easement maintenance program this summer. We will start by locating and inspecting the utility easements throughout the valley, many of which run through private property. Problematic and overgrown easements will be identified and ranked for clearing. Once identified we will communicate with the landowners about the easements/encroachment and the necessity to remove any hazards that may exist to the ASCWD utilities. Some infrastructure hazards may be the homeowner's responsibility and will be addressed as the hazards are located. As a reminder, the District Code grants ASCWD the authority to remove any obstruction(s) at the cost of the property owner.

ASCWD staff would like to work with, and communicate with, every homeowner that may be affected with the removal of these hazards over the summer. If you have any questions about the easement maintenance program, please call the district at (530)583-2342. For more information on water and sewer easements, read the section below!



WATER AND SEWER EASEMENTS

What Is An Easement?

An easement is a legal right to use another person's land for a specific purpose. District-owned water and

sewer infrastructure that runs underground through private property is placed within easements to ensure District personnel can access the infrastructure to complete maintenance, repair, and replacement activities. The easements are attached to the property deed and pass on to the next property owner when the property is sold or transferred.

Why Does ASCWD Need Easements?

The District owns and maintains more than 10 miles of underground water and sewer infrastructure that weaves through the public roadways and private property. For the District to provide quality services and ensure the health and safety of our customers and the

environment, it is imperative that this infrastructure be well maintained. Infrastructure is placed within easements to assure that the district has the legal authority to access infrastructure located on private property for routine maintenance and during water and sewer emergencies. Additionally, easements restrict building in that part of the property to prevent damage to the infrastructure and to ensure adequate district access.

What Is Restricted In An ASCWD Water & Sewer Easement?

To allow for access to water and sewer infrastructure for operation and maintenance activities, the District does not permit the installation of any objects (sheds, fences, decks, landscaping, irrigation systems, structures, boulders, fill, etc.) within water and sewer easements.

Trees and shrubs planted within water and sewer easements can develop deep extensive root systems that can grow into water and sewer pipes in search of water. Root intrusion into pipe systems will cause leaks and sewer backups that could result in a sewer spill on or near your property. Per district code, any such obstruction shall be removed by the property owner at their cost.

What If The Property Has Existing Improvements That Encroach On The Easement Area?

The District understands that each encroachment is unique. These encroachments are handled on a case-by-case basis in which the district will work with the property owner to determine the most appropriate way to handle obstructions located within an easement. District code grants the district the authority to remove any obstruction(s) at the cost of the property owner, however, the district will make every effort to work with the property owner before exercising this authority.

What Should I Do If I Am Planning A Project That May Impact The Easement Area Or If I Have Any Questions About Easements On My Property?

If you are planning on landscaping, building any small structures, decks or a home or garage additions on your property, please contact ASCWD well beforehand so that we may review your plans and mark up the location of water and sewer infrastructure that may be located on or around your property.

Not all easements are clearly indicated on property deeds so contacting the District while in the planning stage of a project is an important first step even if you do not believe your property is affected by any easements or water sewer infrastructure. District review of plans is required by district code and early review will help speed up the permitting process and avoid easement encroachment issues. Please feel free to contact the Alpine Springs County Water District for more information on the plan review process and avoid easement encroachment issues. We appreciate your patience and understanding and look forward to working with you to maintain our infrastructure and your beautiful mountain home.



BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICE TESTING

Backflow Prevention Device

ASCWD would like to encourage any homeowner with an irrigation backflow device to test it in July or August even if it has been already tested earlier in the year. We have had an abnormal winter with multiple backflow devices never getting tested and falling out of compliance. It is so much easier for the technician to find and test this device in the middle of summer than it is in the winter months. It is up to the homeowner to know when these devices need to be tested and if you need help locating, or figuring out if you have or even need a backflow device, please call the main office at (530)583-2342. This test is on an annual basis and is very quick and easy but needs to be done to protect our drinking water.

If you are a new or existing homeowner in the valley and you would like general information on how you can keep your device in compliance or about testing please feel free to call us at district office. As a reminder, see information provided previously regarding backflow prevention!

BACKFLOW PREVENTION

The Alpine Springs County Water District is committed to delivering safe, high-quality water to our customers. Our water system operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, ensuring that the water delivered to our customers is kept free from harmful contaminants. An important part of our program is the Backflow Prevention. When a water line is connected to equipment containing a non-potable substance, this is known as a cross-connection. Contamination may occur when water flows through a cross-connection from a non-potable source. Some examples are fire sprinkler systems, irrigation systems, heating, and cooling systems, etc.... This can happen through a process known as a backflow.

There are more than 100 backflow prevention assemblies on water services in the Alpine Meadows distribution system. The California Division of Drinking Water and Placer county Department of Health requires each of these assemblies to be tested annually. This testing is the owner's responsibility and must be performed by licensed backflow testers. The District sends out email reminders if you have a lapse in your testing. Failing to have the assembly tested yearly will result in your water being turned off to protect the rest of the distribution system. Any homeowners that have outside irrigation backflow devices should consider dewatering their systems for the winter months to prevent damage. Winter freezes are a major cause of leaks throughout our service area. Questions about backflow devices and annual testing requirements can be addressed to Miguel Ramirez Operations Manager with the Alpine Springs County Water District, at miguel@alpinesprings.org, or (530) 583-2342.



ASCWD UTILITY AND GARBAGE RATES FAQs

WATER BILL

Water Rates!

In May, the District adopted new utility rates and we want to thank the community for your support. By approving the new rates, you will see your dollars at work to improve the District's aging and declining infrastructure and fire flow improvement. There have been many questions about the new rates and below are some of the frequently asked questions and answers!

- Water Operating and Maintenance expenses were projected to escalate over the next five years based on recent inflationary trends. Current FY 22/23 water O&M is budgeted at \$594,000 and projected to increase 5 percent per year to \$742,000 by FY 27/28.
- The annual rate for the average water user (base plus water usage) is \$1326.
- Rates will fund the required water reserve levels at \$794,000 in FY27/28. Current reserves shared over all three funds are approximately \$600,000, total future need is \$1,182,000. Rates include funding for the following water Capital improvement Projects over the next five years.
 1. Ongoing water service line replacements and or rehab to the house meter at a rate of 1% per year (7 to 8 services) taking 100 years to complete the entire system. Approximately \$50,000 per year.
 2. Spring #1 rebuild \$30,000.
 3. Spring #2 rebuild \$25,000.
 4. Three water pumping stations to move water throughout the valley in case of a fire (Project need was identified in 2013 and has been moving on the CIP list for many years) \$3,600,000.
 5. AME well redundancy improvements and generator installation \$260,000.
 6. Water storage tank maintenance, inspection, rehab or replacement of the three 60 plus-year-old concrete water tanks \$1,500,000.
 7. Planning and design work for a Juniper Mt pump station and new Tank 6, \$265,000.
- The water capital projects were prioritized based on improving fire flows.
- The planning and design effort is needed on CIPs before ASCWD will be competitive for grants and low interest loans as projects must be at a level where the application and project can be evaluated and ranked.
- The emergency Tank 4 and 4A replacement project cost is almost double the original engineers estimate depleting all of the District reserves.

Water Rates Cont.

- Snowmaking water is non potable and is a very low portion of the district revenue and water volume, budgeted at \$20,000 per season and largely dependent on the weather (FY22/23 snowmaking

revenues will be \$7,000). The Ski resort owns most of the snowmaking water infrastructure to deliver water and has in the past paid the upfront cost of well development for the benefit of the entire district.

- The rate increases are not being used to finance infrastructure improvements for new developments. The district is not subsidizing development projects. The developer is responsible for their portion of the improvements needed to serve their development 100%.



- Sewer Operating and Maintenance expenses were projected to escalate over the next five years based on recent inflationary trends. Current FY 22/23 water O&M is budgeted at \$247,000 and projected to increase 3.8 percent per year to \$294,000 by FY 27/28.

- The residential rate is 37% lower than the single-family rate and 8% lower than the multi-family rate of our neighboring utility.
- Rates will fund the required sewer reserve levels at \$208,000 in FY27/28. Current reserves shared over all three funds are approximately \$600,000, total future need is \$1,182,000.
- Rates include funding for the following Sewer Capital Improvement Projects over the next five years.
 1. Ongoing sewer main line replacements and or rehab at a rate of 1 % per year (540 feet) taking 100 years to complete the entire system. Approximately \$140,000 per year.
 2. Ongoing sewer lateral line replacements and or rehab at a rate of 1 % per year (7 to 8 services) taking 100 years to complete the entire system. Approximately \$50,000 per year.

- Garbage Operating and Maintenance expenses were projected to escalate over the next five years based on recent inflationary trends. Current FY 22/23 garbage O&M is budgeted at \$241,000 and projected to increase 7 percent per year to \$325,000 by FY 27/28.

Garbage Rates!

- Contract Garbage hauling/disposal was calculated to escalate at 7 percent per year however TTSD has informed the District that expenses are out pacing revenues and that the FY23/24 increase to hauling/disposal will be approximately 11.2 percent.
- The District is responsible for providing garbage services throughout our service area and in Placer County refuse collection is mandatory. A local agency must be responsible for providing and overseeing this service, in Alpine Meadows, ASCWD is required to be that entity. A company such as TTSD cannot simply provide the service directly, for TTSD is a private company and does not fulfill the local agency requirement for oversight.



- Garbage administration fee covers the garbage funds share of the Districts overhead and direct cost. The garbage funds share of these expenses are approximately 5 percent (\$84,000). Funds in excess of this amount are used to cover higher than anticipated contract hauling/disposal expenses and fund reserve levels.

Garbage Rates Cont.

- Rates will fund the required garbage reserve levels at \$180,000 in FY27/28. Current reserves shared over all three funds are approximately \$600,000, total future need is \$1,182,000.



Have you had a chance to peruse the ASCWD website at www.alpinesprings.org? We have added a lot of information that we hope is helpful for you to stay apprised of District business. The website includes Board agendas, Board packets, meeting minutes, and an Action Plan for goals and objectives --- and of course our newsletter! We hope you enjoy access to these materials and look forward to continuing to enhance our communication.

Please Update Your Billing and E-mail Addresses

Did you know you can pay your utility bill throughout the year? Some customers prefer to make multiple service payments throughout the year instead of waiting for the year end bill to arrive. ASCWD can help you determine a schedule the best fits your individual

circumstances, be it month, quarterly, or semiannually just contact the district office to learn more about payment options.

Bills are issued July 1st of each year; make sure the District has your correct billing address as the District will not be responsible for any mail that comes back as undeliverable and you will incur a 10% penalty if payment is not received by the due date. The due date is July 31st, and there is a grace period until August 14th before penalties go out. ASCWD also has a payment plan, but you need to set up a payment plan with the District no later than August 13, 2023 with your first payment. If you would like the District to add you to the list of homeowners who receive their bill by email in addition to USPS, contact Pam Zinn at (530)583-2342 x3 between the hours of 9am to 3pm or send an email to info@alpinesprings.org. Also, please keep your email address up to date.

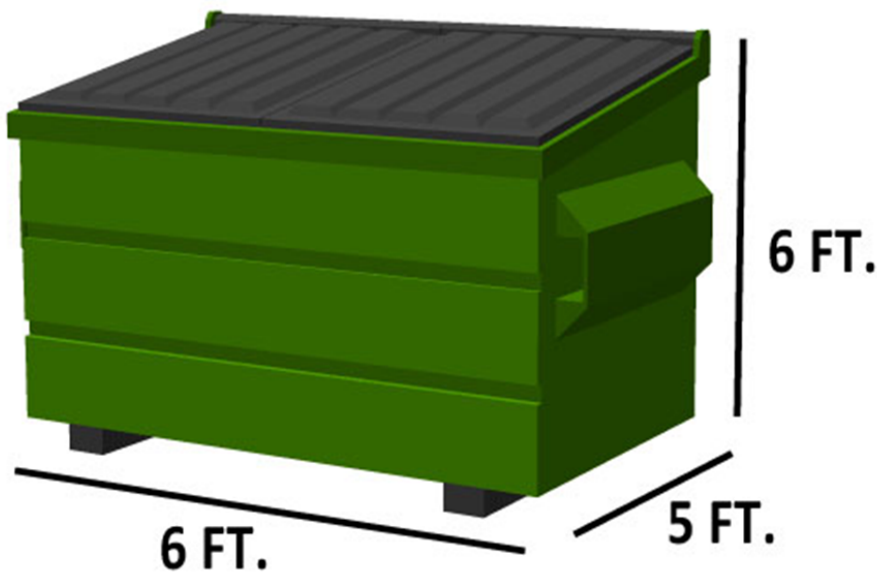


Get Defensive. Defensible Space increases the likelihood of your home surviving a wildfire. Properties within the State Responsibility Area (SRA) are required to create and maintain Defensible Space around structures.

Defensible Space and Green waste Clean-Up!

What is Defensible Space?

Defensible Space is a 100 foot buffer surrounding a home or other building that slows or stops the spread of wildfire. It helps protect your home and neighboring structures from direct flame contact or radiant heat ignition. It also improves protection for fire personnel defending your property.



Are you planning Defensible Space and Green Waste cleanup around your property? Instead of just having that pile of branches chipped consider a better alternative of a green waste dumpster.

Green waste dumpsters allow you to dispose of branches, tree needles, and cones completely by removing them from your property.

TTSD offers a 6-yard Green Waste only dumpster delivered to your door at a special rate for District Residents. Effective July 1st through October at the rate of \$146.03. Call TTSD directly to order (530) 583-0148

District Green belt lands and defensible space. The ASCWD owns a total of almost 107 acers of greenbelt lands throughout our community. In 2022, the Districts Park, Recreation, and Greenbelt Committee reviewed the districts nine parcels, assessing the need for treatment and ranked each area. The first step in preparing to treat public lands is to have a licensed forester complete a treatment plan and begin the environmental work (Currently the District is seeking a forester to perform this work). Upon completion of the treatment plan the District can then begin applying for possible grant funding for a treatment project.

Are you interested in extending your defensible space area into district greenbelt property - contact the District to find out how.

Do you have questions on defensible space? Or obtaining a 6-yard green waste dumpster --- we are happy to help! Please contact the District office at 530-583-2342 if you would like more information.

HELP TAHOE BREAK UP WITH PLASTIC!

With 99.994% purity, Tahoe Tap water has been voted the best tasting water in the country by the National Rural Water Association. The DRINK TAHOE TAP initiative is a program of the Tahoe Water Suppliers Association. It was designed to reduce the use of single-use plastics and increase accessibility to drinking water filling stations throughout the region. This initiative is working to encourage people to purchase and use reusable water bottles instead of single-use versions that end up in the landfill or worse — in Lake Tahoe.



Don't forget your reusable water bottle!

#facts

Tahoe Tap is far, far, far more rigorously tested than anything you might buy in a plastic bottle.



Every molecule of plastic ever created still exists.





*Annual Bear Bear
Box Reminder*

It's worth repeating - Be Bear Aware! The Board of Directors adopted an ordinance requiring all persons who rent their home on a part time or full-time bases to install a "Bear Box". The size of the Bear Box is determined by the size of your house. If the residential unit is less than 2,500 square feet you need a minimum of 1 bear box capable of holding 2 thirty-two (32) gallon cans. For residential units between 2,500 to 3,500 square feet you need a minimum of 1 bear box capable of holding 3 thirty-two (32) gallon cans.

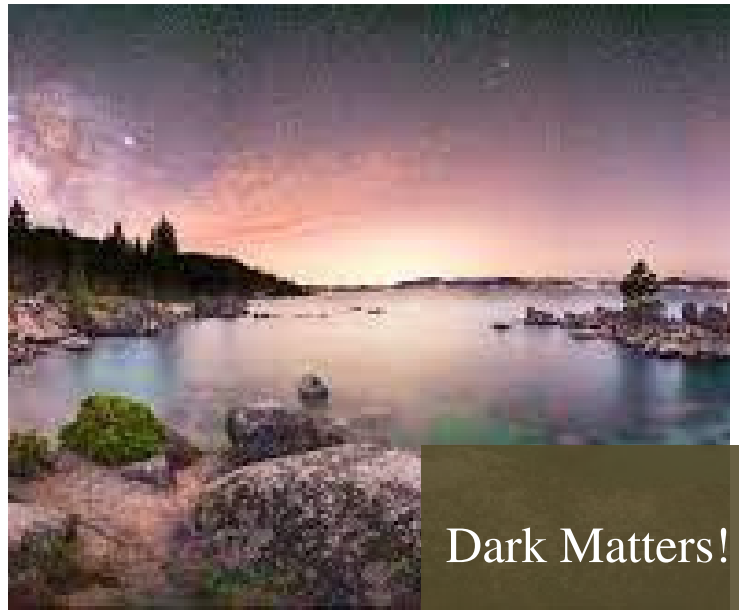
For residential units greater than 3,500 square feet you need a minimum of 1 bear box capable of holding 4 thirty-two (32) gallon cans. Curb side trash pickup is every Monday.

DARK SKIES

Do you know about Dark Skies?

Placer County regulates lighting — to minimize both impacts on neighborhoods and light pollution that diminishes our shared enjoyment of the night sky. Described broadly, Placer County's policy is to discourage the use of outdoor lighting that shines unnecessarily onto adjacent properties or into the night sky. You may wonder why this is important --- light pollution effects everyone!

If you are interested in learning more about the Dark Skies movement, visit darksky.org, but also, we ask you to remember to honor our dark skies and be aware of outdoor lighting! Enjoy your star gazing evenings!



Dark Matters!

Light Pollution Affects Us All!



Wildlife



Health



Energy



Heritage



Safety



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT: BE RIVER WISE

Most of us live or visit this area because of the beauty around us and ability to recreate year round, be it is skiing, hiking, biking, rafting, kayaking ... there are endless adventures awaiting you in the Tahoe region. But, this season, we ask that you use extra caution.

With the record-setting winter, snow melting from the Sierra down to our rivers makes for faster and stronger water flows - if you get swept in, there's a great chance you won't come out. Also, the

snowmelt is going to keep river water colder (40-45 degrees) for much of the summer. Spending as little as 15 minutes in river water is long enough to make your body hypothermic and seize your muscles, making you unable to stay afloat. Be river-wise, this year is different!

TAKE IT SLOW, TAHOE

Inevitably with warmer weather comes faster speeds! During the summer months we often see more cars driving much faster. While not as much of an issue in our community, this is still a good reminder from our friends at Take Care Tahoe! Take Care Tahoe is taking on traffic safety by distributing free yard signs to the public that encourage drivers to “Take it Slow, Tahoe.”

The message of “Take it Slow, Tahoe” captures the attention of drivers and creatively

incorporates artwork to remind them why driving safely is so important: to protect people and animals. If you would like a free yard sign to display at your home, contact the District office to find out where to pick one up -- we are happy to help get the word out about these signs in support of this valuable reminder!



Protect people and animals

**Take
care.**

*Pick up your free
yard-sign at the
District Office
today!*



ASCWD GENERAL INFORMATION

Board meetings are now offered in a hybrid format - both in person and available virtually via zoom. Upcoming Board Meetings are:

- Friday, July 14th, at 9:00 a.m.
- Friday, August 14th, at 9:00 a.m.
- Friday, September 8th, at 9:00 a.m.
- Friday, October 13th, at 9:00 a.m.
- Friday, November 10th, at 9:00 am

*Save the Date: Coffee
& Conversation
August 25, 2023
8:00 am -10:00 pm
District Office*



Board Of Directors

Janet S. Grant, President
Janice Ganong, Vice-President
Evan Salke
Dave Smelser
Christine York

District Staff

Joe Mueller, General Manager
Pam Zinn, Office Manager
Miguel Ramirez, Operations & Maintenance
Supervisor
Robb Pascarella, Operations Specialist