

# Opinion: Rise and Runnels right for STPUD

To the community,

My name is Ernie Claudio and I was on the STPUD board of directors for two years in 2007. The only candidates I met while on the board were Dale Rise and John Runnels. These two candidates have proven their ability to say "No" to the STPUD management.

STPUD or the district is a multimillion-dollar organization with dreams of becoming even bigger by increasing water rates. We need candidates who can say, "No, economic times are bad, people are struggling, give the citizens a break and put your growth on hold for awhile."

The district's strategy is, "Ask for high rates and see if anybody complains." "If the people don't complain, then we will raise the rates." We need to complain. If there are a lot of complaints, then the board of directors will not let the district increase the water rates. We need Mr. Rise and Mr. Runnels on the board because they are the only candidates who have proven they're ability to stand up to the powerful district management.

I have a water meter and my bill jumped up by \$120. At this rate, my water bill will increase by more than \$400 a year. We need to organize. There is a local group called The Citizens for Responsible Government. This group successfully stopped the Business Improve District tax proposed in 2004. This group is thinking of holding a public meeting to see how many people are not in favor of this rate increase.

Meanwhile, we need to show up at every STPUD meeting and speak for three minutes at the beginning of the meeting, the meetings start at 2pm on the first and third Thursdays. Show

up, speak and be on our way home by 2:30pm.

See you at the next meeting.

**Ernie Claudio, South Lake Tahoe**