



Town of Discovery Bay
A California Community Services District
"Friday Letter"
To the Board of Directors
January 24, 2014

From: Rick Howard, General Manager

General Manager/Administration:

- ✓ Reminder – The Board Workshop is scheduled for next Saturday, February 1, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.
- ✓ Today I received the Special District Leadership Academy's Governance Award. This was a nice surprise! Basically, I qualified based on the types of coursework I have attended that is offered by both CSDA and SDRMA.

Parks, Landscape and Recreation Services

- ✓ The work at the community center is winding down with only punch list items remaining. We will be bringing to the Board at our next meeting a review and summary of the work performed as well as an update to the budget.

Monica Rollins has started as the Admin at the Community Center. This position is technically a replacement for Sue's prior position. If you haven't yet met Monica please stop by and say hello!

- ✓ As you may or may not know, the Boom Lift has been somewhat problematic. The motor on the lift was failing on a regular basis, and was repaired a number of times, all under warranty. This week, the manufacturer, Genie, replaced the entire motor assembly motor under warranty. The lift is now back in service.
- ✓ We are *tentatively* scheduling a Community Center Open House for Thursday, February 20 from 6-8. Watch for details to follow.

Water and Wastewater Services

- ✓ A couple of weeks ago I noted that the water booster pump was delivered not according to specifications. The pump has been returned and accepted by the District's Engineer.
- ✓ Last week Virgil attended an informational meeting in Sacramento regarding the pending merger of the California Department of Public Health (our drinking water regulatory agency) and the Regional Water Quality Control Board, (our wastewater regulatory agency). We're not sure how this merger will impact us, but in any event, we do anticipate a major shake-up in our reporting compliance requirements.
- ✓ The bid date for Lift Station F is January 28th, with a Board award on February 5th.
- ✓ The water quality results came back from Well 7 recently. The results were negative, meaning that the water quality is good and we can continue moving forward with Well 7. We should be out to bid o the pump house in the next few weeks.
- ✓ The attached article on the current drought was written by David Sedlak. David monitors the wetlands project through the University of California Berkeley. David Sedlak is the co-director of the Berkeley Water Center and deputy director of ReNUWIT, a partnership of UC Berkeley, Stanford University, Colorado School of Mines and New Mexico State University, which takes a comprehensive approach to urban water systems. He is the author of "Water 4.0: The Past, Present and Future of Our Most Vital Resource,"

Important Dates

Upcoming important dates are as follows:

- Board Workshop – Saturday, February 1, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. until noon.
- CSD Regular Board Meeting – February 5, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.
- *Tentative* Community Center Open House, February 20 at 5:30.

California drought: We can preserve Bay Area's water supply

David Sedlak

Updated 5:03 pm, Monday, January 20, 2014

Most Bay Area residents obtain their drinking water from a system of reservoirs, canals and pipes that was built during the first half of the 20th century. In the near future, it is likely that we'll pump a lot of money into this aging system to adapt it to rising sea levels and changes in rainfall patterns. These investments are essential to the security of our water supply, but they will not protect us from the effects of a drought.

Plans to build advanced water recycling plants, such as the project proposed in the Livermore Valley more than a decade ago, or desalination plants, such as the regional project proposed in Contra Costa County, have languished due to public apathy and concerns about potential risks to public health or the environment. In light of the drought state of emergency the governor declared last week, these approaches deserve close scrutiny with respect to costs and risks.

Short-term responses, such as voluntary water conservation measures advocated by Gov. Jerry Brown and mandatory cutbacks, can get us through the first year or two of a drought. But to avoid the most severe impacts of an extended drought, we need to invest in new forms of water infrastructure that do not fail when the rains stop.

Improvements in technology coupled with recent experiences in other regions already have demonstrated that local water supplies can provide a reliable, safe and cost-effective means of providing adequate water.

With strategic investments and proactive public policies, we can create a drought-proof water supply for the Bay Area, provided that we have the will to do it. Historically, citizens of the Bay Area have been reluctant to invest in local water sources because they have been told that their imported water supplies are adequate. Although that has been true for decades, it may not be a safe bet in the future.

In Southern California, Australia, Texas and other places that have recently grappled with water shortages, cities are investing in new types of local water supplies that are less susceptible to droughts. For example, building on the success of potable water-recycling projects in Orange County, Los Angeles and the Inland Empire, our neighbors to the south are aggressively pursuing plans to more than double the amount of recycled water entering their drinking water supply. And in Perth, seawater desalination plants now provide about half of the city's drinking water. Information technology and advanced new materials are starting to make the dream of off-the-water-grid houses a reality.

Water conservation is important, but it will not protect us from the most severe droughts. New technologies provide us with many options for decreasing our reliance on imported water. Irrespective of the path that we follow, we have the means to create a drought-proof water supply. But all of these options require years to finance, design and build. We need to get started before it's too late.

Conservation is just a start

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's building treats its wastewater and reuses it for landscaping and non-potable applications. This small demonstration project is a start, but a much larger effort that employs more efficient technology is needed to drought-proof the Bay Area's drinking water supply.

Source: David Sedlak

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