

THE BUBBLER

Blue Lake Springs Mutual Water Company Newsletter

August/September 2019

Harmful Algal Bloom Detected in Stanislaus River

Friday July 26, 2019 /State of CA Water Resource Board

The State Water Resources Control Board is urging boaters and recreational water users to exercise caution today, and until further notice, while visiting the Middle Fork of the Stanislaus River upstream of New Melones Lake due to a cyanobacteria bloom. The impacted area of the river is within the boundaries of both Calaveras and Tuolumne counties. This cyanobacteria bloom is not occurring in New Melones Lake; it is contained within the Middle Fork of the river between the new Camp Nine Road bridge and the Parrotts Ferry Road bridge. Please visit the State Water Board Twitter page to see a map and pictures of the cyanobacteria bloom. The recommendation to use caution is based on the potential health risks cyanobacteria poses. Children and animals – especially dogs playing in impacted areas – are especially vulnerable. The current cyanobacteria bloom appears as bright green, discolored water with suspended flecks of material near the surface (Figure 2). As the bloom continues to grow, cyanobacteria colonies may become larger and form a film or scum on the water surface. Bloom conditions in the river can change rapidly, as the flow of surface water and wind may mix, move, or concentrate the bloom into different areas of the river. The State Water Board and the nine Regional Water Boards (known as the Water Boards), in partnership with other programs and agencies, are actively supporting and coordinating a statewide HAB incident response with many publicly available resources. In 2018, the Water Boards received 190 voluntary reports of HABs from across the state. To learn how to stay safe around HABs, report a bloom and more, visit the CA HABs Portal: <http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/> Follow us on twitter at: <https://twitter.com/CaWaterB>

Below is a list of impacted "local" waterways included in the Statewide list:

Coyote Creek

Mokelumne River

New Hogan Reservoir

Stanislaus River (middle fork)

Tuolumne River

****Calaveras County Health Officer, Dr. Dean Kelaita, says, "While no serious cases of local residents developing serious complications or illness from blue-green algae have been reported to the local health department, those who use the lakes and waterways should be aware of the threat to avoid becoming sick."**

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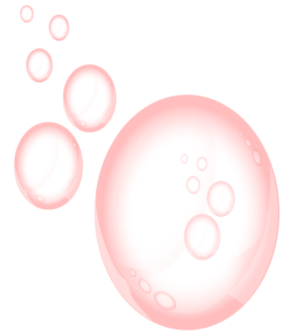
**Happy Labor Day
To ALL Of You**



LRPC Report

A significant portion of the LRPC efforts continue to focus on the research and analysis being applied toward designing our new rate structure for 2020 and beyond. There are still many questions to be answered and much data gathering to occur in the next 1-2 months to ensure we fully understand our long-term cash flow impacts, expenditures and revenue requirements.

This is necessary so that our final water rate structure design reflects the full cost of providing water service today and into the future. That includes covering the full cost of producing, treating, storing, and distributing water to our shareholders, as well as all operating and maintenance costs such as salaries, taxes, insurance, utilities, chemicals, lab fees, contracted services, and repairs. The full cost must also include debt service payments (i.e., USDA loan), capital improvements, all regulatory compliance costs, and contributions to financial reserve funds. The goal is to have our “draft” rate structure ready for review at the Oct. 5th BOD Meeting, with the “final” to be approved by the Nov 2nd BOD Meeting.



Over the past month, further reviews and updates were also performed on both the proposed “Bi-Monthly Electronic Billing and Payment Process” and the “USDA New Scope Request” which resulted in LRPC recommendations presented to the BOD at the Aug 17th Meeting.

Bi-monthly electronic billing and payment process – As of last month, we had received cost quotes from Billing Document Specialists (BDS) and Black Mountain Software (BMS) that, combined, would provide all the services needed to cover this process. On Aug 13th follow-up conference calls were conducted with both companies to validate the start-up and per billing fees, as well as identify and select the services applicable to BLSMWC. It was determined that the services will meet our process objectives. Based on the total cost for services provided, a recommendation to establish contracts with BDS and BMS was presented to the BOD at the Aug 17th Meeting and approved.

New USDA Project Scope – As mentioned in prior months, the BLSMWC staff requested we consider the addition of new high priority scope items within the total USDA budget allocation. The highest priority “A-1 Project” is to replace the treatment plant driveway pipe (Task A1a); install a new cross-country pipe from Snowflake to Del Rio Ct. (Task A1b); and fix the water treatment plant mains and vault replacements (Task A1c). The LRPC requested that further analysis of the current baseline USDA project cost and schedule performance must occur prior to approval. As a result, a meeting was held Aug 6th between the LRPC, BLSMWC staff and Jeff Graham from Mazingo, to review the above information and validate the new scope costs. Based on that discussion, in order to maintain an acceptable level of USDA budget reserve, the LRPC recommended to the BOD at the Aug 17th Meeting that we proceed forward with only Task A1a at this point, and re-visit the remainder of the A-1 Project in the fall once Task A1a is complete. The BOD approved the LRPC recommendation.



GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

USAGE

Water usage for July is slightly down from last year, which is a change from previous months. July is usually our highest usage month, so we may be trending down for the rest of the year. Well production is also lower, with high water levels indicating plenty of storage for the rest of 2019. We are buying almost exactly 50% of our water from CCWD so far this year.

Infrastructure Improvement Project

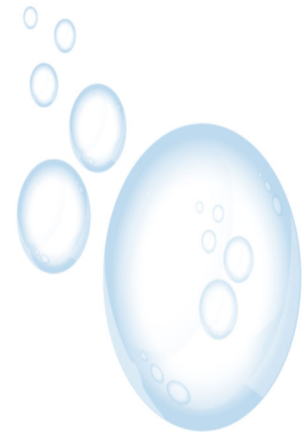
The project is going very well with all main line, services and hydrants installed on the west side of Blue Lake Springs.

Notice to Connect letters will be going out for the Main Zone (Russell Dr. David Lee, Dean Way, Dean CT. Kuen, Linda and parts of Moran) very soon.

All homes affected will receive a letter with information about hooking up to your new service box.

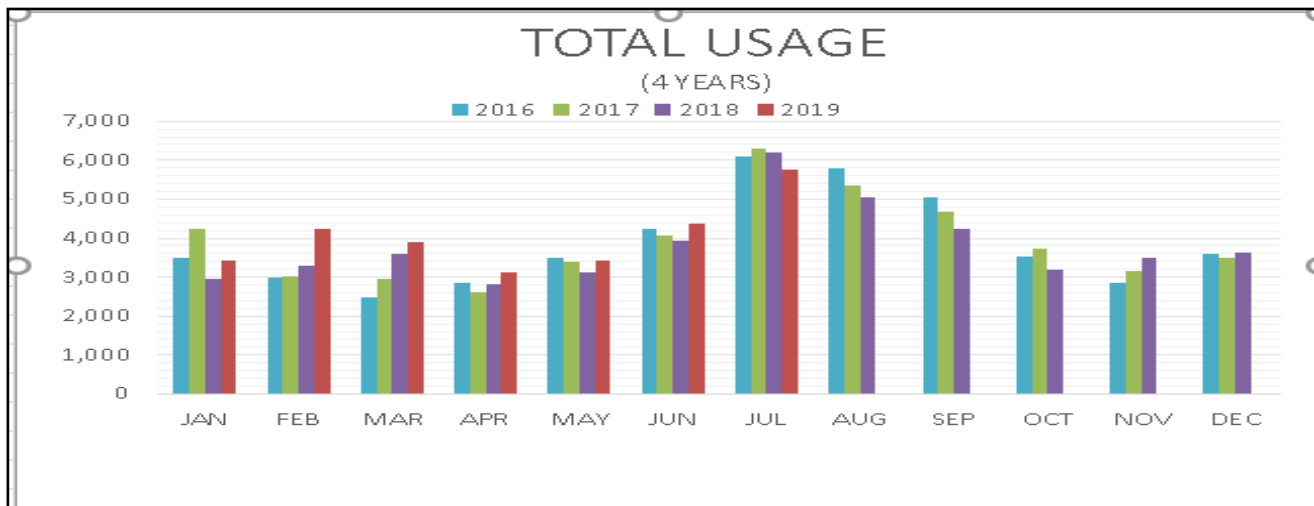
Please call the office, (209) 795-7025, if you have any questions about connecting to the new infrastructure.

Don't rely on social media alone for information on our project.



Dave

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President's Report

The Project is moving forward with encouraging results that vary from new pipe water pressure to

the addition of Fire Hydrants. There appears to be some confusion as to where the project reaches and what area does it all cover or not. I would encourage anyone who is unsure if their property is or is not affected by the Project, to call the water company: 795-7025; or, the next time you go to the Post Office walk next door to the water company offices. I can assure you that whatever question you may have will be answered. There are a number of area maps available that clearly show the Project scope and all include your neighborhood.

NextDoor.com has neither a phone number or detailed area maps.

A recent meeting that included Mzingo's Project Manager on the our project revealed that the Project was 53% complete. As of this point, the majority of the new pipeline (light blue) has been installed. The Project is moving forward as scheduled.

IF you are wondering if a new Fire Hydrant is scheduled for your neighborhood, call the water company: 795-7025; or, better yet the next time you visit the Post Office, visit the water company as we are right next door. Inside the office is a hydrant map.

A friendly reminder: IF one of the new hydrants is installed near or close to your property or is scheduled to be reach out to your Insurance Company. There may be a monetary benefit to this as well as piece of mind. Some companies put a value on hydrant proximity and may change their mind if they are looking for excuses to cancel your policy ... which a number are.

We are still moving forward with implementing a new billing system, which will begin in 2020.

Billing will change from annual, to bi-monthly and will reflect a fixed BASE RATE, which is designed to cover all operational expenses. It will include the interest payment from the USDA Loan. In addition, there will be a USE RATE or COSUMPTIVE RATE charge, based upon a meter reading that reflects your consumption of water during the billing period This covers our variable expenses. Once your meter is installed and activated, your billing will be adjusted.

IF you have any questions regarding the coming billing system, call 795-7025.

In past newsletter's I have requested that you send your email address to the Water Company: BLSMWC.COM Again I am doing so, as we are converting to electronic payment options and have chosen a provider that specializes in electronic billing and payments.

In closing, once more I encourage you to call or visit if you have any questions about the Project

whether you feel it impacts you or not As we have the answers, and the maps !

CONSERVATION is still OK and we appreciate your continued commitment

Bob Maginnis
President, BLSMWC

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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Blue Lake Springs Mutual Water Compa-

**HAPPY
LABOR DAY**



get your grill on!