

THE BUBBLER

Blue Lake Springs Mutual Water Company Newsletter

March 2018

Sierra Snowpack

The snow water equivalent of the snowpack a week ago, meaning the amount of water in any given area if the snow was all melted, jumped from 5.3 inches 2/26/18 to 9.5 inches on 3/5/18, an increase of 79.2 percent.

But the historic average is 30 inches by April 1. To reach that level, the state would need another four or five storms like last week's to hit before the end of the month. The chances of that are about 1 in 50, according to the National Weather Service office in Reno.

Still, because of the very wet winter last year — the wettest in 20 years — reservoirs around California remain full or near full, giving the state a cushion this summer against major water shortages.

46 of the largest reservoirs in California were at 98.5 percent of their historic average capacity for this date. The largest, Shasta Lake, near Redding, was 76 percent full, with Pardee, the main reservoir for the East Bay Municipal Utility District, at 92 percent; Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in Yosemite National Park at 80 percent; Los Vaqueros Reservoir in Contra Costa County at 93 percent; and Diamond Valley Reservoir in Riverside County, a key source of water for Southern California, at 90 percent full.

That's the good news," said Carlson of CDWR. "You have to take everything together to come up with a composite picture. We're not sounding an alarm bell now, but we'd certainly like to see more snow, not only for winter recreation but for all of California throughout the rest of the water year."

The storms, which closed Interstate 80 last month, also delayed the state's March 1 manual snow survey, an event done every month in the winter at Phillips Station off Highway 50, not far from Lake Tahoe.

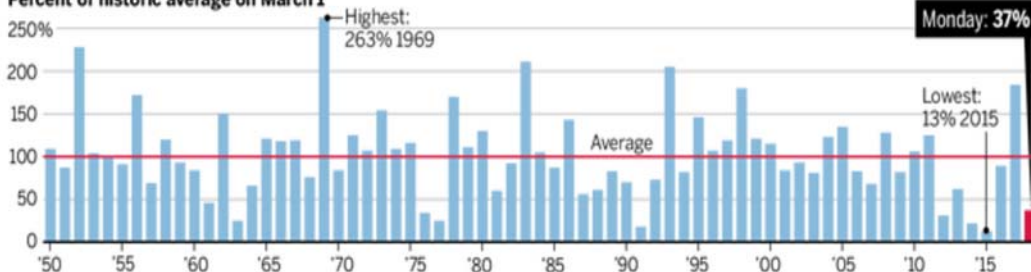
That event, largely a photo opportunity for TV crews and other media, found that the snow pack was 4.1 inches deep, or 39 percent of the historic average.

"It's a very promising start for March," said Frank Gehrke, chief of snow surveys for the Department of Water Resources.

SNOWPACK GETS A BOOST BUT STILL WELL BELOW AVERAGE

The recent storms raised the Sierra Nevada snowpack from 22 percent of the historical average a week ago to 37 percent today.

Percent of historic average on March 1



Source: California Department of Water Resources

BAY AREA NEWS GROUP

In This Issue

Page 1: Snowpack

Page 2: General
Manager's Report

Page 2: Usage Chart

Page 3: Long Range
Planning Committee
Report

Page 3: Past Due Fees

Page 4: President's
Report



General Manager's Report

Dear Shareholders,

We are finally seeing some precipitation after a couple of dry winter months. It may not be enough to get us back to normal for the season but we'll see.

I'll break down the usage numbers for February.

February Usage

2013 3,157,000 gallons

2014 2,974,000

2015 2,480,000

2016 2,993,000

2017 3,007,000

2018 3,286,000

Usage this February is slightly higher than previous years, and may be due to the sudden influx of people coming up to ski at Bear Valley, because snow came. 2018 usage was higher than 2013 so we did not realize any water savings in February.

Well Levels

Our wells 3 and 4 are at high levels this March in spite of lack of rain and snow in December.

Well 3 157 feet above the pump intake.

Well 4 768 feet above the pump intake.

Drought

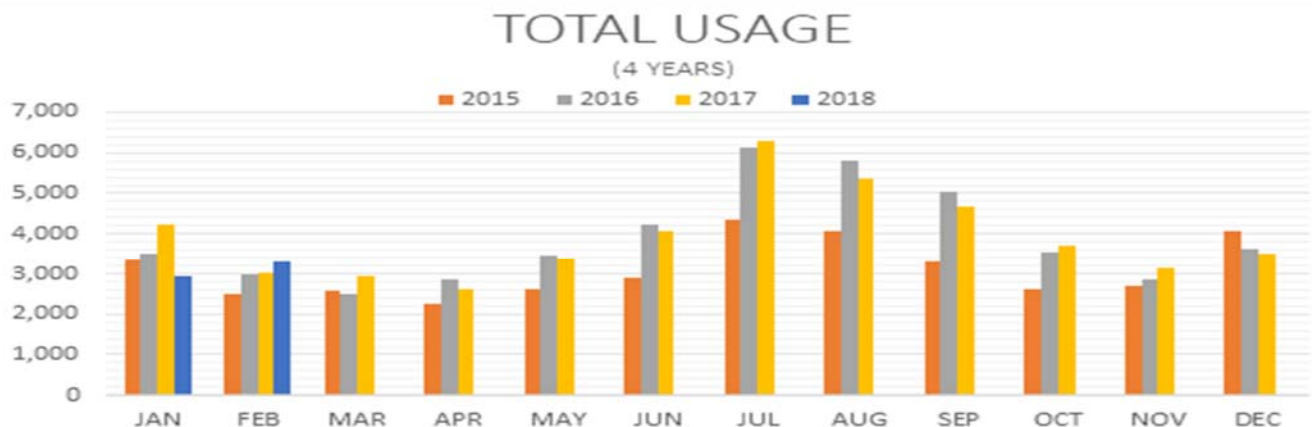
Our water supply in the wells is strong, and I don't anticipate adding any mandatory restrictions this year. We don't know what the future may hold so please keep conservation on your mind and use water wisely.

That's all for now.

Dave

David Hicks
General Manager
Blue Lake Springs Mutual Water Co.
P.O.Box 6015, Arnold, CA 95223
Ph: 209-795-7025
Email:davehicks@goldrush.com

January Usage Chart



Past Due Bills

The Blue Lake Springs Mutual Water Company office staff has made every possible attempt to contact those who have not made their 2018 Shareholder payments. Phone call reminders were also made IF WE HAD A CURRENT PHONE NUMBER ON FILE! It is imperative that when there is a change in your mailing address or a phone contact that these things be updated with our office so that we may better service you with regard to your account or in an emergency situation at your home.

Your bill was due and payable upon presentation and became late after the due date shown on the front of the bill (February 15th). After this due date, a late charge and interest was assessed on any unpaid balance and a reminder bill was mailed. To avoid discontinuance of service, payment must be received in the Business Office by the penalty date shown on the reminder bill.

The BLSMWC billing office will mail a 30 day notice to anyone with outstanding balances (unless payment arrangements have been documented). After 30 days, procedure is to hang a 48 hour shut off notice on the door of the home. If water service is discontinued for non-payment, a lien will be placed on the property with Calaveras County, and a \$150 Lien Fee will be assessed.



Long Range Planning Committee Report

The Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) is currently focused on supporting our staff in managing the progress of MC Engineering as they work toward completion of the USDA Water System Improvement Project Design Phase. The design drawings and specifications are nearing 90% completion and scheduled for 100% completion by mid-April. The challenge continues to be reaching a final design that will result in construction bids within our USDA approved funding, while identifying and minimizing known risks. By mid-April, we are scheduled to start the construction bidding and award phase, with the contract award in June. Prior to the bidding, we are also on schedule to complete several required USDA Letter of Conditions (LOC) documents.

As mentioned in past Bubbler's, we were directed by the USDA to use interim financing to cover all project costs to-date and through the construction period. We are currently working the final approvals with our selected lender, and will have that loan in place prior to the start of construction. At the end of construction (estimated by year-end 2019), the USDA loan will begin and all costs, up to the approved amount of the loan, will be eligible for reimbursement to the interim lender and potentially BLSMWC (for any project efforts we may have covered).

Based on the above described efforts, and the cash inflows/outflows, required reserves and other potential liens, the LRPC continues to prepare a multi-year cash flow analysis through 2021. The draft analysis is scheduled to be completed by month-end March. Our first USDA loan payment will be due in 2020, at which time this expense will be factored into our rate structure. We continue to collect meter usage data from 662 radio read meters currently installed, which will also be utilized and factored into our future year rate structure analysis.

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

pbowman@blsmwc.com

**Blue Lake Springs
Mutual Water Company**

1011 Blagen Road

P.O. Box 6015

Arnold, CA 95223

Tel (209) 795-7025

Fax (209) 795-7019

info@blsmwc.com

Visit us on the web at

www.blsmwc.com



President's Report

The rain and snow are back!!

I am sure everyone is thrilled that winter has returned, and it appears there is more coming.

Every year in the news a member of the Department of Water Resources hikes across the high-country tundra and plants a pipe-like device into the snow. The pipe is withdrawn and through some minor use of Physics, the "water-content" of the snow is instantly announced. I always thought that snow WAS wet but now learn there are levels of "WET-ness." What I do know is that the snow pack or its water content will translate to inventory in our wells. As of this writing our wells and thus our water supply is healthy, thanks to the severe winter of 2016-17. Last winter's snow and rain and the remainder of the current winter's snow and rain season is making our inventory stronger. This is a good thing. A better thing is to continue to conserve and by and large;

The USDA Project :

The Long-Range Planning report will cover the progress of the "Project." A couple of reminders: if your access line is being moved on your property, let the water company know if there are any special requests; e.g. a specific path you want the water line to flow; and/or any other conditions that may apply. We will be going out on construction bids very soon and expect the bids to be awarded by June. The bid information will be covered at the Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting in June:

Speaking of June ... the Annual Meeting is the first Saturday in June, on the 2nd. The meeting will begin at 8:30 (yes...I know that's early). The meeting will focus on the construction that is to start and where you can expect crews to be working and our best outline of a schedule of project events along with our regular annual reports.

WINTERIZE During the WINTER:

Every year and this year was no exception, there were a number of pipe-bursting cases that left homes severely damaged. Don't be part of this population. Winterize.

Requests

- * Please contact the Water Company Office at 795-7025 and record your email address, address changes, or updated phone contacts with us.
- * Consider using the credit card option to pay your water bill. There is NO conveyance fee required. (we don't charge extra for using a credit card)
- * If someone you don't recognize is on your property call the Calaveras County Sheriff. All staff working for the Water Company wear distinctive shirts/jackets. If you are not sure, call the Sheriff. You may call the Water Company, as well. Again, we will make every effort to notify the property owner if we are working in your area, but this is not always possible.

See you in June. Keep up the CONSERVATION!!!

Bob Maginnis

President, BLSMWC

