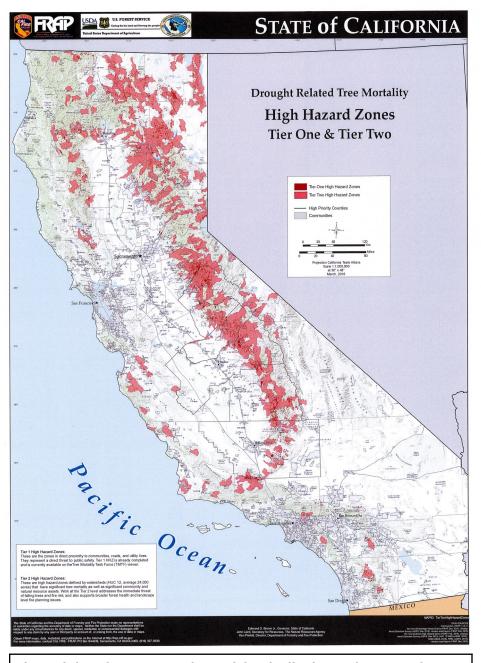
# THE BUBBLER

Blue Lake Springs Mutual Water Company Newsletter

August 2016

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#### Pine Bark Beetle Zones in CA



Please join Dist. 4 Supervisor Michael Oliveira and many other experts for a TOWN HALL MEETING re: the issue of Pine Bark Beetles in Calaveras County.

Saturday, August 13, 2016 at 11:00 am—Avery Middle School

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Information

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THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED
MEETING OF THE BLSMWC
BOARD ON SATURDAY

AUGUST 13, 2016

IS CANCELLED!!

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO

ATTEND THE TOWN HALL
MEETING RE:



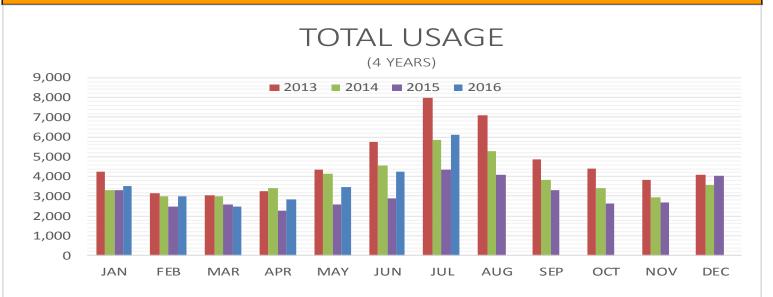
PINE BARK BEETLES

#### Long Range Strategic Planning—Radio Read Meter Study

Purchase and Installation of New Radio-Read Water Meters (allows BLSMWC to read and track water consumption remotely)

- Conducting Water Meter Usage History a) Based on previously installed meters, historical monthly cubic feet usage data
  has been tabulated from Nov 2011 through Oct 2015, comparing Full Time Residents (Averaged 52) versus Part Time
  Residents (Averaged 180) b) Plan to complete this meter usage history from Nov 2015 through Aug 2016 prior to determining "Rate Structure"
- 2. Also conducting a "Meter Survey" on a group of 60 volunteers providing monthly occupancy levels and number of residents information to further define current usage data to assist in rate determination .
- 3. Utilizing "Principles of Water Rates, Fees, and Charges Sixth Edition" Published by American Water Works Association (AWWA) as our primary guide for determining the new rate design/rate structure to be implemented a) Based on the documented water usage patterns and applicable principles applied from the AWWA Manual, a detailed description of the new metered rate structure will be provided to all shareholders b) The rate design & structure specifics will be carefully evaluated over the next 2-3 months, and will focus on promoting fairness and equity (i.e., cost-based) while emphasizing usage conservation c) A decision on final rate structure and resulting fees will be completed in approx. Sept. 2016 (Implemented Jan 2017).
- 4. In an effort to make progress on new radio-read meter installations during the USDA loan approval process, the Board approved the installation of 250 meters by our BLSMWC staff (starting in June) on parcels where the infrastructure improvements have already been made and the service connection is in the public right-of-way (at the street) a) The 250 meters will increase the total radio-read meters installed to approx. 350 (paid for by shareholder/BLSMWC prior to and outside of USDA loan) b) Leaves approximately 1,364 remaining to install and included as part of the USDA loan request.
- 5. The meter amount requested in USDA application is \$752K, however, the most recent estimate for the remaining 1,364 meter procurements and installations is \$1.364M (Includes 860 new construction meters, 504 existing retrofit meters, 200 driveway installations & 1,364 PRVs/Enclosures) a) The meter service required (single service vs. double service) and installation complexity will determine the actual cost per shareholder, but will average approx. \$1,000.00 each b) Cost may be charged to shareholder in the year installed, or if financed in the USDA loan, an "annual assessment or surcharge" for each of the 1,364 shareholders would range from \$40/year (2.5%) to \$43/year (3.0%)
- 6. Approximately 279 meters are being installed at specific locations where the infrastructure improvements have been completed. In addition, meters will be installed later this summer at about 25+ vacation rentals

### White Pines Well Production Chart For July 2016



## **General Manager's Report**

Shareholders:

Here is an update on what's happening at BLSMWC.

**DROUGHT**: We are remaining in Stage 2 of our Drought Action Plan.

There was no water saved in the Month of July. Our usage was a little higher than 2014, my comparison year. I expected this, especially with the higher temperatures, and all the dead trees.

We still have 6% conservation through July for the year. In gallons that's 1,558,000. We will continue to stress conservation through the rest of the year.

**PRESSURE ZONE STUDY**: Luhdorff and Scalmanini, our consulting engineers, are finishing up the hydraulic model. It should be complete within the next 2 weeks.

This model will be used in the design of our infrastructure replacement projects, and included in the Preliminary Engineering Report for the USDA loan Application.

**METER INSTALLATION PROJECT**: We have installed 142 radio-read meters in the 2 months since Phase 1 started. There are 134 left to install. They should be installed before the end of September.

**RESTROOM AT TREATMENT PLANT**: Work is continuing on the restroom. Part of the cement floor has been removed, and Kris Morris is ready to start excavation to install the septic pump in the ground, and plumbing inside the building. The Watermasters are working on this project when they can, probably another 2 to 3 months to complete.

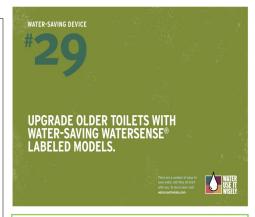
**DEAD TREES AT TREATMENT PLANT**: The dead trees at the treatment plant were taken down and removed by A1 Land Management. The job was done very professionally and quickly. There is some wood left in front of the Treatment Plant fence, and this wood is being cut up for firewood and will be gone by fall.

**WELL # 4**: Well 4 is operating very smoothly and above expectation. The well is producing 65 to 70 gallons per minute, with minimal loss of water above the pump, and quick recovery. Luhdorff and Scalmanini our well engineers, will do one more well test, next week to verify pump performance, but I am pleased with the operation of the well so far.

MC ENGINEERING PER REPORT: John Pedri and crew are working on the Preliminary Engineering Report, and will have another Draft to me this week. USDA wants the application for the loan to be done digitally and we are getting signed up for that. We are progressing on schedule.

David Hicks General Manager





Did you know that BLSMWC offers a toilet rebate when you upgrade??
Find the form and information on our Website: www.blsmwc.com

#### Have an idea?

The Bubbler is published to keep Blue Lake Springs Mutual Water Company shareholders informed about issues and upcoming events.

To better inform you of current issues and events, we publish the Bubbler following a Board or Special meeting, therefore the publish dates can vary. If you have information that you would like to share in our publication, contact Pam Bowman:

pbowman@blsmwc.com

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## **President's Message**

At the time of publishing this month's Bubbler, our Board President Bob Maginnis would like to wait on his President's Message, in order to update you AFTER the Town Hall Meeting re: Bark Beetles. His message will be posted on the website:

#### www.blsmwc.com

next week after he has attended the Town Hall Meeting and can update you on what transpired and how it will effect Blue Lake Springs.

## **Drought Stage2 in Effect**

- ⇒ No watering of Forest Trees
- ⇒ No outside watering on Mondays
- ⇒ Outside watering only on odd/even days depending on your address.

Odd addresses: Tues/Thurs/Sat Even addresses: Wed/Fri/Sun

⇒ No unnecessary watering (i.e.—decks, driveways, cars etc.)