

THE BUBBLER

Conservation Around the House

Californians use an average of 196 gallons of water per day. Here are some easy ways to reduce water use.

1. **Fix leaks:** Saves 110 gallons each month.
2. **Fill the bathtub halfway or less:** Saves 12 gallons per bath.
3. **Recycle indoor water and use for plants:** Saves gallons of water each month.
4. **Install a "high efficiency" toilet:** Saves 19 gallons per person/day.
5. **Turn off water when brushing teeth or shaving:** Saves 10 gallons per person per day.
6. **Wash full loads of clothes and dishes:** Washer saves 15-45 gallons per load. Dishwasher saves 5-15 gallons per load.
7. **Install aerators:** Saves 1/2 gallons per person per day.
8. **Shower for only 5 minutes:** Saves 12.5 gallons with a water efficient showerhead per shower.
9. **Around the yard: On average,** Californians use 30-60 % of their water outdoors. Here are some easy outdoor tips to reduce water use.
10. **What should I plant?:** Check the water agency Drought plan. If you are able to water at least two times per week, you can plant water-wise plants and shade trees. This is not the time to install new lawn or thirsty, non-California friendly plants.
11. **Drought resistant trees and plants:** Saves 30-60 gallons per 1,000 sq. ft. each time.
12. **If you have a lawn set mower blades to 3":** Encourages deeper roots and saves 16-50 gallons per day.
13. **Re-imagine your yard:** Feed your vegetables and fruits water first because they feed you!! Water wise plants and shade trees use little or no water once established. Thirsty plants and lawns are lowest priority.
14. **Adjust sprinkler heads and fix leaks:** Saves 12-15 gallons each time you water. A leak the size of the tip of a ball point pen can waste about 6,300 of water per month.
15. **Use a broom to clean outdoor areas:** Saves 8-18 gallons per minute.
16. **Use mulch:** Saves 20-30 gallons per 1,000 sq. ft. each time you water.

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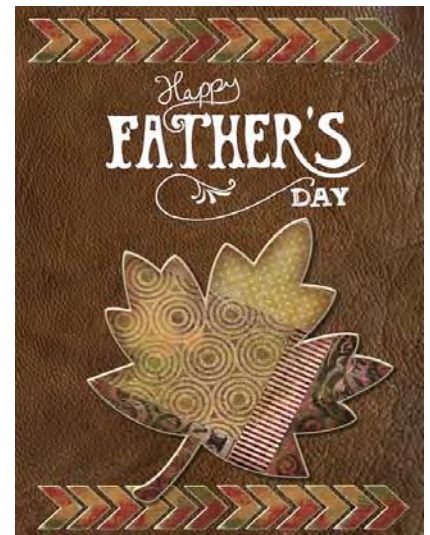
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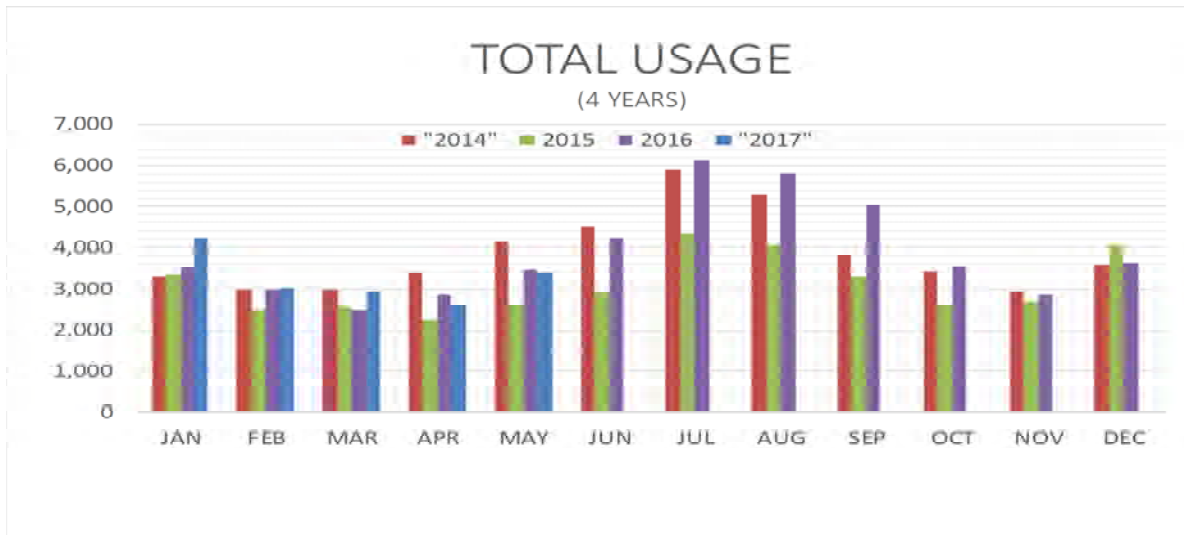
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As you can see, the pole next to the hydrant was hit. The damage to the hydrant has been repaired. Please... always report when you see damage to any hydrants, water lines or meter/service boxes. The picture at right shows the hydrant repaired and operational.

Usage Chart for May 2017



General Manager's Report

Dear Shareholders,

Spring is coming to an end, and we are heading into the hot summer months. We have plenty of water available to supply our demand. Our drought restrictions have been reduced to stage 1, which is a voluntary reduction of 10% compared to 2013 usage. So far this year, we have saved 10.5% from January through May.

During this last drought, we have learned just how precious our water is, and we just ask that everyone be aware of their water use. Please fix all household leaks as soon as you can, and report any water leaks you see out in our system.

Here are the usage numbers for May.

Usage

May 2013 4,341,000 gallons

2014 4,152,000

2015 2,602,000

2016 3,479,000

2017 3,378,000

Irrigation Systems

If you are planning to put in an irrigation system, please contact our office so that the water company can take a look at the installation. Any pipe in or above ground outside, must be protected from backflow. Backflow is a condition where water from the house or irrigation system can be sucked back into our water mains in the event of a water break in the main. Backflow protection, such as a vacuum breaker, needs to be installed in any irrigation system.

Septic Tanks and Leach Fields

If you are replacing your septic tank and/or leach field, please contact us so we can see where the new septic system will be placed in relation to our water lines. Code requires 10 feet between any septic installation and our water lines. Mark your septic tank location so that the people removing trees will not drop a tree on it.

Meters

We are in phase 2 of our meter installation program, which is replacing our old manual read meters with radio read meters. You may see us out and about digging up services and replacing meters. Our crew wears shirts and hats that identify us as the water company, so if you see us on camera around your house you will know what's going on.

That's all for now.

Dave

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Water Conservation. IT'S FOR LIFE.
SaveOurWater.com



Have an idea?

The Bubbler is published to keep Blue Lake Springs Mutual Water Company shareholders informed about issues and upcoming events. The Bubbler is a "monthly" newsletter and comes out following a regular scheduled Board Meeting so that we can keep you up to date on the most current information.

If you would like to submit an article or suggest ideas for improvement, please contact Pam Bowman
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President's Message

On Saturday June 3rd, the Board of Directors presided at the water company's Annual Shareholder meeting. I would like to thank all of you who attended. There were two primary presenters: Dave Hicks the General Manager and Tom Schneider, Board Treasurer and Chair of the Long-Range Planning Committee [LRPC]. Their combined message was clearly future focused as to the path the water company will be following over the next 2-5 years.

Dave covered the continued need to repair and replace aging infrastructure focusing on the replacement of 1960/70 era piping, and the need to upgrade our Water Treatment Plant. He reiterated the ever-present plan to install new electronic water meters, while reminding all that there is existing State Law requiring such. He spoke of the movement of older supply pipe lines from the rear of a number of properties out into the Utility Right-of-Way. This will allow the installation of fire hydrants, which are clearly needed in many areas. There was no thought of hydrants in the early phases of construction in the 1960s. Dave went on to say that he believed that construction will begin in early 2018 and that the water company is in the process of preparing for such.

The construction phase is a continuing effort from the mid-2000s when the replacement of the older infrastructure began. The program in place was intentionally placed on hold in 2012 and a necessary search for additional water sources began. As you recall, most of those places tested for water were a complete bust. Many years were spent on the search and eventually two well sites were developed. One site is actively involved in water supply and the other is on hold, assigned to deploy in the event of an emergency. In November of 2015, we signed a contract with CCWD for the purchase of treated water and that contract remains strong. Tom Schneider then explained how the future repair, replacement, up grading and expansion into the utility right-of-way was going to be implemented and how it is going to be funded.

In late 2016, the water company was awarded a \$12.23M loan, after a multi-year application process for infrastructure repair, up-dating, including completion of the meter program and replacement of all old equipment and system components. Tom described the loan process and announced that the water company was successful in negotiating an annual interest rate at 1.875%. This is a 40-year loan and the first payment will be due in 2019, one year AFTER the construction has begun. The annual cost of shareholders fees/water fees for every homeowner, according to Tom, will remain at present levels. The portion of the homeowner's annual payment that currently covers: construction, infrastructure repair and the like is being replaced by the loan.

Continuing into 2017, the LRPC had been tracking a group of metered homes that house both full and part-time residents, for the purpose of studying average monthly consumption.

We will be phasing into a revised payment schedule that will be based on:

- * The Base Rate or meter charge.
- * The consumption of the household based upon a yet to be determined.
- * Threshold, an amount stated in cubic feet/fixed period (Probably two months), with a tiered application: The more one uses the higher the fixed period cost.
- * The individual's share/cost of the USDA loan.

The base rate charge is designed to cover the operational costs of the water company and covers all costs associated to the overall expense of water delivery. This charge does not cover that portion that is funded by the loan. Consumption rate is reflective of usage: the more you use the more your pay. The loan will cover all repairs, inventory/equipment, etc. connected to the overall reconstruction. You will find the link on our home page. One of the requirements of the loan is to hire a "loan manager" and we are in the process of doing so. I would encourage you to go onto our website: www.blsmwc.com and review Tom's presentation.

Thanks to the work efforts of staff and board, we authored a Request for Proposal (RFP) and sent it out to engineering firms that are in this type of field. Three responses have been received and a search committee will be delivering their recommendation to the Board at a Special (teleconference) Meeting to be held on Monday, June 12th at 1:30pm. For shareholders wishing to attend the Board teleconference, the meeting will be held at the BLSMWC office at 1011 Blagen Road, Arnold. Once affirmed, the selected company will be put to work in handling the loan's complexities. (This process and selection are loan requirements. The loan structure is designed to cover all associated costs).

Tom concluded his presentation and the remainder of the time was devoted to question/answers. One question had to do with contacting the property owner during the construction process. As we move into a neighborhood, our intention is to get ahold of any affected property owners. There are some minor complexities associated with water line movement and meter installs. For example, the water company's utility obligation is to bring water access to your property. We will do so. The matching obligation to get the water flow to your residence resides with the property owner, not the water company. If there is an existing water line forwarding from the utility right-of-way, only a meter maybe needed and no other work will be necessary. We will be talking more and more about this matter as the construction begins.

A comment about the Bark Beetle. We continue to receive calls re: watering trees as a deterrent to the critter. We have checked repeatedly with UC Davis over this matter. I would best describe our continued position by asking: Have you every seen a sprinkler system in the forest? Please continue to refrain from this practice. When in doubt refer to our Drought information on the website.

If you attended the meeting on June 3rd, you were given a great look into our future.

Since we are going to travel this path together, I can promise you that you will enjoy the ride.

Robert Maginnis

BLSMWC PRESIDENT