

# THE BUBBLER

Blue Lake Springs Mutual Water Company Newsletter

May, 2016

## La Niña update: What goes up...

It will soon be time to bid good-bye to the strong El Niño of 2015-2016. [Forecasters](#) anticipate that sea surface temperatures in the Niño3.4 region will drop below the El Niño threshold (0.5°C above the long-term average) in the late spring or early summer. After more than a year of El Niño conditions, what's next?

La Niña impacts on weather are roughly the opposite of El Niño, but not precisely. Over the next couple of months as we track the potential development of this La Niña, we'll get into more detail on the typical ways La Niña can affect global circulation and therefore weather around the world.

So what might La Niña mean for the U.S.? La Niña impacts on weather are roughly the opposite of El Niño, but not precisely. Over the next couple of months as we track the potential development of this La Niña, we'll get into more detail on the typical ways La Niña can affect global circulation and therefore weather around the world.

La Niña can enhance the [Atlantic hurricane season](#), primarily by reducing vertical wind shear – how much the wind changes as you go up in the atmosphere. If there is a lot of change in the speed and direction of the wind from one level to the next, it's difficult for hurricanes to survive.

Even though La Niña means cooler water in the central and eastern Pacific, it means warmer water in the western Pacific, which will likely extend the [ongoing global coral bleaching](#), already the [longest bleaching event on record](#). Coral can tolerate shorter periods of high temperatures, but global warming has raised the average temperature experienced by corals. When the stress of El Niño or La Niña is added, the chance of widespread coral bleaching increases.

We've issued a "La Niña Watch" because conditions are favorable for the development of La Niña within the next six months. But you don't need to stick your head out the window and watch the horizon for an impending La Niña or anything; we'll take care of that for you, and keep you posted.

[April 2016 El Niño/La Niña update: What goes up...](#)

Author: Emily Becker/Climate.gov (NOAA)



### In This Issue

- ◆ La Nina (pg.1)
- ◆ Proxy Cards/Voting (pg. 2)
- ◆ General Managers Message/ CCWD Water Purchase (pg.3)
- ◆ Presidents Report (pg.3)
- ◆ Contact Information (pg.3)
- ◆ President's Report contd. (pg.4)

May, 2016

## Proxy Cards

As you should already know, the 2<sup>nd</sup> packet for the Annual Shareholders Meeting was mailed out in the beginning of May.

In amongst all of the valuable, informative reports you will also find your proxy/ballot card.

**PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE** mail your proxy back to us! We need **25%** of shareholders in **good standing**, identified via the proxy, in order to hold the Annual Shareholders Meeting and vote on any issue that may come before the Board. We realize the voting for new Directors may seem moot, as there are 2 Directors vacating their seat and 2 shareholders wanting to inhabit those seats, but the proxy means so much more.

Even if you are planning to attend the meeting, please mail back your proxy. This way we can count you in and not have to wait until the morning of the meeting to see if we have the necessary 25% of shareholders in attendance.

And . . . your proxy **needs to be signed to count**. Don't forget to sign it before putting it in the mail. As a viable alternative, you are always welcome to drop off your proxy at our office (1011 Blagen Rd.) instead mailing it.

Thank you!

The Staff of Blue Lake Springs Mutual Water Company



Construction of Well #4 is complete

# Presidents Message

If April showers bring May flowers, there should be a lot of them!

The rains have continued and the resulting inventory generated is needed. Already there is talk of a La Nina, or a dry spell. We know dry spells .... We will prepare for one now.

Recently, I have been asked a series of questions regarding the future plans of the water company. These questions cover a wide range of matters pertaining to water and I would like to share some with you.

## METERS

Are we [still] going to a fully metered system? Do we really need them? Are meters worth the effort, how much are they, who owns the meter, how do I get one installed and the list goes on.

We are on a path to install meters system wide.

We have 1709 residential connections and about 20% [349] are metered. The age of these meters varies from new to very old. Currently, we require meters be installed during the sale and transfer of properties. We will be expanding the installation process starting with known high water users.

The install path will continue to include all residences that have their water access lines in the utility right-of-way in the area adjoining the roadway, as opposed to the older lines to the rear of the property. Those will be done last. (continued on pg. 4)

## Have an idea?

The Bubbler is published to keep Blue Lake Springs

Mutual Water Company shareholders informed about issues and upcoming events. If you would like to submit an article or suggest ideas for improvement, please contact:

Pam Bowman:

[pbowman@blsmwc.com](mailto:pbowman@blsmwc.com)

**Blue Lake Springs  
Mutual Water Company**  
1011 Blagen Road  
P.O. Box 6015  
Arnold, CA 95223  
Tel (209) 795-7025

## CCWD Wholesale Water Purchase Agreement

### General Manager's Message

Shareholders:

On Thursday April 28, B.L.S. staff and Paul Penny from the B.L.S. Board, met with Dave Eggerton, manager of CCWD, along with Bertha Underhill from the CCWD Board, and Charles Palmer CCWD engineer.

The meeting was to discuss the agreement, and how it was working.

We ironed out a few minor problems without amending the original agreement.

We also paid our second payment of \$225,000, which added to our previous payment of \$600,000 for a total of \$825,000.

This one time payment allows us to purchase up to 100,000 gallons per day from CCWD, putting less demand on our wells, and insuring a dependable water supply.

We appreciate the opportunity to work with CCWD.

Dave Hicks

General Manager

BLSMWC



## President's Message continued:

The meter currently being installed is one that includes modern electronics. This allows the water company to read and track water consumption remotely. We have chosen a device that is known to perform in areas with changing climates, to include ground areas that freeze in the wintertime.

What is the cost? At present, the meter and the placement in the water box, into the residential service line is \$416.50 is paid for by the homeowner and shall become the property of BLSMWC for maintenance. The water company will handle the inventory and the installation.

The meter tracks the demand for the product and usage. The meter has a device that will alert the water company in the event of a leak. The meter addition, once the entire system is on-line will allow for a more accurate and balanced protocol for the residential charging of water. I am confident we will develop a better charging schedule once the meters are installed.

At present, we have in place a monthly reporting survey of 60 targeted metered residents, 30 full-time and 30 part-time that is tracking water use. Using the results of this survey, plus what we already know about overall water consumption, the water company will be able to refine a more accurate charging schedule. This schedule will include a base fee and a yet to be determined average use consumption, which will be based upon a set number of cubic feet of water used over a fixed time period. Currently the threshold is 700 cubic feet over a 60 day period.

Do we need meters? Whether we agree that we need them or not, the State of California has mandated all water companies with less than 3,000 customers have a completely metered system by 2025. Companies with over 3,000 were to be in compliance by July 2015. Were there no mandate, we would still be on the meter path. Simply put, meters make sense. The sooner the water company completes the installations, the better the overall system will be.

I will ask you to do one thing for me: Be Patient.

Time will be needed to bring our billing cycle, which will be built on a base rate plus consumptive use, into practice. Our goal is to fine tune the payment system with the consumer in mind. In order to make this happen, we will need your collective understanding and patience. There will be NO SURPRISES as the financials are worked through.

### **DROUGHT RESTRICTIONS**

The drought isn't over yet and the restrictions under Stage 2 will remain in place. CONSERVATION is still in fashion as there are reasons to do so. Outside watering is permitted three times a week on odd/even days depending on your address. NO watering on Mondays and NO watering of forest trees. Again, call the office if you are uncertain of your watering days and the restrictions.

### **BARK BEETLES**

There has been a lot of discussion over the issue of the Bark Beetle. Our staff reached out to UC Davis and pursued the matter of running water at the base of trees to prevent the infestation. Simply put: Running water does nothing, according to the Department of Entomology but waste water. Please don't waste water.

### **WELLS and WELL DEVELOPMENT**

Next year we will continue to further develop wells 5 and 6. Thanks to lowered water demand and the contract with CCWD, the current wells have recovered nicely and are performing as needed. A new well, Well #4, will be coming on line and will boost the supply capacity by 20%.

### **FINALLY**

Continue the conservation plans that are in place. We can all save water and we have proved it.

Thanks for all you have done and are about to do . . .

Regards,

Robert Maginnis

President, BLSMWC

Don't forget about our County Fair  
Calaveras County Fair and Jumping Frog Jubilee  
May 19th—22nd Calaveras County Fairgrounds Angels Camp, CA

