

THE BUBBLER

Blue Lake Springs Mutual Water Company Newsletter

Saving Energy and Money

Improve your home's comfort and efficiency with WaterSense and Energy Star products.

Look for WaterSense and EnergyStar labels to help you identify these valuable products for both indoors and out. These water-saving options provide the same quality you've come to expect as a consumer with added benefit, water conservation. To earn the WaterSense or Energy Star label a product or service has been certified to be at least 20% more efficient without sacrificing performance.

CLOTHES WASHER

A full-sized ENERGY STAR certified clothes washer uses 13 gallons of water per load, compared to the 23 gallons used by a standard machine. That's a savings of more than 3,000 gallons of water and a savings \$40 on your utility bill each year!

DISHWASHER

A dishwasher built before 1994 wastes more than 10 gallons of water per cycle. A new, ENERGY STAR certified dishwasher will save, on average, 1,600 gallons of water over its lifetime. Additionally, you will save \$35 a year on your utility bill each year.

FAUCETS AND AERATORS

Replacing old, inefficient faucets and aerators with WaterSense labeled models can save the average family 700 gallons of water per year, equal to the amount of water needed to take 40 showers.

SHOWER HEADS

The average family could save 2,900 gallons per year by installing WaterSense labeled shower heads. Since these water savings will reduce demands on water heaters, they will also save energy and money. In fact, the average family could save more than 370 kilowatt hours of electricity annually, enough to power a house for 13 days.

WATER HEATERS

ENERGY STAR certified heat pump water heaters can save a household of 4 approximately \$330 per year on its electric bills compared to a standard electric water heater and over \$3,500 over the HPWH's lifetime.

WATERSENSE IRRIGATION

Replacing a standard clock timer with a WaterSense labeled irrigation controller can save an average home nearly 8,800 gallons of water annually.

www.saveourwater.com



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December 2017

Shareholder Fee Invoices

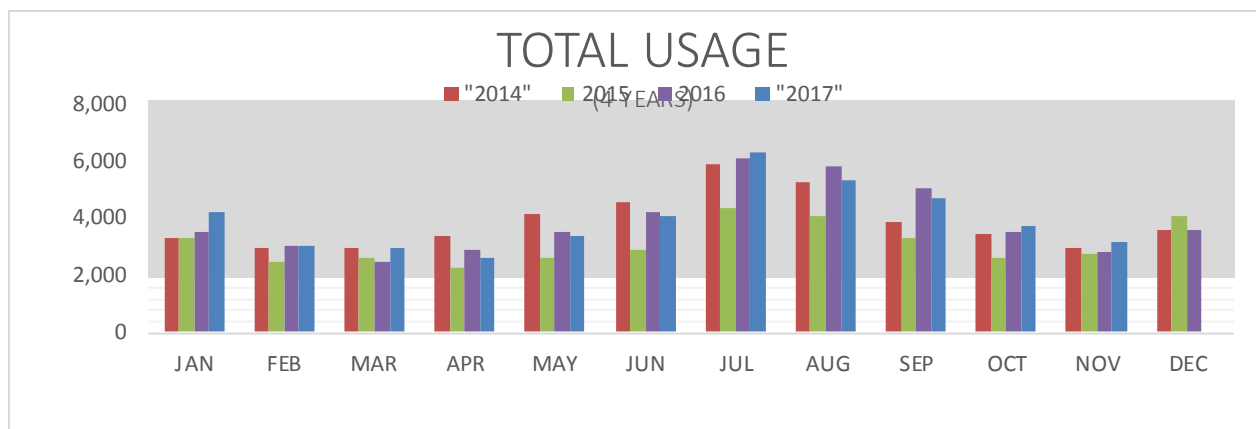
Dear Shareholders:

Your yearly Shareholder invoice will be in the mail soon!!

Please read your invoice thoroughly, make any address changes, sign, and return the voucher along with the proper payment in the return envelope provided. **Remember that all payments are due on or before February 15, 2018.** Please ensure your payment is in the office on or before that date to avoid the **\$65 late penalty.** After March 15, 2018, interest at 1.5% per month will be charged on all balances. You may call our office and pay with a credit/debit card, **(at no charge to you.)** You will **not** be able to pay your bill online. If you cannot make your payment by February 15th, please contact our office **BEFORE** this date to make payment arrangements.

Questions?? Call (209)795-7025

USAGE CHART FOR NOVEMBER 2017



General Managers Report

Dear Shareholders,

All of our staff here at Blue Lake Springs Mutual Water Co. wishes all of you...Happy Holidays.

Wells Report

Our well levels are holding strong at 154 feet above the pump intake for well #3, and 767 feet above the pump intake for well #4. We are keeping our well engineers, Luhdorff and Scalmanini, on to monitor the wells performance. This data will be used to predict possible problems with the wells pump and motor, or the fractured rock environment that surrounds our wells. The flow of water over time in this fractured rock environment is not totally understood, and the more data we can get, the better we can manage our water supply.

Usage

Usage for November was slightly higher this year than last, about 10%.

Here are the numbers.

November Usage by year:

2013 3,822,000 gallons

2014 2,946,000

2015 2,710,000

2016 2,842,000

2017 3,158,000

The increase this year is not alarming.

Usage has gone up and down slightly since our high drought year of 2013, hovering around 3 million gallons. Overall usage for 2017 is very close to 2016.

Winterize

I know we say it all the time....but please winterize your cabin if you are going away for any length of time.

That's all for now....

Dave

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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.

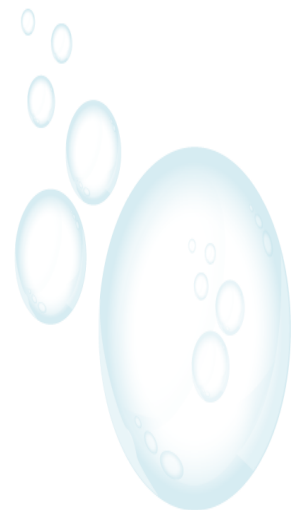
If you would like to submit an article or suggest ideas for improvement, please contact:

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In an effort to help The BLSMWC business office staff who handles your questions on a regular basis, I will address the most frequently asked questions in my Presidents

Report in hopes that this clarifies these particular topics.

1. Where does our water come from?

BLSMWC owns and operates a series of wells, as we are a ground water company. (CCWD is a surface water company) Our wells currently supply ½ of our over-all system. The other half is supplied with CCWD water. This partnership began a couple of years ago. The advantage of two sources supports our well infrastructure and prolongs the life of the wells. In 2012-2014 we conducted a search for new well sites and examined nearly two dozen possibilities, of which 10 were chosen as probable water sources. In one word, the search for additional water sources was worse than GRIM. We were able to find water in only two places and subsequently constructed two new well sites. One of the two is connected to our daily water production and the other is capped for future use. The wells are performing and are monitored daily.

2. I have a rear lot water supply line, why does the Water Company want to move it to the front of our property?

Rear lot supply lines reach back to the 1960s and were the option of the time. These supply lines are relatively small and were designed to support a single-family dwelling. The Water Company working with the Ebbetts Pass Fire Department will be installing high flow fire suppression hydrants out in the utility right-of-way, which runs parallel to the street. Laterals or supply lines from the utility right-of-way will be placed on the individual properties and connected to a hi-tech water meter. Supply lines will then be connected to the house.

3. Will y water be shut off during the placement of the new front yard access line?

No. Once the new connection is completed, the rear yard line will be permanently shut off. The goal is to switch access but not interrupt the water flow.

4. Does everyone get a meter?

Yes. We have been and will continue to install modern technology meters. These meters can be read remotely and will be, on a bi-monthly basis at a minimum. The goal is to standardize all meters and we are currently doing just that. Older meters have been replaced. By the way, California State law requires meters on every home by the year 2025.

5. Will the water billing change from annual to a more frequent system?

Yes. All options are being explored. Billing processes vary and the most common is bi-monthly or every two months. The new billing will include a base rate, which is structured to operate BLSMWC and a use rate, (consumptive) based on a scale of graduated use.

We have been tracking water use for almost two years and there are clear consumptive levels. The use levels will be measured out into cubic feet thresholds.

6. I feel that as a part-timer, I underwrite the cost of water supplied to the full-time residents. s this true?

The Water Company supplies water and maintains the infrastructure needed to accomplish such. The Water Company does not determine who is part time or full time. The full-time residents amount to 12-15% of the entire system. This figure has remained constant over the past number of decades. We are by charter a Mutual Water Company, where everyone shares in the cost. Initially the costs have been the same for everyone. When the system is completely metered, and the new infrastructure is complete, this will change. At that point, each residence will be billed a common base rate AND each residence will be billed for (consumptive use).

7. Can I use my credit card to pay my water bill?

Yes. That is an easy one. There will be no conveyance charge associated to the payment.

8. When will the new billing system begin?

That's a good one. A little hard to call at this point as there is still a lot of construction coming. Best guess: early 2019. Lots of work yet to do

9. Where will the new Meter Box go?

Every parcel is a bit different. In general, the meter box will be placed in a front corner of the property, within a short distance of the supply line, which will be or already exists in the utility right-of-way near the edge of the roadway. Every homeowner will be notified of the intended location for this box and if there is a conflict with trees, landscaping, etc. the positioning will be coordinated with the property owner.

10. Who installs the new water access line from the meter to the residence, and who pays This cost?

The Water Company's mission is to get the water supply to the homeowner's property. Once the meter box and meter are installed, the homeowner is responsible to connect to the house. Options are: The homeowner installs the access piping and regulator to the residence; or, the homeowner hires a licensed, certified professional to complete the task. The BLSMWC Board of Directors is currently exploring those costs since the company is mandating the move to the front of the property. This cost factor varies from property to property and the Long-Range Planning Committee (LRPC) which handles research for the Board is working on the overall system wide cost of relocating lines. We are planning on instituting a rebate program to offset the costs of the water line relocation and some details have yet to be worked out.

11. If I still have questions, who is the person to call?

Call (209)795-7025 and ask. We are full of answers and they are more accurate than NextDoor.

12. I heard that watering the trees on my property, for extended periods, will deter the Bark Beetle and save the tree. Does the Water Company recommend this watering option?

No. The Water Company has spoken with staff at UC Davis over this matter. There is no guarantee that extensive watering will deter the Bark Beetle. Soon this will become a very expensive deterrent.

Happy Holidays!!

Bob Maginnis
BLSMWC, Board President

December 2017