



Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District

Regular Board Meeting

DATE: January 20, 2015
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 Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting December 16, 2014

 - (B) DISBURSEMENTS: Check #032408 - #032482 for a total of \$155,821.91.

 - (C) ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 2015-1 authorizing General Manager to submit "Reduce the Use" grant proposal to, and to execute Grant Agreement with (if grant is awarded), the Department of Water Resources

 - (D) ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 2015-2 authorizing General Manager to submit "Reduce the Use" grant proposal to, and to execute Grant Agreement with (if grant is awarded), the United States Bureau of Reclamation

- 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) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Status report on water hook moratorium (SWRCB Division of Drinking Water Compliance Order No. 02_03_14R_004)

- 10) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Status report on NBS water/sewer rate study

- 11) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Election of Board President and Board Vice President for 2015 Calendar Year
- 12) PUBLIC COMMENT
- 13) BOARD MEMBER COMMENT
- 14) 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: DECEMBER 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 Mirbegan, 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 7:05 p.m. by President Mirbegan.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- (A) Minutes: Approval of Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting November 18, 2014
- (B) Disbursements: Check #032314-032407 for a total of \$285,209.40.
- (C) Adoption of Resolution 2014-15 appointing Mrs. Coleen Blakey as Treasurer to the Board
- (D) Adoption of Resolution 2014-16 adding Mrs. Coleen Blakey to list of individuals authorized to enter into deposits account, funds transfer, investment, cash management and deposit service agreement with Westamerica Bank
- (E) Adoption of Resolution 204-17 clarifying terms of two previous interfund transfers from Sewer Enterprise Fund to Water Enterprise Fund and resending Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District Board of Director Resolution 2010-12

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel Committee: no report
Finance Committee: no report
Emergency Preparedness Program Committee: no report

BOARD MEMBER ATTENDANCE AT OTHER MEETINGS

ACWA Region 1 Board: Director Mirbegian reported HVLCSD will host the ACWA Region 1 Board's annual strategic planning meeting on January 12, 2015.

ACWA State Legislative Committee: no report

County OES: Director Lieberman reported the next County OES meeting is tentatively scheduled for January, 2015.

STAFF REPORTS

General Manager's Report: In addition to his written report, General Manager Roland Sanford noted that the Board is tentatively scheduled to conduct a mid-year budget review in January 2015.

PUBLIC HEARING: to consider placement of default balance liens on real property pursuant to Government Code 61115

Hearing was opened at 7:27 p.m. by Director Mirbegian. After no comment from the audience the hearing was closed at 7:28 p.m.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Adoption of Resolution 2014-18 confirming default balances and direction staff to file a lien on said properties

On motion by Director Lieberman and second by Director Freeman the Board unanimously approved resolution 2014-18, a 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 with the total balance owed changed to \$122.55.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Status report on new service connections moratorium (SWRCB Division of Drinking Water Compliance Order No. 02 03 14R 004)

General Manager Roland Sanford provided a brief report on the status of the new service connections moratorium. He noted that to date there has been comparatively little progress, due at least in part to the holidays and the unavailability of key State Water Resources Control Board staff.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A member of the public asked, and General Manager Roland Sanford responded to, miscellaneous questions regarding the occurrence of hexavalent chromium in the District's drinking water supply, the purpose of the District's water rights Petition for Change, and the functions of Lake County LAFCO.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Director Graham stated she was glad to be back and working with the other Board members, and that she continues to recover from her recent injuries.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Director Herndon and second by Director Freeman the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Judy Mirbegian Date
President of the Board

Roland Sanford Date
General Manager/Secretary to
the Board



HIDDEN VALLEY LAKE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

DECEMBER 2014

DISBURSEMENT SUMMARY REPORT

12/1/2014-12/31/2014

Disbursement Summary

Fund		
120 - Sewer	\$	57,583.99
130 - Water	\$	54,010.25
215 - USDA Sewer Bond	\$	-
217 - State Loan	\$	-
218 - CIEDB	\$	-
219 - USDA Solar Project	\$	-
375 - Sewer Reserve Improvement	\$	-
711 - Bond Administration	\$	-
	SUB TOTAL	\$ 111,594.24
*Payroll	\$	44,227.75
Total Warrants	\$	155,821.99

**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

DECEMBER 2014

DISBURSEMENT SUMMARY REPORT

12/1/2014-12/31/2014

DRAFT DATE	TYPE	NUMBER	NAME	CHECK AMOUNT	STATUS
12/12/2014	D	BANK-DRAFT	US DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY	5,139.36	P
12/12/2014	D	BANK-DRAFT	NATIONWIDE RETIREMENT SOLUTION	1,180.00	P
12/26/2014	D	BANK-DRAFT	US DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY	5,357.51	P
12/26/2014	D	BANK-DRAFT	NATIONWIDE RETIREMENT SOLUTION	1,180.00	P
TOTAL				12,856.87	

CHECK DATE	TYPE	CHECK NUMBER	NAME	CHECK AMOUNT	STATUS
12/05/2014	R	32408	ALPHA ANALYTICAL LABORATORIES	840.00	P
12/05/2014	R	32409	VOID CHECK	-	P
12/05/2014	R	32410	ARMED FORCE PEST CONTROL, INC.	180.00	P
12/05/2014	R	32411	C J S RANCH SUPPLY & APPAREL	88.10	P
12/05/2014	R	32412	CNH PRODUCTIVITY PLUS ACCT	140.73	P
12/05/2014	R	32413	EEL RIVER FUELS, INC.	897.64	P
12/05/2014	R	32414	PACE SUPPLY CORP	35.71	P
12/05/2014	R	32415	POLYDYNE INC.	438.92	P
12/05/2014	R	32416	TELSTAR INSTRUMENTS, INC	6,195.38	P
12/05/2014	R	32417	GHD	1,341.50	P
12/05/2014	R	32418	MEDIACOM	356.65	P
12/05/2014	R	32419	MICHELLE HAMILTON	625.00	P
12/05/2014	R	32420	MIKE AND LIZ ZANSKI	100.00	P
12/05/2014	R	32421	OFFICE DEPOT	220.90	P
12/05/2014	R	32422	REDFORD SERVICES	950.00	P
12/05/2014	R	32423	RICOH AMERICAS CORPORATION	163.01	P
12/05/2014	R	32424	SANDRA GRAF	50.00	P
12/05/2014	R	32425	SPECIAL DISTRICT RISK MANAGEME	213.20	P
12/05/2014	R	32426	JOHSON-HAWKINS , CAT	54.64	P
12/05/2014	R	32427	BEALS, GLEN & CONNIE	106.72	P
12/05/2014	R	32428	EVANS, ANNE	48.02	P
12/05/2014	R	32429	FARIS, DEAN	73.23	P
12/05/2014	R	32430	FINITZ, BRET & DENIS	20.05	P
12/05/2014	R	32431	FINITZ, BRET & DENIS	5.66	P
12/05/2014	R	32432	HERRON, MATTHEW	29.60	P
12/05/2014	R	32433	MATTSON, DAMON	85.02	P
12/05/2014	R	32434	MCKINNIE, BRIAN	81.60	P
12/05/2014	R	32435	MORGAN, HEIDI	12.48	P
12/05/2014	R	32436	OHLSON, GEORGE E	156.67	P
12/05/2014	R	32437	QUEENEN, JAMES & DON	16.88	P
TOTAL				13,527.31	

CHECK DATE	TYPE	CHECK NUMBER	NAME	CHECK AMOUNT	STATUS
12/05/2014	R	32438	SOLARI, NORMAN F	5.00	P
12/05/2014	R	32439	WELBORN, DEBBIE	32.47	P
12/12/2014	R	32440	AT&T	623.34	P
12/12/2014	R	32441	DATAPROSE	1,287.99	P
12/12/2014	R	32442	KAREN JENSEN	39.20	P
12/12/2014	R	32443	MERRILL, ARNONE & JONES, LLP	925.00	P
12/12/2014	R	32444	NBS GOVERNMENT FINANCE GROUP	1,432.50	P
12/12/2014	R	32445	SOUTH LAKE REFUSE COMPANY	171.12	P
12/12/2014	R	32446	SPECIAL DISTRICT RISK MANAGEME	35,034.34	P
12/12/2014	R	32447	SPECIALIZED UTILITY SERVICES	3,100.00	P
12/12/2014	R	32448	ALPHA ANALYTICAL LABORATORIES	1,085.00	P
12/12/2014	R	32449	ANALYTICAL SCIENCES	1,609.50	P
12/12/2014	R	32450	COUNTY OF LAKE SOLID WASTE	11.09	P
12/12/2014	R	32451	EEL RIVER FUELS, INC.	1,655.97	P
12/12/2014	R	32452	FRANK LOWATER	100.00	P
12/12/2014	R	32453	HARDESTER'S MARKETS & HARDWARE	78.48	P
12/12/2014	R	32454	NAPA AUTO PARTS	511.78	P
12/12/2014	R	32455	PACE SUPPLY CORP	165.65	P
12/12/2014	R	32456	QUACKENBUSH MRRCF	25.81	P
12/12/2014	R	32457	USA BLUE BOOK	162.74	P
12/12/2014	R	32458	CALIFORNIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RE	7,706.07	P
12/12/2014	R	32459	STATE OF CALIFORNIA EDD	1,523.68	P
12/12/2014	R	32460	VARIABLE ANNUITY LIFE INSURANC	100.00	P
12/12/2014	R	32461	HOLAHAN, EUGENE VOIDED	53.22	P
12/12/2014	R	32462	BIRRER, JOHN F	75.59	P
12/12/2014	R	32463	DOW, IRENE L	11.63	P
12/19/2014	R	32464	ACWA/JPIA	997.19	P
12/19/2014	R	32465	CARDMEMBER SERVICE	629.60	P
12/19/2014	R	32466	COASTLAND CIVIL ENGINEERING, I	6,232.90	P
12/19/2014	R	32467	GARDENS BY JILLIAN	200.00	P
12/19/2014	R	32468	OFFICE DEPOT	69.27	P
12/19/2014	R	32469	TYLER TECHNOLOGY	121.00	P
12/19/2014	R	32470	U S POSTMASTER	196.00	P
12/19/2014	R	32471	WAGNER & BONSIGNORE	6,206.25	P
12/19/2014	R	32472	ADVANCED ELECTRONIC SECURITY S	264.00	P
12/19/2014	R	32473	ALPHA ANALYTICAL LABORATORIES	270.00	P
12/19/2014	R	32474	HERTZ EQUIPMENT RENTAL	827.86	P
12/19/2014	R	32475	NAPA AUTO PARTS	338.77	P
12/19/2014	R	32476	SHAPE INCORPORATED	119.66	P
12/19/2014	R	32477	SIERRA CHEMICAL CO.	545.61	P
12/19/2014	R	32478	USA BLUE BOOK	622.82	P
12/19/2014	R	32479	VERIZON WIRELESS	646.33	P
12/26/2014	R	32480	CALIFORNIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RE	7,710.20	P
12/26/2014	R	32481	STATE OF CALIFORNIA EDD	1,585.43	P
12/26/2014	R	32482	VARIABLE ANNUITY LIFE INSURANC	100.00	P
TOTAL				85,210.06	

PAYROLL:					
DATE	TYPE	NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	STATUS
12/12/2014	MISC.		PAYROLL DIRECT DEPOSIT	21,735.36	P
12/26/2014	MISC.		PAYROLL DIRECT DEPOSIT	22,492.39	P
TOTAL				44,227.75	

CHECK TOTAL:	98,737.37
BANK-DRAFT TOTAL:	12,856.87
PAYROLL TOTAL:	44,227.75
	155,821.99

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

DATE: January 20, 2015

AGENDA ITEM: Adoption of Resolution 2015-01 authorizing General Manager to submit "Reduce the Use" grant proposal to, and to execute Grant Agreement with (if grant is awarded), the Department of Water Resources

RECOMMENDATIONS: Adopt Resolution 2015-01.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: The District is requesting approximately \$250,000 from the Department of Water Resources, and will provide a \$250,000 in-kind match.

BACKGROUND: Pursuant to California Senate Bill Number 103 (2013-2014 Regular Session), the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is soliciting grant proposals for projects that reduce water use and/or energy consumption. In response to DWR's request, staff is proposing to implement a financing program patterned after similar successful financing programs implemented by other municipal water purveyors, such as the City of Windsor, to incentivize installation of water saving fixtures in residential homes that are considered high or excessive water users.

The proposed program would provide upfront funding (loans) for qualified applicants, who work directly with qualified contractors to install water saving fixtures. Repayment of the loan would occur in the form of a monthly surcharge applied to the applicant's water/sewer bill. In order for a household to be eligible, the monthly water savings achieved through installation of water saving fixtures, and more specifically the cost of the saved water, must be greater than the monthly surcharge used to pay off the loan. In other words, after installing water saving fixtures, the household's monthly water bill, even with the addition of the monthly surcharge, must be less than prior to installation of water saving fixtures. In the event that the homeowner sold their home prior to loan repayment, the loan and monthly surcharge would remain with the property and be assigned to the new homeowner.

Staff is requesting grant funds to set up and launch the program. The District's cost share would be provided in the form of in-kind service (labor) and to the degree necessary, funds borrowed and re-loaned at a higher interest rate. In its initial phase, it is anticipated that the proposed project will target the top 500 residential water users in the District.

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 2015-01

RESOLUTION OF THE HIDDEN VALLEY LAKE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS AUTHORIZING GENERAL MANAGER ROLAND SANFORD TO SUBMIT REDUCE THE USE PROJECT GRANT PROPOSAL TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES AND IF SAID GRANT IS AWARDED, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES FOR RECEIPT OF GRANT FUNDS AND COMPLETION OF REDUCE THE USE PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District (District) encourages it's constituents to reduce water usage whenever practical and feasible; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of water saving fixtures is a practical and feasible tool for reducing water use; and

WHEREAS, the installation of water saving fixtures can be incentivized through a financing program that reduces the "upfront" and ultimately the total cost of installing water saving fixtures; and

WHEREAS, the District desires to implement a financing program, patterned after similar successful financing programs implemented by other municipal water purveyors, such as the City of Windsor, but currently lacks the financial resources to implement such a financing program; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to California Senate Bill Number 103 (2013-2014 Regular Session), the California Department of Water Resources is soliciting grant proposals for projects that will reduce water use and/or energy consumption.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District that application be made to the California Department of Water Resources to obtain a 2014 Water-Energy Grant pursuant to Senate Bill Number 103 (2013-2014 Regular Session), and to enter into an agreement with the California Department of Water Resources to receive a grant for the "Reduce the Use Project"; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Manager of the Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District, Mr. Roland Sanford, is hereby authorized and directed to prepare the necessary data, conduct investigations, file Reduce the Use Project grant application, and execute a grant agreement and any amendments thereto, with the California Department of Water Resources.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on January 20, 2015 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Judy Mirbegian
President of the Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Roland Sanford
Secretary to the Board of Directors

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

DATE: January 20, 2015

AGENDA ITEM: Adoption of Resolution 2015-02 authorizing General Manager to submit "Reduce the Use" grant proposal to, and to execute Grant Agreement with (if grant is awarded), the United States Bureau of Reclamation

RECOMMENDATIONS: Adopt Resolution 2015-02.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: The District is requesting approximately \$250,000 from the United States Bureau of Reclamation, and will provide a \$250,000 in-kind match.

BACKGROUND: The United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) is soliciting grant proposals for projects that reduce water use and/or energy consumption. In response to USBR's request, staff is proposing to implement a financing program patterned after similar successful financing programs implemented by other municipal water purveyors, such as the City of Windsor, to incentivize installation of water saving fixtures in residential homes that are considered high or excessive water users. *Note: the project proposal described here is essentially identical to the project proposal staff has prepared for the California Department of Water Resources (See Agenda Summary 5C).*

The proposed program would provide upfront funding (loans) for qualified applicants, who work directly with qualified contractors to install water saving fixtures. Repayment of the loan would occur in the form of a monthly surcharge applied to the applicant's water/sewer bill. In order for a household to be eligible, the monthly water savings achieved through installation of water saving fixtures, and more specifically the cost of the saved water, must be greater than the monthly surcharge used to pay off the loan. In other words, after installing water saving fixtures, the household's monthly water bill, even with the addition of the monthly surcharge, must be less than prior to installation of water saving fixtures. In the event that the homeowner sold their home prior to loan repayment, the loan and monthly surcharge would remain with the property and be assigned to the new homeowner.

Staff is requesting grant funds to set up and launch the program. The District's cost share would be provided in the form of in-kind service (labor) and to the degree necessary, funds borrowed and re-loaned at a higher interest rate. In its initial phase, it is anticipated that the proposed project will target the top 500 residential water users in the District.

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 2015-02

RESOLUTION OF THE HIDDEN VALLEY LAKE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS AUTHORIZING GENERAL MANAGER ROLAND SANFORD TO SUBMIT REDUCE THE USE PROJECT GRANT PROPOSAL TO THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF RECLAMATION AND IF SAID GRANT IS AWARDED, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF RECLAMATION FOR RECEIPT OF GRANT FUNDS AND COMPLETION OF REDUCE THE USE PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District (District) encourages it's constituents to reduce water usage whenever practical and feasible; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of water saving fixtures is a practical and feasible tool for reducing water use; and

WHEREAS, the installation of water saving fixtures can be incentivized through a financing program that reduces the "upfront" and ultimately the total cost of installing water saving fixtures; and

WHEREAS, the District desires to implement a financing program, patterned after similar successful financing programs implemented by other municipal water purveyors, such as the City of Windsor, but currently lacks the financial resources to implement such a financing program; and

WHEREAS, the United States Bureau of Reclamation is soliciting WaterSMART grant proposals for projects that will reduce water use and/or energy consumption; and

WHEREAS, the District has prepared the "Reduce the Use Project" grant proposal, which includes matching funds/in-kind contributions (50 percent of total project cost) to be provided by the District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District that application be made to the United States Bureau of Reclamation to obtain a WaterSMART grant and to enter into an agreement with the United States Bureau of Reclamation to receive a grant for the Reduce the Use Project; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said grant proposal includes a commitment by the Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District to provide matching funds/in-kind contributions (50 percent of total project cost); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Manager of the Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District, Mr. Roland Sanford, is hereby authorized and directed to prepare the necessary data, conduct investigations, file Reduce the Use Project grant application, and execute a grant agreement, and any amendments thereto, with the United States Bureau of Reclamation, within the deadlines established by the United States Bureau of Reclamation.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on January 20, 2015 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Judy Mirbegian
President of the Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Roland Sanford
Secretary to the Board of Directors



**HIDDEN VALLEY LAKE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT
MEETING DATE: JANUARY 8, 2015**

The Finance Committee met at the District office located at 19400 Hartmann Road, in Hidden Valley Lake, California. Present were:

Director Jim Freeman
Director Carolyn Graham
General Manager Roland Sanford
Administrative Services Officer Tami Ipsen

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Director Freeman

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion made by Director Freeman and second by Director Graham the Committee unanimously approved the agenda.

REVIEW OF PRELIMINARY NBS SEWER/WATER RATE STUDY RESULTS

The Committee reviewed alternative tiered water rate and operating reserve fund scenarios developed by NBS consultants, and the pros and cons of implementing a monthly as opposed to a bi-monthly billing schedule.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Director Freeman and second by Director Graham the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

HIDDEN VALLEY LAKE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

DECEMBER 2014

FINANCIAL REPORT





HIDDEN VALLEY LAKE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

DECEMBER 2014

Financial Report

REVENUE & EXPENSE SEWER REPORT

12/1/2014-12/31/2014

120-SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND FINANCIAL SUMMARY	CURRENT BUDGET	CURRENT PERIOD	YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL	BUDGET BALANCE	% OF BUDGET
TOTAL REVENUE	1,006,300.00	151,235.63	527,863.67	478,436.33	52.46

EXPENDITURE SUMMARY					
NON-DEPARTMENTAL	350,606.00	30,293.84	221,851.74	128,754.26	63.28
ADMINISTRATION	312,539.00	27,060.80	177,956.64	134,582.36	56.94
FIELD	299,954.00	19,168.08	125,160.66	174,793.34	41.73
DIRECTORS	43,201.00	3,117.10	17,771.17	25,429.83	41.14
TOTAL	1,006,300.00	79,639.82	542,740.21	463,559.79	53.93

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	-	59,155.94	35,844.06	62.27
120-4111 COMM SEWER USE	18,400.00	1,677.02	10,062.12	8,337.88	45.57
120-4112 GOV'T SEWER USE	600.00	50.18	301.08	298.92	41.82
120-4116 SEWER USE CHARGES	862,000.00	145,585.72	438,958.92	423,041.08	34.03
120-4210 LATE FEE	15,500.00	3,713.96	9,291.10	6,208.90	35.98
120-4300 MISC INCOME	100.00	1.00	609.75	(509.75)	608.75
120-4505 LEASE INCOME	4,200.00	207.75	1,347.09	2,852.91	27.13
120-4550 INTEREST INCOME	-	-	73.19	(73.19)	-
120-4580 TRANSFERS IN	-	-	7,964.48	(7,964.48)	-
TOTAL	1,006,300.00	151,235.63	527,863.67	478,436.33	52.46

NON-DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES	CURRENT BUDGET	CURRENT PERIOD	YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL	BUDGET BALANCE	% OF BUDGET
120-5-00-5024 WORKERS' COMP INSURANCE	4,815.00	4,814.50	9,629.00	(4,814.00)	199.98
120-5-00-5025 RETIREE HEALTH BENEFITS	5,027.00	609.45	3,307.46	1,719.54	65.79
120-5-00-5060 GASOLINE, OIL & FUEL	14,200.00	1,276.81	4,748.28	9,451.72	33.44
120-5-00-5061 VEHICLE MAINT	10,357.00	361.20	8,213.31	2,143.69	79.30
120-5-00-5062 TAXES & LIC	1,100.00	-	235.47	864.53	21.41
120-5-00-5074 INSURANCE	16,285.00	-	-	16,285.00	-
120-5-00-5075 BANK FEES	7,000.00	820.48	4,649.29	2,350.71	66.42
120-5-00-5080 MEMBERSHIP & SUBSCRIPTIONS	6,000.00	-	2,807.13	3,192.87	46.79
120-5-00-5092 POSTAGE & SHIPPING	1,500.00	97.51	760.71	739.29	50.71
120-5-00-5110 CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	36,210.00	1,420.74	36,934.92	(724.92)	102.00
120-5-00-5121 LEGAL SERVICES	12,500.00	462.50	2,851.48	9,648.52	22.81
120-5-00-5122 ENGINEERING SERVICES	15,000.00	5,636.50	20,781.64	(5,781.64)	138.54
120-5-00-5123 OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE	27,750.00	6,212.19	41,623.78	(13,873.78)	150.00
120-5-00-5130 PRINTING & PUBLICATION	500.00	-	324.76	175.24	64.95
120-5-00-5135 NEWSLETTER	1,000.00	-	-	1,000.00	-
120-5-00-5145 EQUIPMENT RENTAL	-	827.86	827.86	(827.86)	-
120-5-00-5148 OPERATING SUPPLIES	12,000.00	1,163.39	6,686.11	5,313.89	55.72
120-5-00-5150 REPAIR & REPLACE	50,452.00	217.29	23,024.98	27,427.02	45.64
120-5-00-5155 MAINT BLDG & GROUNDS	5,300.00	254.10	3,886.95	1,413.05	73.34
120-5-00-5156 CUSTODIAL SERVICES	9,450.00	787.50	4,443.75	5,006.25	47.02
120-5-00-5157 SECURITY	2,000.00	132.00	132.00	1,868.00	6.60
120-5-00-5160 SLUDGE DISPOSAL	23,000.00	-	11,423.45	11,576.55	49.67
120-5-00-5191 TELEPHONE	9,000.00	634.84	3,102.04	5,897.96	34.47
120-5-00-5192 ELECTRICITY	18,400.00	-	8,349.53	10,050.47	45.38
120-5-00-5193 OTHER UTILITIES	1,800.00	263.89	1,140.81	659.19	63.38
120-5-00-5195 ENV/MONITORING	25,000.00	3,612.50	17,818.16	7,181.84	71.27
120-5-00-5196 RISK MANAGEMENT	17,800.00	250.00	250.00	17,550.00	1.40
120-5-00-5198 ANNUAL OPERATING FEES	3,000.00	-	872.00	2,128.00	29.07
120-5-00-5310 EQUIPMENT - FIELD	1,000.00	-	834.31	165.69	83.43
120-5-00-5311 EQUIPMENT - OFFICE	2,800.00	-	1,063.28	1,736.72	37.97
120-5-00-5312 TOOLS - FIELD	1,100.00	127.18	386.72	713.28	35.16
120-5-00-5315 SAFETY EQUIPMENT	4,100.00	311.41	688.56	3,411.44	16.79
120-5-00-5510 SEWER OUTREACH	5,000.00	-	-	5,000.00	-
120-5-00-5545 RECORDING FEES	160.00	-	54.00	106.00	33.75
TOTAL	350,606.00	30,293.84	221,851.74	128,754.26	63.28

ADMINISTRATION EXPENDITURES	CURRENT BUDGET	CURRENT PERIOD	YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL	BUDGET BALANCE	% OF BUDGET
120-5-10-5010 SALARIES & WAGES	205,456.00	19,054.52	121,270.51	84,185.49	59.03
120-5-10-5020 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	55,100.00	4,526.91	28,922.10	26,177.90	52.49
120-5-10-5021 RETIREMENT BENEFITS	41,013.00	3,050.57	19,437.95	21,575.05	47.39
120-5-10-5063 CERTIFICATIONS	20.00	-	-	20.00	-
120-5-10-5090 OFFICE SUPPLIES	6,200.00	131.73	3,433.07	2,766.93	55.37
120-5-10-5170 TRAVEL MILEAGE	350.00	19.60	762.53	(412.53)	217.87
120-5-10-5175 EDUCATION / SEMINARS	3,900.00	277.47	3,974.56	(74.56)	101.91
120-5-10-5179 ADM MISC EXPENSES	500.00	-	155.92	344.08	31.18
TOTAL	312,539.00	27,060.80	177,956.64	134,582.36	56.94

FIELD EXPENDITURES	CURRENT BUDGET	CURRENT PERIOD	YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL	BUDGET BALANCE	% OF BUDGET
120-5-30-5010 SALARIES & WAGES	213,757.00	12,643.42	84,035.84	129,721.16	39.31
120-5-30-5020 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	44,068.00	4,450.44	26,521.25	17,546.75	60.18
120-5-30-5021 RETIREMENT BENEFITS	36,249.00	1,935.32	13,476.71	22,772.29	37.18
120-5-30-5022 CLOTHING ALLOWANCE	2,000.00	44.05	671.33	1,328.67	33.57
120-5-30-5063 CERTIFICATIONS	780.00	-	-	780.00	-
120-5-30-5090 OFFICE SUPPLIES	400.00	94.85	344.06	55.94	86.02
120-5-30-5170 TRAVEL MILEAGE	600.00	-	31.97	568.03	5.33
120-5-30-5175 EDUCATION / SEMINARS	2,100.00	-	79.50	2,020.50	3.79
TOTAL	299,954.00	19,168.08	125,160.66	174,793.34	41.73

DIRECTORS EXPENDITURES	CURRENT BUDGET	CURRENT PERIOD	YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL	BUDGET BALANCE	% OF BUDGET
120-5-40-5010 DIRECTORS COMPENSATION	1,170.00	96.88	581.28	588.72	49.68
120-5-40-5020 DIRECTOR BENEFITS	230.00	-	4.62	225.38	2.01
120-5-40-5030 DIRECTOR HEALTH BENEFITS	40,851.00	3,020.22	17,171.56	23,679.44	42.03
120-5-40-5170 TRAVEL MILEAGE	150.00	-	13.71	136.29	9.14
120-5-40-5175 EDUCATION / SEMINARS	600.00	-	-	600.00	-
120-5-40-5176 DIRECTOR TRAINING	200.00	-	-	200.00	-
TOTAL	43,201.00	3,117.10	17,771.17	25,429.83	41.14



HIDDEN VALLEY LAKE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

DECEMBER 2014

Financial Report

REVENUE & EXPENSE WATER REPORT

12/1/2014-12/31/2014

130-WATER ENTERPRISE FUND FINANCIAL SUMMARY	CURRENT BUDGET	CURRENT PERIOD	YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL	BUDGET BALANCE	% OF BUDGET
ALL REVENUE	1,134,100.00	155,198.15	559,024.56	575,075.44	49.29

EXPENDITURE SUMMARY					
NON-DEPARTMENTAL	641,637.00	24,457.37	290,842.84	350,794.16	45.33
ADMINISTRATION	335,979.00	27,060.72	176,669.98	159,309.02	52.58
FIELD	302,954.00	21,936.34	135,883.18	167,070.82	44.85
DIRECTORS	46,201.00	3,138.64	18,008.31	28,192.69	38.98
TOTAL	1,326,771.00	76,593.07	621,404.31	705,366.69	46.84

REVENUES	CURRENT BUDGET	CURRENT PERIOD	YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL	BUDGET BALANCE	% OF BUDGET
130-4035 RECONNECT FEE	10,000.00	2,160.00	7,250.00	2,750.00	72.50
130-4039 WATER METER INST	300.00	-	200.00	100.00	66.67
130-4040 RECORDING FEE	100.00	-	70.00	30.00	70.00
130-4045 AVAILABILITY FEES	40,000.00	-	-	40,000.00	-
130-4110 COMM WATER USE	14,000.00	1,151.03	6,906.18	7,093.82	49.33
130-4112 GOV'T WATER USE	800.00	74.26	445.56	354.44	55.70
130-4115 WATER USE	863,000.00	140,373.70	422,061.88	440,938.12	48.91
130-4117 WATER OVERAGE FEE	167,000.00	4,915.44	85,381.68	81,618.32	51.13
130-4118 WATER OVERAGE COMM	11,000.00	1,037.03	11,625.67	(625.67)	105.69
130-4210 LATE FEE	22,000.00	5,071.54	12,929.83	9,070.17	58.77
130-4215 RETURNED CHECK FEE	800.00	50.00	350.00	450.00	43.75
130-4300 MISC INCOME	100.00	(73.26)	827.68	(727.68)	827.68
130-4505 LEASE INCOME	4,200.00	438.41	2,852.95	1,347.05	67.93
130-4550 INTEREST INCOME	800.00	-	158.65	641.35	19.83
130-4580 TRANSFER IN	-	-	7,964.48	(7,964.48)	-
TOTAL	1,134,100.00	155,198.15	559,024.56	575,075.44	49.29

DIRECTORS EXPENDITURES	CURRENT BUDGET	CURRENT PERIOD	YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL	BUDGET BALANCE	% OF BUDGET
130-5-40-5010 DIRECTORS COMPENSATION	3,000.00	118.42	710.52	2,289.48	23.68
130-5-40-5020 DIRECTOR BENEFITS	230.00	-	5.58	224.42	2.43
130-5-40-5030 DIRECTOR HEALTH BENEFITS	42,021.00	3,020.22	17,143.28	24,877.72	40.80
130-5-40-5170 TRAVEL MILEAGE	150.00	-	148.93	1.07	99.29
130-5-40-5175 EDUCATION / SEMINARS	600.00	-	-	600.00	-
130-5-40-5176 DIRECTOR TRAINING	200.00	-	-	200.00	-
TOTAL	46,201.00	3,138.64	18,008.31	28,192.69	38.98



HIDDEN VALLEY LAKE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

**DECEMBER 2014
FINANCIAL REPORT**

**CAPITAL EXPENDITURES
2014-2015 BUDGET**

Sewer	Budget	Yr to Date Actual
Video Inspections of Sewer Laterals	35,000	-
Repair Sewer Lateral Leaks	35,000	-
Prepare Sewer Capital Improvement Plan	20,000	-
Install Security Fencing at Lift Station 1 & 4	10,000	-
Field Laptop (non-budget)	(1,522)	1,522.23
SCADA Computer (non-budget)	(6,442)	6,442.25
Total	98,478	7,964.48

Water	Budget	Yr to Date Actuals
Field Laptop (non-budget)	(1,522)	1,522.23
SCADA Computer (non-budget)	(6,442)	6,442.25
Total	(7,964)	7,964.48



Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District

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MEMO

To: Board of Directors
From: Roland Sanford
Date: January 15, 2015
RE: General Manager's Monthly Report

Drought update and December rains

The December rains – over 18 inches for the month – have had an immediate and substantial impact on the groundwater elevations in the District's wells. Groundwater elevations are now on par – with a few tenths of a foot – of long-term averages for the month of January, and the groundwater basin is essentially fully recharged. While the December rains provided welcomed relief from a water supply perspective, they evoked considerable stress among the field staff assigned to sewer operations – more on that later.

Water Hookup Moratorium

Progress has been made – late last month the head of the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) Division of Drinking Water agreed that those portions of the District (Units 4 and 5) served water diverted pursuant to riparian water rights are not subject to the water hookup moratorium. Staff has requested and is waiting for written confirmation from the SWRCB. This item has been agendaized for further discussion at the January 20, 2015 Board meeting.

Hexavalent Chromium

In accordance with the State's recently adopted hexavalent chromium drinking standard and associated regulations, the District's municipal water supply wells were sampled on December 19, 2014. Unfortunately, the results indicate that prevailing hexavalent chromium concentrations exceed the State's 10 parts per billion standard in two of the District's three municipal wells (well numbers 2 and 4). Additional sampling is underway to confirm previous sampling results and to more thoroughly characterize the spatial and temporal distribution of chromium at and near the District's municipal wells.

Staff will be meeting with the California Department of Public Health later this month to discuss the initial hexavalent chromium sampling results and to seek financial assistance for feasibility studies – studies to investigate the practicality of various water treatment options.



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Sewer Operations and the December rains

The 18 inches of rain we received in December – over 7 inches in one 24-hour period – nearly overwhelmed the District's water treatment facilities, and would have, if not for the efforts of the field staff and the cooperation of contractors. Our problem, as we have previously discussed, is an aging and leaky sewer collection system, which in addition to collecting and conveying sewage also captures considerable storm runoff and infiltrating groundwater.

During the December storms, the rate of inflow nearly exceeded the treatment plant's ability to temporarily store and process wastewater. Staff were forced to retain contractors, who hauled untreated wastewater – at a trucking cost of nearly \$34,000 – to an alternative treatment facility, in order to avoid a spill (and substantial fine) of untreated wastewater.

The events of December once again underscore the harsh reality that the District's aging sewer collection system is in need of extensive and unfortunately expensive repairs, the reasons for creating and maintaining an operating reserve (the \$34,000 spent hauling wastewater were unanticipated and therefore not budgeted), and the fact that staff is able to maintain a reasonable sense of humor even under extremely stressful conditions.

In anticipation of a sewer rate increase, I have requested the District engineers – Coastland Civil Engineers - review existing sewer pipe inspection videos and other data, and prepare a proposal for initiating a sewer collection system repair/replacement program this summer.

While on the topic of sewer operations, later this month Coastland Civil Engineers is scheduled to complete a proposal and preliminary design of the new wastewater disinfection facility for the wastewater treatment plant off Grange Road. As you may recall, for health and safety reasons, not to mention cost, the District is replacing the existing disinfection facility, which relies on the delivery and storage of chlorine gas, with a facility that will generate chlorine gas onsite, on an as needed basis.

Sewer/Water Rate Study

Staff and the Finance Committee met on January 8, 2015 to review the latest water rate analyses performed by NBS consultants, and anticipate making a final recommendation regarding proposed sewer and water rate increases, at the February 17, 2015 Board meeting. This item has been agendaized for further discussion at the January 20, 2015 Board meeting.



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Mid-Year Budget Review

Staff is proposing the Board hold a mid-year budget review workshop on Tuesday, January 27, 2015 to review the status of the District's FY 2014-2015 budget



Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District

December 2014 Report

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Flood Control during December storm event.



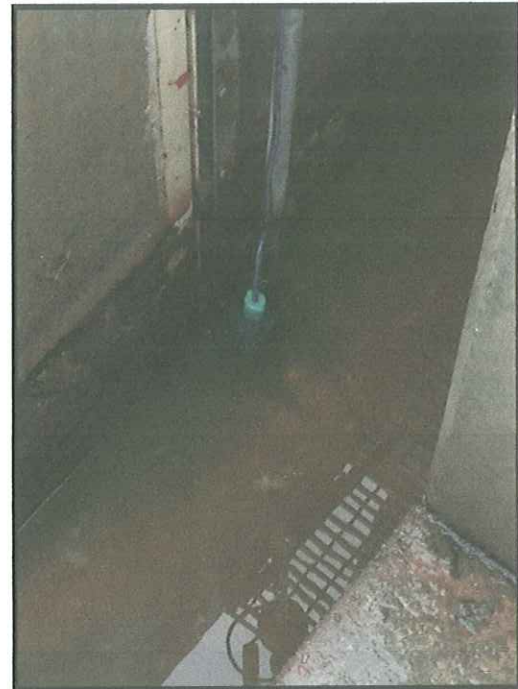
Infiltration/inflow during the December 2014 storm event

Water Connections:

Residential	2416
Commercial & Govt	34
Total:	2450

Sewer Connections:

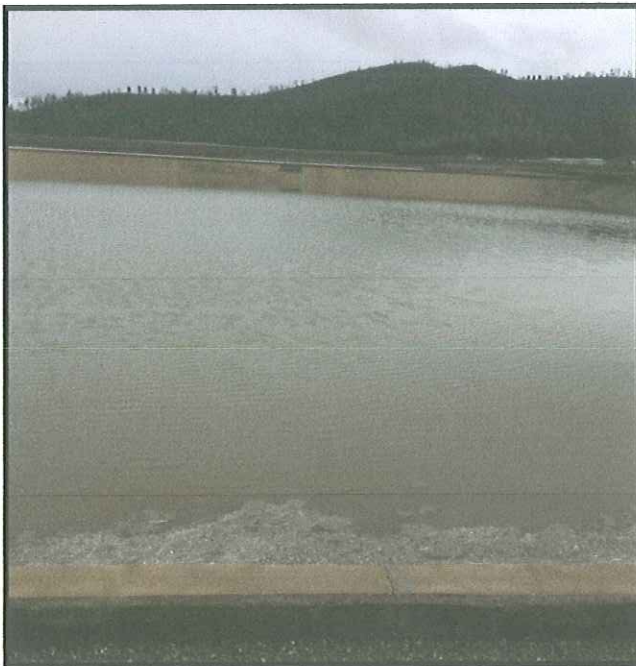
Residential	1457
Commercial & Govt	35.2
Total:	1492.2



Replaced headworks float.

Rainfall at HVLCS D 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	0.00
Sep	1.11
Oct	0.80
Nov	4.19
Dec	18.14
Total:	44.10

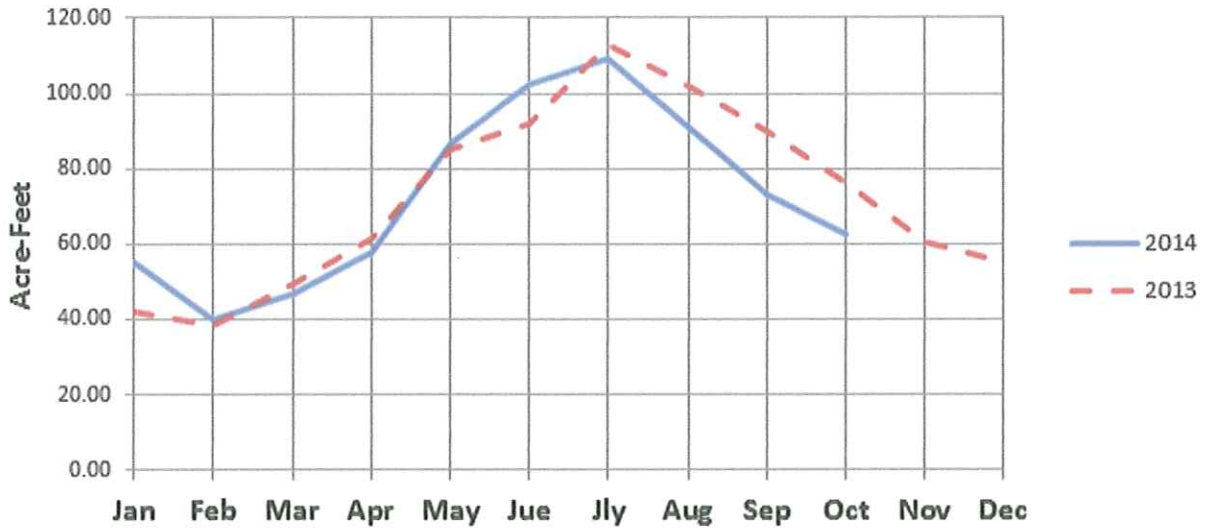


Reclamation pond during December storm event.

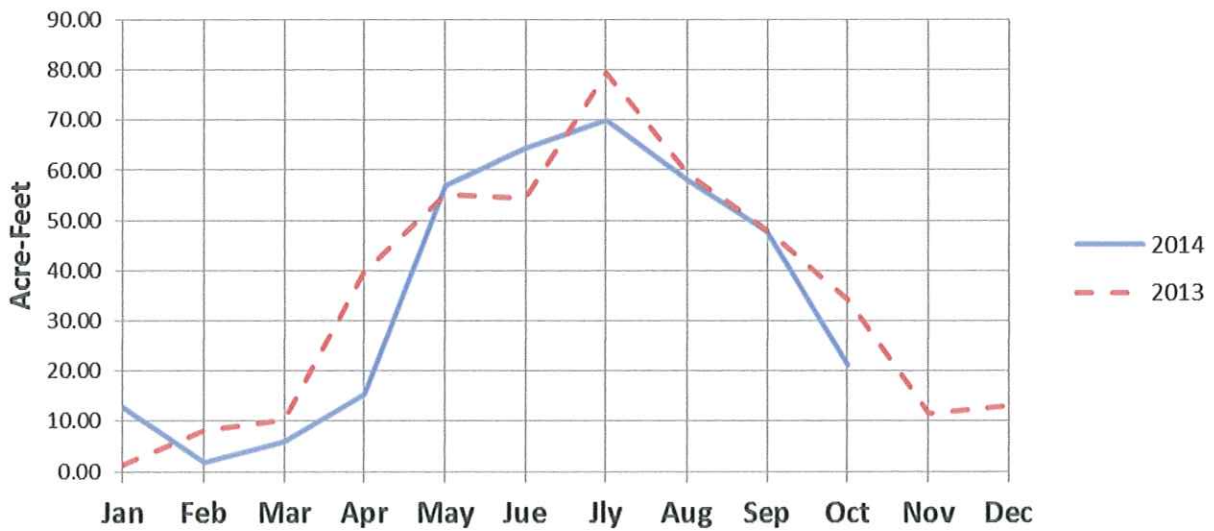
Overtime Hours 57.75

Overtime Expense: \$ 2,100.24

HVLCSD Municipal Well Production



Reclaimed Water Use



Water Operations and Maintenance

Well Field

- Performed monthly drawdown tests
- Collected hexavalent chromium samples

Water Distribution System

- Staff completed 95 work orders in December.

General Repairs and Maintenance

- Miscellaneous minor storm damage repairs
 - Staff performed daily rounds/general maintenance.
-

Wastewater Operations and Maintenance

Wastewater Collection System

- Routine maintenance.
- Removed 800 Pump for repair

Wastewater Treatment Plant

- excess untreated wastewater (I&I from collection system) hauled offsite by contractor to prevent overtopping of EQ basin
- Repaired headworks float
- Routine maintenance and lab testing

Wastewater Data:

EFF Pond level elevation = 11.52 feet

December Plant Influent = 13 million gallons (2 times greater than what is considered typical)

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

DATE: January 20, 2015

AGENDA ITEM: Discussion and Possible Action: Status report on water connections moratorium (SWRCB Division of Drinking Water Compliance Order No. 02_03_14R_004)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Hear presentation by General Manager and provide direction to staff.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None

BACKGROUND:

On October 17, 2014 the State Water Resources Control Board’s (SWRCB) Division of Drinking Water (DDW) issued Compliance Order No. 02_03_14R_004, prohibiting the District from adding new water service connections until sufficient reliable water supplies are obtained – a reliable water supply during periods of drought. The DDW made its decision to issue the compliance order on the basis of a water right “Curtailment Notice” that was issued by the SWRCB’s Division of Water Rights to the District and to hundreds if not thousands of other entities within the Sacramento – San Joaquin drainage, on May 27, 2014. The Curtailment Notice directed “junior” Appropriative water right holders to cease water diversions until further notice.

District staff and the District’s water rights consultants contend that the District should have never received a Curtailment Notice, and therefore, should not be subject to the aforementioned compliance order. Discussions with State Water Resources Control Board staff are ongoing.

Recently, Mr. Bruce Burton, head of the State Water Resources Control Board’s Division of Drinking Water, agreed that those portions of the District receiving water diverted pursuant to the District’s riparian water right (Units 4 and 5) are not subject to the compliance order and associated building moratorium. Staff has requested written confirmation of Mr. Burton’s determination. There are currently a combined total of 207 undeveloped lots in Units 4 and 5 that are eligible to receive water diverted under the District’s riparian water right claim. Staff will brief the Board on the status of the District’s ongoing efforts to get Compliance Order No. 02_03_14R_004 rescinded.

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

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

DATE: January 20, 2015

AGENDA ITEM: Discussion and Possible Action: Status report on NBS water/sewer rate study

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Hear presentation by General Manager 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



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MEMO

To: Board of Directors
From: Roland Sanford
Date: January 14, 2015
RE: Status of NBS Water/Sewer Rate Study Review

At the November 18, 2014 Board meeting, staff and the Finance Committee was directed to explore alternative water rate scenarios – a 4-tier as opposed to 3-tier water rate structure, and inclusion of a 45-day operating reserve fund as opposed to a 90-day operating reserve fund. NBS consultants performed the requested analyses, which staff and the Finance Committee reviewed at the Finance Committee's January 8, 2015 meeting.

Study Results

Based on the analyses reviewed to date it appears that a 4-tiered water rate structure – as opposed to the previously proposed 3-tiered water rate structure – will provide a more effective mechanism for incentivizing water conservation among the very high residential water users, while at the same time maintaining water affordability among the low and moderate residential water users. Accordingly, the Finance Committee is prepared to recommend the District adopt a 4-tiered water rate structure.

From the analyses reviewed to date it is apparent that inclusion of a 45-day operating reserve fund - as opposed to a 90-day operating reserve fund - has very little impact on the resulting water rates and projected residential water bills. Because inclusion of a 90-day operating reserve adds very little to the overall rate increase and would probably be looked upon more favorably by potential lenders, the Finance Committee is prepared to recommend the District adopt a water rate structure that incorporates accumulation of a 90-day operating reserve fund, as opposed to a 45-day operating reserve fund.

Prior to making a final recommendation to the Board in February, the Finance Committee has requested that NHA Financial Advisors review the most recent sewer and water rate models/financial plans developed by NBS consultants to identify any potential fiscal "red flags" or missed opportunities vis-à-vis the District's ability to attract investors and borrow money for capital improvements.

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

DATE: January 20, 2015

AGENDA ITEM: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Election of Board Vice President and Board President for 2015 Calendar Year

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) Elect Board Vice President for 2015 Calendar Year
- 2) Elect Board President for 2015 Calendar Year

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None

BACKGROUND:

Each January the Board designates two individuals to serve as the Board's Vice President and President, respectively, for the balance of the calendar year.

APPROVED
AS RECOMMENDED

OTHER
(SEE BELOW)

Modification to recommendation and/or other actions:

I, _____, 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:

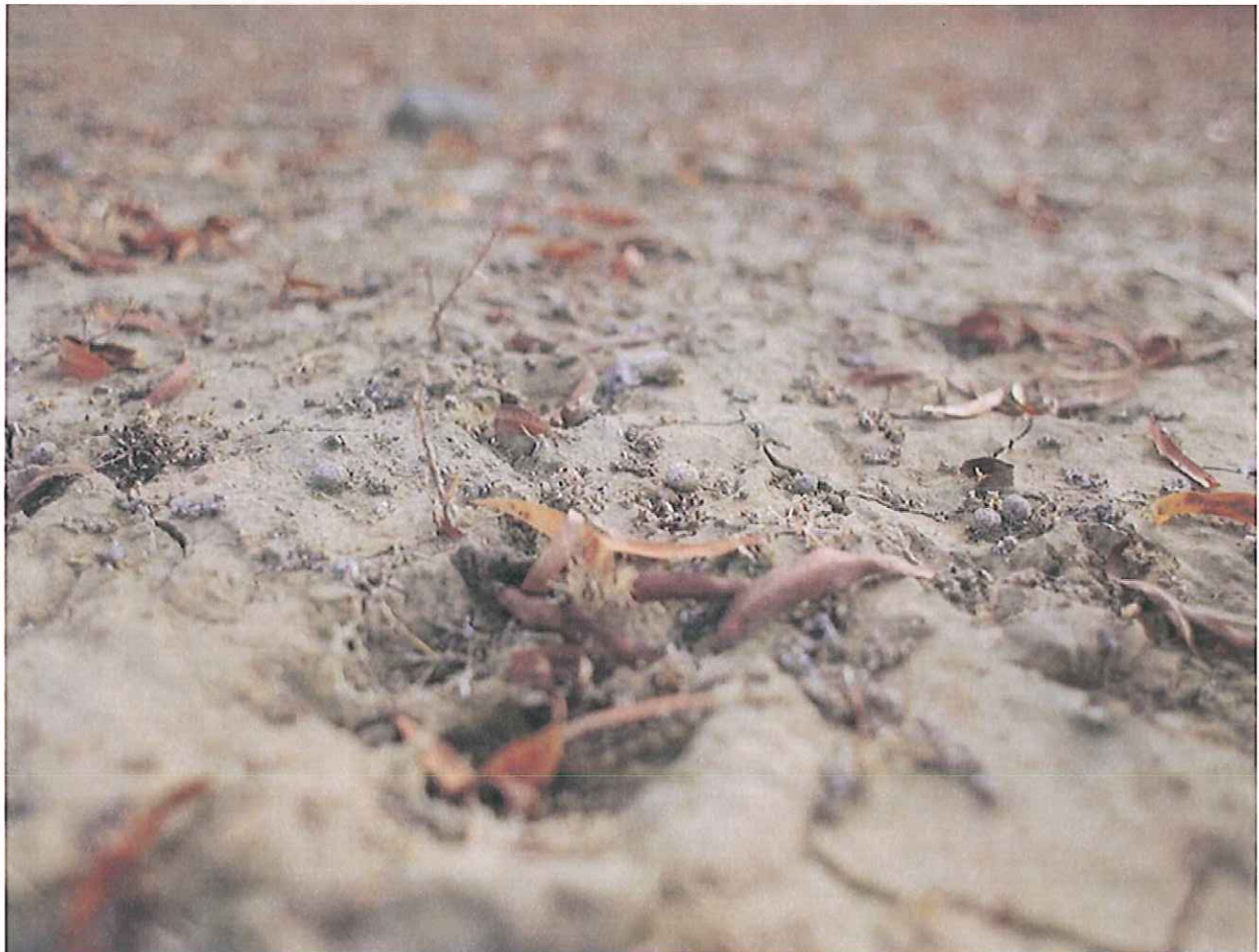
Absent

Secretary to the Board

 [Ed Joyce \(/about/bios/ed-joyce/\)](/about/bios/ed-joyce/)

Tuesday, January 13, 2015 | Sacramento, CA | [Permalink \(/40234\)](#)

NOAA: California Drought Likely Lingers Through Summer



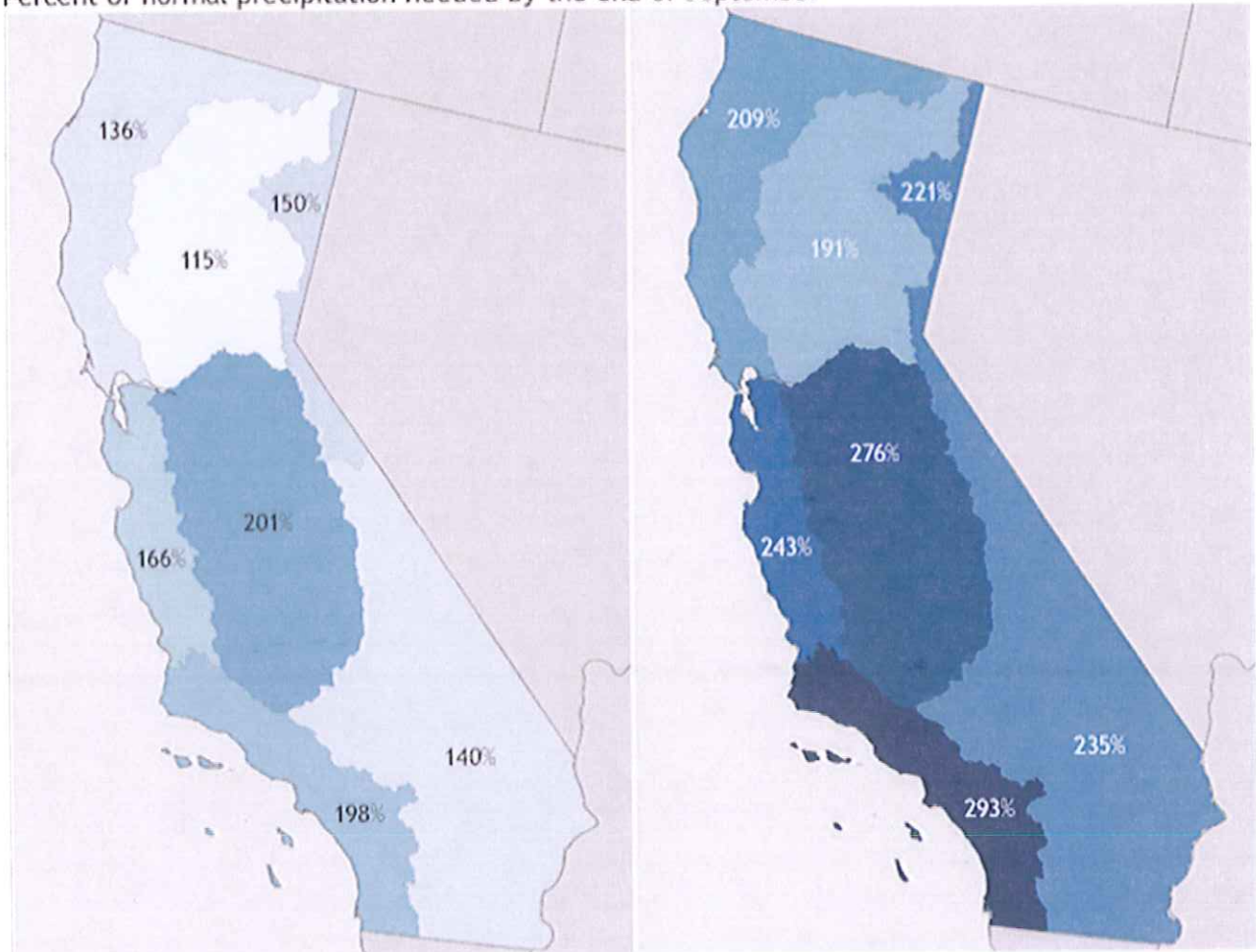
Andrew Nixon / Capital Public Radio

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said the drought that started in 2011 in California will linger into summer.

NOAA reports that after nearly four years of drought, the California water deficit can only be made up by "epic amounts of rain and snow" and that isn't likely to happen.

In an article on NOAA's [Climate.gov](http://www.climate.gov) ([http://www.climate.gov/](http://www.climate.gov)) website, "It poured in California in December. [Can we stop talking about the drought](http://www.climate.gov/news-features/event-tracker/it-poured-california-december-can-we-stop-talking-about-drought) (<http://www.climate.gov/news-features/event-tracker/it-poured-california-december-can-we-stop-talking-about-drought>)," the agency used graphics to explain how much rain and snow is needed to end the dry times in the Golden State.

Percent of normal precipitation needed by the end of September



to move out of bottom 20th percentile of 4-year accumulated precipitation

to move out of bottom 50th percentile of 4-year accumulated precipitation

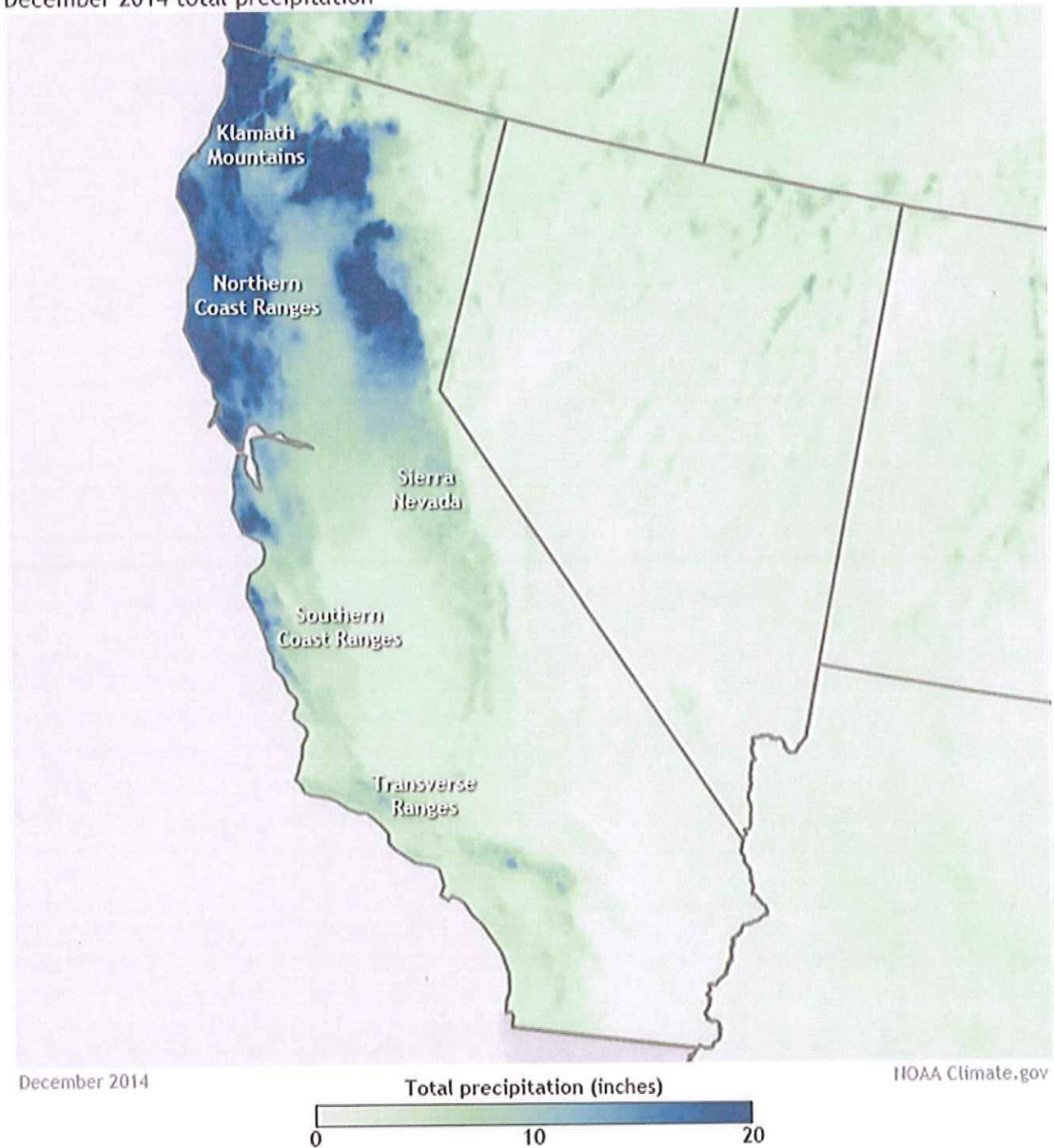
NOAA Climate.gov

NOAA said if warmer temperatures bring more rain than snow in the Sierra Nevada, areas that depend on melting snowpack in late spring and summer will be left wanting. NOAA report said the snowpack is currently 50 percent of normal.

In the San Joaquin Valley, rains 275 percent of normal - or 38 inches - would have to fall through the end of September just to reach 50 percent of normal over the last four years.

"Rains have been so below average in the San Joaquin Valley that nearly record amounts of rain (27.74 inches) would be needed by September simply to bring the most recent four-year period out of the driest 20 percent of years on record," NOAA reported. "In Northern California, precipitation would need to roughly double what's normal for the area."

December 2014 total precipitation

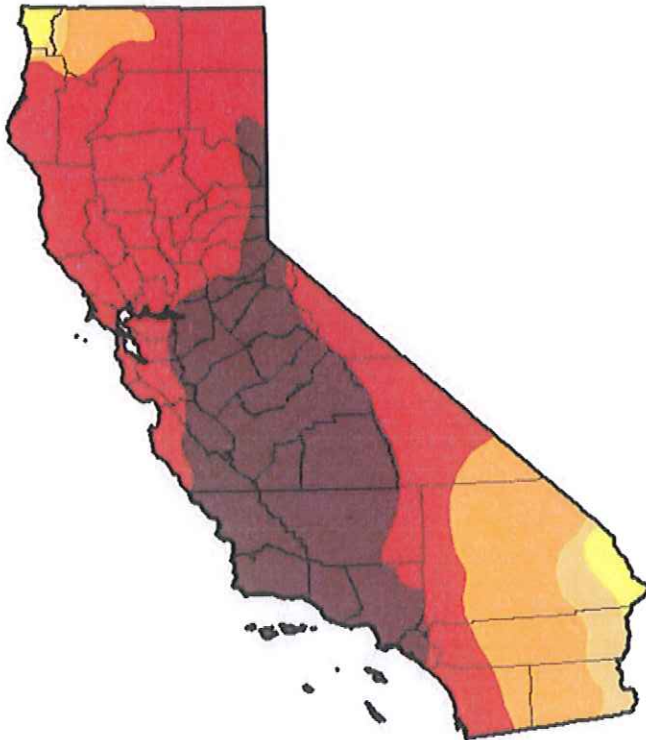


The drought levels monitored by the [U.S. Drought Monitor](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/) (<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>) range from abnormally dry to exceptional (the worst level of drought). In early December, 55 percent of California was in exceptional drought.

Heavy rain and snow the first two weeks of December dropped the area of "exceptional drought" to 32 percent. But the entire state remains 100 percent abnormally dry.

U.S. Drought Monitor California

January 6, 2015
(Released Thursday, Jan. 8, 2015)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	98.12	94.34	77.94	32.21
Last Week 12/09/2014	0.00	100.00	98.12	94.34	77.94	32.21
3 Months Ago 10/7/2014	0.00	100.00	100.00	95.04	81.92	58.41
Start of Calendar Year 12/01/2014	0.00	100.00	98.12	94.34	77.94	32.21
Start of Water Year 09/01/2014	0.00	100.00	100.00	95.04	81.92	58.41
One Year Ago 1/6/2014	1.43	99.57	94.25	87.53	27.59	0.00

Intensity

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:
Brad Rippey
U.S. Department of Agriculture



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

U.S. Drought Monitor (<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>) maps and summaries are released Thursday at 5:30 a.m. Pacific Time.

On January 8, 2015, the NOAA National Climatic Data Center [2014 U.S. Climate Report](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/news/ncdc-releases-2014-us-climate-report) (<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/news/ncdc-releases-2014-us-climate-report>) said California, Nevada and Arizona had their warmest year (<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/summary-info/national/2014/12>) on record.

NOAA reported that in 2014, there were eight weather and climate disaster events with losses exceeding \$1 billion each across the United States, below the average of 10 in the last five years. Those events include the western U.S. drought (<http://www.capradio.org/39931>).



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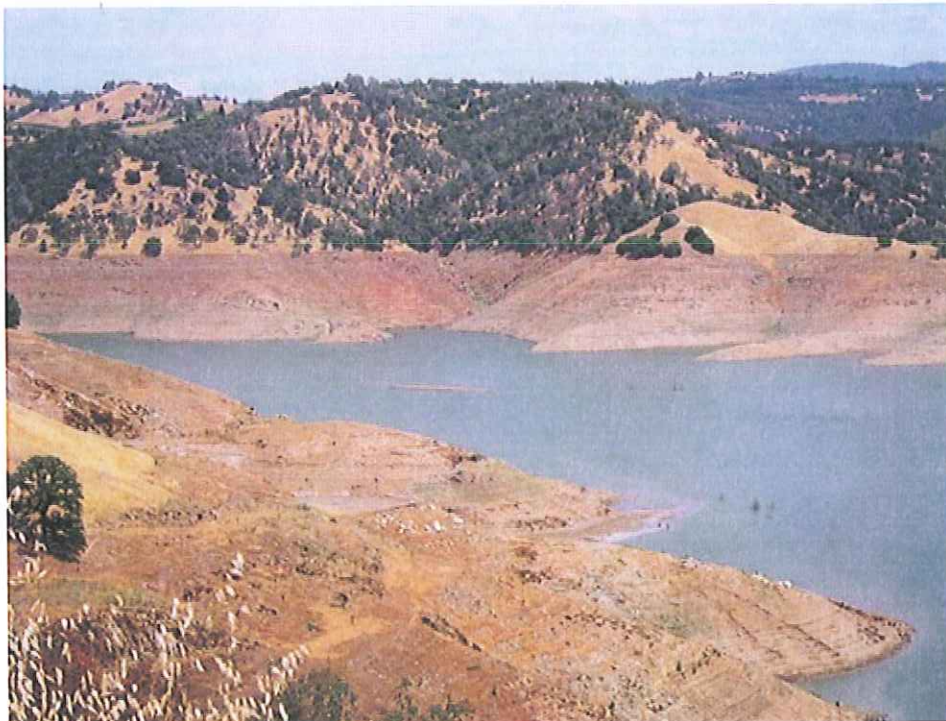
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DROUGHT

Wells remain low in county

By J.W. Burch IV

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@JWBurchIV on Twitter

LAKE COUNTY » Despite the amount of rainfall received during mid-December storm, three years of drought and dry weather since before Christmas means "little or no effect" has been seen in most of Lake County Special District's jurisdiction.

Multiple water systems throughout the county are also still under urgency ordinances.

The Kono Tayee, Soda Bay and North Lakeport water systems are also under a voluntary conservation order, Lake County Special Districts Compliance Coordinator Jan Coppinger said. However, water systems in Mount Hannah, Bonanza Springs, Paradise Valley and Spring Valley still remain under a mandatory conservation ordinance.

"I think our customers on the mountain don't realize is that we did get a lot of rain and it raised the lake level," Coppinger

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Wells

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said. "But it all ran off, so it didn't affect the water tables."

According to Coppinger, wells in Kono Tayee and Kelseyville water systems have experienced declines of 7 percent and 1 percent, respectively, since December. While the well in the Starview Water System experienced a 1 percent increase over the span from the storms until the most recent measure.

Of the 10 total systems serving 9,605 customers managed by Lake County Special Districts, only those in Finley and Kelseyville have decreased their urgency level. Seven of the systems rely on ground water and three rely on surface water.

At its Dec. 16 meeting, the Lake County Board of Supervisors approved those decreases with a unanimous vote.

The Finley and Kelseyville water systems were placed on the urgency ordinance on July 22 when "well levels began to

AT A GLANCE: WELL LEVELS

Paradise Valley, CSA #16

No change during month of December	
Jan 2013	265.1
Jan 2014	284.8
Jan 2015	289.6

Kelseyville County Waterworks District #3

One-percent decline in levels during December	
Jan 2013	125.6
Jan 2014	105.44
Jan 2015	106.05

Kono Tayee, CSA #13

Seven-percent decline in December	
Jan 2013	91.5
Jan 2014	96.2
Jan 2015	94.1

Bonanza Springs, CSA #7

No change in December 2014	
Jan 2013	228.05 feet
Jan 2014	264.99 feet
Jan 2015	265.6 feet

Starview, CSA #18

One-percent improvement in December 2014	
Jan 2013	79.6 feet
Jan 2014	89.3 feet
Jan 2015	Waiting for read, new transducer installed

Mt. Hannah, CSA #22

Old well	
Jan 2013	24.8 feet
Jan 2014	40.9 feet
Jan 2015	43 feet
New well 111 ft.	

drop and water usage was escalating," according to Coppinger. Additionally, the urgency ordinance ensured that minimum drinking water needs were met by the system.

Because of a recent decrease in temperatures and consumption, there was no further need for the urgency ordinance and the two systems were reduced to Stage 1 of the Drought Management Plan.

Stage 1 calls for voluntary conservation.

Mandatory measures in

Stage 2 include prohibitions against using water to wash buildings, sidewalks, driveways, patios and other hard-surfaced areas; not using a handheld hose without a functioning shut-off nozzle; and no water usage that would result in flooding or runoff into gutters or streets. Stage 3 of the drought management plan is expected to result in an additional 10 percent reduction in water usage. Additional mandatory conservation measures and revised rate structures would go into effect during

the third stage, according to plan documents. The fourth and final stage would include a connection moratorium and prohibit new connections.

"If at any time it appears there may be a threat to the water system's ability to provide minimum drinking water needs to the community, we will return with a new urgency ordinance," Coppinger told the county supervisors.

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

Brown unveils water bond spending proposal

By Paul Rogers

San Jose Mercury News

Two months ago, in the grip of a historic drought, California voters overwhelmingly approved a \$7.5 billion water bond to fund everything from new storage projects to modernizing drinking water treatment plants.

On Friday, as part of his budget proposal, Gov. Jerry Brown identified how he would like the first wave of that money to be spent. State residents expecting construction on huge new reservoirs will have to wait, however.

Brown's budget — much of which is expected to be approved by the Democratic-controlled Legislature in Sacramento — calls for spending \$532 million from the water bond, which was Proposition 1. The main areas where he would allocate money this year:

- \$178 million for restoring streams, rivers and watersheds, the source of much of the state's water.
- \$137 million for water recycling projects, in which sewage is treated to high levels to be reused for landscape irrigation and other non-drinkable uses, freeing up other supplies for drinking.
- \$135 million for upgrading drinking water treatment plants and wastewater plants.
- \$23 million for funding water conservation projects, such as rebates for people buying water-efficient appliances.
- \$22 million for ground-water management and cleanup.

The most controversial part of the water bond, which voters approved by

67 percent, was whether to spend money building new reservoirs. Although many of the state's largest environmental groups, such as the Nature Conservancy, in the end endorsed the measure, some critics said the money would be spent on taxpayer-subsidized dams to continue providing cheap water for corporate farmers in the Central Valley who are growing water-intensive crops like almonds to ship to China.

The bond earmarked \$2.7 billion for "storage," although it left the definition vague. "Storage" could mean construction of one or more new large reservoirs, but it also could mean increasing storage underground, in managed aquifers.

The decision on how to spend that money will come from the California Water Commission, an obscure agency whose nine members are appointed by the governor. The commission has not yet taken any votes on how to spend the money from the November bond.

Despite a wet December, California remains in a serious drought, with the Sierra snowpack at only 40 percent of normal and major reservoirs less than half full. Brown was asked about the storage issue at a news conference Friday morning, but didn't address specifics about how, when or whether the state will be building new reservoirs.

"We have a lot of different programs that we are going to spend on this year," the governor said. "We have a very good array of things we are doing."

Lakeport sewer, water rate hikes paying off

By Leah DeAnda

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UPDATED: 01/08/2015 09:10:58 AM PST

0 COMMENTS

LAKEPORT >> Much bemoaned water and sewer rate hikes proposed and approved by the city of Lakeport in 2012 are beginning to pay off, according to city officials who pushed for the increases while the enterprises sat in the red and infrastructure aged.

••Previously, the two divisions were eating into their reserves and didn't have the sustainable funding that would allow for necessary system improvements, Lakeport Public Works Director Mark Brannigan said.

Two projects are nearing completion while the city is also preparing to send a handful of other projects out to bid. The water division has also "finally" made it into the black, according to Lakeport Finance Manager Daniel Buffalo.

Replacement of residents' water meters was the first project to be tackled and is about 90 percent completed, Brannigan said.

Although residents had asked the non-essential replacement of the meters to be completed in the final phase, or not at all, Brannigan reasoned the project came first as it was one of the easiest to start, the old meters exceeded current lead content standards and the efficiency of the new meters require fewer man hours to manage.

Another project, about 85 percent complete, is the rehabilitation and repainting of the inside of a water storage tank.

The city also recently sent out for bids on the replacement of a sewer lift station on Clearlake Avenue. Additionally, it is preparing to seek bids in March for replacement of its supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) control system that regulates the facilities' controls. It's current SCADA system is past its life expectancy, Brannigan said.

Other projects to be bid for this spring include replacement of a sewer force main that travels under Highway 29 and the removal of sludge and repairs to embankments of the city's two wastewater treatment ponds.

The force main passing under the highway was treated with high urgency when the rate increases were proposed; Brannigan said the culvert's failure would leave the city without a way to redirect sewage to its treatment plant.

Wednesday, he described all the projects as very urgent and Buffalo added he expects them to be completed within the next year-and-a-half.

After all bids are received for the projects, the city will be able to begin collecting the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development loans and grants that are serving as the funding mechanism for the developments. The city was approved to receive \$4 million for each enterprise, \$700,000 of each to be paid in the form of a grant and the remainder as a low-interest loan.

"All in all, we're pretty much on target," Buffalo explained.

Brannigan said there is another series of capital improvement projects the city will address in the future once more money is saved up.

Meanwhile, the rates will continue to increase through 2017. Lakeport's water rates were one of the least expensive in the county in 2012, while sewer rates were among the highest as a result of a sewer spill in 2007, costing the system \$3 million in repairs.

DROUGHT

State residents fall short of goal

By Paul Rogers

San Jose Mercury News

After two months in a row of declining conservation, Californians are doing better at saving water, but they remain far short of a goal set by Gov. Jerry Brown last January.

Statewide, residents cut water use by 9.8 percent in November, compared with November 2013, according to new state figures released Tuesday. That's an improvement from October, when the reduction was only 6.8 percent. And it compares with the 11.5 percent savings in August, and 10.2 percent in September.

"The lower number in October was of great concern," said Felicia Marcus, chairwoman of the State Water Resources Control Board. "But that might have been something of an anomaly with the heat down south. This month (November) feels better, although we'd always like more. Some areas have really stepped it up, and other areas we need to encourage to step up more."

Last January, in declaring a drought emergency, the governor asked Californians to voluntarily cut their water use by 20 percent.

Many parts of the state are at or near that goal now.

But huge regional differences remain. Residents of the South Coast region — essentially Los Angeles, San Diego, Orange and Riverside counties — cut water use by only 3.2 percent in November, while the Bay Area and Sacramento reduced water use by 18 percent and 25 percent, respectively.

State water board officials said that temperature differences and the fact that Northern California received a small amount of rain in November while Southern California received next to none are responsible for some of the differences. But the chasm between conservation in the North and South mirrored every other month since June when the survey of 400 water agencies and cities began.

"While the South Coast has been a water conservation leader for several decades, we remain concerned the current drought effort has not translated into more aggressive conservation there," Marcus said.

Some Southern California water leaders have begun to try to put the best face on the numbers.

"In California water, it is important to take the long view. For all of us to make progress, it is im-

DROUGHT » PAGE 3

Drought

FROM PAGE 1

portant to avoid the temptation to pit one region against another," said Jeff Kightlinger, general manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which provides water to 19 million people in and around Los Angeles, in an op-ed Dec. 20 in Bay Area News Group newspapers.

Kightlinger noted that Southern California has expanded local water supplies with new reservoirs, desalination and water recycling since the last big drought from 1987 to 1992. And despite adding 5 million residents since then, overall water demand is 20 percent less, he noted.

Still, some experts say far more can be done.

"The message in the southern part of the state

has been, 'We're in pretty good shape. We are doing better than everybody else,'" said Peter Gleick, president of the Pacific Institute, a nonprofit water research organization in Oakland. "But that message has confused people. It should be, 'We're moving in the right direction, but we need to do more.'"

In the Bay Area, the 1 million customers of the San Jose Water Company cut water use 18 percent in November. The East Bay Municipal Utility District cut use by 20.7 percent, while San Francisco cut it by 7.8 percent and Santa Cruz reduced it 27.9 percent.

By comparison, Fresno saved 15.3 percent, Los Angeles 6.9 percent and San Diego 0.6 percent.

Although California received drenching rains in December, its snowpack on Tuesday was just 43 percent of normal for

this date. And its largest reservoirs, such as Shasta and Oroville, while filling steadily in the December rains, had been so low that their levels have come up to only about 40 percent full, when they are historically about 60 percent full this time of year on average.

A ridge of high pressure that blocked storms over the past three years of drought has resurfaced off the Pacific Ocean, leading to dry, sunny weather. But some relief may be in sight: The National Weather Service said Monday that Northern California could receive 3 to 4 inches of rain over the next two weeks.

"We all hope it is going to rain a lot in the next couple of months," Gleick said. "But the drought's not over. It's a long way from being over. We shouldn't act as though a little bit of rain has solved our problems. If the next year is dry, the pain is going to increase."

Cal Water: Keeping revenues up in a drought

By Leah DeAnda

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UPDATED: 01/02/2015 09:52:27 AM PST

0 COMMENTS

...LUCERNE >> Coming on the heels of the last rate increase in late August, Lucerne residents recently received letters from their water company opaquely detailing a base rate change they can expect to see fluctuate on their bills.

Following the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval of the California Water Service Company's 2014 general rate case, residents are now subject to a second mechanism created to maintain the company's revenues when their consumers conserve water.

The first, created in 2008 and titled the Water Revenue Adjustment Mechanism (WRAM), is a surcharge applied 12 to 36 months following the loss of revenue and allowing the California Water Service Company (Cal Water) to recover the difference between actual revenues collected and the amount of revenue it was authorized to collect by the CPUC.

Cal Water explains WRAM fees are used to "encourage conservation." Others say the fees aim to ensure a water provider doesn't discourage conservation by merely raising rates to compensate for lost revenues when customers use less.

And while the Lucerne Friends of Locally Owned Water (FLOW) group, (which advocates for a publicly-owned water system amidst the highest water prices in the county), has rallied against the WRAM fees during the drought, they'll have a new fight to pick with Cal Water's new Sales Reconciliation Mechanism (SRM).

A sticking point of the 2014 general rate case, the addition of the SRM was strongly opposed to the end by both the California Office of Ratepayer Advocates (ORA) and The Utility Reform Network (TURN).

The mechanism is interlinked with the WRAM and WRAM surcharges will be affected by the revenue the SRM pulls in. Nevertheless, the SRM essentially addresses the same problem the WRAM was created to solve except it's redundancy is excused by the drought specifically.

Instead of tacking on a surcharge after anticipated revenue falls short, the SRM preemptively "compensates for the inaccuracy of forecasting estimate of consumption of water which results in large WRAM balances," according to the general rate case.

If recorded sales for the past year are more than 5 percent higher or lower than the adopted sales, Cal Water is authorized to adjust its base rates by 50 percent of that variation. Effectively, this means Cal Water is being allowed to change its base rates without needing explicit approval from the CPUC as it normally would under rate case applications.

ORA Program Manager Danilo Sanchez explained the ORA went so far as to lobby the CPUC to oppose the SRM following the CPUC's approval but their efforts were to no avail.

His concern lies with the water company's ability to permanently change rates through the new mechanism and the added layer of complexity that it adds to Cal Water's already-convoluted revenue collecting system.

The ORA's goal is to do away with the SRM during the next rate case, which will begin in July. If not then, Sanchez is hoping the end of the drought will compel the CPUC to toss the mechanism out.

At the very least, Sanchez said the ORA encouraged the CPUC to mandate a separate account be created to track the SRM's changes to the base rate.

But in the end, "it's a waste of time," he said. "It creates more work for us and even for them (Cal Water). They have to file more advice letters and we all have to look at more calculations."

Both quantity rates and monthly meter rates will be affected by the SRM, though the advice letter to notify residents of the changes does little to explain the changes in layman's terms.

In the advice letter, the anticipated rate changes aren't even compared with the current rates, nor is the percentage of the change provided. Instead, a resident can look for a small "(I)" next to each rate to signify there's been an increase.

Gay Guidotti of Cal Water said residents can expect a message on their next bill explaining rates have changed but it will only refer back to the CPUC's rate case decision and won't explicitly detail how much rates have changed either.

Come Friday, residents' rates per 100 cubic foot of water will jump from \$14.65 to \$16.06 while the smallest 5/8 by 3/4 inch meter monthly charge will jump from \$50.26 to \$51.39.

In addition to the notice of the SRM, residents also received an advice letter detailing increases to its loan repayment charges.

The company entered into a loan agreement with the state's Department of Public Health for just over \$7 million upon completion of a new water treatment plant in the community.

Since 2008, the Lucerne water district's customer base has dropped by 73 spurring the company to increase its loan repayment charges for the first time. The increase varies with the size of a customers' meter.

According to Guidotti, Cal Water is making annual payments of \$235,956 on the 0-percent interest loan and its remaining balance sits at just over \$6.1 million.

In regards to these recent advice letters, multiple customers claim they received them far past the deadline to protest the changes. The letters allow 20 days to file a protest, although Guidotti said that was a typo and residents should have been allowed 30 days to file grievances against the changes.

Residents have also expressed frustration over the fact that, other than a mailing address, contact information for the CPUC was not provided in the letters.

Guidotti said the CPUC is "pretty good about entertaining comments any time," however, and encouraged residents who still want to send in a complaint to do so.

The CPUC and TURN did not return calls by press time to provide comment on these issues.

STATE: Survey finds more snow in mountains, but water content is still far below average for date



WEDNESDAY, 31 DECEMBER 2014 02:54 LAKE COUNTY NEWS REPORTS

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA – The first manual snow survey of the Sierra snowpack this winter found more snow than last year at this time, but the snow water equivalent as measured statewide remains far below average for this date.

The Department of Water Resources conducted the survey Tuesday at Phillips Station, located about 90 miles east of Sacramento on a plot along Highway 50 near Echo Summit.

Snow covered the ground there to a depth of 21.3 inches, according to DWR's Frank Gehrke, chief of the California Cooperative Snow Surveys Program, who conducted the survey.

The snow water equivalent was 4 inches at that particular snow course, or 33 percent of average.

Statewide, 105 electronic sensors in the Sierra detected a snow water equivalent of 4.8 inches, 50 percent of the multi-year average for Dec. 30.

That compares favorably with last winter's first survey, when the snow water equivalent statewide was only 20 percent of normal, which tied with 2012 as the driest readings on record.

"Although this year's survey shows a deeper snowpack than last year, California needs much more rain and snow than we've experienced over the past two years to end the drought in 2015," said DWR Director Mark Cowin. "The department encourages Californians to continue their water conservation practices."

Cowin said the state's surface and groundwater reservoirs have been severely depleted during the drought, which now is in its fourth consecutive year.

He said a snowpack built up significantly during the winter months would be needed to recharge the reservoirs to their historical averages as the snow melts during the late spring and summer months.

Generally, California's snowpack supplies about a third of the water needed by the state's residents, agriculture and industry as it melts in the late spring and summer.

Tuesday's electronic readings indicate that water content in the northern mountains is 57 percent of normal for the date and 20 percent of the average on April 1, when the snowpack normally is at its peak before the spring melt.

Electronic readings in the central Sierra show 45 percent of normal for the date and 16 percent of the April 1 average.

The numbers for the southern Sierra are 48 percent of average for the date and 15 percent of the April 1 average.

DWR and cooperating agencies conduct manual snow surveys around the first of the month from January to May. The manual measurements supplement and check the accuracy of real-time electronic readings.

The average Jan. 1 snowpack water content at Phillips Station is about 12 inches; the April 1 average 27.6 inches. Phillips had its lowest early-January water content reading of 0.1 inch in 2012, in a snow depth of only 0.6 inches.

On Jan. 3, 2014, Phillips had 2.3 inches of water content in 9.3 inches of snow. Besides that reading and the similar one in 2012, the driest January readings at Phillips were in 1987 (0.9 inches of snowpack water content), 1981 (2 inches), 1976 (2.7 inches) and 2000 (3 inches). Records at Phillips go back 50 years.

DWR currently estimates it will be able to deliver only 10 percent of the slightly more than four million acre-feet of State Water Project water requested for calendar year 2015 by the 29 public agencies that collectively supply more

than 25 million Californians and nearly a million acres of irrigated farmland. It is hoped the initial 10 percent delivery estimate will increase as winter storms develop.

The final State Water Project allocation for calendar year 2014 was 5 percent of the slightly more than 4 million acre-feet requested. In 2013, it was 35 percent, and in 2012, the final allocation was 65 percent. It was 80 percent in 2011, up dramatically from an initial allocation of 25 percent.

The final allocation was 50 percent in 2010, 40 percent in 2009, 35 percent in 2008, and 60 percent in 2007.

The last 100-percent allocation – difficult to achieve even in wet years because of Delta pumping restrictions to protect threatened and endangered fish – was in 2006.

DWR weather watchers note that it's early in the season with plenty of time for the snowpack to build.

The concern, however, is that irrigation-dependent San Joaquin Valley farms and some other areas will be hard hit if Water Year 2015 ends as the fourth full year of drought. Storage in key reservoirs has increased due to heavy December rainfall but is still far below normal levels for the date.

Lake Oroville in Butte County, the State Water Project's principal reservoir, on Tuesday was at only 38 percent of its 3.5 million acre-foot capacity (61 percent of its historical average for the date).

Shasta Lake north of Redding, California's and the federal Central Valley Project's largest reservoir, is at 41 percent of its 4.5 million acre-feet capacity (66 percent of average for the date).

San Luis Reservoir, a critical south-of-Delta reservoir for both the State Water Project and Central Valley Project, is a mere 39 percent of its 2 million acre-foot capacity (58 percent of average for the date) due both to dry weather and Delta pumping restrictions to protect salmon and Delta smelt.

Delta water is pumped into the off-stream reservoir in winter and early spring for summer use in the Bay Area, San Joaquin Valley, Central Coast and Southern California.

Continuing dry weather prompted Director Cowin on Dec. 13, 2013, to mobilize DWR's drought management team "to offset potentially devastating impacts to citizen health, well-being and our economy."

Gov. Jerry Brown declared a drought emergency on Jan. 17.

In October, DWR announced the award of more than \$200 million in grants to reduce drought impacts on local communities and improve access to water supplies. Lake County Special Districts received \$2.6 million of that funding for several projects, as Lake County News has reported.

Electronic snowpack readings are available at <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cdecapp/snowapp/sweq.action> .

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County lifts some urgency conditions

By J.W. Burch IV jburch@record-bee.com @JWBurchIV on Twitter
Updated: 12/29/2014 08:49:59 AM PST

record-bee.com

LAKEPORT >> Urgency ordinances for two water systems overseen by Lake County Special Districts were lifted by the county's Board of Supervisors following the recent rains. The board agreed to this measure during their last regular meeting before the holiday break.

The Finley and Kelseyville water systems, also known as County Service Areas No. 6 and No. 3, respectively, were placed on the urgency ordinance on July 22 when "well levels began to drop and water usage was escalating," according to Lake County Special Districts Compliance Coordinator Jan Coppinger. Additionally, the urgency ordinance ensured that minimum drinking water needs were met by the system.

Because of a recent decrease in temperatures and consumption, there is no need for the urgency ordinance.

"Analysis of the production, consumption and conditions of the wells indicates that it is not necessary at this time," Coppinger said.

Both water systems will remain in stage one of the drought management plan, which calls for voluntary consumption.

"If at any time it appears there may be a threat to the water system's ability to provide minimum drinking water needs to the community, we will return with a new urgency ordinance," Coppinger said.

Other water systems under special districts' jurisdiction are still under an urgency ordinance. Furthermore, the state's restrictions on water usage and recommendations for reduced water use are still in effect.

The board unanimously approved the lifting of the urgency ordinances.

In other water related business, the board also unanimously approved continuing the county's proclamation of a local emergency because of drought conditions.

Every 30 days the board is required by state law to continue the emergency proclamation if the county is to seek funding "specifically designated for drought relief purposes."

According to Lake County Emergency Services Manager Marisa Chilafoe, "though our current conditions have improved with recent rains, there is much work to be done to prepare for another drought year."

Approximately 150 percent of average annual rainfall is needed to end the current drought, Chilafoe said.

At both the county and state level, preparations for another drought year are considered in order.

"Winter weather forecasts indicate below average conditions," Chilafoe continued. "Even with normal precipitation and snow pack levels, which are not anticipated, conditions will not fully recharge reservoir, well and lake levels for the following summer."



Grape growers could alleviate Occidental's wastewater issues

BY GUY KOVNER THE PRESS DEMOCRAT on December 28, 2014, 6:19PM12/28/2014
Updated 1 hour ago.

Occidental's embattled wastewater treatment system needs a multimillion-dollar upgrade completed within three years, and nearby grape growers are likely part of the solution.

If that plan — expected to cost \$5 million to \$6 million and bump up rates for the sewer district's roughly 100 customers — doesn't work out, the small west county community's wastewater might be trucked out of the area for treatment, officials said.

The proposed solution, including improvements to the existing treatment plant on Occidental Road and a pipeline carrying wastewater to a vineyard on Morelli Lane, will be reviewed at a public meeting at 6 p.m. Jan. 8 at the Union Hotel in Occidental.

Residents will have a chance to comment on the potential impacts of the project as part of the determination of whether it will require a full environmental impact report.

Because the proposed project would be on property already used by the system and on county roads, the county hopes to issue a "negative declaration" and avoid the time and expense of a full report, said Cordel Stillman, Sonoma County Water Agency chief deputy engineer.

Occidental's system, one of eight operated by the Water Agency, faces a Jan. 31, 2018 state deadline to stop holding treated wastewater in a pond next to the treatment plant, used as a storage reservoir since 1977.

A state order issued two years ago prohibits wastewater storage in Graham's Pond because it is at the headwaters of Dutch Bill Creek, a tributary to the Russian River, and also limits discharge into the creek to winter months and only with wastewater given tertiary treatment, the highest level of sewage processing.

Three years might seem a long time to get it done, but Stillman said that environmental review, right-of-way acquisition and permitting are all steps in the process that pile months onto the timeline.

Another obstacle is the cost of the project, estimated at up to \$4.5 million for construction with an additional \$1.5 million for environmental review, design and other costs.

Both the Water Agency, which subsidizes the Occidental system's operation out of its own general fund, and the small district, which covers just 55 acres, are hard-pressed to absorb any added costs, Stillman said. The subsidy this year — for operating costs and work on the project — is \$500,000, and is expected to fluctuate from \$350,000 to \$800,000 over the next decade.

Occidental's sewer rates are the highest of the eight county-operated systems at \$1,899 a year per equivalent single-family dwelling, well ahead of the second-highest rate of \$1,297 for the Russian River district.

The Water Agency is “beating the bushes” for financial help, such as a state loan, to minimize the impact on ratepayers, Stillman said.

If the costs of the proposed project run too high, the agency may “back off” and go to a plan that involves trucking out wastewater to treatment elsewhere. Engineering work is underway, and the project costs should be known in six to eight months, he said.

The proposed project involves upgrading the plant at 14445 Occidental Road, adjacent to the Druids Occidental Cemetery, to tertiary treatment and piping the effluent along Graton and Harrison Grade roads and Morelli Lane to the edge of grape grower Steve Dutton’s 43-acre vineyard on Morelli Lane.

Dutton, who trucks in up to 20,000 gallons of water per day to irrigate his vines in summer, would build a reservoir to store the recycled water on his property, Stillman said.

The Water Agency hopes to find other growers along the pipeline route to take more of the water, he said. If enough agricultural users sign up, the system would not need to discharge tertiary treated wastewater into Dutch Bill Creek during the winter, the ideal arrangement known as “zero discharge,” he said.

You can reach Staff Writer Guy Kovner at 521-5457 or guy.kovner@pressdemocrat.com. On Twitter [@guykovner](https://twitter.com/guykovner).

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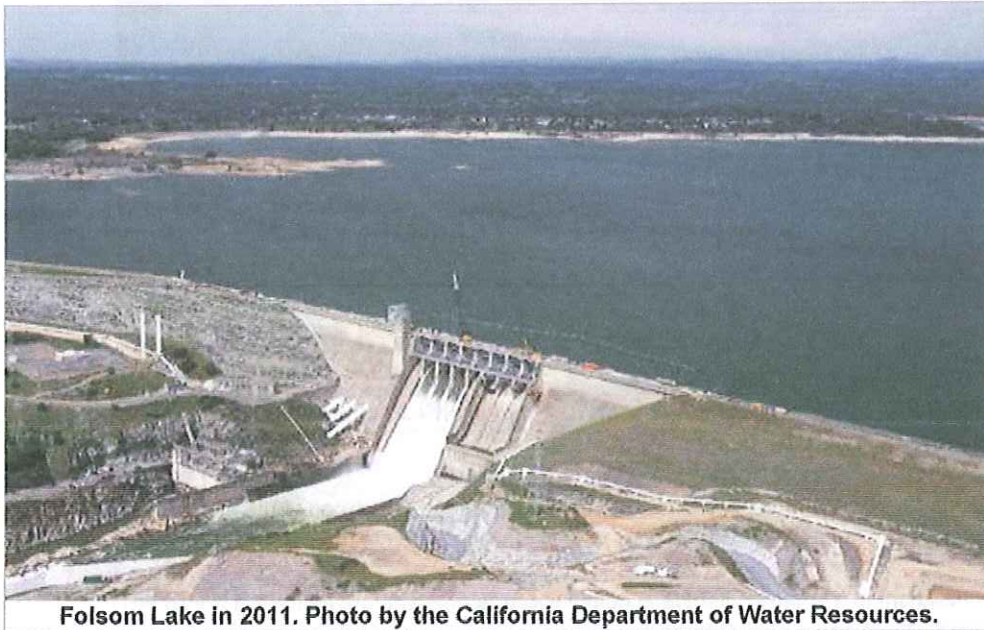
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WATER: Researchers offer new insights into predicting future droughts in California

SATURDAY, 27 DECEMBER 2014 00:59 LAKE COUNTY NEWS REPORTS



Folsom Lake in 2011. Photo by the California Department of Water Resources.

According to a new study sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, natural oceanic and atmospheric patterns are the primary drivers behind California's ongoing drought.

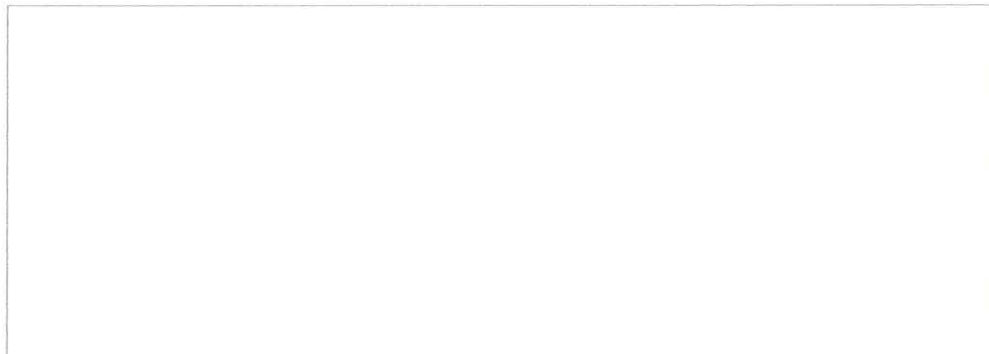
A high pressure ridge off the West Coast (typical of historic droughts) prevailed for three winters, blocking important wet season storms, with ocean surface temperature patterns making such a ridge much more likely.

Typically, the winter season in California provides the state with a majority of its annual snow and rainfall that replenish water supplies for communities and ecosystems.

Further studies on these oceanic conditions and their effect on California's climate may lead to advances in drought early warning that can help water managers and major industries better prepare for lengthy dry spells in the future.

"It's important to note that California's drought, while extreme, is not an uncommon occurrence for the state. In fact, multi-year droughts appear regularly in the state's climate record, and it's a safe bet that a similar event will happen again. Thus, preparedness is key," said Richard Seager, report lead author and professor with Columbia University's Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory.

This report builds on earlier studies, published in September in the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society, which found no conclusive evidence linking human-caused climate change and the California drought.





Effort afoot to develop water-use rules for pot growers

**BY GLENDA ANDERSON THE PRESS DEMOCRAT on December 26, 2014,
3:27PM12/26/2014**

Faced with an explosion of marijuana gardens, state regulators are developing a new program designed to bring medical cannabis farmers into compliance with state laws governing water use and water quality.

The regulatory program is expected to be unveiled sometime next year, said Erin Mustain, a senior water resources control engineer with the state Water Resources Control Board's Cannabis Enforcement Unit.

It's aimed at halting water diversions that can suck dry small streams; unpermitted grading projects that pollute waterways with dirt; and the misuse of toxic pesticides and fertilizers that have been known to poison streams and wildlife.

Water board staff members already have been meeting with medical pot growers in an effort to educate them about responsible water use and farming practices.

"From our outreach efforts and the feedback we have received from the growing community, we anticipate that most cannabis cultivators and landowners will want to work with us," Mustain said.

Medical marijuana advocates say they welcome the pot permit project.

"Most people do want to comply" with regulations, said Jude Thilman, a member of the Mendocino Medical Marijuana Policy Council.

Those who fail to comply will face the same penalties all water users are subject to when they violate the law. According to the state water board's website, additional resources will be devoted to investigating and prosecuting cultivation activities that violate water resource and quality regulations.

The permitting program will apply only to legal marijuana growers on private lands. All cultivation on public lands is illegal, Mustain noted. The program does not mean the water agencies have taken a stand on marijuana's legitimacy, she said.

Regulatory officials have been aware for years that some marijuana growers have been illegally damming and diverting streams and polluting rivers and streams with dirt, trash and toxic chemicals.

But the extent of the massive and largely unregulated marijuana industry's potential damage to stream flows and fish wasn't quantified until the release of a state Fish and Wildlife report on North Coast watersheds earlier this year.

The study examined three watersheds in Humboldt County and one in Mendocino County, all of them renowned for marijuana cultivation. They include two near Redway, one near Orick and one that includes Willits.

Feds forecast wet weather ahead

By Paul Rogers San Jose Mercury News
Updated: 12/19/2014 09:09:51 AM PST

record-bee.com

The harsh reality of California's historic, three-year drought may finally be giving way to more hopeful, wetter days ahead.

On Thursday, federal scientists issued a seasonal forecast that said there is a 75 percent probability of average or above-average precipitation between January and the end of March for California — the first time in five years that such a wet outlook has been predicted for the state for the first three months of the year.

"This is good news," said Steve Baxter, a seasonal forecaster with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which issued the report.

"There are not indications of a monster wet season," he said. "It's unlikely that the drought will be broken this year, but it's likely that it will be improved."

Meanwhile, as reservoirs continued to slowly rise across Northern California after three weeks of drenching rain, another report out Thursday also offered an additional glimmer of hope. The U.S. Drought Monitor, a weekly map of drought conditions issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and other agencies, showed that 32 percent of California is in "exceptional drought," down from 55 percent last week, due to steady showers.

The area showing improvement includes most of the Bay Area, and communities from Monterey County to Humboldt County. To be sure, the Central Valley and the Los Angeles Basin, which have not received as much rain, remain in "exception drought." And 98 percent of California is still in "severe drought," the third most serious of five classifications.

But the update, which is based on soil moisture levels and other factors, was the first time in more than two years with as large a section of the state showing an improving trend.

"We've gone from real bad to just bad," said Bob Benjamin, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Monterey. "If we would have had any more rainfall in the last few weeks, we would have had some major flooding. The trend is moving in the right direction. We're where we want to be. We need to keep it up into April."



Waste water overflow closes Angel Island State Park

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS on December 19, 2014, 7:39AM12/19/2014

SAN FRANCISCO — An island park in the San Francisco Bay will close temporarily because of a water system malfunction following recent heavy rains.

California State Parks is closing Angel Island State Park to the public Saturday and Sunday due to a waste water system overflow in the park. The overflow, which is treated water, was discovered Thursday.

State parks officials say the park closure is needed to allow the system to recover from excess water from the recent storms. Officials say the overflow is being re-routed and is not in danger of flowing into the surrounding bay.

Ferry service to the park has been cancelled during the closure.

Watershed Protection District review adopted

By Leah DeAnda Ideanda@record-bee.com @RecordBee on Twitter

Updated: 12/22/2014 09:08:56 AM PST

record-bee.com

LAKE COUNTY >> With a relieved round of applause, two years of work on the Lake County Watershed Protection District's municipal service review came to its conclusion on Thursday afternoon.

The county's Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) adopted the district's first municipal service review (MSR) with a handful of adjustments offered by county administration and subsequently the review's advisory committee.

Previously, the county had requested more time to review the MSR before its adoption at LAFCo's previous meeting in November. Dec. 11 they offered their comments, which were then further adjusted by the review committee consisting of Betsy Cawn, Mike Dunlap, Maurice Taylor and Suzanne Lyons.

LAFCo Chair Stacey Mattina seemed intent upon moving the final review process along and keeping the couple of dozen attendees focused on the task at hand. A few newcomers were a little too late in offering their comments.

And for the most part, there was little contention about the final adjustments, despite a few quippy remarks between commission and committee members.

Comparing LAFCo's draft of the MSR and the county's changes, in general the county administration's adjustments softened the criticism cast upon the district, especially in regards to its lack of financial transparency.

The county's change that drew the most focus concerned the Clean Water Program (CWP) Advisory Council.

With a joint powers agreement between the county and the cities, the Clean Water Program, managed by the Watershed Protection District (WPD), is responsible for overseeing the county's compliance with its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater permit for preventing water pollution.

The Advisory Council is supposed to meet quarterly, as specified in the council's bylaws. However, the council has not met since September 2013.

In the county's requested changes to the WPD's review, it noted that an update to permit requirements have specified implementation measures to the extent that "there has not been a need for Advisory Council meetings."

Lyons and Cawn argued Thursday one of the JPA members couldn't simply declare meetings of the CWP Advisory Council were not needed. They argued in favor of adding two paragraphs to the section recommending review of the responsibilities of the multi-jurisdictional Advisory Council and urging the WPD's Board of Directors to review the council's duties and bylaws.

Water Resources Director Scott De Leon objected to the notion that the county was trying to get rid of or stop meetings of the Advisory Council. He instead pointed to the fact that the state hasn't given clear direction on how to implement the updated version of the NPDES permit.

Supervisors ratify storm emergency, continue drought declaration



WEDNESDAY, 17 DECEMBER 2014 00:02 ELIZABETH LARSON

LAKEPORT, Calif. – On Tuesday the Board of Supervisors approved an emergency declaration made last week by the county's emergency services director as a result of the storm, and continued a local emergency declaration due to the drought that is still in force in the county.

Lake County Office of Emergency Services Manager Marisa Chilafoe took the items to the board.

Chilafoe said County Administrative Officer Matt Perry, acting in his capacity as Office of Emergency Services director, declared the emergency, which went into effect as of 9:45 a.m. Dec. 11.

The storm began on the night of Dec. 10, and over a 24-hour period several inches of rain hit the county.

During the storm Chilafoe opened the county's emergency operations center and worked with the cities of Clearlake and Lakeport, which also declared emergencies due to the widespread flooding and road closures.

With little discussion, the board ratified Perry's declaration unanimously.

Supervisor Anthony Farrington noted during the meeting that he had received a call from Lake County's new member of the state Assembly, Bill Dodd, about local conditions.

Later on Tuesday, Dodd joined Mike McGuire, Lake County's new representative in the State Senate, and several other state legislators representing Marin and Sonoma counties to seek a disaster declaration for flood areas from Gov. Jerry Brown.

In other board news on Tuesday, Chilafoe asked the board to extend – for the ninth time – the emergency declaration due to the county's drought conditions that the supervisors first approved in early March.

State law requires the board to reconsider extending the emergency every 30 days.

Board Chair Denise Rushing asked if there was still a drought. Chilafoe said yes.

Chilafoe said that with the soil very dried out from months of little or no rainfall, it was not able to adapt to the large amounts of water that the storm brought last week. That's why flooding resulted.

The National Weather Service has been able to provide data and projections on how much rain the state needs to catch up, she said.

She said the state will need to have 150 percent of its average rainfall and snowpack level from December through May in order for drought conditions to lift.

Weather forecasters "don't anticipate that to happen," Chilafoe said.

While the recent rains were helpful for water supply, the overall impact for the state's reservoirs was minimal, Chilafoe said, with the rain only increasing levels by about 5 to 8 percent.

She pointed out that some local water systems remain under urgency ordinances because of low water supply.

Supervisor Jim Comstock moved to extend the emergency declaration, which his board colleagues approved 5-0.

With regard to Clear Lake's level following the recent rains, the lake level has risen from just below 0.0 feet Rumsey before the storm to 1.74 feet Rumsey Tuesday evening, according to the US Geological Survey.

While that's far better than the 0.59 foot Rumsey level the lake was at on Dec. 16, 2013, it's well below the 3.46 feet Rumsey recorded on Dec. 16, 2012, but closing in on the 2.38 feet Rumsey on Dec. 16, 2011, and the 3.01 feet Rumsey on Dec. 16, 2010, based on US Geological Survey records.

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

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Storm

We're soggy, but still in a drought

It's really hard to think of ourselves as being in a drought after the past week.

The doomsday warnings, then the days of watching storm clouds silently advancing out of the west as if on some evil reconnaissance mission — and then, finally on Thursday, the Deluge.

Fortunately, it was not as devastating a deluge as feared, although any storm that floods streets, topples trees and crashes through a Safeway roof qualifies as serious. Tens of thousands of homes were without power at various times. And, as so often happens, low-lying mobile homes bore the brunt of the flooding, particularly LeMar in Redwood City.

With all that, and more rain expected the coming week, it's tempting to think that the storm gates finally have swung open for a rainy season that lives up to its name. But what if these storms turn out to be it for the winter? What if promising rainfall before the holidays dries up by January and never returns? That happened a few years ago.

This is why we have to keep thinking: drought.

And conservation.

Despite the downpours.

Even if this is a very wet year, learning to do with less water can only benefit us individually, as a community and as an ecosystem.

Growing complacent because the ground suddenly is soggy and the lawn lush is a trap.

A scientific analysis of tree rings reported earlier this month by this newspaper's Paul Rogers surprised researchers with the finding that this drought is the worst in 1,200 years. Looking back to the days of the Vikings, researchers found no three-year period when rainfall was as low and temperatures as high as the cycle we are in now. Even if the urgency subsides this year — it would take six more storms like last week's to make up for the drought — the future is unsettling.

The rains this fall have brought reservoirs in the South Bay to 40 percent of capacity. East Bay Municipal Utility District's more extensive storage is a little over half capacity. None of this is anywhere close to having enough water saved up to deal with a resumption of drought.

Of course, we all hope for more downpours of the non-deadly variety we have experienced this fall. For those of us lucky enough not to have to worry about rising water last week, it was a joy to pull on boots and raincoats, dig out umbrellas and step outdoors to audition our Fred Astaire agility among the puddles. "What a woonderful feeling, we're happy again. ..."

Happy is good. Complacent is not. We live in a coastal desert that never was meant to be lush, even before the fact of climate change.

San Jose Mercury News

Drought

Rain hasn't washed bad news away

There was some unusually bad news about California's drought this week, but it isn't likely to get much attention or action from the general public, because the timing was so remarkably bad.

This week the state reported we were slacking off when it comes to water conservation. The Water Resources Control Board released figures that showed in October we only saved 7.6 percent less than we used in the same month in 2013.

The previous month had 10.3 percent better than September 2013, and August 2014 was 11.6 percent better than its comparable month in 2013.

Neither of those months hit the 20 percent reduction called for by Gov. Jerry Brown early in the year, but state water officials had been ecstatic about them because, well, this is California, where we like to give credit for merely trying.

In October, we seemed to stop even trying.

It's the type of news that might be used to revitalize the effort to save water. Come on California! We can do better than that!

Unfortunately the news came out as the state was being socked by the biggest storm in a few years. Reports of flooding make it hard for people to remember that we really need to save water.

The warnings of water shortage were already a bit abstract for most people to understand, because except for a few isolated locales, when you turn the tap, water still comes out. As much water as you want comes out, and in most cases, there isn't really any penalty for be-

ing wasteful. You may have a higher bill, but the cost isn't really punitive.

In most of the state, there really doesn't seem to be any compelling reason for people to conserve, except that it's the right thing to do. And the right thing to do gets tiresome after a few months.

The state Water Resources Control Board cited "drought fatigue" as a possible reason why conservation slipped in October. There's still a drought, but we just don't care any more.

And with the downpour, that's not likely to change.

But the fact is the downpour was a drop in the bucket. A few thousand acre-feet of water collected in Lake Oroville, but it's still only about a quarter full. The story's the same in all the reservoirs. If we focused on the amount of water that's still missing rather than the dribble we picked up, we might make some progress toward the changes in water use that California really needs.

But where's the fun in that?

North state newspapers were quick to note that it was the south that had sluffed off, with Los Angeles basin savings dropping to just 1.4 percent. The north state did better, but we still failed to hit the governor's 20 percent goal, a fact that was pretty well ignored. We did better than SoCal, so we have an excuse.

Well, with the storm, everyone can come up with an excuse to do nothing.

Unfortunately, everyone still has a huge problem that won't go away on its own.