



WASHOE GOLF COURSE TO REDUCE IRRIGATION WATER BY 42%

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Why is Washoe County reducing irrigation by 42 percent and not the recommended 10 percent like the rest of the community?

A: Washoe County Golf Course has multiple sources of water supporting irrigation at the course: Steamboat Ditch (a diversion of the Truckee River), well water, TMWA service and rain/snow. Of these sources of water, the course relies primarily on the ditch water during the summer months, but it is expected to be turned off soon. Irrigating the course without the ditch water is challenging due to many factors, including the cost of purchasing additional water. Based on these factors and the ongoing drought, Washoe County has determined that a 42 percent reduction in irrigation is the right thing to do to protect the asset while still providing a playable course.

Q: Who decides when the ditch system is to be turned off?

A: The Federal Water Master makes this decision based on flows in the Truckee River system

Q: Can't Washoe County utilize other sources of water to irrigate the golf course? Is effluent/reclaimed water available or can the County drill another well?

A: Not at this time. Currently effluent/reclaimed water is not available to this particular area of the community, as there is no infrastructure in place to pipe the water from existing water reclamation facilities. Washoe County has previously drilled multiple test wells and has been unsuccessful in finding suitable water on the golf course property. The water that is in this area is geothermal in nature, with extremely high temperatures and Ph levels, which are not suitable to sustain a golf course.

Q: Will the golf course still be playable?

A: Yes. Washoe Golf Course is an important part of our local history and the County has an obligation to preserve this resource into the future for the benefit of the community. County staff will target certain areas to ensure the course is still playable for the public to use and enjoy. Putting greens, tee boxes, and fairways will be the focus.

Q: What will the golf course look like?

A: The driving range, practice triangle, perimeter fence line, and all roughs will not be irrigated after the ditch system is turned off. While these areas will not receive water, staff will still be maintaining (mowing, spraying) them to ensure that weeds and dust are at a manageable level.





WASHOE COUNTY



Q: Will there be increased fire danger due to dry areas?

A: A large portion of the course will still be green, creating a natural fire break and the irrigation system is in good working order should an incident occur.

Q: Will green fees be adjusted once the course goes dry?

A: Summer rates will remain for the time being. Based on the number of rounds being played, rates may be adjusted to meet demand and based on course conditions.

Q: Will scheduled tournaments still be able to take place?

A: Yes. Staff is actively working with all scheduled tournament groups about what course conditions to expect. It will be at tournament organizer's discretion whether or not to hold the tournament as planned. Staff will work with each group to address accommodations requested to ensure their event is a success.

