



Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District

Regular Board Meeting

DATE: October 21, 2014
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: Hidden Valley Lake CSD
Administration Office, Boardroom
19400 Hartmann Road
Hidden Valley Lake, CA

- 1) CALL TO ORDER
- 2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 3) ROLL CALL
- 4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- 5) CONSENT CALENDAR
 - (A) MINUTES: Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting
September 16, 2014

 - (B) DISBURSEMENTS: Check #032149 - #032218 for a total of \$206,928.62

- 6) BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS (for information only, no action anticipated)
 - Personnel Committee
 - Finance Committee
 - Emergency Preparedness Committee

- 7) BOARD MEMBER ATTENDANCE AT OTHER MEETINGS (for information only, no action anticipated)
 - ACWA Region 1
 - ACWA State Legislative Committee
 - County OES
 - Other meetings attended

- 8) STAFF REPORTS (for information only, no action anticipated)
 - General Manager's Report

- 9) PUBLIC HEARING to consider placement of default balance liens on real property pursuant to Government Code Section 61115

- 10) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Adoption of Resolution 2014-14 confirming default balances and directing staff to file liens on real property

- 11) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Presentation of water/sewer rate study results

- 12) PUBLIC COMMENT

- 13) BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

- 14) CLOSED SESSION: Consultation and advice from legal counsel regarding pending litigation (one case/multiple claims). California Government Code Section 54956.9(a)

- 15) ADJOURNMENT

Public records are available upon request. Board Packets are posted on our website at www.hiddenvalleylakecsd.com. Click on the "Board Packet" link on the Agenda tab.

In compliance to the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special accommodations to participate in or attend the meeting please contact the District Office at 987-9201 at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

Public shall be given the opportunity to comment on each agenda item before the Governing Board acts on that item, G.C. 54953.3. All other comments will be taken under Public Comment.



**HIDDEN VALLEY LAKE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 16, 2014**

The Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District Board of Directors met this evening at the District office located at 19400 Hartmann Road, in Hidden Valley Lake, California. Present were:

Director Judy Mirbegian, President
Director Jim Freeman, Vice President
Director Jim Lieberman
Director Carolyn Graham
Director Linda Herndon
Tami Ipsen, Administrative Services Officer
Roland Sanford, General Manager

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Mirbegian.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion made by Director Freeman and second by Director Herndon the Board unanimously approved the agenda.

CONSENT CALENDAR

On a motion made by Director Graham and second by Director Lieberman the Board unanimously approved the following Consent Calendar items:

- (A) Minutes: Approval of the Board of Directors meeting August 19, 2014
- (B) Disbursements: Approval of check #032090-#032148 including direct deposits and bank drafts for a total of \$751,860.24

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel Committee: No report
Finance Committee: No report
Emergency Preparedness Committee: No report

BOARD MEMBER ATTENDANCE AT OTHER MEETINGS

ACWA Region 1 Board: No report

ACWA State Legislative Committee: Director Herndon reported the committee continues to discuss legislative proposals to assist low income households with water utility payments.

County OES: No report

STAFF REPORTS

General Manager's Report: In addition to his written report, General Manager Roland Sanford briefed the Board on the status of the District's water supply and water conservation efforts. He reported staff had met with the Lake County LAFCO (LAFCO) Director to discuss the scope of work and LAFCO's schedule for completing the District's Municipal Service Review, and noted an error in the Water Fund financial report that was included in the Board Packet (a corrected copy of the financial report – corrections to the Water Fund expenditure summary table – was distributed to Board members and the audience).

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Adoption of resolution 2014-13 in support of "The Water Quality Supply Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1)"

On a motion made by Director Herndon and second by Director Graham the Board unanimously approved resolution 2014-13, a Resolution of the Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District Board of Directors Supporting Proposition 1 – The Water Quality, Supply and infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Adoption of District Vision Statement

On a motion made by Director Graham and second by Director Lieberman the Board unanimously approved the following vision statement:

"Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District is widely recognized as a leading rural water purveyor and innovative water management agency."

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Districts of Distinction Accreditation

General Manager Roland Sanford outlined the process and work products needed to obtain Districts of Distinction Accreditation. In recognition of staff's existing workload, the Board chose to temporarily suspend efforts to obtain Districts of Distinction Accreditation - until at least April 2015.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A member of the public expressed support for the posting of the District Mission Statement on the wall of the Board Room.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

There were no Board member comments.

**CLOSED SESSION: Real Property Negotiations Pursuant to
Government Code Section 5456.8**

The Board of Directors went into closed session at 8:20 p.m. and returned to open session at 9:10 p.m. There was no reportable action taken in closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Director Freeman and second by Director Graham the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Judy Mirbegian Date
President of the Board

Roland Sanford Date
General Manager/Secretary to
the Board



HIDDEN VALLEY LAKE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 2014

DISBURSEMENT SUMMARY REPORT

9/1/2014-9/30/2014

Disbursement Summary

Fund		
120 - Sewer	\$	78,737.20
130 - Water	\$	86,831.52
215 - USDA Sewer Bond	\$	-
217 - State Loan	\$	-
218 - CIEDB	\$	-
219 - USDA Solar Project	\$	-
375 - Sewer Reserve Improvement	\$	-
711 - Bond Administration	\$	2,152.86
	SUB TOTAL	\$ 167,721.58
*Payroll	\$	39,207.04
Total Warrants	\$	206,928.62

**Funds disbursed directly to employees and Directors. Pass-thru funds (collected from the employee and paid on their behalf by the District) are included in totals for funds 120 and 130.*



HIDDEN VALLEY LAKE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 2014

DISBURSEMENT SUMMARY REPORT

9/1/2014-9/30/2014

DRAFT DATE	TYPE	NUMBER	NAME	CHECK AMOUNT	STATUS
09/05/2014	D	BANK-DRAFT	US DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY	4,644.58	P
09/05/2014	D	BANK-DRAFT	US DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY	1,155.00	P
09/19/2014	D	BANK-DRAFT	NATIONWIDE RETIREMENT SOLUTION	4,859.56	P
09/19/2014	D	BANK-DRAFT	NATIONWIDE RETIREMENT SOLUTION	1,155.00	P
TOTAL				11,814.14	

CHECK DATE	TYPE	CHECK NUMBER	NAME	CHECK AMOUNT	STATUS
09/05/2014	R	32149	SIERRA CHEMICAL CO.	499.17	P
09/05/2014	R	32150	ALPHA ANALYTICAL LABORATORIES	906.00	P
09/05/2014	R	32151	GRAPHIC FX, INC.	358.77	P
09/05/2014	R	32152	PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY	21,134.21	P
09/05/2014	R	32153	USA BLUE BOOK	197.41	P
09/05/2014	R	32154	NORMAN ROGERS	65.00	P
09/05/2014	R	32155	SAM GARCIA	75.00	P
09/05/2014	R	32155	SAM GARCIA VOIDED	(75.00)	P
09/05/2014	R	32156	MEDIACOM	356.08	P
09/05/2014	R	32157	CALIFORNIA RURAL WATER ASSOCIA	915.00	P
09/05/2014	R	32158	WAGNER & BONSIGNORE	1,462.50	P
09/05/2014	R	32159	SPECIAL DISTRICT RISK MANAGEME	14,009.06	P
09/05/2014	R	32160	KAREN JENSEN	56.00	P
09/05/2014	R	32161	PATRICIA WILKINSON	50.40	P
09/05/2014	R	32162	RICOH AMERICAS CORPORATION	153.38	P
09/05/2014	R	32163	ELLISON, SCHNEIDER & HARRIS L.	1,825.28	P
09/05/2014	R	32164	OFFICE DEPOT	145.83	P
09/05/2014	R	32165	GHD	795.50	P
09/05/2014	R	32166	COASTLAND CIVIL ENGINEERING, I	420.00	P
09/05/2014	R	32167	WOODARD, JON	267.50	P
09/05/2014	R	32168	CALIFORNIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RE	7,034.26	P
09/05/2014	R	32169	STATE OF CALIFORNIA EDD	1,317.95	P
09/05/2014	R	32170	VARIABLE ANNUITY LIFE INSURANC	100.00	P
09/12/2014	R	32171	ACWA/JPIA	959.98	P
09/12/2014	R	32172	GARDENS BY JILLIAN	200.00	P
09/12/2014	R	32173	LAKE COUNTY RECORD BEE	592.81	P
09/12/2014	R	32174	MICHELLE HAMILTON	625.00	P
09/12/2014	R	32175	REDFORD SERVICES	950.00	P
09/12/2014	R	32176	SOUTH LAKE REFUSE COMPANY	171.30	P
09/12/2014	R	32177	ALPHA ANALYTICAL LABORATORIES	1,644.00	P
09/12/2014	R	32178	VOID CHECK	-	P
09/12/2014	R	32179	FRED WALDON & FAMILY TRUCKING	476.91	P
09/12/2014	R	32180	HARDESTER'S MARKETS & HARDWARE	6.71	P
09/12/2014	R	32181	JEANINE BURNETT	100.00	P
09/12/2014	R	32182	POWER INDUSTRIES	2,132.46	P

CHECK DATE	TYPE	CHECK NUMBER	NAME	CHECK AMOUNT	STATUS
09/12/2014	R	32183	USA BLUE BOOK	117.88	P
09/19/2014	R	32184	AT&T	599.47	P
09/19/2014	R	32185	CARDMEMBER SERVICE	645.48	P
09/19/2014	R	32186	COASTLAND CIVIL ENGINEERING, I	6,658.25	P
09/19/2014	R	32187	Data Flow	177.20	P
09/19/2014	R	32188	DATAPROSE	327.04	P
09/19/2014	R	32189	DEVELOPMENT GROUP	142.00	P
09/19/2014	R	32190	KOFF & ASSOCIATES, INC.	864.00	P
09/19/2014	R	32191	MERRILL, ARNONE & JONES, LLP	378.96	P
09/19/2014	R	32192	NBS GOVERNMENT FINANCE GROUP	11,967.50	P
09/19/2014	R	32193	QSI 2011, INC.	9,000.00	P
09/19/2014	R	32194	SPECIAL DISTRICT RISK MANAGEME	32,202.62	P
09/19/2014	R	32195	SPECIALIZED UTILITY SERVICES	3,100.00	P
09/19/2014	R	32196	WAGNER & BONSIGNORE	2,346.25	P
09/19/2014	R	32197	ALPHA ANALYTICAL LABORATORIES	1,405.00	P
09/19/2014	R	32198	VOID CHECK	-	P
09/19/2014	R	32199	NAPA AUTO PARTS	460.99	P
09/19/2014	R	32200	PACE SUPPLY CORP	1,085.04	P
09/19/2014	R	32201	USA BLUE BOOK	360.32	P
09/19/2014	R	32202	VERIZON WIRELESS	520.50	P
09/19/2014	R	32203	CALIFORNIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RE	7,132.26	P
09/19/2014	R	32204	STATE OF CALIFORNIA EDD	1,418.71	P
09/19/2014	R	32205	VARIABLE ANNUITY LIFE INSURANC	100.00	P
09/19/2014	R	32206	VASQUEZ, ANGELITO C	124.48	P
09/26/2014	R	32207	PENNY, HENRY J	73.08	P
09/26/2014	R	32208	HARLEY SELLS	63.93	P
09/26/2014	R	32209	JIM LIEBERMAN	27.42	P
09/26/2014	R	32210	NBS GOVERNMENT FINANCE GROUP	2,152.86	P
09/26/2014	R	32211	ROLAND SANFORD	109.31	P
09/26/2014	R	32212	STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL	2,283.30	P
09/26/2014	R	32213	TAMI IPSEN	45.81	P
09/26/2014	R	32214	ALPHA ANALYTICAL LABORATORIES	528.00	P
09/26/2014	R	32215	ARMED FORCE PEST CONTROL, INC.	180.00	P
09/26/2014	R	32216	EEL RIVER FUELS, INC.	541.65	P
09/26/2014	R	32217	PACE SUPPLY CORP	1,950.82	P
09/26/2014	R	32218	TELSTAR INSTRUMENTS, INC	6,888.84	P
TOTAL				155,907.44	

PAYROLL:					
DATE	TYPE	NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	STATUS
09/05/2014		MISC.	PAYROLL DIRECT DEPOSIT	19,309.83	P
09/19/2014		MISC.	PAYROLL DIRECT DEPOSIT	19,897.21	P
TOTAL				39,207.04	

CHECK TOTAL: 155,907.44
BANK-DRAFT TOTAL: 11,814.14
PAYROLL TOTAL: 39,207.04
206,928.62



County of Lake Operational Area Disaster Committee

Office of Emergency Services
255 North Forbes Street, Lakeport, California 95453

Regular Meeting of the Lake Operational Area Disaster Committee

September 18, 2014, at 9:00 a.m.

**Kelseyville Fire Protection District, Station 55
4020 Main Street, Kelseyville, CA 95451**

Agenda

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Introductions:
 - a) Lake OES Staffing Update
- 3) Review and Approval of July 17, 2014, Meeting Minutes
- 4) Operational Area ("Op Area") Presentation:
 - a) Future meeting sign up distribution
- 5) Operations:
 - a) Drought Task Force – Marisa Chilafoe / Jan Coppinger
 - b) Napa Quake – Roger Sigtermans, Cal OES
- 6) Planning:
 - a) Emergency Operations Plan ("EOP") Updates – Marisa Chilafoe:
 - i) Interim Updates
 - ii) Care & Shelter Workgroup
 - b) Training:
 - i) CERT Program Update – Marisa Chilafoe / Jennifer Jones
 - ii) County of Lake ICS and EOC Training Update – Marisa Chilafoe
- 7) Logistics:
 - a) First Net Communications Update – Marisa Chilafoe / Brian Martin
 - b) Communications Workgroup – TBD
 - c) County/Op Area EOC Update – Marisa Chilafoe
- 8) Finance/Administration:
 - a) Grant Funding/Status Update – Marisa Chilafoe
 - i) Homeland Security Grant Program, FY 2014
 - ii) Emergency Management Performance Grant, FY 2014
- 9) Upcoming Events
- 10) Good of the Order
- 11) Adjourn



County of Lake – Lake Operational Area Disaster Committee

Office of Emergency Services
255 North Forbes Street, Lakeport, California 95453

Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Lake Operational Area Disaster Committee (“Op Area”)

July 17, 2014

**Kelseyville Fire Protection District
4020 Main Street, Kelseyville, CA 95451**

The regular meeting of the Op Area, was held on Thursday, July 17, 2014, at the Kelseyville Fire Protection District in Kelseyville, California. Matt Perry called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

The following members were in attendance: Marisa Chilafoe, Lake OES; Zabdy Neria, Lake OES; Lynnette Bertelli, LEAP; Jennifer Jones, Red Cross; Jim Wickham, PG&E; Bill Salatia, State Parks; Gary Basor, Lakeport Police; Bob Hendrickson, CSA #22; Cyndy Forbes, Sutter Hospital; Kris Chelini, CA National Guard; Scott Upton, Cal Fire; Carol Huchingson, Social Services; Dr. Karen Tait, Public Health; Mike Stone, Kelseyville Fire; Willie Sapeta, Lake County Fire; Kris Eutenier, Ag Commissioner; Jim Lieberman, Hidden Valley CSD; Jan Coppinger, Special Districts; Greg Bertelli, Cal Fire; Linda Juntunen, Lake County Fire Safe Council; Matt Perry, Administrative Office; Charles G. Russ, Hidden Valley Security; Jay Beristianos, Northshore Fire; Mark Dellinger, Special Districts; June Albor, Red Cross; Linda Fraser, Public Health; Jim Brown, Health Services; Chris Macedo, Sheriff's Office; Bill Davidson, Animal Control; Roger Sigtermans, Cal OES; Greg Scott, Lakeport Police; Kevin Thomson, Behavioral Health; Bill Holcomb, California Highway Patrol.

1) Welcome – Matt Perry:

Matt welcomed everyone in attendance to the first Op Area meeting in nearly two years, and reviewed the current transition of Lake OES, thanking the Sherriff's Office for their hard work through 2012. Matt also introduced Marisa Chilafoe as the Emergency Services Manager, and a brief summary of her qualifications.

2) Op Area Presentation – Roger Sigtermans, Cal OES:

Roger Sigtermans presented a PowerPoint outlining emergency management partnerships, state roles and responsibilities, and the SEMS (Standardized Emergency Management System) structure in California.

3) Background and Organization of the Op Area – Marisa Chilafoe:

a) OES Strategic Plan:

a) *Drought Task Force:*

A Drought Task Force has been formed by Lake OES. Its purpose is to gather agencies and water purveyors in Lake County to review issues and identify solutions pertaining to drought conditions, and regularly report progress to the Disaster Council. Marisa invited Op Area participants to attend the Drought Task Force meeting which will be held at the courthouse in Lakeport, at 2:30 p.m.

The group also discussed law enforcement and support pertaining to water theft and regulatory compliance.

b) *Butts Fire:*

Scott Upton of Cal Fire, who served as the Incident Commander during the first operational period of the Butts Fire, briefed the group on the response. Scott also reported that fire behavior has begun to change as a result of dry conditions. According to the Predictive Services' Energy Release Component ("ERC") index this year, fire danger is at record levels which can impact the tactics of firefighting.

5) *Planning:*

a) *Emergency Operations Plan ("EOP") Updates:*

Marisa reviewed the need for an updated EOP and noted the official EOP was last approved by the Board of Supervisors in 1996. Marisa recognized the work of the Sheriff's Office in preparing regular, unofficial updates for the Op Area in previous years.

The Strategic Plan calls for EOP updates in phases. An interim update will be completed in an effort to bring current the multiple drafts developed since 1996, serve as an interim resource to activate the EOC and respond appropriately until a full rewrite can be completed. Over the next several years, the Op Area can then evaluate the effectiveness of the current EOP, and complete a rewrite to ensure the EOP is a useful tool and ensures an effective response.

b) *Training:*

Marisa reviewed current goals for the County's training program to include Incident Command System training for staff at levels dependent upon roles and responsibilities during an emergency. These basic training courses will be completed by a comprehensive drill and exercise program to reinforce the training, and provide experience. In addition to staff training, Lake OES will be working with the American Red Cross to provide CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training to the more remote communities in Lake County.

Chief Sapeta added that the FEMA online training courses are less effective if not coupled with regular exercises. Marisa concurred, referencing the previously stated training and exercise reinforcement plan.

Dr. Tait also reported that Public Health will be hosting Emergency Operations Management Training on September 10, 2014.

9) *Good of the order* –

Jennifer Jones with Red Cross gave a special thank you to all who assisted during the Butts Fire incident. She recognized the Lake County community in offering Napa County residents the auditorium at Middletown High School and all the donations.

10) *Adjourn:*

With no further business to come before the Op Area, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.



Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District

19400 Hartmann Road
Hidden Valley Lake, CA 95467
707.987.9201
707.987.3237 fax
www.hiddenvalleylakecsd.com

MEMO

To: Board of Directors

From: Roland Sanford

Date: October 15, 2014

RE: General Manager's Monthly Report

Drought update

The Statewide drought continues to dominate the news, though little has changed from last month. The State Water Resources Control Board's curtailment orders (curtailment of water diversions by those with junior water rights) for the Sacramento-San Joaquin, Russian River and Eel River drainages remain in effect and will not be lifted – not even temporarily – until significant precipitation occurs. All things considered, the District's water supply remains in relatively good shape. Groundwater elevations in the District's municipal water supply wells have held steady and are near "normal" seasonal averages (see attached chart).

Sewer/Water Rate Study

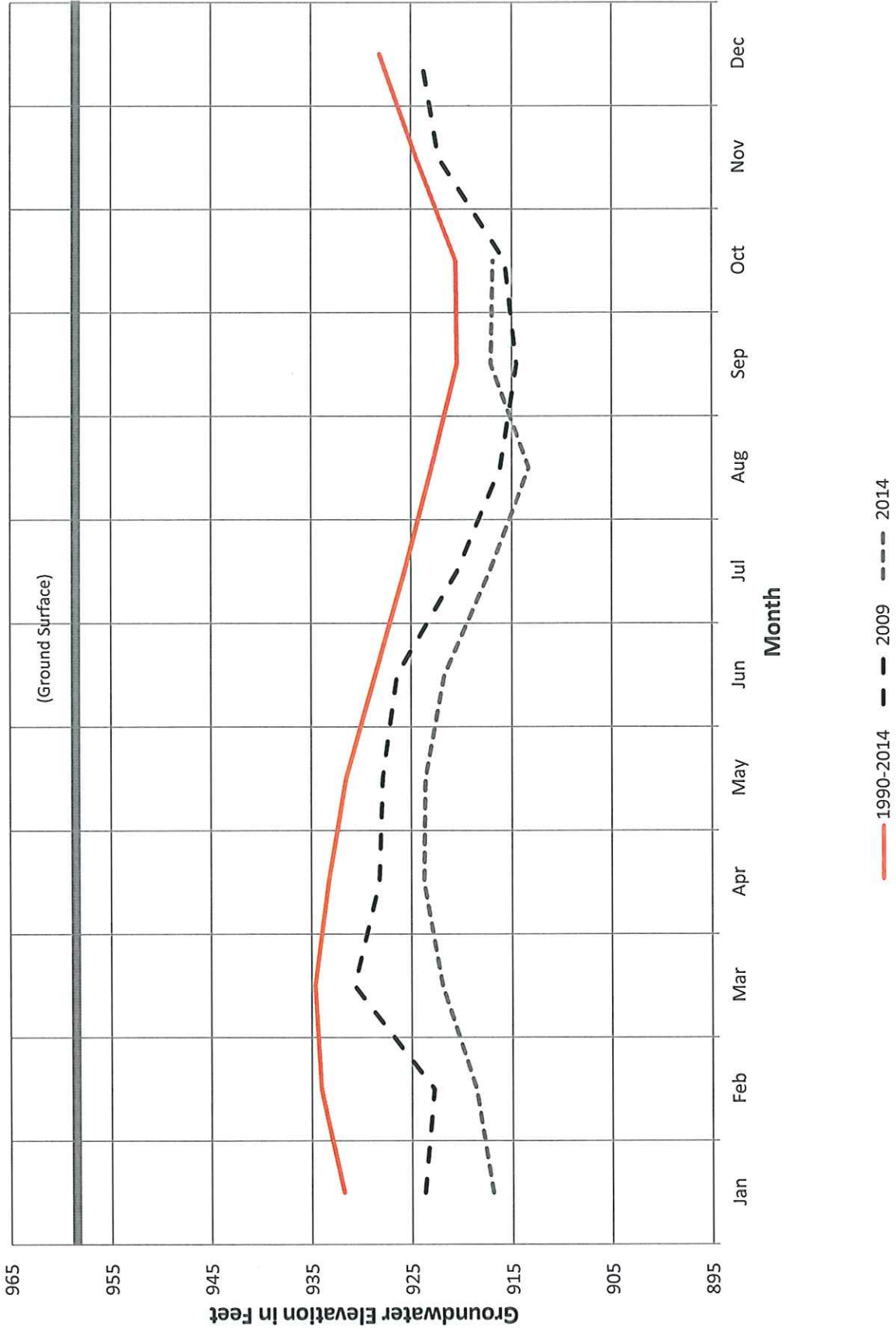
The ongoing sewer and water rate study is entering a critical phase. Much of the analytical work has been completed. Staff and NBS consultants will present study results at the October 21 Board meeting and will be seeking Board direction regarding any additional analyses to perform and incorporate into the final report.

A formal Proposition 218 public hearing on potential rate increases is tentatively scheduled for December 16, 2014. However, I am recommending the Proposition 218 public hearing be delayed one month to give us all sufficient time to review and digest the study results. Additional information regarding the results of the study and timeline for enacting potential rate increases is included in my staff report for Agenda Item 11 – Discussion and Possible Action: Presentation of water/sewer rate study results.

New Employee – Harley Sells

I am very pleased to report that Harley Sells has joined our team. Harley, a resident of Kelseyville, has accepted a Utility Worker position with the District and is a welcomed addition to what had been a "short-handed" field crew.

Average Groundwater Elevations at HVLCS D Wells





Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District

September 2014 Report

F
I
E
L
D

O
P
E
R
A
T
I
O
N
S



Emergency repair work being performed on District's mainline off of Moonridge Road.



Covered sludge beds in preparation of disposal and keeping the content as dry as possible.

Water Connections:

Residential	2416
Commercial & Govt	34
Total:	2450

Sewer Connections:

Residential	1457
Commercial & Govt	35.2
Total:	1492.2



Installation of new chlorine analyzer



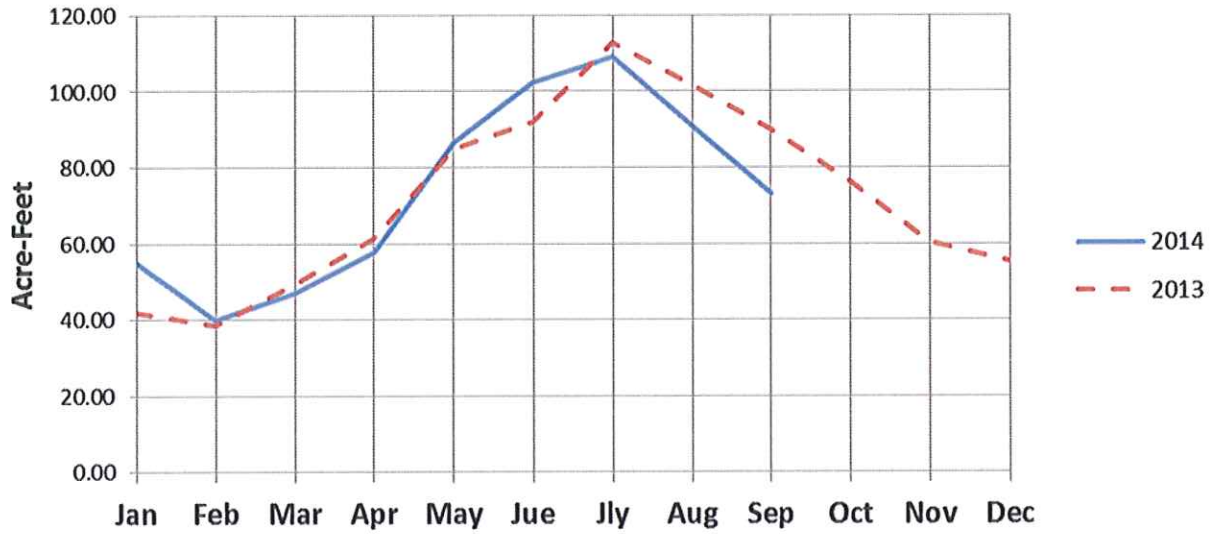
Mainline repair

Rainfall at HVLCSO Field Office

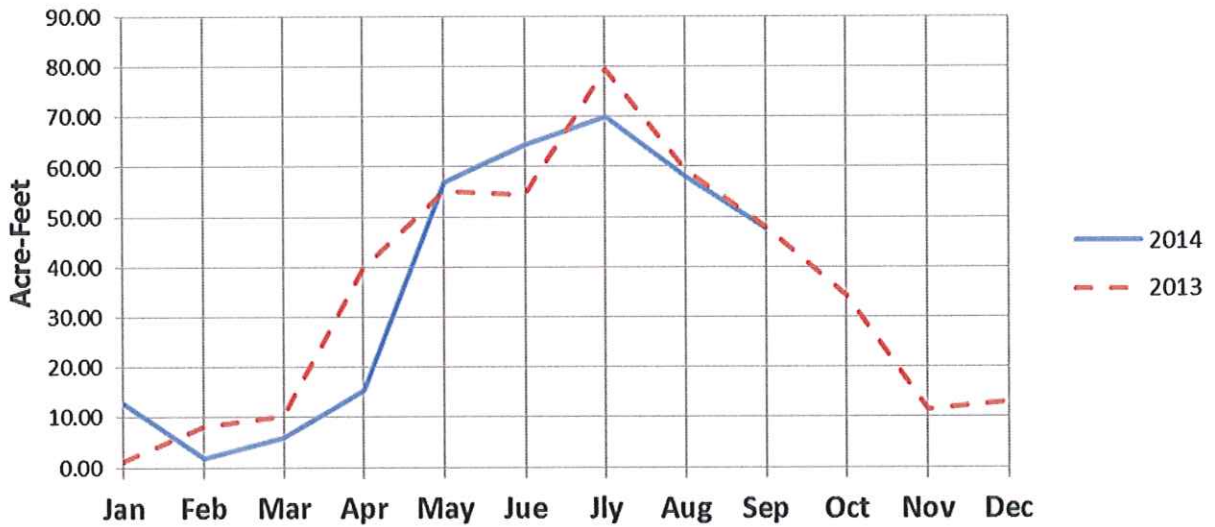
<i>Month</i>	<i>Inches</i>
Jan	0.40
Feb	13.95
Mar	3.34
Apr	2.17
May	0.00
Jun	0.00
July	0.00
Aug	1.11
Sep	
Oct	
Nov	
Dec	
Total:	20.97

Overtime Hours: 51 hours
Overtime Expense: \$1,742.71

HVLCSD Municipal Well Production



Reclaimed Water Use



Water Operations and Maintenance

Well Field

(No significant activity)

Water Distribution System

- Staff completed 83 water distribution system work orders in September. Notable activities:
- Staff fixed a leak on the twelve inch mainline at moon ridge. The saddle had deteriorated and therefore staff had to dial down the pressure of the mainline in order to complete the repairs
- Staff fixed a leaking meter box on hole # 15. There was a split down the seam of the PVC on the district side, we excavated and replaced a section of pipe.
- Staff replaced a full tee assembly on Coyle springs.
- Staff preformed a hot tap on Conestoga RD to repair a leaking compression ring at the curb stop.
- Staff investigated a low pressure problem on Eagle Rock. It seemed that the pressure problem had started after the installment of a water softener. From what staff could see it was taken place during the back wash cycle.

General Repairs and Maintenance

- Staff worked on truck 7 to diagnose the engine's sudden loss of compression.
- Staff experienced communication difficulties with the SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) System and was therefore forced to manually monitor and operate a portion of the water distribution system for several days. Tel Star was called in to make repairs and re-program the SCADA system.

Wastewater Operations and Maintenance

Wastewater Collection System

- Staff removed grease and cleaned floats at all sewer lift stations.
- Staff applied bioxide at lift station 4 to control odor.

Wastewater Treatment Plant

- Staff and contractor installed and calibrated new chlorine analyzer.
- Staff prepared sludge for removal and transport to landfill.

Wastewater Data:

EFF Pond level – 9.38 feet

September Plant Influent –5.5 million gallons

HIDDEN VALLEY LAKE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 2014

FINANCIAL REPORT





HIDDEN VALLEY LAKE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 2014

Financial Report

REVENUE & EXPENSE SEWER REPORT

9/1/2014-9/30/2014

120-SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND FINANCIAL SUMMARY	CURRENT BUDGET	CURRENT PERIOD	YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL	BUDGET BALANCE	% OF BUDGET
TOTAL REVENUES	1,005,691.00	15,995.87	206,760.52	798,930.48	20.56

EXPENDITURE SUMMARY					
NON-DEPARTMENTAL	350,606.00	46,047.20	72,481.41	278,124.59	20.67
ADMINISTRATION	315,539.00	30,521.66	87,288.87	228,250.13	26.29
FIELD	302,954.00	20,787.37	72,597.03	230,356.97	23.96
DIRECTORS	43,201.00	2,939.57	8,737.65	34,463.35	20.23
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,012,300.00	100,295.80	241,104.96	771,195.04	23.82

REVENUES	CURRENT BUDGET	CURRENT PERIOD	YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL	BUDGET BALANCE	% OF BUDGET
120-4020 PERMIT & INSPECTION FEES	300.00	-	100.00	200.00	33.33
120-4045 AVAILABILITY FEES	10,200.00	-	-	10,200.00	-
120-4050 SALES OF RECLAIMED WATER	95,000.00	13,900.25	51,250.40	43,749.60	53.95
120-4111 COMM SEWER USE	18,400.00	1,677.02	5,031.06	13,368.94	27.34
120-4112 GOV'T SEWER USE	599.00	50.18	150.54	448.46	25.13
120-4116 SEWER USE CHARGES	861,392.00	443.36	147,115.82	714,276.18	17.08
120-4210 LATE FEE	15,500.00	37.18	2,797.04	12,702.96	18.05
120-4300 MISC INCOME	100.00	(367.32)	(360.22)	460.22	(360.22)
120-4505 LEASE INCOME	4,200.00	250.87	654.72	3,545.28	15.59
120-4550 INTEREST INCOME	-	4.33	21.16	(21.16)	-
TOTAL REVENUES	1,005,691.00	15,995.87	206,760.52	798,930.48	20.56

NON-DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES	CURRENT BUDGET	CURRENT PERIOD	YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL	BUDGET BALANCE	% OF BUDGET
120-5-00-5021 RETIREMENT BENEFITS	-	-	(83.65)	83.65	-
120-5-00-5025 RETIREE HEALTH BENEFITS	-	4,814.50	4,814.50	(4,814.50)	-
120-5-00-5060 GASOLINE, OIL & FUEL	5,027.00	555.84	1,912.61	3,114.39	38.05
120-5-00-5061 VEHICLE MAINT	14,200.00	270.83	1,291.73	12,908.27	9.10
120-5-00-5062 TAXES & LIC	10,357.00	230.50	206.26	10,150.74	1.99
120-5-00-5074 INSURANCE	1,100.00	-	(124.00)	1,224.00	(11.27)
120-5-00-5075 BANK FEES	21,100.00	-	-	21,100.00	-
120-5-00-5080 MEMBERSHIP & SUBSCRIPTIONS	7,000.00	551.40	2,407.39	4,592.61	34.39
120-5-00-5092 POSTAGE & SHIPPING	6,000.00	-	143.13	5,856.87	2.39
120-5-00-5110 CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	-	-	(96.59)	96.59	-
120-5-00-5121 LEGAL SERVICES	1,500.00	(123.65)	531.47	968.53	35.43
120-5-00-5122 ENGINEERING SERVICES	36,210.00	11,781.81	16,389.62	19,820.38	45.26
120-5-00-5123 OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE	12,500.00	189.48	304.98	12,195.02	2.44
120-5-00-5130 PRINTING & PUBLICATION	15,000.00	6,561.25	6,718.75	8,281.25	44.79
120-5-00-5135 NEWSLETTER	27,750.00	3,114.50	9,248.80	18,501.20	33.33
120-5-00-5148 OPERATING SUPPLIES	500.00	75.30	(59.22)	559.22	(11.84)
120-5-00-5150 REPAIR & REPLACE	1,000.00	-	-	1,000.00	-
120-5-00-5155 MAINT BLDG & GROUNDS	12,000.00	775.02	2,633.47	9,366.53	21.95
120-5-00-5156 CUSTODIAL SERVICES	50,452.00	10,153.84	8,902.17	41,549.83	17.64
120-5-00-5157 SECURITY	5,300.00	190.00	2,471.55	2,828.45	46.63
120-5-00-5160 SLUDGE DISPOSAL	9,450.00	787.50	2,081.25	7,368.75	22.02
120-5-00-5170 TRAVEL & MEETINGS	2,000.00	-	-	2,000.00	-
120-5-00-5179 ADM MISC EXPENSE	23,000.00	-	-	23,000.00	-
120-5-00-5191 TELEPHONE	-	25.20	51.54	(51.54)	-
120-5-00-5192 ELECTRICITY	-	6.84	76.78	(76.78)	-
120-5-00-5193 OTHER UTILITIES	9,000.00	559.99	933.17	8,066.83	10.37
120-5-00-5195 ENV/MONITORING	18,400.00	1,674.69	3,470.76	14,929.24	18.86
120-5-00-5196 RISK MANAGEMENT	1,800.00	85.65	267.45	1,532.55	14.86
120-5-00-5198 ANNUAL OPERATING FEES	25,000.00	3,668.00	6,721.25	18,278.75	26.89
120-5-00-5310 EQUIPMENT - FIELD	17,800.00	-	-	17,800.00	-
120-5-00-5311 EQUIPMENT - OFFICE	3,000.00	-	-	3,000.00	-
120-5-00-5312 TOOLS - FIELD	1,000.00	-	1,063.28	(63.28)	106.33
120-5-00-5315 SAFETY EQUIPMENT	2,800.00	-	-	2,800.00	-
120-5-00-5510 SEWER OUTREACH	1,100.00	-	12.94	1,087.06	1.18
120-5-00-5545 RECORDING FEES	4,100.00	98.71	190.02	3,909.98	4.63
	5,000.00	-	-	5,000.00	-
	160.00	-	-	160.00	-
TOTAL	350,606.00	46,047.20	72,481.41	278,124.59	20.67

ADMINISTRATION EXPENDITURES	CURRENT BUDGET	CURRENT PERIOD	YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL	BUDGET BALANCE	% OF BUDGET
120-5-10-5010 SALARIES & WAGES	208,456.00	18,537.30	61,706.76	146,749.24	27.71
120-5-10-5020 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	55,100.00	8,723.50	14,982.13	40,117.87	27.23
120-5-10-5021 RETIREMENT BENEFITS	41,013.00	2,853.49	8,382.08	32,630.92	19.39
120-5-10-5063 CERTIFICATIONS	20	0	0	20	0
120-5-10-5090 OFFICE SUPPLIES	6,200.00	301.8	2,112.33	4,087.67	34.07
120-5-10-5170 TRAVEL MILEAGE	350	105.57	105.57	244.43	30.16
120-5-10-5175 EDUCATION / SEMINARS	3,900.00	0	0	3,900.00	0
120-5-10-5179 ADM MISC EXPENSES	500	0	0	500	0
TOTAL	315,539.00	30,521.66	87,288.87	228,250.13	26.29

FIELD EXPENDITURES	CURRENT BUDGET	CURRENT PERIOD	YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL	BUDGET BALANCE	% OF BUDGET
120-5-30-5010 SALARIES & WAGES	218,757.00	12,305.04	48,795.48	169,961.52	22.31
120-5-30-5020 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	44,068.00	6,109.32	13,387.41	30,680.59	30.38
120-5-30-5021 RETIREMENT BENEFITS	36,249.00	2,075.01	7,264.10	28,984.90	20.04
120-5-30-5022 CLOTHING ALLOWANCE	-	179.39	179.39	(179.39)	-
120-5-30-5061 VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	-	-	109.04	(109.04)	-
120-5-30-5063 CERTIFICATIONS	780.00	-	-	780.00	-
120-5-30-5090 OFFICE SUPPLIES	400.00	86.64	122.66	277.34	30.67
120-5-30-5148 OPERATING SUPPLIES	-	-	16.66	(16.66)	-
120-5-30-5150 REPAIR & REPLACE	-	-	2,690.32	(2,690.32)	-
120-5-30-5170 TRAVEL MILEAGE	600.00	31.97	31.97	568.03	5.33
120-5-30-5175 EDUCATION / SEMINARS	2,100.00	-	-	2,100.00	-
TOTAL	302,954.00	20,787.37	72,597.03	230,356.97	23.96

DIRECTORS EXPENDITURES	CURRENT BUDGET	CURRENT PERIOD	YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL	BUDGET BALANCE	% OF BUDGET
120-5-40-5010 DIRECTORS COMPENSATION	-	96.88	290.64	(290.64)	-
120-5-40-5020 DIRECTORS BENEFITS	230.00	1.54	4.62	225.38	2.01
120-5-40-5030 DIRECTOR HEALTH BENEFITS	42,021.00	2,827.44	8,496.46	33,524.54	20.22
120-5-40-5170 TRAVEL MILEAGE	150.00	13.71	(54.07)	204.07	(36.05)
120-5-40-5175 EDUCATION / SEMINARS	600.00	-	-	600.00	-
120-5-40-5176 DIRECTOR TRAINING	200.00	-	-	200.00	-
TOTAL	43,201.00	2,939.57	8,737.65	34,463.35	20.23



HIDDEN VALLEY LAKE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 2014

Financial Report

REVENUE & EXPENSE WATER REPORT

9/1/2014-9/30/2014

130-WATER ENTERPRISE FUND FINANCIAL SUMMARY	CURRENT BUDGET	CURRENT PERIOD	YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL	BUDGET BALANCE	% OF BUDGET
ALL REVENUE	1,133,786.00	3,657.23	213,223.77	920,562.23	18.81

EXPENDITURE SUMMARY					
NON-DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION	641,637.00	54,563.00	59,774.22	581,862.78	9.32
FIELD DIRECTORS	335,934.00	30,586.47	87,062.40	248,871.60	24.62
	302,954.00	20,650.16	67,445.60	235,508.40	22.26
	46,201.00	2,961.43	8,774.95	37,426.05	18.99
TOTAL	1,326,726.00	108,761.06	223,057.17	1,103,668.83	16.81

REVENUES	CURRENT BUDGET	CURRENT PERIOD	YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL	BUDGET BALANCE	% OF BUDGET
130-4035 RECONNECT FEE	10,000.00	200.00	2,670.00	7,330.00	26.70
130-4039 WATER METER INST	300.00	-	100.00	200.00	33.33
130-4040 RECORDING FEE	100.00	10.00	20.00	80.00	20.00
130-4045 AVAILABILITY FEES	40,000.00	-	-	40,000.00	-
130-4110 COMM WATER USE	14,001.00	1,151.03	3,453.09	10,547.91	24.66
130-4112 GOV'T WATER USE	800.00	74.26	222.78	577.22	27.85
130-4115 WATER USE	862,685.00	485.16	141,179.32	721,505.68	16.37
130-4117 WATER OVERAGE FEE	167,000.00	(311.55)	53,226.77	113,773.23	31.87
130-4118 WATER OVERAGE COMM	11,000.00	2,774.06	7,991.97	3,008.03	72.65
130-4210 LATE FEE	22,000.00	4.88	3,690.46	18,309.54	16.77
130-4215 RETURNED CHECK FEE	800.00	25.00	175.00	625.00	21.88
130-4300 MISC INCOME	100.00	(829.53)	(797.35)	897.35	(797.35)
130-4505 LEASE INCOME	4,200.00	72.21	1,283.76	2,916.24	30.57
130-4550 INTEREST INCOME	800.00	1.71	7.97	792.03	1.00
TOTAL	1,133,786.00	3,657.23	213,223.77	920,562.23	18.81

NON-DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES	CURRENT BUDGET	CURRENT PERIOD	YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL	BUDGET BALANCE	% OF BUDGET
130-5-00-5020 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	-	-	(83.65)	83.65	-
130-5-00-5024 WORKERS' COMP INSURANCE	-	4,814.50	4,814.50	(4,814.50)	-
130-5-00-5025 RETIREE HEALTH BENEFITS	5,027.00	555.84	624.52	4,402.48	12.42
130-5-00-5060 GASOLINE, OIL & FUEL	12,500.00	270.82	1,291.70	11,208.30	10.33
130-5-00-5061 VEHICLE MAINT	12,500.00	230.49	206.26	12,293.74	1.65
130-5-00-5062 TAXES & LIC	1,600.00	-	(124.00)	1,724.00	(7.75)
130-5-00-5074 INSURANCE	21,100.00	-	-	21,100.00	-
130-5-00-5075 BANK FEES	7,000.00	551.39	2,407.34	4,592.66	34.39
130-5-00-5080 MEMBERSHIP & SUBSCRIPTIONS	17,200.00	915.00	1,003.13	16,196.87	5.83
130-5-00-5090 OFFICE SUPPLIES	-	-	(96.59)	96.59	-
130-5-00-5092 POSTAGE & SHIPPING	1,500.00	(123.66)	531.46	968.54	35.43
130-5-00-5110 CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	49,650.00	11,781.81	16,985.85	32,664.15	34.21
130-5-00-5121 LEGAL SERVICES	12,500.00	189.48	493.98	12,006.02	3.95
130-5-00-5122 ENGINEERING SERVICES	15,000.00	2,460.00	(1,359.99)	16,359.99	(9.07)
130-5-00-5123 OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE	144,750.00	3,224.75	(9,112.12)	153,862.12	(6.30)
130-5-00-5124 WATER RIGHTS	10,000.00	1,825.28	309.76	9,690.24	3.10
130-5-00-5130 PRINTING & PUBLICATION	500.00	517.51	383.00	117.00	76.60
130-5-00-5135 NEWSLETTER	1,000.00	-	-	1,000.00	-
130-5-00-5148 OPERATING SUPPLIES	10,000.00	-	(16.73)	10,016.73	(0.17)
130-5-00-5150 REPAIR & REPLACE	52,000.00	2,762.51	(12,780.91)	64,780.91	(24.58)
130-5-00-5155 MAINT BLDG & GROUNDS	5,300.00	192.68	1,261.60	4,038.40	23.80
130-5-00-5156 CUSTODIAL SERVICES	9,450.00	787.50	2,643.75	6,806.25	27.98
130-5-00-5157 SECURITY	2,000.00	-	-	2,000.00	-
130-5-00-5170 TRAVEL & MEETINGS	-	25.20	51.54	(51.54)	-
130-5-00-5179 ADM MISC EXPENSE	-	6.84	76.76	(76.76)	-
130-5-00-5191 TELEPHONE	9,000.00	559.98	933.17	8,066.83	10.37
130-5-00-5192 ELECTRICITY	165,000.00	19,459.52	43,862.24	121,137.76	26.58
130-5-00-5193 OTHER UTILITIES	1,800.00	85.65	267.46	1,532.54	14.86
130-5-00-5195 ENV/MONITORING	25,000.00	815.00	1,082.00	23,918.00	4.33
130-5-00-5198 ANNUAL OPERATING FEES	27,000.00	2,283.30	2,283.30	24,716.70	8.46
130-5-00-5310 EQUIPMENT - FIELD	1,000.00	-	1,063.28	(63.28)	106.33
130-5-00-5311 EQUIPMENT - OFFICE	2,200.00	-	-	2,200.00	-
130-5-00-5312 TOOLS - FIELD	800.00	-	-	800.00	-
130-5-00-5315 SAFETY EQUIPMENT	4,100.00	98.70	98.70	4,001.30	2.41
130-5-00-5505 WATER CONSERVATION	15,000.00	272.91	672.91	14,327.09	4.49
130-5-00-5545 RECORDING FEES	160.00	-	-	160.00	-
TOTAL	641,637.00	54,563.00	59,774.22	581,862.78	9.32

ADMINISTRATION EXPENDITURES	CURRENT BUDGET	CURRENT PERIOD	YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL	BUDGET BALANCE	% OF BUDGET
130-5-10-5010 SALARIES & WAGES	227,751.00	18,537.23	61,462.69	166,288.31	25.26
130-5-10-5020 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	55,100.00	9,152.26	15,379.47	39,720.53	27.13
130-5-10-5021 RETIREMENT BENEFITS	41,013.00	2,424.67	7,900.48	33,112.52	19.26
130-5-10-5063 CERTIFICATIONS	20.00	65.00	65.00	(45.00)	325.00
130-5-10-5090 OFFICE SUPPLIES	6,200.00	301.76	2,112.25	4,087.75	34.07
130-5-10-5170 TRAVEL MILEAGE	550.00	105.55	142.51	407.49	25.91
130-5-10-5175 EDUCATION / SEMINARS	4,800.00	-	-	4,800.00	-
130-5-10-5179 ADM MISC EXPENSES	500.00	-	-	500.00	-
TOTAL	335,934.00	30,586.47	87,062.40	248,871.60	24.62

FIELD	CURRENT	CURRENT	YEAR TO DATE	BUDGET	% OF
EXPENDITURES	BUDGET	PERIOD	ACTUAL	BALANCE	BUDGET
130-5-30-5010 SALARIES & WAGES	218,757.00	12,204.03	44,620.26	174,136.74	20.40
130-5-30-5020 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	44,068.00	6,108.88	13,074.90	30,993.10	29.67
130-5-30-5021 RETIREMENT BENEFITS	36,249.00	2,039.27	6,678.78	29,570.22	18.42
130-5-30-5022 CLOTHING ALLOWANCE	-	179.38	179.38	(179.38)	-
130-5-30-5061 VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	-	-	64.04	(64.04)	-
130-5-30-5063 CERTIFICATIONS	780.00	-	-	780.00	-
130-5-30-5090 OFFICE SUPPLIES	400.00	86.64	122.65	277.35	30.66
130-5-30-5150 REPAIR & REPLACE	-	-	2,503.53	(2,503.53)	-
130-5-30-5170 TRAVEL MILEAGE	600.00	31.96	31.96	568.04	5.33
130-5-30-5175 EDUCATION / SEMINARS	2,100.00	-	100.00	2,000.00	4.76
130-5-30-5312 TOOLS - FIELD	-	-	70.10	(70.10)	-
TOTAL	302,954.00	20,650.16	67,445.60	235,508.40	22.26

DIRECTORS	CURRENT	CURRENT	YEAR TO DATE	BUDGET	% OF
EXPENDITURES	BUDGET	PERIOD	ACTUAL	BALANCE	BUDGET
130-5-40-5010 DIRECTORS COMPENSATION	3,000.00	118.42	355.26	2,644.74	11.84
130-5-40-5020 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	230.00	1.86	5.58	224.42	2.43
130-5-40-5030 DIRECTOR HEALTH BENEFITS	42,021.00	2,827.44	8,468.18	33,552.82	20.15
130-5-40-5170 TRAVEL MILEAGE	150.00	13.71	(54.07)	204.07	(36.05)
130-5-40-5175 EDUCATION / SEMINARS	600.00	-	-	600.00	-
130-5-40-5176 DIRECTOR TRAINING	200.00	-	-	200.00	-
TOTAL	46,201.00	2,961.43	8,774.95	37,426.05	18.99



HIDDEN VALLEY LAKE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 2014
FINANCIAL REPORT

POOLED CASH
AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

Beginning Balance	244,723.99
Cash Receipts	
Deposit	315,498.30
Transfers	0.00
Total Receipts	315,498.30
Cash Disbursements	
Accounts Payable	167,721.58
Payroll	39,207.04
Bank Fees	1,102.79
Total Disbursements	208,031.41
Ending Balance	352,190.88

TEMORARY INVESTMENTS

AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

Fund		LAIF	Money Mkt	Total	G/L Bal
120	Sewer Operating Fund	66,858.70	56,050.46	122,909.16	122,909.16
130	Water Operating Fund	222,615.95	22,152.59	244,768.54	244,768.54
215	1995-2 Redemption	237,981.07	29,636.40	267,617.47	267,617.47
217	State Revolving Loan Sewer	158,514.77	290,743.86	449,258.63	449,258.63
218	CIEDB Redemption	11,439.11	(130,730.45)	(121,291.34)	(121,291.34)
219	USDARUS Solar Loan (Sewer)	814.12	43,704.75	44,518.87	44,518.87
313	Wastewater Cap Fac Reserved	431,317.04	33,511.52	464,828.56	464,828.56
314	Wastewater Cap Fac Unrestricted	53,616.99	129,857.34	183,474.33	183,474.33
320	Water Capital Fund	0.05	14,000.63	14,000.68	14,000.68
350	CIEDB Loan Reserve	170,102.76	-	170,102.76	170,102.76
711	Bond Administration	26,979.70	14,402.04	41,381.74	41,381.74
TOTAL		1,380,240.26	503,329.14	1,883,569.40	1,883,569.40



HIDDEN VALLEY LAKE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

**SEPTEMBER 2014
FINANCIAL REPORT**

**CAPITAL EXPENDITURES
2014-2015 BUDGET**

Sewer	Budget	Yr to Date Actual
Video Inspections of Sewer Laterals	35,000	0.00
Repair Sewer Lateral Leaks	35,000	0.00
Prepare Sewer Capital Improvement Plan	20,000	0.00
Install Security Fencing at Lift Station 1 & 4	10,000	0.00
Total	100,000	0.00

Water	Budget	Yr to Date Actuals
Total		0.00

**ACTION OF
HIDDEN VALLEY LAKE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**

DATE: October 21, 2014

AGENDA ITEM: Public Hearing to consider placement of default balance liens on real property pursuant to Government Code Section 61115

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Conduct public hearing in accordance with Government Code Section 61115 to provide the landowners associated with the properties identified in Exhibit A, and/or the public, the opportunity to protest or otherwise dispute the default balances calculated by staff for each of the properties identified in Exhibit A. At the conclusion of the public hearing and in the absence of good cause, staff recommends that the Board uphold the charges and associated penalty fees as proposed in Exhibit A

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Potential recovery of \$834.70 past due charges and associated penalty fees

BACKGROUND:

Default balance liens are typically placed on properties with District water and/or sewer accounts that are at least 45 days past due. A list of properties with past due accounts of 45 days or longer, and for which the District has not already placed a lien against, is presented in Exhibit A. Pursuant to Government Code Section 61115, the Board must hold a public hearing to allow landowners the opportunity to protest or otherwise dispute the charges and associated penalty fees being levied against their property by the District. At the conclusion of the public hearing the Board can uphold or modify the charges and associated penalty fees for any or all subject properties.

APPROVED
AS RECOMMENDED

OTHER
(SEE BELOW)

Modification to recommendation and/or other actions:

I, Roland Sanford, Secretary to the Board, do hereby certify that the foregoing action was regularly introduced, passed, and adopted by said Board of Directors at a regular board meeting thereof held on (DATE) by the following vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent

Secretary to the Board

PROPERTY LIENS - OCTOBER 2014

EXHIBIT A

A \$10 FILING FEE HAS BEEN ADDED

NAME	ADDRESS	APN	AMOUNT
KELLY WEEKS HARDY	18572 HIDDEN VALLEY RD	141-051-10	\$374.14
CHAD HIGGINS	19079 MOON RIDGE	141-301-01	\$460.56
			<hr/>
			\$834.70

**ACTION OF
HIDDEN VALLEY LAKE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**

DATE: October 21, 2014

AGENDA ITEM: Discussion and Possible Action: Adoption of Resolution 2014-14 confirming default balances and directing staff to file liens on real property

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Adopt Resolution 2014-14 of the Board of Directors of the Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District confirming the Default Balance associated with the Defaulting Bill Identified in Exhibit A and directing staff to file a lien on said properties.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Potential recovery of \$834.70 past due charges and associated penalty fees.

BACKGROUND:

Default balance liens are typically placed on properties with District water and/or sewer accounts that are at least 45 days past due. A list of properties with past due accounts of 45 days or longer, and for which the District has not already placed a lien against, is presented in Exhibit A. Pursuant to Government Code Section 6115, the Board must hold a public hearing to allow landowners the opportunity to protest or otherwise dispute the charges and associated penalty fees being levied against their property by the District. At the conclusion of the public hearing the Board can uphold or modify the charges and associated penalty fees for any or all subject properties. Assuming the Board chooses to uphold the charges and associated penalty fees, as recommended by staff, the Board would then adopt a resolution (copy attached) confirming the default balances and authorizing staff to proceed with the filing of property liens on subject properties.

APPROVED
AS RECOMMENDED

OTHER
(SEE BELOW)

Modification to recommendation and/or other actions:

I, Roland Sanford, Secretary to the Board, do hereby certify that the foregoing action was regularly introduced, passed, and adopted by said Board of Directors at a regular board meeting thereof held on (DATE) by the following vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent

Secretary to the Board

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-14

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HIDDEN VALLEY LAKE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT CONFIRMING THE DEFAULT BALANCE ASSOCIATED WITH THE DEFAULTING BILL LISTED IN EXHIBIT A AND DIRECTING STAFF TO FILE A LIEN ON SAID PROPERTY

WHEREAS, the Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District (the "District") previously cited the properties identified in Exhibit A for a Defaulting Bill (as defined in Resolution No. 2008-02); and

WHEREAS, notice of a public hearing to determine the amount of the Default Balance (as defined in Resolution No. 2008-02) under a Defaulting Bill was mailed to the property owners listed in Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, notice of said public hearing was published in accordance with Section 6066 of the California Government Code; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Resolution No. 2008-02, said public hearing was conducted on October 21, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. at 19400 Hartmann Road, Boardroom, Hidden Valley Lake, California; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the District to recover the Default Balance; and

WHEREAS, the District has satisfied all notice and hearing requirements under Section 61115 of the California Government Code; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the District Board of Directors hereby adopts Resolution No. 2014-14 confirming the Default Balance in the amount of \$834.70; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the District does direct the staff to file a lien for the unpaid Default Balances listed in exhibit A in the amount of \$834.70.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was duly and regularly introduced and adopted by the Board of Directors of the Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District, County of Lake, State of California, on the 21st of October, 2014, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of said District this 21st of October, 2014.

Roland Sanford
General Manager/Secretary to the Board of Directors

Judy Mirbegian
President of the Board of Directors

PROPERTY LIENS - OCTOBER 2014

EXHIBIT A

A \$10 FILING FEE HAS BEEN ADDED

NAME	ADDRESS	APN	AMOUNT
KELLY WEEKS HARDY	18572 HIDDEN VALLEY RD	141-051-10	\$374.14
CHAD HIGGINS	19079 MOON RIDGE	141-301-01	\$460.56
			<hr/>
			\$834.70

**ACTION OF
HIDDEN VALLEY LAKE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**

DATE: October 21, 2014

AGENDA ITEM: Discussion and Possible Action: Presentation of water/sewer rate study results

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Hear presentation by General Manager and NBS consultants and provide direction to staff.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

(See attached staff report)

BACKGROUND:

(See attached staff report)

APPROVED
AS RECOMMENDED

OTHER
(SEE BELOW)

Modification to recommendation and/or other actions:

I, Roland Sanford, Secretary to the Board, do hereby certify that the foregoing action was regularly introduced, passed, and adopted by said Board of Directors at a regular board meeting thereof held on (DATE) by the following vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent

Secretary to the Board



Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District

19400 Hartmann Road
Hidden Valley Lake, CA 95467
707.987.9201
707.987.3237 fax
www.hiddenvalleylakecsd.com

MEMO

To: HVLCSD Board of Directors
From: Roland Sanford
Date: October 15, 2014
RE: NBS rate study presentation

Background

Last summer the District hired NBS consultants to evaluate the District's financial position and more specifically, to:

- 1) Identify sewer and water rates and rate structures that will generate sufficient revenue to sustain District operations, and
- 2) Identify sewer and water rate structures that more equitably distribute costs among user classes

The study is nearing completion. NBS staff will be presenting study results at the Board's October 21, 2014 meeting. The purpose of the NBS presentation and ensuing discussion is to highlight where the District is headed with regard to future sewer and water rates, review key assumptions that have been made as a part of the analyses performed to date, and based on comments received, identify any additional analyses that may be needed before the final proposed sewer and water rate schedules are developed in advance of the Proposition 218 public hearing. We will also discuss the remaining tasks and timeline leading up to the adoption of revised rates and/or rate structures. A copy of the NBS Powerpoint presentation slides is attached.

Overview of Study Results

The analyses performed to date indicate that additional revenue is needed to complete capital improvement projects and sustain sewer and water operations. Preliminarily, it appears that over the next several years successive sewer rate increases on the order of 8 to 10 percent, and successive water rate increases on the order of 8 to 12 percent, will be needed. However, due to the proposed shift from "flat" to more "volumetric" based sewer and water rate structures, households that use less water, and therefore typically generate less wastewater, would see little or no increase in sewer and water rates over the next several years, in some instances even a decrease in rates. Conversely, households exhibiting above average per capita water use will typically see more pronounced increases in their sewer and water bills.



Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District

19400 Hartmann Road
Hidden Valley Lake, CA 95467
707.987.9201
707.987.3237 fax
www.hiddenvalleylakecsd.com

Any rate and rate structure that is ultimately proposed for adoption at the Proposition 218 hearing will be largely shaped by the following variables and assumptions:

- 1) Use of tiered versus flat rates
- 2) Ratio of fixed versus variable cost recovery
- 3) Types and desired funding levels of reserve funds
- 4) Capital Improvements to be funded and source of funding

These variables and the assumptions made are ultimately policy decisions. Tiered rates typically accentuate cost recovery from large water users and provide conservation incentives. The ratio between “fixed” versus “variable” costs –how much revenue is guaranteed regardless of prevailing usage – has implications with respect to user class equity and the financial stability and borrowing capacity of the District. The latter two variables, creation of reserve funds and capital improvements, constitute expenses that must be covered through incremental increases in revenue. The extent, duration and timing of these expenses impact the magnitude and timing of rate increases. In addition to the aforementioned variables and assumptions, I encourage the Board to discuss and consider the option of switching from bimonthly to monthly billing cycles.

Schedule

The NBS presentation and discussion at the October 21, 2014 meeting will provide the Board with the opportunity to review preliminary study results and provide direction with respect to any additional analyses that should be completed in advance of the Proposition 218 hearing. At the November 18, 2014 Board meeting, the Board will review the “final” proposed sewer and water rates and rate structures, and draft Proposition 218 hearing notice. Assuming the Board approves, the Proposition 218 notice will be mailed to all owners and renters of record the following week (November 24). The Proposition 218 hearing would occur on or near January 20, 2015 (the regularly scheduled Board meeting in January), and if approved, the new sewer and water rates would take effect March 1, 2015.

A dynamic splash of water is the central focus, with numerous bubbles and droplets captured in mid-air. The water is clear and bright, set against a light blue background. The splash originates from the left side of the frame, where a dark, curved shape suggests the edge of a container or a faucet. The overall composition is clean and modern, with a color palette of blues, greens, and whites.

**Hidden Valley Lake CSD
Water Rate Study**

Workshop

October 21, 2014

Presented by
Greg Clumpner, NBS Director



Overview of Presentation

- Rate Study Methodology
- Preliminary Rate Study Findings
 - ✓ Summary of Financial Plans
 - ✓ Recommended Reserve Targets
 - ✓ Roll-Up of 5-Year Financial Plans
 - ✓ Capital Improvement Program
- Rate Design Issues
- Current vs. Proposed Rates
- Customer Bill Comparisons
- Recommendations & Next Steps
- Q&A

Rate Study Methodology

Primary Components of a Comprehensive Rate Study:

1 FINANCIAL PLAN /
REVIEW
REQUIREMENTS

Step 1: Financial Plan/ Revenue Requirements - Compares current sources and uses of funds and determines the revenue needed from rates and projected rate adjustments.

2 COST-OF-SERVICE
ANALYSIS

Step 2: Cost-of-Service Analysis - Allocates the revenue requirements to the customer classes in a "fair and equitable" manner that complies with Prop 218.

3 RATE DESIGN

Step 3: Rate Design - Considers what rate structure alternatives will best meet the District's needs to collect rate revenue from each customer class.

Preliminary Rate Study Findings

- ***Water Utility – Summary of Financial Plans***
 - Current water rates are insufficient and result in annual deficits of almost \$500k by FY'18/19.
 - Rate Increases of 12%, 11%, 11%, 8% and 8% are needed over the next five years to fund O&M and CIP.
 - This assumes 33% funding of current CIP projects and issuance of new \$1.4 mil SRF Loan.
 - Current reserve levels are low – should be increased:
 - Establish/build up CIP/R&R Reserve Fund
 - Begin establishing an OPEB Reserve Fund
(plan is to contribute \$25k/year)

Preliminary Rate Study Findings (cont.)

- ***Sewer Utility – Summary of Financial Plans***
 - Current sewer rates are insufficient and result in annual deficits of up to \$240k.
 - Rate Increases of 10%, 10%, 8%, 8% and 8% are needed over the next five years to fund O&M and CIP.
 - This assumes 50% funding of current CIP projects and issuance of new \$1.8 mil SRF Loan.
 - Current reserve levels are low – should be increased:
 - Establish/build up CIP/R&R Reserve Fund
 - Begin establishing an OPEB Reserve Fund
(plan is to contribute \$25k/year)

Preliminary Rate Study Findings (cont.)

- **Recommended Water & Sewer Reserve Targets:**
 - Operating Reserve – Equal to 90 days of operating expenses.
 - Capital Rehab. & Replacement Reserve – Based on 3% of net assets (a 33-year replacement cycle).
 - Debt Reserve – Equal to the annual debt service payments on any new debt issued.

Water Financial Plan – 5-Year Roll-Up

Summary of Sources and Uses of Funds and Net Revenue Requirements	Budget		Projected			
	FY 2014/15	FY 2015/16	FY 2016/17	FY 2017/18	FY 2018/19	
Sources of Water Funds						
Rate Revenue Under Prevailing Rates	\$ 1,229,800	\$ 1,229,800	\$ 1,229,800	\$ 1,229,800	\$ 1,229,800	\$ 1,229,800
Non-Rate Revenues	78,300	77,500	77,500	77,500	77,500	77,500
Interest Earnings	-	385	919	1,889	3,994	3,994
Total Sources of Funds	\$ 1,308,100	\$ 1,307,685	\$ 1,308,219	\$ 1,309,189	\$ 1,311,294	\$ 1,311,294
Uses of Water Funds						
Operating Expenses	\$ 1,326,771	\$ 1,379,916	\$ 1,435,897	\$ 1,494,916	\$ 1,557,194	\$ 1,557,194
Debt Service	172,507	172,239	171,960	171,671	171,374	171,374
Rate-Funded Capital Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Use of Funds	\$ 1,499,278	\$ 1,552,155	\$ 1,607,857	\$ 1,666,587	\$ 1,728,568	\$ 1,728,568
Surplus (Deficiency) before Rate Increase	\$ (191,178)	\$ (244,469)	\$ (299,638)	\$ (357,397)	\$ (417,273)	\$ (417,273)
Additional Revenue from Rate Increases	73,788	299,087	467,265	603,030	749,657	749,657
Surplus (Deficiency) after Rate Increase	\$ (117,390)	\$ 54,618	\$ 167,627	\$ 245,633	\$ 332,383	\$ 332,383
Projected Annual Rate Increase	12.00%	11.00%	11.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%
Cumulative Rate Increases	12.00%	24.32%	38.00%	49.03%	60.96%	60.96%
Net Revenue Requirement¹	\$ 1,420,978	\$ 1,474,269	\$ 1,604,705	\$ 1,662,464	\$ 1,722,340	\$ 1,722,340

1. Total Use of Funds less non-rate revenues and interest earnings. This is the annual amount needed from water rates.

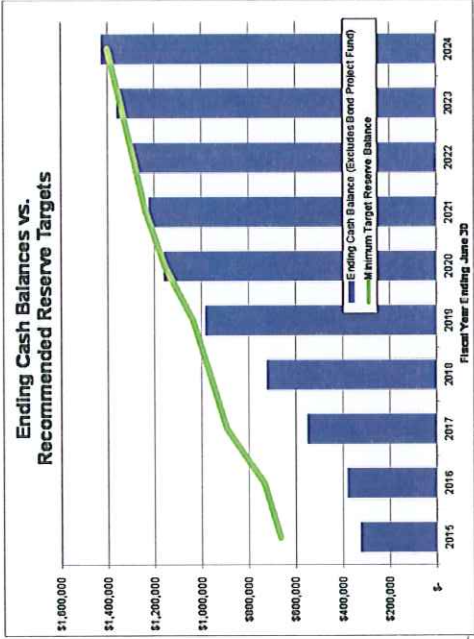
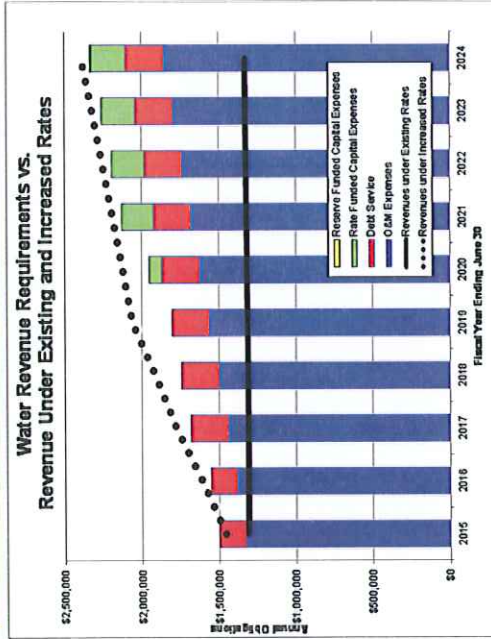
Sewer Financial Plan – 5-Year Roll-Up

Summary of Sources and Uses of Funds and Net Revenue Requirements	Budget		Projected			
	FY 2014/15	FY 2015/16	FY 2016/17	FY 2017/18	FY 2018/19	
Sources of Sewer Funds						
Rate Revenue Under Prevailing Rates	\$ 881,000	\$ 881,000	\$ 881,000	\$ 881,000	\$ 881,000	\$ 881,000
Reclaimed Water Rate Revenue	\$ 95,000	\$ 95,000	\$ 95,000	\$ 95,000	\$ 95,000	\$ 95,000
Non-Rate Revenues	\$ 30,300	\$ 30,300	\$ 30,300	\$ 30,300	\$ 30,300	\$ 30,300
Interest Earnings	-	385	1,334	2,422	4,242	4,242
Total Sources of Funds	\$ 1,006,300	\$ 1,006,685	\$ 1,007,634	\$ 1,008,722	\$ 1,010,542	\$ 1,010,542
Uses of Sewer Funds						
Operating Expenses	\$ 1,010,600	\$ 1,054,131	\$ 1,100,209	\$ 1,149,028	\$ 1,200,801	\$ 1,200,801
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rate-Funded Capital Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Use of Funds	\$ 1,010,600	\$ 1,054,131	\$ 1,100,209	\$ 1,149,028	\$ 1,200,801	\$ 1,200,801
Surplus (Deficiency) before Rate Increase	\$ (4,300)	\$ (47,445)	\$ (92,575)	\$ (140,307)	\$ (190,259)	\$ (190,259)
Additional Revenue from Rate Increases	44,050	185,010	270,291	362,394	461,866	461,866
Surplus (Deficiency) after Rate Increase	\$ 39,750	\$ 137,565	\$ 177,716	\$ 222,087	\$ 271,607	\$ 271,607
Projected Annual Rate Increase	10.00%	10.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%
Cumulative Rate Increases	10.00%	21.00%	30.68%	41.13%	52.43%	52.43%
Net Revenue Requirement¹	\$ 885,300	\$ 928,445	\$ 1,070,347	\$ 1,118,079	\$ 1,168,031	\$ 1,168,031

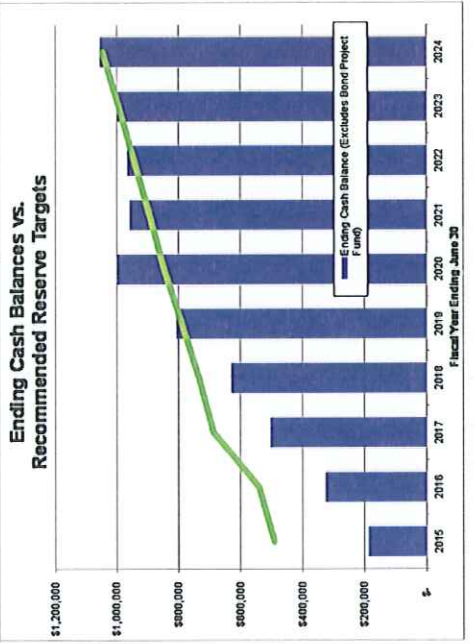
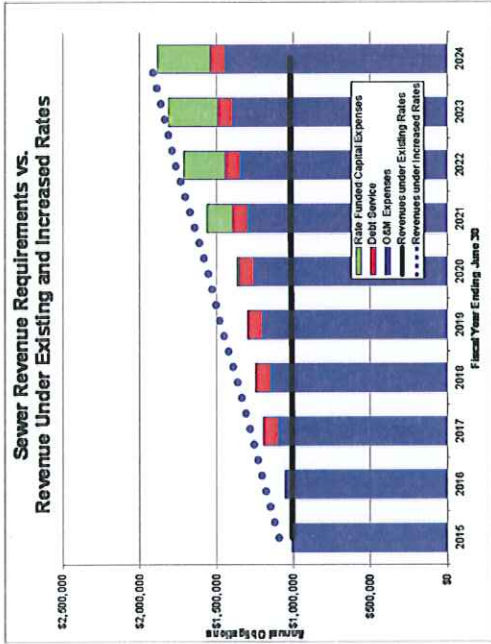
1. Total Use of Funds less non-rate revenues and interest earnings. This is the annual amount needed from Sewer rates.

Financial Plan – Graphic Summaries

Water Financial Plan



Sewer Financial Plan



Water – Capital Improvement Program

Capital Improvement Program Costs (in Current-Year Dollars) ⁽¹⁾:

Project Description	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<i>Current Year Capital Projects</i>						
Video/Rehab Domestic Supply Wells	\$ -	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Replace Well Pump & Motor, Bearings, Shaft, Etc.	\$ -	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Video of Storage Tanks	\$ -	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Rehab/Replace Pumps at Booster Stations	\$ -	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Replace Misc. Equipment & Emergency Repairs	\$ -	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Rehab/Upgrade Booster Pump Electrical Control Panels	\$ -	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Install New Generators at Major System Facilities	\$ -	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Recoat/Reline Existing Steel Tanks	\$ -	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Install CP System for Each Steel Tank	\$ -	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Line Interior of Existing Redwood Tanks	\$ -	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Water Main Replacement Project	\$ -	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Water Meter/Box & Service Line Replacement	\$ -	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Fire Hydrant Replacement	\$ -	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Improvements to Address New Chromium VI Regulations	\$ -	300,000	-	-	-	-
GIS System Development & Collection System Mapping	\$ -	75,000	-	-	-	-
Initial Update to Distribution System Model & Master Plan	\$ -	15,000	-	-	-	-
Capital Improvement Plan Development	\$ -	20,000	-	-	-	-
<i>Future Years Capital Projects</i>						
GIS System Annual Maintenance	\$ -	-	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Distribution System Model & Master Plan Update	\$ -	-	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Storage Tanks ⁽²⁾	\$ -	-	200,000	400,000	400,000	800,000
Capital Improvement Plan Update	\$ -	-	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Replace Gaseous Chlorine System with Sodium Hypochlorite	\$ -	-	100,000	-	-	-
Drill & Construct Well #5 ⁽²⁾	\$ -	-	-	-	-	-
Placeholder for Future Years CIP Costs	\$ -	-	-	-	-	350,000
Total: CIP Program Costs (Current-Year Dollars)	\$ -	\$ 1,106,000	\$ 1,005,000	\$ 1,105,000	\$ 1,105,000	\$ 1,855,000



Sewer – Capital Improvement Program

Capital Improvement Program Costs (in Current-Year Dollars):

Project Description	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<i>Current Year Capital Projects (1)</i>						
Rehab/Upgrade Sewer Lift Stations	\$ -	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000
Replace Misc. Equipment & Emergency Repairs	\$ -	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
Collection System Flushing	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Video of Sewer Collection System	\$ -	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
GIS System Development & Collection System Mapping	\$ -	\$ 75,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Replace Gaseous Chlorine Disinfection System (2)	\$ -	\$ 160,000	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Capital Improvement Plan Development	\$ -	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Update SSMP	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Install Temporary Generator Connections	\$ -	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Purchase Temporary Generator	\$ -	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sewer Collection System Model & Master Plan	\$ -	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Future Years Capital Projects</i>						
Sewer Main/Manhole Replacement Project	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
Sewer Main/Manhole Relining Project	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
GIS System Annual Maintenance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Capital Improvement Plan Update	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Evaluate Sizing of Auxiliary/Equalization Basin (2)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000
Renew WDRs (2)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000
Upgrade Solids Handling System (2)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200,000
Placeholder for Future Years CIP Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000	\$ 250,000	\$ -
Total: CIP Program Costs (Current-Year Dollars)	\$ -	\$ 635,000	\$ 672,000	\$ 522,000	\$ 722,000	\$ 697,000

Overview of Rate Design Issues

■ **Water Utility:**

- Current fixed charges should remove the 30 ccf/ bi-mo. usage currently included & be based on meter size.
- Current volumetric rates should cover all consumption:
 - ✓ Use 3-Tiers for residential rates.
 - ✓ Use a uniform volumetric rate for non-residential.
- NBS recommends 40/60% split of fixed/variable rate revenue.
- Drought Rates added as a contingency plan.

■ **Sewer Utility:**

- Current residential fixed monthly charges could be improved (equity-wise) using average winter-water based charges.
- Current commercial fixed monthly charges should use monthly-water based volumetric rates.
- Drought Rates are added as a contingency plan.

Current vs. Proposed Rates

Proposed Water Rates

Water Rate Schedule	Current Rates	Proposed Rates - Rate Alternative #1			
		FY 2014/15 12.00%	FY 2015/16 11.00%	FY 2016/17 11.00%	FY 2017/18 8.00%
<i>Projected Increase in Rate Revenue per Financial Plan:</i>					
Fixed Service Charge					
Bi-monthly charge (includes up to 30 ccf/bi-mo.)	\$74.26	--	--	--	--
Bi-monthly Service Charge by Meter Size:					
5/8-inch	--	\$55.08	\$61.14	\$67.87	\$73.30
3/4-inch	--	\$80.75	\$89.63	\$99.49	\$107.45
1-inch	--	\$132.08	\$146.61	\$162.73	\$175.75
1 1/2-inch	--	\$260.40	\$289.04	\$320.84	\$346.51
2-inch	--	\$414.39	\$459.97	\$510.57	\$551.42
Commodity Charges for All Water Consumed					
Rate Per CCF of Water Consumed (consumption above 30 ccf bi-monthly)	\$2.48	--	--	--	--
3-Tier Rates, SFR Users (Only):					
Tier 1: 0-13 hcf	--	\$1.53	\$1.70	\$1.89	\$2.04
Tier 2: 14-22 hcf	--	\$1.92	\$2.13	\$2.36	\$2.55
Tier 3: All Usage Above 22 hcf	--	\$2.40	\$2.66	\$2.95	\$3.19
Uniform Rate (All Water Consumed)	--	\$1.86	\$2.07	\$2.30	\$2.48
					\$2.21
					\$2.76
					\$3.45
					\$2.68

Current vs. Proposed Rates

Proposed Water Rates (Drought Stages)

Calculated Drought Surcharges	Non-Drought	Drought Stages			
		Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
Drought-Stage Factors					
Percent Reduction by Stage	0.0%	10.0%	20.0%	30.0%	40.0%
Price Increase Needed to Meet Reduction ¹	0.0%	25.0%	40.0%	50.0%	66.7%
Calculated Drought-Stage Volumetric Rates					
Single-Family Residential Customers²:					
Tier 1	\$1.53	\$1.53	\$1.53	\$1.53	\$1.53
Tier 2	\$1.92	\$2.72	\$3.35	\$3.94	\$4.99
Tier 3	\$2.40	\$3.80	\$5.02	\$6.26	\$8.49
All Other Customers:					
Proposed Uniform Volumetric Rate	\$1.865	\$2.33	\$2.61	\$2.80	\$3.11

1. Based on the price elasticity, this is the price increase needed to achieve the "price-induced" reduction in water sales.

2. Note: residential tiered rates are calculated to average the same rate as for uniform rate customers.

Current vs. Proposed Rates

Proposed Sewer Rates

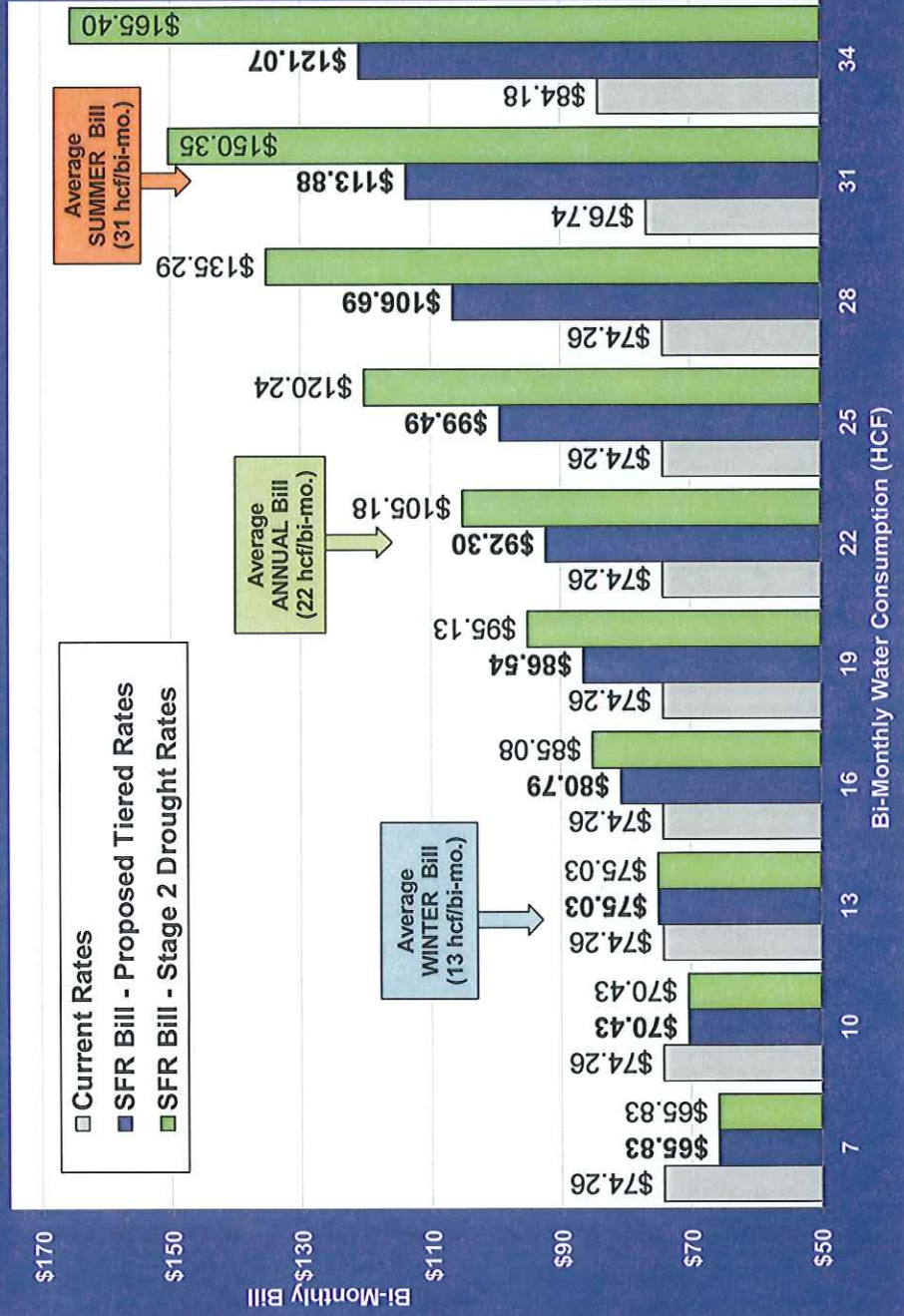
Sewer Rate Schedule	Current Rates	Recommended Sewer Rates				
		FY 2014/15 10.00%	FY 2015/16 8.00%	FY 2016/17 8.00%	FY 2017/18 8.00%	FY 2018/19 6.00%
<i>Projected Increase in Rate Revenue per Financial Plan:</i>						
Bi-Monthly Fixed Service Charge						
Residential ¹	\$100.36	\$77.83	\$84.06	\$90.78	\$98.04	\$103.93
Monthly Fixed Service Charge						
Commercial, Industrial, Municipal (per HEU)	\$50.18	\$38.92	\$42.03	\$45.39	\$49.02	\$51.96
Volumetric Charge (\$/HCF)						
Residential (Applied to <u>Avg. Winter</u> Water Use)	N.A.	\$2.07	\$2.23	\$2.41	\$2.60	\$2.76
Commercial (Applied to <u>Monthly</u> Water Use)	N.A.	\$2.25	\$2.43	\$2.62	\$2.83	\$3.00
Volumetric Charge (\$/HCF) - Adjusted for Drought Stages²						
Commercial Rates (Applied to <u>Monthly</u> Water Use)	N.A.	\$2.81	\$3.04	\$3.28	\$3.54	\$3.75
Stage 1	N.A.	\$3.15	\$3.40	\$3.67	\$3.97	\$4.20
Stage 2	N.A.	\$3.37	\$3.64	\$3.93	\$4.25	\$4.50
Stage 3	N.A.	\$3.75	\$4.05	\$4.37	\$4.72	\$5.00
Stage 4	N.A.					

1. Includes Single- and Multi-Family; Multi-Family are assessed on the basis of their number of HEUs.

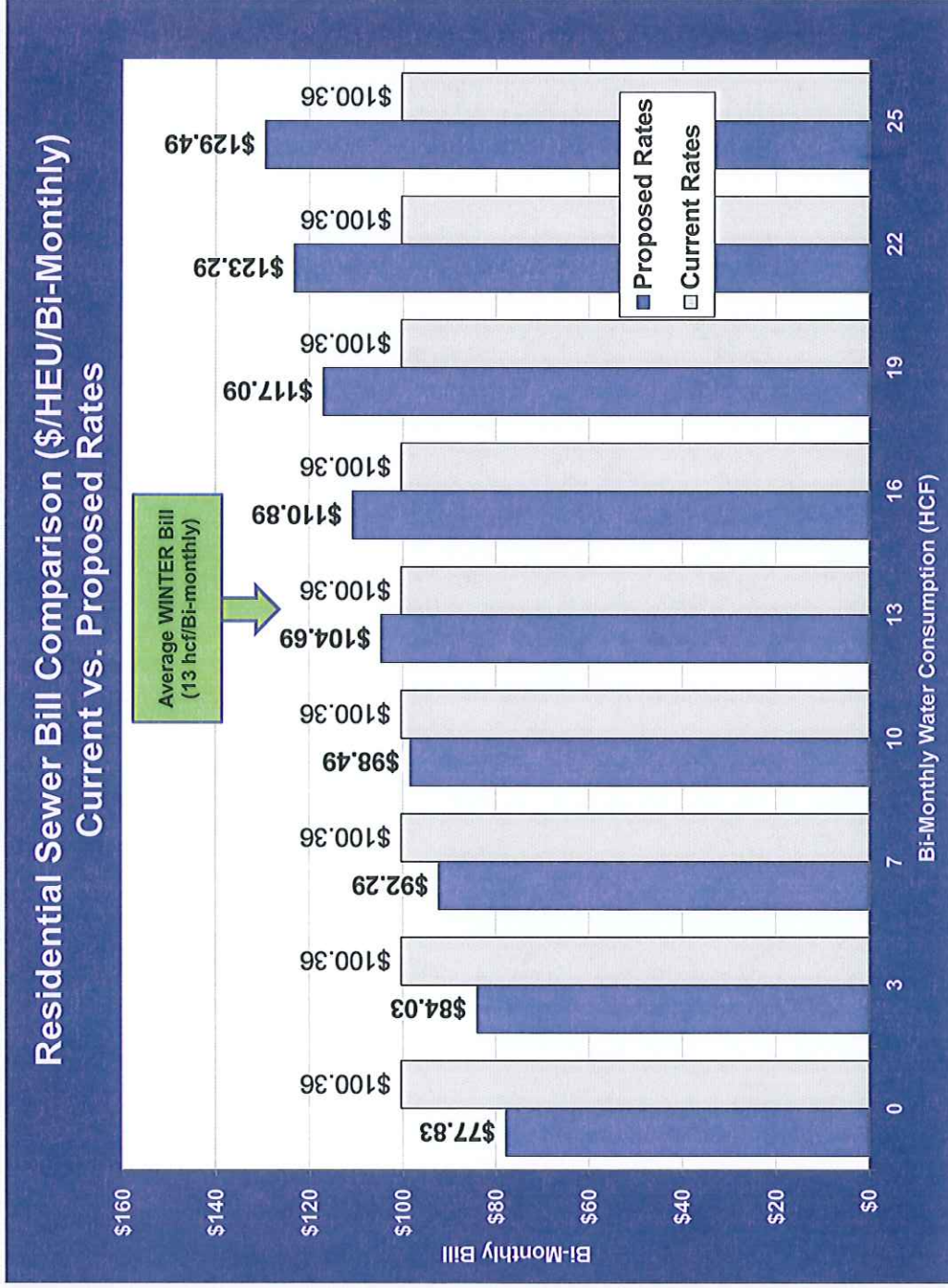
2. It is assumed that winter water use won't be affected by drought stages, therefore the adjustment for drought stages only applies to Commercial Customers.

Bill Comparison – Water Rates

Residential Water Bill Comparison - Alternative #1
Current vs. Proposed 2014/15 Rate Alternatives (5/8" meter)



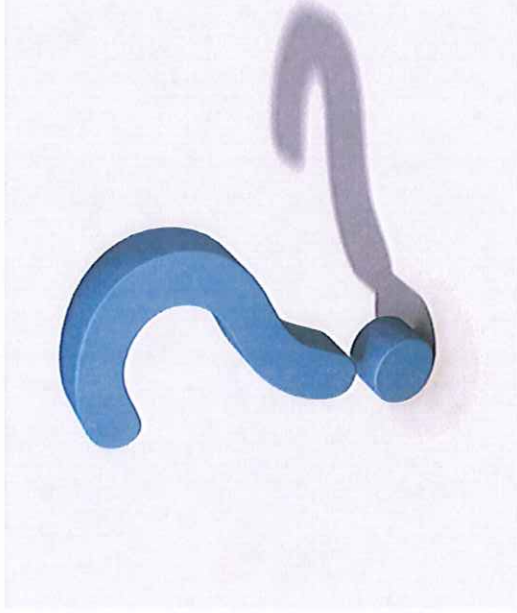
Bill Comparison – Sewer Rates



Recommendations & Next Steps

- ***Receive Direction from Board of Directors:***
 1. Provide input & direction on initial findings
 2. Determine whether NBS should evaluate other/ additional alternatives
- ***Next Steps Required to Adopt New Rates:***
 1. Approve final recommended New Rate Schedules at a public hearing
 2. Direct Staff to mail Prop 218 notices
 3. Hold public hearing to adopt new rates (assuming no majority protest)
 4. New rates would become effective 30 days after adoption

QUESTION & ANSWER



Hidden Valley Lake Golf Course employees rally for contract

By Leah DeAnda

leanda@record-bee.com (<mailto:leanda@record-bee.com>) @RecordBee on Twitter

UPDATED: 10/10/2014 09:09:33 AM PDT

HIDDEN VALLEY LAKE >> A rally of 13 Hidden Valley Lake Golf Course employees, a couple of their family members and five Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA) Local 324 staff petitioned Hardester's Market customers Wednesday afternoon to raise awareness of the Hidden Valley Lake Association's (HVLA) alleged refusal to bargain in good faith with their employees.

The 15 total unionized employees of the Hidden Valley Lake Golf Course include maintenance, mechanics, janitors, building and grounds workers. While the contract between their union and the HVLA is due to expire Oct. 31, a list of grievances against the HVLA's board and General Manager Cindy Spears is causing concern in the community.

The employees and Labor Local 324 representatives allege that as the HVLA board and Spears have made attempts to force union employees other, non-union, employees to sign a gag order to prevent them from speaking about negotiations; is demanding a more than \$4 per hour cut in each employment package to pay the golf course's water bill; and is preparing to lay-off mechanic staff in order to replace all of the golf carts as, the board argues, none of them are in working condition.

Additionally, the employees fear they will be "locked out" of working at the golf course after Oct. 31, as they have been previously under the general management of Jim Johnson.

"I don't know anybody that could live on a 30-percent reduction to their wages," Laborers' Local 324 Vice President George Griffin said.

The golf course employees are currently paid between \$14 and \$19 an hour. With the cut in pay, some would be working at near minimum wage while many of them have families to support.

Griffin said a few of the employees have had to collect recyclables to subsidize their income and support their families.

"I don't understand why we can't just sit down and work this out," Todd Everhart, who has been one of the golf course's mechanics since 2000, said.

Everhart has a family of five to support while paying rent and said he would likely have to move out of Hidden Valley Lake if he was fired from his job.

Dave George, a union field agent, said the union has been cooperatively negotiating since 1996 on what he believes is a fair agreement without problems, with the exception of the contract negotiated with Johnson.

"This time it's gotten uglier and uglier every day," Griffin said.

According to Griffin, Everhart and other employees working the parking lot, customers of the shopping center were overwhelmingly supportive of the petition, which demanded that the "HVLA does the right thing by its employees and stops keeping secrets from the resident of HVLA; does not deprive our grounds of services and equipment of maintenance in order to waste money on unnecessary equipment; and that HVLA reach a reasonable agreement with its employees immediately."

Nearly 100 percent of people who were asked to sign the petition agreed to, Griffin said, noting that the residents have their own qualms with the HVLA's lack of transparency.

However, golf course employees claimed to recognize HVLA board members doing surveillance and taking pictures of the rally, which constitutes an unfair labor practice, according to Griffin.

Additionally, the HVLA released a statement on its Facebook page concerning the rally, which is called a "blitzkrieg," or an overwhelming and sudden method of attack used in warfare, while allowing that the action was "an example of union democracy at work."

The statement also accuses the union representatives of walking out of the last bargaining session after "mere moments, refusing to engage in discussions with HVLA." Furthermore, the HVLA asserts it has suggested a way to bring a balance to the golf course's expenses without wage deductions but that the "union is still refusing to negotiate." It adds that the HVLA continues to be ready and willing to negotiate.

Griffin said the union disputes multiple allegations made in HVLA's release, including the characterization of the rally as a blitzkrieg, that the union representatives walked out of and refused to engage in negotiations and that the HVLA has suggested a way to balance expenses without wage deductions.

According to George, the union originally sent its proposals for the contract to the HVLA in February and again before a scheduled meeting on July 7, which the HVLA canceled at the "eleventh hour."

In August, when the two parties did meet to negotiate, the HVLA presented the union representatives with ground rules, which included the requirement that all changes to the contract remain confidential until a tentative agreement was reached and a confidentiality agreement that meant union representatives would be barred from speaking with the employees they represent about the negotiations. As George refused to sign the confidentiality agreement without consulting the union's legal counsel, the HVLA refused to provide its proposal, George said.

Subsequently the union filed unfair labor charges against the HVLA with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) Region 20. After the HVLA agreed to a new meeting to be held Sept. 18 and dropped the non-disclosure clause of the ground rules, the union withdrew their charges.

During the Sept. 18 meeting, Griffin said the HVLA initially refused to present their proposal but after 45 minutes of discussions, the HVLA board members met briefly and brought their proposal to the table, which included more than 60 changes to the contract and a handwritten clause on the last page for a \$1.95 wage cut. With the other changes to the contract that would result in additional takeaways, HVLA's proposal ultimately cut more than \$4 per hour from each employees employment package.

Following the Sept. 18 meeting, the union has requested multiple times that the HVLA provide date and location proposals for the next meeting. Most recently, it sent two requests for proposed times on Oct. 2, but all have gone unanswered, Griffin said. It has plans to send another request today.

The union has filed an additional four unfair labor charges with the NLRB, George said, and continues to await the HVLA's proposal for a meeting time.

The union's goal is to get to work on the contract negotiations as soon as possible but believes the HVLA is only stalling until the contract expires in three weeks, Griffin said.

While the board allegedly says it is making the cuts because of financial reasons, multiple requests for the association's financial information from the HVLA have also gone unanswered since August, according to Griffin.

"They're spending more money on attorney fees than it would cost them to just pay their employees," Griffin said.

Spears declined to comment on any of the contract negotiation issues or the rally, as directed by the HVLA's legal counsel.



Groundwater management plan for Santa Rosa Plain OK'd

BY ANGELA HART THE PRESS DEMOCRAT on October 8, 2014, 7:35PM10/08/2014

Less than a month after California passed historic groundwater laws aimed at halting overpumping, Sonoma County supervisors this week adopted a groundwater management plan for the Santa Rosa Plain — a 261-mile watershed covering Santa Rosa, Windsor, Sebastopol, Cotati and Rohnert Park.

Two years in the making, the 314-page plan found that groundwater pumping is diminishing the aquifer in places, which could affect supplies for streams and wells in the future. The aquifer helps supply drinking water for roughly half the county's population.

The plan calls for additional monitoring of groundwater supplies, encouraging conservation and increasing the use of recycled water.

It includes a study from the United States Geological Survey that analyzed surface and groundwater supplies and contained input from agricultural groups, well users, business leaders and environmental organizations. The USGS study found that between 1976 and 2010, agriculture accounted for 32 percent of groundwater use, while rural domestic pumping comprised 50 percent. The remaining 18 percent was used by cities for drinking water supply.

Supervisors on Tuesday applauded efforts they said put Sonoma County ahead of the curve in preparing for looming regulation of groundwater, which could include monitoring of wells and restrictions in areas that are overpumped.

You can reach Staff Writer Angela Hart at 526-8503 or angela.hart@pressdemocrat.com. On Twitter [@ahartreports](https://twitter.com/ahartreports).



California water use drops 11.5 percent in August

BY FENIT NIRAPPIL ASSOCIATED PRESS on October 7, 2014, 12:36PM10/07/2014

SACRAMENTO — State officials on Tuesday reported the largest monthly decline in water use this year as the severity of California's drought hits home, with community wells running dry, farm fields turning to dust and key reservoirs at a fraction of their capacity.

Water suppliers reported that consumption fell 11.5 percent in August compared with the year before. That was the first full month of mandatory restrictions and fines for water-wasters imposed by the State Water Resources Control Board in July.

"The trend here is very good," said Felicia Marcus, chairwoman of the board. "It appears the audience is listening, and folks have shifted into gear since we took action."

The data is self-reported by water agencies with 3,000 or more customers. Together, the reporting agencies serve 33.5 million Californians, or roughly 87 percent of the state's population.

Gov. Jerry Brown called on Californians to reduce water use by 20 percent when he declared a drought emergency in January. Californians could face further restrictions if the drought worsens and the coming winter fails to produce adequate snow and rainfall.

Marcus says the board is focused on pushing hesitant cities to conserve as much as they can for worse-case-scenarios, rather than achieving an across-the-board 20 percent cut in water use.

A similar voluntary survey showed water use actually increased by 1 percent in May. Since then, mandatory reporting shows monthly water use has declined — by 4.4 percent in June and 7.5 percent in July.

Of large suppliers serving 40,000 or more customers, the city of Tracy in Northern California had the largest percentage decrease in August water consumption, at 41 percent. Ten actually increased their water use.

The figures include residential and business users but do not show per-capita water use. As a result, it's easier for cities such as Sacramento and Fresno that have lacked meters and guzzled water to cut back compared with communities that have long conserved.

Take San Luis Obispo, which reported the largest jump in August water use, 26 percent. Ron Munds, the city utilities services manager, said years of conservation brought water use down from 180 gallons per day, per person to about 100 in the last two decades, which helped boost supplies to last seven years of drought.

"We haven't been pounding the water conservation message out there probably like other cities, but at the same time we are not in a panic situation," he said.

Water agencies will start reporting per-capita consumption estimates this month.

"It allows us to identify those areas that maybe aren't doing as much as they could and leaving alone the folks already squeezing blood from turnip," Marcus said.

SACRAMENTO — State officials on Tuesday reported the largest monthly decline in water use this year as the severity of California's drought hits home, with community wells running dry, farm fields turning to dust and key reservoirs at a fraction of their capacity.

Water suppliers reported that consumption fell 11.5 percent in August compared with the year before. That was the first full month of mandatory restrictions and fines for water-wasters imposed by the State Water Resources Control Board in July.

"The trend here is very good," said Felicia Marcus, chairwoman of the board. "It appears the audience is listening, and folks have shifted into gear since we took action."

The data is self-reported by water agencies with 3,000 or more customers. Together, the reporting agencies serve 33.5 million Californians, or roughly 87 percent of the state's population.

Gov. Jerry Brown called on Californians to reduce water use by 20 percent when he declared a drought emergency in January. Californians could face further restrictions if the drought worsens and the coming winter fails to produce adequate snow and rainfall.

Marcus says the board is focused on pushing hesitant cities to conserve as much as they can for worse-case-scenarios, rather than achieving an across-the-board 20 percent cut in water use.

A similar voluntary survey showed water use actually increased by 1 percent in May. Since then, mandatory reporting shows monthly water use has declined — by 4.4 percent in June and 7.5 percent in July.

Of large suppliers serving 40,000 or more customers, the city of Tracy in Northern California had the largest percentage decrease in August water consumption, at 41 percent. Ten actually increased their water use.

The figures include residential and business users but do not show per-capita water use. As a result, it's easier for cities such as Sacramento and Fresno that have lacked meters and guzzled water to cut back compared with communities that have long conserved.

Take San Luis Obispo, which reported the largest jump in August water use, 26 percent. Ron Munds, the city utilities services manager, said years of conservation brought water use down from 180 gallons per day, per person to about 100 in the last two decades, which helped boost supplies to last seven years of drought.

"We haven't been pounding the water conservation message out there probably like other cities, but at the same time we are not in a panic situation," he said.

Water agencies will start reporting per-capita consumption estimates this month.

"It allows us to identify those areas that maybe aren't doing as much as they could and leaving alone the folks already squeezing blood from turnip," Marcus said.

Some California water officials aren't walking the walk

Lance Williams and Katharine Mieszkowski, The Center for Investigative Reporting 3:04 p.m. PDT October 6, 2014



(Photo: Marilyn Chung/The Desert Sun)

Mike Soubirous is a prodigious water user, pumping more than 1 million gallons per year at his lushly landscaped home on a hot, windy Southern California hilltop.

Soubirous also is a member of the Riverside City Council, which in July voted unanimously (http://www.riversideca.gov/press_releases/2014-0723-riverside-council-enacts-mandatory-conservation-measures-for-rpu-water-customers.pdf) to impose tough new water conservation rules in this desert city of 317,000.

Yet as California's drought worsened from 2012 to 2013, Soubirous consumed enough water to supply eight California households — more than any other top water official in the state, records show.

Soubirous knows he should cut his water use to set a good example, he told The Center for Investigative Reporting. But he has a 1-acre lot with cascades of flowering shrubs and a weeping willow tree, and summer temperatures hit 100 degrees. Conservation isn't that simple, he said.

"Do I have to sell my house to set that example, or do I have to just abolish all my shrubs?" Soubirous said. "I don't know what to do. I don't know how I can reduce my water rate."

Like Soubirous, many of the local officials urging the public to save water during California's crippling drought actually are profligate water users themselves, a CIR investigation has found.

Water bills obtained via the state's Public Records Act show that in 2013, nearly half of the officials who supervise the state's biggest water agencies used more water than the typical California household.

And water officials tended not to cut back as the drought persisted. Even as their agencies scolded ratepayers on conservation, 60 percent of these officials used more water in 2013 than they had in 2012, records show.

Some officials used extraordinary amounts.

In addition to Soubirous, two other officials — a Fresno city councilman and a member of Riverside's utilities board — pumped more than 1 million gallons in a single year during the drought, records show.

Eight other officials used more than 1,100 gallons per day in 2013. That's triple the state's average. Among them was Randy Record, chairman of the board of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which recently launched an advertising blitz to persuade 19 million people to save water.

Big water bills also prevailed on the board of the Coachella Valley Water District, which supplies desert resort cities and golf courses near Palm Springs.

Water board President John Powell Jr. used 1,800 gallons per day in 2013 at his home on an Indian Wells golf course, slightly more than in 2012.

In an interview, Powell blamed his landscaper for favoring a green lawn over water conservation. Recently, Powell said he took drastic action: He locked up his irrigation timer to prevent overwatering.

He said he also replaced lawns with rock and artificial turf. He expects big savings. But through Aug. 27, his water use was down 4 percent from 2013, records show.

Powell said some of his water bills in early 2012 were paid on a different, smaller property, before he purchased the Indian Wells home in April of that year and moved in. "So you would have seen an increase (in 2013) merely because of the different property," Powell said.

"I've done a tremendous amount to reduce water use at that property," Powell said, adding that he has tracked his water use since he moved in. He said that at first, the home used about 125 percent of the local water district's water use budget for a house of that size.

The house was built in 1977, when big lawns were the norm in many new homes. Powell said he has cut his water use with two landscaping projects, the most recent of which was finished in August.

"It's been quite a long, expensive effort, that I think we're finally there," Powell said.

"You'll see a significant drop in my water use below budget starting I think in August and September of this year," Powell said. "Between 60 and 70 percent of budget is where I should be tracking as a result."

Despite the drought, rainstorms in early September triggered flash floods that damaged homes in the area, including Powell's. He said that forced him to use more water than usual last month to clean the mud out of his house and yard, as well as the pool, which was filled with mud.

"I'm doing everything I can to get my water use well below that budget, and I believe I've succeeded," Powell added. "I don't have a whole lot of months under my belt. The first really good one ended up with that flood, so it won't look as good as it should have."

Fellow board member Peter Nelson used 1,500 gallons per day last year, a 10 percent increase over 2012. Nelson says a big water bill seems unavoidable in his home near the Palm Royale Country Club in La Quinta, where his son hosted his water polo team for weekly swim parties in the family's pool.

Nelson also noted there are seven people living in his house, including two grown children and two grandchildren. He said that puts the home slightly above the average per-capita water use in the state.

"We're just above average for all of California and I think that at our house, we can do better, and we've been working on that," Nelson said.

Nelson pointed out that in 2009, he removed turf in the backyard and replaced it with hardscape. He still has a large lawn in the front yard and a pool.

"For us and for other folks in the valley, we can always strive to be better, and we need to do that. We recognize that. We've come some ways, and we need to even get further," Nelson said. "I'm a little over average. I'm trying to be better."

For consistency, the CIR investigation used a per-household average statewide, and regionally, because the number of people living in a household is not reflected in water bills. Nelson was referring instead to the statewide per-capita average, which according to the Department of Water Resources is 196 gallons per person per day.

Fifteen additional officials used double the statewide rate. One was Ashley Swearingin, Republican candidate for state controller and incumbent mayor of Fresno, where residents are allowed to water lawns twice a week now and not at all in winter.

As the drought has worsened, local agencies have kept up a steady public relations drumbeat, urging Californians to take shorter showers, limit car washing and even tear out their lawns in the name of conservation.

This summer, the state told local agencies to enforce tough new rules: Ratepayers can face \$500 fines for offenses such as permitting excess runoff from outdoor watering or cleaning sidewalks with hoses. Around the state, according to news reports, neighbors have begun reporting neighbors for wasting water.

When contacted, some water officials bemoaned how much they were spending on water and blamed undetected sprinkler leaks, overzealous gardeners or heavy use of the family swimming pool. All said conservation is important. All vowed to do better.

But not all are following their own water rules. Last month in Riverside, an NBC Los Angeles crew collaborating with CIR on this story witnessed sprinklers running seven nights in a row at Soubirous' home. Yet in July, Soubirous joined the council in forbidding watering more than four times a week. When asked about it, he acknowledged he might have unintentionally overwatered.

Trent Orr of the Earthjustice environmental law firm in San Francisco said the officials were "blatantly defying" the conservation ethos they impose on ordinary citizens.

"You should be leading by example," Orr said, "not telling the little people you regulate that they need to tighten their belts while you proceed as if nothing had happened and in fact use more water."

Water bills for most Californians are confidential. But bills for officials who set water rates and policies are public under the state's open records law. CIR obtained more than two years' worth for the elected and appointed officials who oversee 22 of the state's biggest water agencies – about 150 officials in all.

For comparison, a 2011 study (<http://www.irwd.com/images/pdf/save-water/CaSingleFamilyWaterUseEfficiencyStudyJune2011.pdf>) commissioned by the state Department of Water Resources found that occupants of a single-family home in California use, on average, 361 gallons per day — or nearly 132,000 gallons a year.

Northern and southern Californians use about the same amount of water indoors, the study found. But Southern Californians use far more outdoors to keep their landscaping lush and swimming pools full. Overall, Northern California households use about 295 gallons per day, while Southern Californians use 523 gallons, according to the study.

CIR's analysis found a similar variance: Water-guzzling officials were concentrated in the drier, thirstier parts of the state — the Central Valley and hot inland areas in Southern California. Bay Area officials used far less: 255 gallons per day — slightly below the Northern California average.

In the Central Valley, where summers are scorching, water officials included in the CIR analysis averaged 855 gallons per day in 2013. The Central Valley's average use was less than 565 gallons. Because cities in the region have been slow to install residential water meters, bills weren't available for many officials.

Fresno City Councilman Oliver Baines said a horrendous malfunction in his sprinkler system made him a million-gallon user in 2013, the first year that water meters kept track in his west Fresno neighborhood.

Baines' first metered bill showed he used 4,000 gallons per day — about 11 times the state average. The city, which says it has the lowest water rates in California, charged him \$182.43 for that water.

One year and 1.24 million gallons later, Baines finally solved what he called a "freak situation" involving his sprinklers: In the middle of the night, water would stream from defective sprinkler heads, flooding the yard. The ground became so saturated that a sinkhole opened up behind his house, he said.

After repairs, Baines used 149 gallons per day in March. But the memory still rankles.

"Well, you know, I apologize," he said. "Clearly, I am not a model of water usage."

Nobody in the valley rivaled Baines, though. Fresno's mayor, Swearingin, averaged 850 gallons per day in 2013. She didn't respond to a request for comment.

In Southern California, water officials averaged 541 gallons per day, exceeding both the state and regional rates. Officials in coastal cities tended to have far lower water bills than those in hotter inland areas.

Riverside Councilman Soubroux was the only official to use 1 million gallons in successive years, but he was not the only mega-user in the Inland Empire city, which has outlawed watering between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Andrew Walcker of the city Board of Public Utilities used 1 million gallons in 2012. In September 2012, he pumped 6,000 gallons per day — enough water for 16 households.

Walcker's 2-acre property once was a grapefruit grove. Starting 18 months ago, he said he began a landscape makeover, installing a state-of-the-art sprinkler system and pulling out 12,000 square feet of lawn.

Water bills show Walcker's use dropped by 35 percent in 2013 and is on a pace to drop 50 percent this year. Nevertheless, in June, he used more than 1,500 gallons per day, triple the Southern California average.

The other big Riverside user was utilities board member Nick Ferguson. He used enough for six households in 2012 and slightly less in 2013.

Ferguson declined to be interviewed, but his bills may continue to decrease. In May, according to a news release, he won a \$10,000 Waterwise Landscape Makeover contest sponsored by the city and the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce. His prize: a turf-free front yard.

Also struggling to conserve water is Record, a Riverside County rancher and local water district official who was elected chairman of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California in May.

For years, the consortium of 26 Los Angeles-area water agencies has promoted water conservation. Now, facing cutbacks from Northern California, it has redoubled its efforts. In May, Record and other Metropolitan Water District officials held a news conference to warn that if voluntary conservation measures fall short, water rationing would begin (http://www.mwdh2o.com/mwdh2o/pages/news/press_releases/2014-05/Ratchig_Up_Conservation.pdf).

At his ranch house on the outskirts of San Jacinto, Record has a history of letting the water flow: In both 2012 and 2013, he used enough water to supply four families, with a summertime spike.

But this year, in the name of conservation, he told CIR that he has dramatically cut back, turning off the sprinklers for a "big part of our lawn."

The result: In August, records water bill was half what it was a year ago. But he still used 1,300 gallons per day — more than twice the Southern California average.

In the Bay Area, where summer nights can be cool and foggy, local water officials don't use much water: 70 percent were under the state average in 2013.

The region's biggest user was Martin Koller, vice president of the board of the Alameda County Water District. He used 604 gallons per day, double the regional rate. Koller said nine members of his extended family live with him, and his wife operates a day care center for 14 children out of the home. "That's taxed our water usage," he said.

Otherwise, Bay Area officials dominated the list of water misers among their peers.

The most miserly official in California was Eric Mar of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, who lives in a condominium in the Inner Richmond district, part of the city's fog belt. He used 45 gallons per day in 2013 — about enough to fill a bathtub.

San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee was not far behind: He used 53 gallons per day at his Glen Park home.

The mayor believes "conservation is a way of life," said spokeswoman Christine Falvey, and he's often out of town on official travel.

As a result, Lee had some extraordinarily low bills.

In July, he used 24 gallons per day — enough to wash a load of clothes. In March 2013, he used 12 gallons per day — the equivalent of one six-minute shower. And in December 2013, after trips to China and India, the mayor's bill was even lower: zero gallons.

Actually, the zero is a billing anomaly, said Tyrone Jue, spokesman for the city Public Utilities Commission.

In San Francisco, water use is rounded off on monthly bills, he said. Customers get zeros when they don't use enough water to make the meter tick — 748 gallons in a billing period. Their minimal use is carried over to the following month's bills, Jue said.

There's no way the mayor went an entire month without using a drop of water, Jue said. "Essentially, it is normal," he said of the bill.

Desert Sun reporter Ian James contributed to this story, which was edited by Amy Pyle and copy edited by Nikki Frick and Christine Lee.

This story was produced by The Center for Investigative Reporting, an independent, nonprofit newsroom based in the San Francisco Bay Area. For more, visit cironline.org. Williams can be reached at williams@cironline.org (<mailto:williams@cironline.org>), and Mieszkowski can be reached at kmieszkowski@cironline.org (<mailto:kmieszkowski@cironline.org>). Follow them on Twitter: @LanceWCIR and @kmieszkowski.

Read or Share this story: <http://www.desertsun.com/story/news/environment/2014/10/06/california-drought-water-officials-conservation/16826145/>



MORE STORIES

[Cathedral City council candidates share their views](#)



Drought a top issue in race for 4th District supervisor

BY ANGELA HART THE PRESS DEMOCRAT on October 4, 2014, 4:41PM10/04/2014

California's prolonged drought has made talk of water shortages into regular kitchen-table fodder on farms and in neighborhoods across Sonoma County, elevating water policy — a wonkish topic in many a prior election — into a top issue in the race for the county's 4th District supervisor seat.

The winner in the contest between Windsor Councilwoman Deb Fudge and former Obama administration official James Gore is likely to be faced with a host of difficult drought- and water-related decisions that could have major implications for the future of agriculture and the environment in Sonoma County.

The list of issues starts with the looming state-mandated regulation of groundwater use, which could for the first time set rules on when and how much well owners are allowed to pump. The county will need to act starting next year to have an oversight agency in place by 2017, as required under the laws signed by Gov. Jerry Brown last month.

Supervisor Mike McGuire's successor representing the north county — including world-class wine grape growing regions such as Alexander and Dry Creek valleys — could also play a pivotal role in Board of Supervisors' decisions affecting Russian River flows, setbacks for development and agriculture along 3,200 miles of waterways and investments in recycled water infrastructure to preserve drinking water supplies.

The deluge of issues has made the drought a galvanizing force for 4th District voters and the two candidates seeking their support.

"The story about how water pervades politics in California is nothing new, but it's become a game-changer for this race," said David McCuan, a political science professor at Sonoma State University. "The stakes are quite high."

Farms and ranches make up a large swath of the land in the 4th District, which extends from northern Santa Rosa to the Mendocino County line, including Larkfield-Wikiup, Windsor, Healdsburg, Geyserville and Cloverdale.

Much of the area is situated along a stretch of the Russian River that relies on flows from Lake Mendocino for surface supplies.

The reservoir, now at just over a quarter its capacity, is at its lowest level for this time of the year since 1958.

Pumping water from underground aquifers offers growers, cities and other rural residents in the region another major source, yet the state's new laws on groundwater are likely to affect that use.

At the very least, monitoring and management of underground supplies will no longer be voluntary. Profligate users depleting aquifers could be hit with fines.

Both Fudge and Gore support the new laws, saying California — long the only western state with a pump-as-you-please policy — was overdue for such a move.

“Without reliable water supplies, none of the other issues like roads, or jobs or economic vibrancy rise to the top,” said Gore. He has earned endorsements from farming interests, including the Sonoma County Farm Bureau, which strongly opposed the groundwater legislation, saying the action was rushed and represents an economic threat to the agricultural sector.

Gore, who worked at a federal agency that specializes in collaborating with farmers on natural resource projects, insisted he was not beholden to agricultural interests on water policy.

“Sure I have support from business groups and agriculturists,” Gore said. “But I would manage water for everyone, not just one group or the other.”

Fudge, a retired PG&E program manager, has been endorsed by environmental groups who generally favor stronger oversight of water resources, including protections against streamside development.

She has touted her work on water-savings initiatives during her 18 years on the Windsor Town Council and has emphasized the need for even broader, more aggressive efforts to ready the region’s water system for impacts from global warming.

“There’s no question that we have to prepare for long-term climate change,” Fudge said. “I’ve been chomping at the bit to bring my ideas and what we’ve done in Windsor to the county. That’s what I’ll take to the Board of Supervisors.”

Results of a statewide public opinion poll in September ranked water the most important issue for likely voters, with 72 percent saying supply is a “big problem” in their part of the state — outweighing air pollution among a list of other environmental woes for the first time in the survey’s history.

The political context of the drought was underscored with Gov. Brown’s signing of historic groundwater legislation, amid opposition from powerful farming groups who said the legislation unfairly singles out agriculture and threatens private property rights.

The new groundwater laws require every county to ensure use of their groundwater basins is sustainable by 2040, essentially ending the hands-off policy that has long made California an anomaly among water-starved western states.

The shift, spurred by the three-year drought, comes as each of Sonoma County’s nine cities have all approved mandatory water restrictions to help conserve dwindling surface supplies.

“Drought is going to be a big issue this election, and voters are going to want to know where their candidates for local office stand,” said Mark Baldassare, president and CEO of the Public Policy Institute of California, the think tank that conducted the public opinion poll. “It’s surprising because we’ve seen water emerge as the top issue in a very short period of time.”

High voter interest in the drought and its implications for water supply in the coming years has been borne out on the campaign trail.

At a candidate forum in northern Santa Rosa in August — one of three organized by Gore during the summer — about 50 people filled a room at the Wells Fargo Center for the Arts to voice their

concerns. More than half stood up and said they were concerned about how the drought was affecting the county.

“There’s no question water is important to me,” said Jim Berger, a retired dentist. “I wanted to hear what James had to say about it. I want to be an informed voter.”

At separate forum in Healdsburg, others ranked drought a top issue.

“We have to do more to conserve water,” said Healdsburg resident Paul Beseda, who added he is concerned about what lies ahead if the drought continues.

Water worries have been commonly voiced in candidates’ door-to-door visits with constituents.

Fudge said she sees brown lawns and encounters questions from residents about the drought nearly every time she walks precincts. She said she hears concerns about farmers and ranchers making up the bulk of water consumption in the county.

“I tell city and agricultural users that we’re all in this together,” Fudge said. “There should be no pointing of fingers.”

The two candidates agree on enforcing mandatory water cuts to conserve surface water supplies and the need to measure levels in underground aquifers. They appear to differ, however, on their ideas for how the county should approach groundwater regulation and the need for mandatory streamside setbacks prohibiting encroachment of agriculture and development surrounding riparian corridors.

Gore said when developing a local groundwater management plan, which could include efforts to recharge basins with recycled water, everything needs to be on the table.

“My first priority would be to provide an avenue for voluntary compliance, but if that is not getting them to stop over-pumping, then absolutely mandatory restrictions and fines would be part of the equation,” he said. “We have to look at what’s going on underground and take actions accordingly.”

Fudge highlighted Sonoma County’s efforts to measure underground basins, with the development of groundwater studies in both the Sonoma Valley and the Santa Rosa Plain. Both studies have identified overpumping. In Sonoma Valley, two areas are sinking below sea level, allowing for saltwater intrusion. And a newly minted Santa Rosa study found that groundwater pumping is causing an imbalance between water coming in and going out, imperiling ecosystems in the area.

In interviews, Fudge has balked at support for mandatory restrictions on groundwater pumping. “If we get into an extreme situation, we might need to control it,” she said.

Fudge, however, came out in full support of county regulations that shield streams and creeks from development and agriculture.

Gore, on the other hand, said he couldn’t endorse a proposed ordinance spelling out 50 to 200-foot buffer zones along streams outside city boundaries. The controversial zoning changes, slated to come back to the Board of Supervisors this year, would protect sensitive plant and animal habitat on roughly 82,000 acres.

“It’s really important that we be able to farm here, but we also have to protect our natural resources,” Fudge said. “Especially our rivers and creeks.”

Gore said the county should identify other ways to protect streamside habitat.

“I would need more conservation investments to be able to support setbacks,” he said. “It’s shortsighted and lazy to build a regulatory program with rules that just say no.”

Fudge highlighted water-related efforts she helped spearhead in Windsor, including the city’s recent approval of mandatory water cuts. She also pointed to a water conservation program initiated in 2012 called Pay As You Save, which allows Windsor residents to install water saving fixtures such as low-flow toilets and showerheads, as well as replace water-guzzling lawns with drought-resistant plants with no upfront costs.

Financed by the town, residents pay for the upgrades over five to 15 years with a small surcharge on their utility bill. She also touted the development of a 500-home subdivision in Windsor called Vintage Greens, in which the town created incentives for new residents to hook up to a new recycled water system.

“We were the first city in Northern California to install recycled water piping to irrigate front and back yards,” she said. “I’ve been very involved in water and energy conservation for most of my life.”

The environmental groups supporting Fudge say her record in Windsor is one reason they backed her.

“Deb was very conscientious on the council when it came to the vote on Pay As You Save — she was the vote in favor the first time it came up,” said Dennis Rosatti, executive director of Sonoma County Conservation Action. “Her leadership in creation of the Windsor Town Green and her role with the SMART train are also valuable assets.”

Gore has outlined a five-point plan that he says would offer solutions for the county’s water problems. He said the county should recharge diminished groundwater aquifers by expanding the Russian River’s protected floodplains — swaths of land that are allowed to flood, thereby allowing water to seep into the ground. He also backed investments, perhaps using general fund money, for expanding recycled water infrastructure, and easing permitting to allow installation of gray water systems.

Both candidates said they’re in favor of altering the way water is released from Lake Mendocino, to preserve dry-season supplies.

“We need to hold back as much as we can while still having a healthy environment for endangered (fish) species,” Fudge said. “It’s a tricky balance.”

Gore said farmers and ranchers, who use the largest share of the county’s water supply, must take responsibility for conservation efforts, too, in addition to residential users.

That stance, along with Gore’s support for groundwater regulation, seems not to have turned off some of his most powerful backers in the farming sector.

“We spent time interviewing both candidates because we feel supervisors should have a good understanding of agriculture,” said Farm Bureau president Tito Sasaki. “We feel James can understand the agricultural perspective.”

McCuan, the political analyst, said he sees both Fudge and Gore moving toward the middle in their campaigns, including on issues dealing with water, as Election Day approaches. “Neither one wants to

be seen as solely in the pocket of business or agriculture,” McCuan said. “At the same time, neither wants such a heavy regulatory approach that restricts business development.”

You can reach Staff Writer Angela Hart at 526-8503 or angela.hart@pressdemocrat.com. On Twitter @ahartreports.

California’s prolonged drought has made talk of water shortages into regular kitchen-table fodder on farms and in neighborhoods across Sonoma County, elevating water policy — a wonkish topic in many a prior election — into a top issue in the race for the county’s 4th District supervisor seat.

The winner in the contest between Windsor Councilwoman Deb Fudge and former Obama administration official James Gore is likely to be faced with a host of difficult drought- and water-related decisions that could have major implications for the future of agriculture and the environment in Sonoma County.

The list of issues starts with the looming state-mandated regulation of groundwater use, which could for the first time set rules on when and how much well owners are allowed to pump. The county will need to act starting next year to have an oversight agency in place by 2017, as required under the laws signed by Gov. Jerry Brown last month.

Supervisor Mike McGuire’s successor representing the north county — including world-class wine grape growing regions such as Alexander and Dry Creek valleys — could also play a pivotal role in Board of Supervisors’ decisions affecting Russian River flows, setbacks for development and agriculture along 3,200 miles of waterways and investments in recycled water infrastructure to preserve drinking water supplies.

The deluge of issues has made the drought a galvanizing force for 4th District voters and the two candidates seeking their support.

“The story about how water pervades politics in California is nothing new, but it’s become a game-changer for this race,” said David McCuan, a political science professor at Sonoma State University. “The stakes are quite high.”

Farms and ranches make up a large swath of the land in the 4th District, which extends from northern Santa Rosa to the Mendocino County line, including Larkfield-Wikiup, Windsor, Healdsburg, Geyserville and Cloverdale.

Much of the area is situated along a stretch of the Russian River that relies on flows from Lake Mendocino for surface supplies.

The reservoir, now at just over a quarter its capacity, is at its lowest level for this time of the year since 1958.

Pumping water from underground aquifers offers growers, cities and other rural residents in the region another major source, yet the state’s new laws on groundwater are likely to affect that use.

At the very least, monitoring and management of underground supplies will no longer be voluntary. Profligate users depleting aquifers could be hit with fines.

Both Fudge and Gore support the new laws, saying California — long the only western state with a pump-as-you-please policy — was overdue for such a move.

“Without reliable water supplies, none of the other issues like roads, or jobs or economic vibrancy rise to the top,” said Gore. He has earned endorsements from farming interests, including the Sonoma County Farm Bureau, which strongly opposed the groundwater legislation, saying the action was rushed and represents an economic threat to the agricultural sector.

Gore, who worked at a federal agency that specializes in collaborating with farmers on natural resource projects, insisted he was not beholden to agricultural interests on water policy.

“Sure I have support from business groups and agriculturists,” Gore said. “But I would manage water for everyone, not just one group or the other.”

Fudge, a retired PG&E program manager, has been endorsed by environmental groups who generally favor stronger oversight of water resources, including protections against streamside development.

She has touted her work on water-savings initiatives during her 18 years on the Windsor Town Council and has emphasized the need for even broader, more aggressive efforts to ready the region’s water system for impacts from global warming.

“There’s no question that we have to prepare for long-term climate change,” Fudge said. “I’ve been chomping at the bit to bring my ideas and what we’ve done in Windsor to the county. That’s what I’ll take to the Board of Supervisors.”

Results of a statewide public opinion poll in September ranked water the most important issue for likely voters, with 72 percent saying supply is a “big problem” in their part of the state — outweighing air pollution among a list of other environmental woes for the first time in the survey’s history.

The political context of the drought was underscored with Gov. Brown’s signing of historic groundwater legislation, amid opposition from powerful farming groups who said the legislation unfairly singles out agriculture and threatens private property rights.

The new groundwater laws require every county to ensure use of their groundwater basins is sustainable by 2040, essentially ending the hands-off policy that has long made California an anomaly among water-starved western states.

The shift, spurred by the three-year drought, comes as each of Sonoma County’s nine cities have all approved mandatory water restrictions to help conserve dwindling surface supplies.

“Drought is going to be a big issue this election, and voters are going to want to know where their candidates for local office stand,” said Mark Baldassare, president and CEO of the Public Policy Institute of California, the think tank that conducted the public opinion poll. “It’s surprising because we’ve seen water emerge as the top issue in a very short period of time.”

High voter interest in the drought and its implications for water supply in the coming years has been borne out on the campaign trail.

At a candidate forum in northern Santa Rosa in August — one of three organized by Gore during the summer — about 50 people filled a room at the Wells Fargo Center for the Arts to voice their concerns. More than half stood up and said they were concerned about how the drought was affecting the county.

“There’s no question water is important to me,” said Jim Berger, a retired dentist. “I wanted to hear what James had to say about it. I want to be an informed voter.”

At separate forum in Healdsburg, others ranked drought a top issue.

“We have to do more to conserve water,” said Healdsburg resident Paul Beseda, who added he is concerned about what lies ahead if the drought continues.

Water worries have been commonly voiced in candidates’ door-to-door visits with constituents.

Fudge said she sees brown lawns and encounters questions from residents about the drought nearly every time she walks precincts. She said she hears concerns about farmers and ranchers making up the bulk of water consumption in the county.

“I tell city and agricultural users that we’re all in this together,” Fudge said. “There should be no pointing of fingers.”

The two candidates agree on enforcing mandatory water cuts to conserve surface water supplies and the need to measure levels in underground aquifers. They appear to differ, however, on their ideas for how the county should approach groundwater regulation and the need for mandatory streamside setbacks prohibiting encroachment of agriculture and development surrounding riparian corridors.

Gore said when developing a local groundwater management plan, which could include efforts to recharge basins with recycled water, everything needs to be on the table.

“My first priority would be to provide an avenue for voluntary compliance, but if that is not getting them to stop over-pumping, then absolutely mandatory restrictions and fines would be part of the equation,” he said. “We have to look at what’s going on underground and take actions accordingly.”

Fudge highlighted Sonoma County’s efforts to measure underground basins, with the development of groundwater studies in both the Sonoma Valley and the Santa Rosa Plain. Both studies have identified overpumping. In Sonoma Valley, two areas are sinking below sea level, allowing for saltwater intrusion. And a newly minted Santa Rosa study found that groundwater pumping is causing an imbalance between water coming in and going out, imperiling ecosystems in the area.

In interviews, Fudge has balked at support for mandatory restrictions on groundwater pumping. “If we get into an extreme situation, we might need to control it,” she said.

Fudge, however, came out in full support of county regulations that shield streams and creeks from development and agriculture.

Gore, on the other hand, said he couldn’t endorse a proposed ordinance spelling out 50 to 200-foot buffer zones along streams outside city boundaries. The controversial zoning changes, slated to come back to the Board of Supervisors this year, would protect sensitive plant and animal habitat on roughly 82,000 acres.

“It’s really important that we be able to farm here, but we also have to protect our natural resources,” Fudge said. “Especially our rivers and creeks.”

Gore said the county should identify other ways to protect streamside habitat.

“I would need more conservation investments to be able to support setbacks,” he said. “It’s shortsighted and lazy to build a regulatory program with rules that just say no.”

Fudge highlighted water-related efforts she helped spearhead in Windsor, including the city’s recent approval of mandatory water cuts. She also pointed to a water conservation program initiated in 2012 called Pay As You Save, which allows Windsor residents to install water saving fixtures such as low-flow toilets and showerheads, as well as replace water-guzzling lawns with drought-resistant plants with no upfront costs.

Financed by the town, residents pay for the upgrades over five to 15 years with a small surcharge on their utility bill. She also touted the development of a 500-home subdivision in Windsor called Vintage Greens, in which the town created incentives for new residents to hook up to a new recycled water system.

“We were the first city in Northern California to install recycled water piping to irrigate front and back yards,” she said. “I’ve been very involved in water and energy conservation for most of my life.”

The environmental groups supporting Fudge say her record in Windsor is one reason they backed her.

“Deb was very conscientious on the council when it came to the vote on Pay As You Save — she was the vote in favor the first time it came up,” said Dennis Rosatti, executive director of Sonoma County Conservation Action. “Her leadership in creation of the Windsor Town Green and her role with the SMART train are also valuable assets.”

Gore has outlined a five-point plan that he says would offer solutions for the county’s water problems. He said the county should recharge diminished groundwater aquifers by expanding the Russian River’s protected floodplains — swaths of land that are allowed to flood, thereby allowing water to seep into the ground. He also backed investments, perhaps using general fund money, for expanding recycled water infrastructure, and easing permitting to allow installation of gray water systems.

Both candidates said they’re in favor of altering the way water is released from Lake Mendocino, to preserve dry-season supplies.

“We need to hold back as much as we can while still having a healthy environment for endangered (fish) species,” Fudge said. “It’s a tricky balance.”

Gore said farmers and ranchers, who use the largest share of the county’s water supply, must take responsibility for conservation efforts, too, in addition to residential users.

That stance, along with Gore’s support for groundwater regulation, seems not to have turned off some of his most powerful backers in the farming sector.

“We spent time interviewing both candidates because we feel supervisors should have a good understanding of agriculture,” said Farm Bureau president Tito Sasaki. “We feel James can understand the agricultural perspective.”

McCuan, the political analyst, said he sees both Fudge and Gore moving toward the middle in their campaigns, including on issues dealing with water, as Election Day approaches. “Neither one wants to be seen as solely in the pocket of business or agriculture,” McCuan said. “At the same time, neither wants such a heavy regulatory approach that restricts business development.”

Adam Springs well tainted

Source of E. coli, Coliform unknown

By J.W. Burch, IV
jburch@record-bee.com
@JWBurchIV on Twitter

COBB » The well of the Adam Springs Water System in Cobb has been contaminated with E. Coli and Coliform bacteria.

According to Cobb Area Water General Manager Robert Stark, the well was closed immediately last winter after the contamination was found. The well cannot be used until mitigation is complete, which may take a couple of years.

The cause of the contamination is currently unknown, and the district is conducting tests to uncover their origins.

"We're drilling a series of test wells in order to determine where it might be coming from," Stark said.

The Cobb Area Water System has a well approximately 200 feet away from the contaminated Adams Springs well, which is "clear."

No bacteriological test has resulted in a negative result throughout the district's distribution systems, meaning no contaminated water has ever reached customers, Stark said.

"There is a dichotomy that is happening," Stark said. "We have test kits we are sending to a lab that can separate microbial bacteria that are associated with human and/or animal fecal matter."

Word of the contamination was slow to trickle beyond the small system's user base. When it was discovered, a public meeting was held, but only two residents attended.

Before contamination, the Adam Springs well produced "200 gallons of water a minute, all day long and would never drop an inch," Stark said.

After testing is complete and the source of the Coliform and E. Coli are determined, mitigation will begin.

In the event that human waste is detected, it means that septic

Well

FROM PAGE 1

systems are failing and human waste is reaching the ground water, Stark said.

"If we find out that there is no human element in it, such as caffeine, sugar or antibiotics, then we know it is from animals," he added.

The Adam Springs well is located near wetlands, which could also be the cause of the contamination.

But the testing is still in process and is determinant on obtaining funding from the California Department of Public Health's Office of Drinking Water.

"When this began last year ... the board of directors put a three year window on the project," Stark said. "Because everything

has to be documented to the nth degree, the wheels turn slowly."

Until the contamination is mitigated, the 77 customers of the Adams Springs Water System have been transferred to the Cobb Area Water System.

In total, Cobb Area Water oversees four water districts, with a total of approximately 680 customers.

"We're still in the mystery stage," Stark said. "We know that it is happening relatively local, but there are no nearby houses."

Boil water notice issued for 30 Lakeport homes near water main break



WEDNESDAY, 01 OCTOBER 2014 13:36 ELIZABETH LARSON

LAKEPORT, Calif. – Thirty homes in Lakeport are under a boil water order due to a recent water main break.

The Lakeport Public Works Department issued the notice to residents on Third and Fourth streets on Tuesday.

Cyndy Ader, the department's secretary, said the 30 homes under the order are located on part of Third Street and at the west end of Fourth Street.

Those are the homes where the water supply couldn't be isolated by water main valves from the water main break area, the notice stated.

Ader said that while crews were investigating the water main break they found a cracked corporation stop – which is a type of valve – that was screwed into a tapping saddle, a kind of fitting or sleeve.

"We had no choice but to depressurize the water main and replace the tapping saddle and corporation stop," Ader said.

As a result, the residents who received the notices are being urged to boil all tap water that's to be used for drinking or cooking as a safety precaution against stomach or intestinal illness.

The city's notice said the tap water should be boiled rapidly for at least one minute to ensure that it's safe to drink.

Alternately, for those who can't boil their water, the city said they can use eight drops or one-quarter of a teaspoon of fresh liquid household bleach per gallon of clear water or 16 drops or half a teaspoon per gallon of cloudy water. The bleach should be mixed thoroughly into the water and allowed to stand for 30 minutes before it's used.

"A chlorine-like taste and odor will result from this purification procedure and is an indication that adequate disinfection has taken place," the city notice said.

A third option the city suggested for guaranteeing water safety is the use of water purification tablets. Manufacturers' instructions should be followed.

The city is conducting emergency water treatment, with an independent laboratory doing testing on water quality. Ader said the results are expected on Thursday.

If the test results are clear, Ader said city staff will notify residents that the boil water order has been lifted.

For more information call the Lakeport Water Department at 707-263-3578.

Email Elizabeth Larson at elarson@lakeconews.com . Follow her on Twitter, @ERLarson, or Lake County News, @LakeCoNews.

Like Share { 2 } +1 { 0 }

Tweet Share

submit



LAST UPDATED (WEDNESDAY, 01 OCTOBER 2014 13:38)

County water projects considered for state emergency drought funding



THURSDAY, 02 OCTOBER 2014 02:27 ELIZABETH LARSON

LAKE COUNTY, Calif. – Three major county water projects have a good chance at moving forward thanks to state emergency drought funds being made available this year.

Lake County Special Districts submitted three proposals for its county service areas at Mt. Hannah, Paradise Valley and Spring Valley to the California Department of Water Resources, which opened applications for Prop 84 Emergency Drought Grant Funds this spring, according to Special Districts Compliance Coordinator Jan Coppinger.

Last week, the state issued its draft recommendations for the funds, and included all three projects. However, the final recommendations will be based on a public comment period that ends Oct. 8.

The three Lake County projects – totaling just over \$2.6 million – are among 110 projects totaling an estimated \$200 million that the California Department of Water Resources is recommending for funding under the Proposition 84 grants.

The grant funding is meant to help alleviate drought conditions and improve regional drought preparedness, the state said.

The proposal amounts are as follows:

- Mt. Hannah, CSA No. 22: Transmission line replacement, \$270,000.
- Paradise Valley, CSA No. 16: Consolidation with Clearlake Oaks County Water District, \$1,378,000.
- Spring Valley, CSA No. 2: Replace and loop distribution system, \$960,000.

Once the public comment period is over, the state will put together its final funding determination, Coppinger said.

"They said we should hear something final by the end of October. I'm hoping it won't be that long," she added.

Coppinger said the state's grant funding application window was very short – about two weeks. "It was a very short window because it was emergency funds."

She added, "It was somewhat luck that we were able to get these three in there."

While there may have been luck, there also was preparation.

Special Districts was able to get the applications for the three projects to the state even on short notice thanks to the fact that it had been working on them and they were close to being ready, outside of some final right-of-way and archaeological studies that were needed, Coppinger said.

"For the most part, they were all shovel-ready," she said, adding that it just so happened that all three fit the emergency drought funding criteria.

The Mt. Hannah project includes a 900-foot transmission line from the tank to the new well, which Coppinger said was paid for through a \$37,800 emergency grant from the California Department of Public Health.

The Paradise Valley project will consolidate customers from the Paradise Cove subdivision, where there are about 80 residences, as well as a planned subdivision across the highway, for a total of about 160 connections, with Clearlake Oaks County Water District, she said.

The new subdivision's developer, Brookwood LLC – which needed water supply issues addressed before moving forward with its plans – is paying the grant's required 25-percent match, totaling \$375,000. Coppinger said the developer already has paid preconstruction and engineering costs.

The full match, along with the grant, will be paid by next spring, at which point the shovels should be in the ground, Coppinger said.

In the mean time, if the county receives the funds, Coppinger said all preconstruction work will continue over the winter months.

Spring Valley's project is the largest of the three. Coppinger said it will include completely replacing distribution lines and creating a looping system.

"That will be pretty huge," she said.

With Spring Valley's \$2 million treatment plant upgrade and a new storage tank completed about a year ago – also funded through state grants – the next steps will be to replace 7,500 linear feet of existing distribution lines and install 9,000 linear feet of new lines to loop the system and remove dead-ends that can cause water quality issues, Coppinger said.

Coppinger noted that one of the unique things with the state's new funding is that it has never funded distribution lines before.

However, she noted, leaking distribution lines waste water, a big issue in the current drought.

Spring Valley has needed the distribution line replacement for a long time, she added.

Email Elizabeth Larson at el Larson@lakeconews.com . Follow her on Twitter, [@ERLarson](https://twitter.com/ERLarson), or Lake County News, [@LakeCoNews](https://twitter.com/LakeCoNews).

Like Share { 0

 +1 { 1

Tweet

Share

 submit



CLEAR LAKE

No algae toxins found in drinking water

Beaches posted with warning signs, multi-agency task force convened

Staff reports

LAKE COUNTY » Multiple sites around the county were tested following recent complaints about taste and odor of drinking water that raised customer concerns about safety.

After a summer of good water quality, cyanobacteria, blue/green algae, blooms were observed in multiple locations around Clear Lake this month. Community water com-

panies, in cooperation with California's Drinking Water Program and with help from the Elem and Big Valley environmental directors, conducted voluntary testing on Sept. 15 of raw and finished water. Finished water is what is delivered to customers' homes, according to Lake County Health Officer Dr. Karen Tait.

The water was tested for microcystins, the most common cyanotoxin of concern to drinking water systems. Testing for cyanotoxins is not currently required by regulations.

According to Tait, "The results are reassuring."

All four locations that were tested — city of Lakeport, Highlands Water

Company, Clearlake Oaks Water Company and Konocti County Water District — measured "nondetectable" for microcystins in finished water.

However, water tested around the shorelines of Austin Park, Sulfur Bank Mine Beach and in Clearlake Oaks all showed levels of microcystins well above those considered safe for direct contact recreational activities.

As a result, "warning" signs will be posted in those areas to caution the public to stay out of the water and to not allow pets to swim in those areas or come into contact with mats and algal scum that accumulates on the shore, Tait stated. The cyanotox-

ins levels appear highest in areas where the water has visible surface scum, foam and mats.

"Even though we are very concerned about the health risks of coming into contact with the high microcystin levels in the recreational locations identified, it appears that those dangerous levels quickly drop off further away from the shore," Tait said.

Testing along the shoreline in Lucerne revealed much lower levels of microcystin. Therefore, there will be no additional warning signs posted in that area.

A multi-agency task force to review current data related to the cyanobacterial blooms was convened last week by the Elem Colony and cooler weather."

and Big Valley Rancheria environmental health directors. Participants included multiple county and state departments and agencies. The goal of the group is to coordinate approaches, share information, and develop written plans for the future, Tait stated.

"We are fortunate to have such active participation of so many agencies, particularly the state Drinking Water program and local tribes. Although this has been a difficult year for us, we are benefiting from increased collaboration of so many agencies and departments," Tait pointed out.

"We expect that conditions should improve with wetter and cooler weather."

Businesses in Lake County are distributing informational postcards about cyanobacteria, entitled "Living with a Natural Lake." Do's and don'ts to stay safe and healthy around cyanobacteria blooms are included in the postcard. It also provides information on how to distinguish cyanobacteria blooms from the harmless aquatic plants that grow on Clear Lake.

More information about cyanobacteria can be found at: www.co.lake.ca.us/Government/Directory/Environmental-Health/Blue-Green-Algae.htm and www.cdph.ca.gov/healthinfo/environmentalhealth/pages/bluegreenalgae.aspx.

Daily water allocation could be the next California drought strategy

By Steve Scauzillo, San Gabriel Valley Tribune

sgvtribune.com



Complete drought coverage at CA drought.com.

You probably know your Social Security number, your driver's license number and perhaps the latest wrinkle in mattress marketing, your sleep number.

But do you know your drought number?

The latter represents the amount of water you are allowed to use per day. If you don't know it, you probably should. Not knowing could cost you money. As California's severe drought moves into a fourth year, state and local water agencies are working on something called "allocation-based rate structures," a kind of precursor to water rationing that's all the rage in Sacramento and in some areas such as Santa Cruz, Irvine and Santa Monica.

Here's how it works: Your local water company, special district or city assigns you and your household a number in gallons — a daily water allocation. Usually, one number applies to maximum indoor water use, i.e. showers, kitchen and bathroom faucets, dishwashers, clothes washers, etc., and an extra allocation is assigned for outdoor use such as lawn irrigation.

Using census records, aerial photography and satellite imagery, an agency can determine a property's efficient water usage.

At the Irvine Ranch Water District, number of residents, amount of landscaping and even medical needs are factored into a household's water allocation or water budget.

"We want you to stay within that budget. That way we know you are using water in an efficient way," according to an instructional video on the Orange County water agency's website.

While some call it a more equal way to meter out mandatory water conservation, others call it social engineering. Some say the idea simply will not work.

In July, the State Water Resources Control Board passed stage one emergency regulations, giving powers to all local water agencies to fine \$500 per violation.

"We were concerned with the lack of alarm we were hearing," said Felicia Marcus, chair of the State Water Resources Control Board. "Our reservoirs are low. Half of the state's storage is gone. It's a frightening situation."

Beginning sometime in October, the state water board will have collected sufficient data from local water agencies to report how much water per person per day residents of the state are using. Already, Marcus said Los Angeles residents are down to 89 gallons per person per day, from more than 100 earlier in the year. Sacramento water use has dropped as well, but it is still way higher per capita than Los Angeles, she said.

After the new numbers are crunched, the state board could order the local agencies to implement stronger water-use regulations, such as banning all watering of lawns and all decorative fountains, she said.

Right now, Marcus is recommending that water agencies, particularly retail ones, switch to water-budgeted allocations. But it is unlikely the state board will assign every resident a drought number. That would be left up to local agencies and cities.

She said at the very least, water agencies and cities should move toward "incentivizing water use through different kinds of rate structures" but declined to get more specific.

"Rates send a powerful signal," she said. "It is one thing to ask for voluntary action ... but that can only go so far. Rates should be designed so you send a financial signal (to customers)" and to enable them to know their water use and compare that with their neighbors.

"This winter, we will be looking at this information on water production, specifically gallons per capita per day. That will give us a better story of what is going on and people can compare themselves with other communities. We will then consider more regulations," Marcus said.

Santa Monica model

Some local agencies are implementing a drought number model. In Santa Monica, the City Council passed a first-reading in August of an ordinance that would apply an indoor water allocation of 68 gallons per-person-per-capita for every single-family home with four people, said Gilbert Borboa, water resources manager for the city of Santa Monica.

"A customer uses beyond that allocation, then it is possible some penalties might apply," he said. Today, residents are using about 88 gallons per person per day in Santa Monica, he said.

The City Council will vote on the water-allocation plan next month. Santa Monica will work on allocations for bigger households, apartments and condominiums and for commercial establishments such as hotels, he said. Indoor use is "essential" for health and safety, while the ordinance labels outdoor use as "non-essential."

“Watering plants and lawns make them all look green and pretty, but that is not essential. Essential is for sustaining life (indoor use),” Borboa said.

The per person allocation is gaining momentum as are other water conservation ideas.

“I believe it is coming. There are agencies already doing it,” said Mike Touhey, a member of the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District which serves nearly 1 million residents.

Eastern Municipal Water District, which covers communities in the Inland Empire from Riverside to Hemet, has enacted a Stage 2 drought plan. Each single-family household with three residents gets 60 gallons per person per day. An outdoor allocation is provided based on whether a house has a pool or turf or both. Any household going over the total allocation will be charged an “excessive rate,” according to the plan.

Matt Lyons, director of planning and conservation for the city of Long Beach, said the water allocation method is deeply flawed. Lyons said calculating an accurate allocation for a household or a hotel can’t be done because aerial images don’t tell the whole story such as elevation, or what lies under a canopy of trees — factors that affect water use.

“No. We have not embraced that at all,” he said. “You can’t do it with any degree of accuracy or without being intrusive.”

Instead, Long Beach has seen water conservation successes since 2009 through extensive outreach programs, including paying homeowners \$3.50 per square foot to remove thirsty lawns and replace them with drought-tolerant plants.

So far, 1,400 residents have eliminated their lawns and on average, each uses 22 percent less water, he said. The city has seen a drop in water use of 10,000 acre-feet from 2007 to 2009, he said. “Behavior change is driving this water savings,” he said.

Making water hogs pay a top-tier rate is another trend gaining popularity among water agencies.

For example, Irvine charges a “wasteful” rate of \$12.60 per hundred cubic feet, well above the \$1.34 base rate.

Pasadena City Council member Margaret McAustin said Pasadena Water and Power, like many cities including Los Angeles, bill customers using tiered water rates. Customers pay more when they use more. But this doesn’t stop residents who can afford higher bills from wasting water, she said.

“We are talking about putting in a new tier for people who use a lot of water,” she said.

Jonathan Parfrey, executive director of Climate Resolve and a former commissioner at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, likes the water-allocation system.

"This is a terrific idea. People need to live within their water means. That is what a water budget offers," he said. He'd like to see cities add more, steeper tiers, charge for excessive water use and re-direct the revenues into conservation and water recycling.

Lyons, of Long Beach, cautioned against charging too much for water because it could be a violation of Proposition 218, which says water agencies can only charge for the cost of water service. If a municipal agency charges more for water, it can't make a profit, so it will have to charge someone else less. This leads to inequities, he explained.

He characterized water budgeting as a passing fad. "In water conservation, people are always looking for or thinking they found the magic bullet," he said. "We'd rather change the water culture."



Steve Scauzillo

Reach the author at Steve.Scauzillo@sgvn.com or follow Steve on Twitter: [@stevscaz](https://twitter.com/stevscaz).

- Full bio and more articles by Steve Scauzillo
- Back to top
- Long Beach couple conserves water with native landscaping
- As the California drought enters its fourth year, are we doing enough to conserve water?
- Drought plays out differently in various regions of California

Clearlake Oaks water board seeks increased compensation

District awaits grants as infrastructure crumbles

By Leah DeAnda

ideanda@record-bee.com (mailto:ideanda@record-bee.com) @RecordBee on Twitter

UPDATED: 09/23/2014 09:00:34 AM PDT

[0 COMMENTS](#)

CLEARLAKE OAKS >> Clearlake Oaks' water board meeting Thursday drew nearly 50 residents for a contentious debate over agenda items which sought to either raise board members compensation for meetings or provide health insurance for each of the five board members.

As the meeting drew to a close, three out of five members voted against continuing to seek the coverage of their insurance, leaving the proposal dead in the water. However, the raise in per meeting compensation from \$50 to \$100, with a maximum monthly compensation of \$200, will be considered at future meetings after an ordinance is drawn up.

Throughout the meeting, residents made clear their qualms with providing the increased amount of funding to compensate the board members, especially as needed repairs to the water system are expected to cost millions.

The majority of complaints were aimed at the proposed insurance benefits, which would cost the district an estimated \$40,000 a year. Full insurance coverage, including medical, dental, vision and employee assistance programs, would have cost \$679 per board member per month. Insurance for the members' family would not have been provided.

Currently, board members are paid an average of \$3,000 per year in compensation.

"When you have millions of repair work to do, you dig your heels in tight and you spend money wisely," resident Chuck Lamb said. "With that \$40,000, you could do a lot of repairs."

Director Richard Kuehn believed the increased compensation would save the district money in the long-run as it would attract more experienced and skilled candidates for the board. Residents argued the increased benefits would end up attracting candidates for the wrong reason.

Kuehn and Director Dena Barron voted to continue discussing the insurance option, but were overruled and the issue was abandoned.

Kuehn and Barron also voted against moving forward with a compensation plan that would allow for a \$200 monthly cap. At the beginning of the meeting, board members had sought to allow for a \$600 monthly cap for each board members' compensation. But at the suggestion of Jim Steele, a supervisor candidate for District 3, the board agreed to lower the cap to \$200 a month.

After receiving legal guidance from County Counsel Anita Grant, the board will create an ordinance to increase the compensation amounts.

During the meeting, the board also addressed the millions of dollars in repairs that are needed to the aging water system.

Kuehn said the "good news" was that the board was likely to receive U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) grants, as Clearlake Oaks has been designated as a disadvantaged community with an extremely old infrastructure. According to Kuehn, a lift station has failed and crumbling water mains that have reached their 50-year service life have caused multiple leaks. A study by the USDA to find the leaks will be required to make the repairs.

Lamb said 45 percent of the district's water is going into the ground at the cost of ratepayers.

Additionally, the board discussed Dollar General's appeal for a reduction of its quoted sewer and water connection fees. Although nothing was voted on, ratepayers expressed their opposition to the reduction.

"They (Dollar General) can well afford to pay these connection fees and they won't walk away if we say no," Lamb said. "I hope the board chooses to stand their ground."

Steele said Dollar General had "already gotten a gift" from the county with a reduced environmental impact report.

"There's no reason to stroke their back," he added.



Fracking no threat to drinking water if wells are sound

on September 22, 2014, 12:03AM09/22/2014

This editorial is from Bloomberg News:

As it turns out, fracking doesn't necessarily pollute the water supply. But the wells used for fracking might.

The distinction matters because drilling companies know how to make wells more reliable, even if all the effects of the fracking process are not yet well understood.

One of the biggest worries, for example, has been that the hydraulic fracturing of deep underground rock to release the natural gas within it could somehow cause that gas to leak upward and contaminate drinking water supplies many thousands of feet closer to the surface.

But a new study finds that this danger is oversold. In places where the water near fracking sites has been contaminated, the culprit has been faulty steel tubing inside the vertical wells that lead down to the shale or weak cement in the casing around it.

Making sure the wells are built soundly is something that drilling companies, and state regulators, can do. In about 5 percent of wells, the cement is imperfect enough to carry the risk of internal leaks. Poor cementing was partly to blame for the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico four years ago.

So states need strong standards for well construction — to ensure, for example, that the cementing is done effectively, that there are plenty of layers of casing, that the well runs straight and has smooth sides, and so on. And states need enough trained inspectors to see that the rules are carefully followed.

The good news is that many states have been putting such rules in place. Pennsylvania, Wyoming and Texas have all strengthened their regulations since 2010. In just the past year and a half, eight other states have updated their well-integrity rules, and six more have changes in the works.

Knowing that water pollution isn't inevitable with fracking should help both critics and defenders of the technology come together to agree on well standards. It wouldn't make fracking problem-free — there's still a need for the safe handling of wastewater, as well as the noise, light and other distractions that many well neighbors hate. But it allays worries about a possibly dangerous side effect of a business that increasingly provides the U.S. with a relatively clean and inexpensive fuel.

COUNTY

Bio-solids removal system approved

By J.W. Burch, IV

jburch@record-bee.com
[@JWBurchIV on Twitter](https://twitter.com/JWBurchIV)

CLEARLAKE » The Southeast Regional Water Treatment Plant in Clearlake will get a new bio-solids removal system soon.

On Tuesday, the Lake County Board of Supervisors (BOS) unanimously approved an agreement with Absolute Aeration, from Greeley, Colorado, to install its Blue Frog Technology, which totals \$350,000.

According to Grace Corbino, president of Absolute Aeration, the Blue Frog system moves water horizontally, rather than lifting water up. This movement keeps microbes in close contact with the bio-solids they digest, turning the bio-solids into carbon and methane.

The system also reduces odors, controls algae, increases lagoon capacity, extends the lagoon's life, minimizes the use of chemicals and is energy efficient, which reduces annual operating and maintenance costs.

If the system does not meet the agreed performance, Absolute Aeration pledged to refund 70 percent of the contract, which totals \$245,000.

A \$150,000 deposit will be paid to the company following the agreement's approval. After eight months and a 20 percent reduction in bio-solids, the county is to issue a payment of \$100,000. Furthermore, after operating 14 months and an additional 20 percent reduction in bio-solids, a final payment of \$100,000 will be made.

"Payment can be requested earlier and approved if performance goals have been met,"

REMOVAL » PAGE 3

Removal

FROM PAGE 1

Lake County Special Districts Administrator Mark Dellinger said.

In 2010, the district began issuing bids for bio-solids removal. The process has been done six times.

"However, this comes at a significant cost," Dellinger said.

A little more than \$488,000 has been spent on bio-solids removal at the southeast plant.

While the northwest plant, which serves the Upper Lake, Nice, Lucerne, North Lakeport, Kono Tayee and Paradise Valley communities, has cost a total of a little less than \$569,000 to clean.

The Kelseyville plant has cost the least, totaling \$124,000 for bio-sol-

ids removal.

The Southeast Regional Water Treatment Plant serves approximately 17,500 people with 7,850 service connections, according to information from the Lake County Special Districts.

Currently, the treatment for bio-solids uses floating aearators, which circulate air down approximately 24 inches.

In contrast, the Blue Frog Technology uses motors with lower revolutions per minute to circulate water deep into the bio-solids layer.

"Over time, the sludge layer will be reduced to an equilibrium level of about 18 to 24 inches," Dellinger said.

According to Corbino, a system installed in Bishop, Texas resulted in 31 percent reduction of bio-solids in four months.

After eight months, the

system reduced bio-solids by a total of 53 percent.

"You can expect a return on the investment in less than one year," Corbino said.

Dellinger admitted the district was initially skeptical of the performance promised, but after Absolute Aeration, put together two presentation to engineering firms that the district works with on wastewater processes and the county dedicated time speaking to references provided by the company, his concerns were addressed.

"They both indicated the biological treatment is sound and can be compatible with our existing ... systems," Dellinger said.

Additionally, pilot testing will be performed to confirm expectations.

Contact J. W. Burch, IV
at 900-2022.

Watershed district Providing "adequate" services

By J.W. Burch IV

jburch@record-bee.com (<mailto:jburch@record-bee.com>) @JWBurchIV on Twitter

UPDATED: 09/19/2014 09:06:00 AM PDT

[0 COMMENTS](#)

CLEARLAKE >> The Lake Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) continued a public hearing regarding a municipal service review (MSR) or the Lake County Watershed Protection District (LCWPD) Wednesday.

An MSR is comprehensive study of services required by the state. Compiled by LAFCO, the report is nearly complete after almost two years.

"The review is to be used as a tool to the district to address future service needs," LAFCO Executive Officer John Benoit said.

The Watershed Protection District Service Review Committee worked in conjunction with LAFCO to prepare written determinations regarding six topics, which include growth and population projections, financial ability to provide services, accountability for community service needs, location and characteristics of disadvantaged unincorporated communities, infrastructure needs or deficiencies and the status of shared facilities.

Regarding infrastructure needs or deficiencies, the review stated that "the district appears to have minimally adequate capacity to handle present demand for services."

However, "the district is providing adequate services given financial constraints," the MSR stated.

The revenues and expenditure for the LCWPD total \$1,934,141, according to the MSR.

"Additional infrastructure needs include water supply modifications at the Highland Springs Reservoir and controlled boat ramps," the review continued.

The MSR also determined that the district budget should be "summarized in the county budget for ease of public understanding."

"The scope of services (offered by the Watershed Protection District) are generally unclear to the public," Benoit said.

Services include flood control and floodplain management; stormwater management; groundwater management; water quality protection and water supply management; lakebed management and shoreline protection and watershed stewardship, the review stated.

Additionally, LAFCO and the committee recommended that the Lake County Board of Supervisors should consider conducting budgets and audits of the LCWPD finances separate from other county departments to improve transparency and accountability to the public.

According to the MSR, the "LCWPD has developed six principal and distinct service activities with respect to water conservation and flood control."

Members of the Watershed Protection District Service Review Committee, which included Mike Dunlap, Suzanne Lyons, Betsy Cawn, Maurice Taylor and LAFCO Chair Ed Robey, gave feedback regarding determinations presented in the MSR.

Lake County Deputy Administrative Officer Alan Flora read a letter from Administrative Officer Matt Perry explaining the relationship between the LCWPD and the water resources department.



Gov. Jerry Brown signs new state laws regulating the use of groundwater. (John Myers/KQED)

Gov. Jerry Brown didn't miss a beat on Tuesday when asked what made a deal come together on a first-ever law regulating the use of groundwater in California.

"First of all, we've got a drought," said Brown. "And that's got everybody's attention."

And that attention has allowed Brown, partially in public and a lot behind the scenes, to wield some real power on one of the most contentious issues in the history of the Golden State. On Tuesday, the governor signed into law [three bills that put in place a first series of steps to limit what, until now, has been almost limitless: the power of individuals and industries to tap underground water supplies.](#)

The [new laws signed by Brown](#) in a state Capitol ceremony will require groundwater management plans to be crafted on the local level over an eight-year period, based on underground basins identified and prioritized by state officials. Locals would then have a few more years to begin getting a handle on groundwater use and would have new enforcement powers.

"Today, we do set into law a framework that's been resisted for a long, long time," said Brown as he signed the bills.

But it's simply the latest example of how the state's historic water crisis has changed the political dynamics inside the halls of the statehouse. The governor, more than many of his recent predecessors, thrives on working behind the scenes to recast proposed laws to his liking before they ever officially make it to his desk. Brown's administration pushed and puled on the groundwater bills, much to the chagrin of [some legislators who wanted less](#) and some interest groups who wanted more.

Meantime, the governor also was able to use the drought to his advantage in reshaping the large water bond slated for this fall's statewide ballot. What was once an \$11 billion borrowing plan for water projects and reliability was drawn down to \$7 billion — in part after Brown made it publicly and privately clear he didn't want a large borrowing proposal in front of voters in this, his own re-election year.

Again, the idea that the drought was the best chance everyone had at attracting voter attention helped spark the final legislative rewrite of what is now known as [Proposition 1](#).

Brown was able to use the drought to his advantage in reshaping the large water bond slated for this fall's ballot.

Brown, who regardless of his success as governor knows a thing or two about how to pull the levers of politics, admitted on Tuesday the drought has sparked real movement.

“That’s the overarching context,” said Brown, “that allows a lot of action that is taking place in Sacramento, that would have never taken place before.”

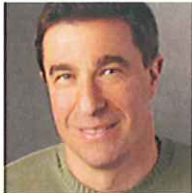
The year 2015 may not be much different, especially if current weather analyses about the persistence of the drought are right. And that may be why Brown, in a not-too-subtle wink at his bid for another term, points out that the real test will come in implementation. Critics of the groundwater plan also are urging the governor and lawmakers to return to the issue next year, to address concerns that the new laws are at best a tinkering with — rather than a needed overhaul of — a dysfunctional water system in California.

“Luckily,” the governor wryly smiled on Tuesday, “we won’t achieve everything today. So you’ll probably need me around for another four years.”

Explore: [Drought Watch 2014, groundwater](#), [Jerry Brown](#), [Proposition 1 2014](#)

Category: [News](#), [Politics and Government](#)

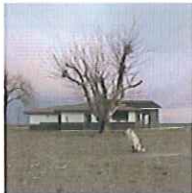
Related



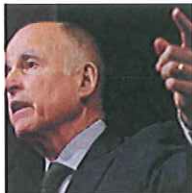
[What Are Politicians Really Like? Scott Shafer, Our Own Ex-Insider, Illuminates...](#)



[House Votes to End Medical Marijuana Prosecutions](#)



[Drought Impacts Central Valley School Enrollment While Debate Over Relief Continues](#)



[Medi-Cal Gets Spending Boost in Governor’s Revised Budget](#)



[What’s This? A Republican Leads the Race for Secretary of State?!](#)

Powered by

- Share:
-
-
-
-
-

BOS continue local emergency proclamation

By J.W. Burch, IV jburch@record-bee.com @JWBurchIV on Twitter

UPDATED: 09/17/2014 08:55:15 AM PDT0 COMMENTS

LAKEPORT >> On Tuesday the Lake County Board of Supervisors (BOS) unanimously approved continuing the proclamation of a local emergency due to drought conditions.

The decision came as no surprise, with no measurable precipitation over the past month. The board initially issued the proclamation on March 4, and is required to renew the proclamation every 30 days.

Lake County Emergency Services Manager Marisa Chilafoe presented and update to the board regarding the Drought Task Force.

"Over the course of this summer, the severity of drought conditions has become apparent as our community water systems, private wells and natural resources struggle to maintain adequate water supply," Chilafoe said.

Agricultural losses are expected because of the drought. In July a report in National Geographic declared that 80 percent of the state's lands were suffering extreme or exceptional drought conditions. A UC-Davis study predicted that California's economy could be hit with \$2.2 billion in losses directly related to the drought, with \$810 million of that total in crop revenue.

"We have also seen an increase in water thefts," Chilafoe said.

An agreement between the county and Nacht & Lewis for architectural and engineering services for the Hill Road Correctional Facility expansion project was approved, which totals a little more than \$2 million.

During last week's meeting, the board postponed approving the agreement so that language ensuring limited construction change orders could be added.

The proposed expansion includes the addition of a medical and mental health services unit, a women's dormitory, a new entry building and administration center. Changes to existing facility will include fenced staff parking and minimum security housing yards.

Services in the agreement include an environmental impact report review; a geotechnical investigation; site and utility surveys; conceptual planning and site master planning; a project cost estimate; design preparation and program validation and refinement.

The board unanimously approved an administrative encroachment permit, as well as a waiver of a \$665 permit fee, for the Seaplane Splash-In event on Sept. 25 to 28.

The fee waiver was requested because of the "economic benefit to the community," Water Resources Director Scott De Leon said.

An area measuring 500 feet wide and 2,400 feet long on the lake will be closed for scheduled demonstrations.



Santa Rosa clarifies rules on lower water, sewer fees

**BY KEVIN MCCALLUM THE PRESS DEMOCRAT on September 17, 2014,
8:03PM09/17/2014**

A sharp reduction in water and sewer hookup fees recently approved in Santa Rosa will only benefit developers who obtained building permits after Aug. 7.

Several homebuilders who said they were unaware the city was considering slashing such fees asked the City Council on Tuesday to allow refunds for developers that paid the higher fees before that date.

They argued they could have saved thousands of dollars if they had known the fees were going to drop and could have held off getting permits until after the lower fees applied.

“Who is harmed by adopting an earlier date?” asked Curtis Nichols, vice president of development for consulting firm Carlile Macy.

But on a 4-3 vote, the council agreed with staff that the new fees should apply to permits that were obtained after the date a subcommittee of the Board of Public Utilities formally recommended the new rates to the board.

While three members of the council argued the council should show more flexibility, Mayor Scott Bartley and three other council members backed the Aug. 7 date as the most defensible.

“I reject the accusation that somehow you were blindsided or it wasn’t clearly described,” Bartley said.

Bartley said the fact that only a few developers complained meant the majority were “doing backflips” over the fact fees were dropping.

“It’s typical for Santa Rosa that we take what is a good news story and we beat the bejesus out of it, which is unfortunate,” he said.



New groundwater laws to have ripple effect on agriculture (w/video)

BY ANGELA HART THE PRESS DEMOCRAT on September 16, 2014, 11:03PM09/16/2014

Gov. Jerry Brown signed historic groundwater legislation Tuesday, imposing new rules in the Golden State that could limit how much water commercial and residential users are allowed to pump from underground aquifers — a move decades in the works, spurred this year by California's drought.

The new laws, which take effect in January, will require local government officials to ensure use of groundwater basins is sustainable, protecting underground reserves and averting other environmental damage. The regulations could have a ripple effect on thousands of farmers and ranchers across the North Coast.

Brown, who sought state action on groundwater during his first run as governor more than 30 years ago — during another prolonged drought — characterized the new move as a necessary step to save the state's groundwater reserves from depletion.

"This is a big deal," Brown said at the signing ceremony Tuesday. "It has been known about for decades that underground water has to be managed and regulated in some way."

California has long been the only western state to allow property owners to pump as they please, and proponents of the legislation said that hands-off approach has led to overuse of wells, causing sinking land and billions of dollars in damage to aquifers, roads and canals.

Gov. Brown Signs Law To Regulate State's Groundwater Supply

"Wells are going dry. People are quarreling over whose water it is underground. We have a system deficit — water is being overdrafted without having the chance to be restored or renewed," said Lester Snow, director for the nonprofit California Water Foundation, an advocacy firm created to drive sustainable groundwater management. "The drought has created an opportunity to discuss groundwater management when previously no one wanted to talk about it."

Groups representing the state's powerful agricultural industry, including the California Farm Bureau, opposed the legislation. The farming sector has been hit by \$1.5 billion in losses in the drought, with Central Valley farmers forced to do without government water allocations and hundreds of North Coast growers ordered to curtail diversions from the Russian and Eel rivers. Increasingly, growers in the region and across the state have turned to wells as arid conditions sap surface supplies for irrigation.

Farming groups said the legislation Brown signed Tuesday was rushed and punishes well-managed agencies while infringing on property rights.

"This is crisis-driven legislation," said Tito Sasaki, president of the 3,000-member Sonoma County Farm Bureau. "It's going to have a tremendous effect on our economy, and in the end, it will not solve our problems with the water supply."

Brown said the state has listened to farm groups.

“We’ve made some concessions, we’ve taken into account concerns that farmers throughout California have,” Brown said. “We’ve gone as far as we thought was appropriate.”

The state will require local governments to designate within two years an agency to prepare plans that ensure groundwater supplies are not depleted. If goals aren’t met, the state could intervene.

Sonoma County, which has pushed use of recycled water for farmers and encouraged voluntary cuts in pumping in at least one basin — in Sonoma Valley — may be well positioned to deal with the new orders. The county’s overseeing agency could be the Board of Supervisors, a new authority or the Sonoma County Water Agency, though agency officials were quick to point out that they are not a regulatory body.

Still, farmers, ranchers and county officials are worried the mandatory rules could strip them of local control and undermine work that has enabled scientific studies of aquifer levels in three main basins: in Sonoma Valley, the Santa Rosa Plain, and most recently, an assessment now underway in Petaluma.

“The plan we’ve constructed and developed has really worked,” said Grant Davis, general manager of the county Water Agency. “We’ve done it with a group of environmentalists and agricultural groups, with businesses, rural communities and cities at the table.”

To preserve ground and surface supplies, the county has also been expanding its storage and delivery of recycled water for growers and ranchers.

The recycled water allows Ray Mulas, a third-generation farmer on the outskirts of Sonoma to run his dairy and vineyard operation without tapping his wells. The operation needs 2 to 3 million gallons a day.

“I have two big wells, so I could pump a lot of water out of the ground, but I don’t,” said Mulas, who has 1,600 dairy cows and pinot noir and chardonnay vineyards. “It’s about responsibility. I have a lot of neighbors I’d piss off if I just pumped all day.”

The Mulas farm is just one stop along 12 miles of underground pipes that transport recycled water from a treatment plant in Sonoma Valley to dozens of other homeowners and businesses who have voluntarily cut their use of groundwater, turning instead to recycled water.

But the valley’s aquifer is still threatened by over-pumping, illustrating perhaps the limits of a county’s voluntary efforts.

Nearly half of the water used — by agriculture, business and residents — is drawn from underground supplies, and two parts of the area have sunk below sea level, allowing salt water to seep into underground reserves.

“That’s bad,” Davis said. “What we’re worried about is the depletion of groundwater, but also the salinity that would migrate up from the south, and we’re seeing evidence of that.”

Of the roughly 40,000 wells in Sonoma County, Water Agency officials said voluntary monitoring is done on about 140. New state rules would change that, putting all wells under some kind of scrutiny.

Agriculture, which uses more than 60 percent of all water in California — nearly four times as much as urban uses and three times what stays in the environment or flows to ocean — is likely to be impacted most.

Farming representatives say it could affect the economic viability for many of the nearly 3,600 farm properties that cover more than half of the land in Sonoma County.

“This is no longer voluntary, it’s a completely new game with fees and penalties,” said Sasaki, the Sonoma County Farm Bureau president. “We are very disturbed about that development, we feel it’s been rushed.”

Proponents of the new laws said, however, that counties must act now, before the state’s drought grows more severe and puts additional strain on underground water supplies.

“This is critical,” said Jane Nielson, co-founder of the Sonoma County Water Coalition, including environmental and community groups. “There isn’t a lot of trust when it comes to the challenges faced by agriculture and rural residents, but everybody has to understand that we sink or swim together.”

This report contains information from the Associated Press. You can reach Staff Writer Angela Hart at 526-8503 or angela.hart@pressdemocrat.com. On Twitter @ahartreports.

Gov. Jerry Brown signed historic groundwater legislation Tuesday, imposing new rules in the Golden State that could limit how much water commercial and residential users are allowed to pump from underground aquifers — a move decades in the works, spurred this year by California’s drought.

The new laws, which take effect in January, will require local government officials to ensure use of groundwater basins is sustainable, protecting underground reserves and averting other environmental damage. The regulations could have a ripple effect on thousands of farmers and ranchers across the North Coast.

Brown, who sought state action on groundwater during his first run as governor more than 30 years ago — during another prolonged drought — characterized the new move as a necessary step to save the state’s groundwater reserves from depletion.

“This is a big deal,” Brown said at the signing ceremony Tuesday. “It has been known about for decades that underground water has to be managed and regulated in some way.”

California has long been the only western state to allow property owners to pump as they please, and proponents of the legislation said that hands-off approach has led to overuse of wells, causing sinking land and billions of dollars in damage to aquifers, roads and canals.

“Wells are going dry. People are quarreling over whose water it is underground. We have a system deficit — water is being overdrafted without having the chance to be restored or renewed,” said Lester Snow, director for the nonprofit California Water Foundation, an advocacy firm created to drive sustainable groundwater management. “The drought has created an opportunity to discuss groundwater management when previously no one wanted to talk about it.”

Groups representing the state’s powerful agricultural industry, including the California Farm Bureau, opposed the legislation. The farming sector has been hit by \$1.5 billion in losses in the drought, with Central Valley farmers forced do without government water allocations and hundreds of North Coast

growers ordered to curtail diversions from the Russian and Eel rivers. Increasingly, growers in the region and across the state have turned to wells as arid conditions sap surface supplies for irrigation.

Farming groups said the legislation Brown signed Tuesday was rushed and punishes well-managed agencies while infringing on property rights.

“This is crisis-driven legislation,” said Tito Sasaki, president of the 3,000-member Sonoma County Farm Bureau. “It’s going to have a tremendous effect on our economy, and in the end, it will not solve our problems with the water supply.”

Brown said the state has listened to farm groups.

“We’ve made some concessions, we’ve taken into account concerns that farmers throughout California have,” Brown said. “We’ve gone as far as we thought was appropriate.”

The state will require local governments to designate within two years an agency to prepare plans that ensure groundwater supplies are not depleted. If goals aren’t met, the state could intervene.

Sonoma County, which has pushed use of recycled water for farmers and encouraged voluntary cuts in pumping in at least one basin — in Sonoma Valley — may be well positioned to deal with the new orders. The county’s overseeing agency could be the Board of Supervisors, a new authority or the Sonoma County Water Agency, though agency officials were quick to point out that they are not a regulatory body.

Still, farmers, ranchers and county officials are worried the mandatory rules could strip them of local control and undermine work that has enabled scientific studies of aquifer levels in three main basins: in Sonoma Valley, the Santa Rosa Plain, and most recently, an assessment now underway in Petaluma.

“The plan we’ve constructed and developed has really worked,” said Grant Davis, general manager of the county Water Agency. “We’ve done it with a group of environmentalists and agricultural groups, with businesses, rural communities and cities at the table.”

To preserve ground and surface supplies, the county has also been expanding its storage and delivery of recycled water for growers and ranchers.

The recycled water allows Ray Mulas, a third-generation farmer on the outskirts of Sonoma to run his dairy and vineyard operation without tapping his wells. The operation needs 2 to 3 million gallons a day.

“I have two big wells, so I could pump a lot of water out of the ground, but I don’t,” said Mulas, who has 1,600 dairy cows and pinot noir and chardonnay vineyards. “It’s about responsibility. I have a lot of neighbors I’d piss off if I just pumped all day.”

The Mulas farm is just one stop along 12 miles of underground pipes that transport recycled water from a treatment plant in Sonoma Valley to dozens of other homeowners and businesses who have voluntarily cut their use of groundwater, turning instead to recycled water.

But the valley’s aquifer is still threatened by over-pumping, illustrating perhaps the limits of a county’s voluntary efforts.

Nearly half of the water used — by agriculture, business and residents — is drawn from underground supplies, and two parts of the area have sunk below sea level, allowing salt water to seep into underground reserves.

“That’s bad,” Davis said. “What we’re worried about is the depletion of groundwater, but also the salinity that would migrate up from the south, and we’re seeing evidence of that.”

Of the roughly 40,000 wells in Sonoma County, Water Agency officials said voluntary monitoring is done on about 140. New state rules would change that, putting all wells under some kind of scrutiny.

Agriculture, which uses more than 60 percent of all water in California — nearly four times as much as urban uses and three times what stays in the environment or flows to ocean — is likely to be impacted most.

Farming representatives say it could affect the economic viability for many of the nearly 3,600 farm properties that cover more than half of the land in Sonoma County.

“This is no longer voluntary, it’s a completely new game with fees and penalties,” said Sasaki, the Sonoma County Farm Bureau president. “We are very disturbed about that development, we feel it’s been rushed.”

Proponents of the new laws said, however, that counties must act now, before the state’s drought grows more severe and puts additional strain on underground water supplies.

“This is critical,” said Jane Nielson, co-founder of the Sonoma County Water Coalition, including environmental and community groups. “There isn’t a lot of trust when it comes to the challenges faced by agriculture and rural residents, but everybody has to understand that we sink or swim together.”

This report contains information from the Associated Press. You can reach Staff Writer Angela Hart at 526-8503 or angela.hart@pressdemocrat.com. On Twitter @ahartreports.



California Special
Districts Association
Districts Stronger Together

e-News



CSDA Responds to Critical Editorial About Districts

On September 15, the Sacramento Bee published an editorial, "[California has an abundance of democracy, maybe too much.](#)" CSDA wrote a response to that editorial, which was published last Friday. Below is CSDA's published response.

Another View: Special Districts Equal Better Democracy

A recent editorial "Overabundance of democracy" (Sept. 15) by The Sacramento Bee seemed to confuse democracy with bureaucracy.

We agree that transparent and accountable government is important, but disagree that small local government is bad democracy. There is no more accessible democracy than special districts.

Large government, often disconnected from its local residents, is hindered by competing interests. In contrast, special districts are community and service focused.

Local communities identified a need and voted for a localized form of government – special districts – to deliver a focused and specialized service. Voters decided on quality over quantity.

Special districts are community based and serve 24/7: from the fire district that responds to our emergencies; to water districts that provide clean potable water to our homes, and educate our children on water conservation; to community services and park districts that run the local youth leagues and operate our community and senior centers.

Californians are able to count on special districts for the core services they depend on; voters interact with them daily and play an integral role in their operation and oversight. When something changes or goes wrong, we all take notice.

If a local community center reduced its hours, seniors and parents would notice. If water no longer flowed through our faucet, families and businesses would notice. And if highly trained firefighters did not respond in moments to our call for help, we would all take notice.

Our mission is to serve the communities we represent and to be accountable and transparent in how projects are built and how funds are allocated. Any new taxes or fees must include public and community participation. Furthermore, special districts comply with some of the most rigorous auditing and reporting standards of any agency.

They are held to the same open government and community engagement laws as other types of local government. State law requires special districts submit to regular audits, performed by a county auditor or a certified public accountant, and to disclose their financials and the full compensation of all staff and board members. This information is openly and publicly published on the State controller's website.

Unlike large bureaucracies that weigh down democracy, special districts directly provide needed services, work closest to the community and are the most accessible form of democracy.

Editorial: California has an abundance of democracy, maybe too much

By the Editorial Board

Published: Monday, Sep. 15, 2014 - 12:00 am

There's only one thing as bad as a society without enough democracy and that is one with too much democracy.

Well, maybe not *as* bad, but still pretty unfortunate.

If that's tough to swallow, think about it in terms of the old lawyer's discovery trick of providing way more – boxes more – information than requested with the intent of burying one important fact under a mountain of documents.

On Nov. 4, voters will be asked to choose candidates for statewide offices, judgeships, school boards and city councils. In [Sacramento County](#), voters will have the additional obligation of voting in 32 special districts elections with one, two or even three open seats apiece. It makes you tired just doing the math.

California has more special districts than you can shake a stick at. Your arm would cramp long before you got halfway [through the approximately 2,300](#). They include mosquito and vector control districts that decide when to spray your neighborhood with pesticides and water districts that decide how much you have to pay when you turn on the tap. Others manage sewers, parks or cemeteries.

That's on top of all the city council, boards of education and county supervisors. [There are 482 cities in California, 1,028 school districts and 58 counties](#). Is your head spinning yet?

What's wrong with having all these elected bodies? Nothing, if they are adequately monitored.

But they rarely are. People are so busy and disconnected that just a fraction even bother to turn out in national and state elections. As a result, local governments rarely get the kind of oversight they deserve when making decisions about how to spend our money.

If we're not paying attention, they may do things we don't want. They may even line their own pockets, as the leaders in the Southern California city of Bell did for years before getting caught.

In a lesser example, Sacramento Metropolitan Fire, a special district that probably shouldn't exist, was preparing to ask voters earlier this year for another assessment. Metro Fire has cut costs. But the proposal still would have been too much for voters to stomach. District officials backed off after it became public. What if no one had been paying attention?

The Bee's editorial board has long advocated for citizens charter commissions to review local special districts with an eye toward consolidating some and reforming others. So far, legislators haven't bitten.

There's only one way to counter an overabundance of democracy, short of eliminating it. Citizens have to get involved. Just think, if every adult picked just one local elected body to pay attention to just once a year, it would go a long way to keeping just the right amount of democracy.

Read more here: <http://www.sacbee.com/2014/09/15/6706676/editorial-california-has-an-abundance.html#storylink=cpy>