



"Friday Letter"
To the Board of Directors
July 27, 2012

From: Rick Howard, General Manager

General Manager/Administration:

- ✓ Today I met with our IT consultants and discussed the telephone system and its limitations. The main issue is we just don't have enough room in the internet pipe to add a VOIP system along with our day to day internet requirement. Consequently, we are in the process of getting more band width through AT&T DSL, and we did order the equipment today. We made an effort to get Comcast, but they don't supply cable to this location and the cost to do so would be roughly \$40K to get it to the office from Willow Lake Road. The project IS moving forward, albeit a little slower without being able to get Comcast to the location. We should be up and running in the next 30 days or so, however.
- ✓ The financing plan has been delivered to the Board for consideration at Wednesday's meeting. This document took a considerable amount of time to produce and review.
- ✓ Next week's meeting agenda report preparation took up a considerable amount of time this week. Happy reading!
- ✓ Virgil was on vacation this week and will be back on Monday the 30th.

Water and Wastewater Services

- ✓ JW Construction installed the last of the large user water meters this week at DB Elementary School.

Financial Services

- ✓ Dina has been working with Croce and Co. (District Auditors) on closing out the FY 2011-12 year end books. Normally, staff would be able to accomplish this but the transition to Caselle and the need to create a new chart of accounts necessitated their assistance.

- ✓ The new Caselle system is up and running and the new chart of accounts is almost fully functional. You will notice a different look in the district invoices portions of future agenda reports.
- ✓ Finance continues to work with the large water users to resolve outstanding accounts. Progress continues to be made. I will keep the Board updated on our progress.

Parks and Landscape Services

- ✓ The Clipper Drive Landscape Enhancement Project is continuing, and if any of you have not had a chance to swing by lately, you will not recognize the place. As stated previously, the project will continue through the summer.
- ✓ Last week I noted that Fairin would be meeting with a turf company to address some of the issues we are having at Cornell Park.
- ✓ The ArableOne product was applied at Cornell Park on Tuesday morning. There was a group consisting of other users, landscape professionals and representatives of the product. The product was applied manually in liquid form to surface and will be reapplied in 30 days. A gentlemen from a winery in Livermore runs a program called Vines & Vets (Veterans) and stated that they have seen dramatic improvement in the growth and production of their vines - even first year plantings are producing (very unusual). They are only using the ArableOne product; no fertilizers or other organic amendments. Another from Arborwell (a very large and well respected Arborist company) is also in testing with the product for trees. So far, everyone is very impressed with what they see.

The product is designed to reactivate and feed microbial growth and activity in the soils. It is not a fertilizer. Its sole goal is to make soils healthier and make naturally occurring nutrients more available within the soil and therefore to the plant. Lab test results show an increase in root growth (weight and distribution in an area) as well as some effects on pH and nutrient availability. Product reps believe we will see some noticeable improvement by the time the next application is made, but feel the biggest impact will be actualized sometime after the second application. I'll keep you up to date with before and after pictures when we get closer to that time.

- ✓ Next Tuesday and Thursday students from the Byron Boys ranch will be working on the Clipper Drive Landscape Project.

Important Dates

Upcoming important dates are as follows:

- CSD Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, August 1, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.