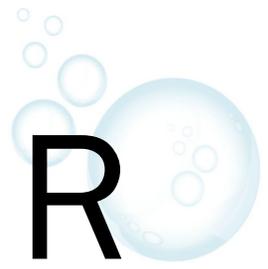


# THE BUBBLER



Blue Lake Springs Mutual Water Company Newsletter

## Shareholder Information

### Important Message

The following precautions will be taken to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

- The Water Company office will be closed to the public.
  - The Office will be manned and taking calls, but we ask that customers make payments online, or by mail.
  - We cannot take credit card payments over the phone.
  - Our field crew will be working to keep our water safe and flowing, but will limit in-person interaction, and maintain social distancing.
  - Our Board of Directors can meet, via teleconferencing, and will do so if necessary.
  - We are working closely with our partner, Calaveras County Water District, to insure a reliable and safe water supply as we navigate this event.
- If you have a water problem, please call the office (209) 795-7025.

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## Shareholder Notification

The 2020 Annual Shareholders Meeting has been moved from the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in June to the 4th Saturday (June 27<sup>th</sup>) to coincide with the HOA's meeting.

The water company's meeting will begin first and is tentatively scheduled to begin at 9am and end at 10:30am. We say tentatively, because as of today, it is unclear if any meetings of over 10 people will be allowed to be held. We will keep you informed

Thank you,  
BLSMWC Staff

March/April 2020

# General Manager's Report

Dear Shareholders,

I hope everyone is staying safe and taking precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The Water Company is also taking measures to keep the water flowing and our employees safe.

## Infrastructure Improvement Project

Until the weather got bad, Mozingo had been working on replacing the fire hydrants in unit 13. This required some planned shutoffs of water, and I thank everyone for being patient during this process. Work on the project has stopped for the moment because of the weather, and I don't yet know when construction will resume. Construction projects in some parts of the state are suspended due to COVID-19, but right now, our project will begin when the weather gets better. We have suspended the deadlines for hooking up your house to the new service box, so don't worry about the water being shut off until things get back to normal. The plumbing contractors are working, weather permitting, and making connections. Owners can still get quotes and have their hookups completed.

## March Water Usage

Water usage in March was down from last year. We haven't had any major leaks, so thanks to all who winterized and shut off their cabins. Here are the numbers. We saved no water compared to March 2013, the State Drought Reporting Year.

### March

2020 3,408,000 gallons  
2019 3,890,000  
2018 3,598,000  
2017 2,942,000  
2016 2,488,000

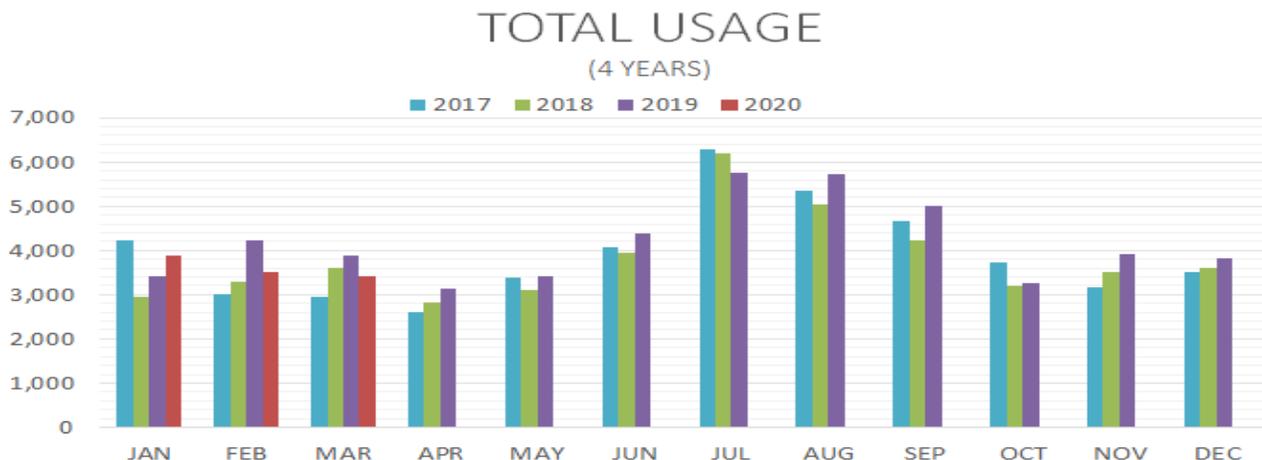
## Customer Premises Service

Our field crew, Bill and Tyler are working and will respond to water problem calls, but they will maintain social distancing. Please be aware that when we arrive at your residence, meet us outside as we prefer not to go to the door, or go inside your home at this time.

Dave

Dave Hicks  
General Manager  
Blue Lake Springs Mutual Water Company  
Phone 209-795-7025  
Email: [davehicks@goldrush.com](mailto:davehicks@goldrush.com)

## Usage Chart for February/March 2020



The Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) efforts continue to focus on MC Engineering (MCE) Amendment 6 and Asset Management Plan approvals and implementation. Over the past month, through multiple communications and additional data received from MCE, the LRPC obtained the details required to make informed recommendations to the board at our March 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

### Amendment 6

The current Engineering and Construction contract values (including all approved change orders to-date) are \$10.4M, which together with our accumulated eligible reimbursements (including interim loan interest) amounting to \$.929M, leave our remaining USDA funding balance at approx. \$.893M. Based on our findings, it was determined that the Amendment 6 proposed additional support for the agreed to critical new scope tasks, as well as the 6 month construction schedule extension rationale were valid and reasonable. Amendment 6 amounts to \$214,372. It was also noted that there are additional pending, in-process and highly probable potential change orders required that must be accounted for in the near term.

With the approval of Amendment 6 and all other additional new scope change orders mentioned above, the remaining USDA funding balance is estimated at approx. \$370K (3% of contract value). The LRPC recommendation which was approved by the board included: (1) approve Amendment 6; (2) authorize MCE to proceed forward with completion of the additional new scope change orders mentioned above with the caveat to receive concurrence from the board prior to starting Task A1c (Water Treatment Plant Mains/Vault Replacements); and (3) request MCE obtain firm construction quotes to complete four remaining high priority new scope projects estimated at \$356K and submit to BLSMWC for approval and authorization prior to proceeding. The approval of these last four projects will be on a case by case basis dependent on the USDA funds remaining at the time.

### Asset Management Plan

During the past month, based on recommendations included in the Asset Management Plan (AMP), we conducted a detailed review of several plan sections with BLSMWC management and staff to determine applicability to our operations and how well we comply. These areas included but were not limited to:

1. Operations Manuals and systems in place for record keeping
2. Levels of Service Goals, Performance Targets, and Compliance Criteria to validate the service areas and ensure we agree with the goals and performance targets
3. Maintenance Requirements and Standard Procedures
4. Annual budget estimates for predictive, preventative, & emergency maintenance inventory

Based on these discussions, it was determined that the BLSMWC processes, procedures, operations manuals, record keeping, etc. fully satisfy the AMP recommendations.

We are still in the process of reviewing the final draft asset management database details, which provides the "Long Term Facility/Component Annual Cost to Replace" for all assets within our system over the next 90 years. Our goal is to ensure that the asset data and cost estimates are as comprehensive and accurate as possible. It is estimated that the efforts required to fully analyze the AMP data and develop implementation plan options that will meet our long term strategic financial goals will take another 2-3 months.

## 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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Blagden Road P.O. Box 6015  
Arnold, CA 95223 Tel (209) 795-7025 Fax (209) 795-7019

Or

Visit us on the web at:  
[www.blsmwc.com](http://www.blsmwc.com)



# PRESIDENTS REPORT

First and foremost, please ensure that you are taking reasonable precautions to not be a statistic of COVID-19. Washing your hands is a great use of our water!!

The Board met March 14th and discussed many interesting items;

- The "Project" we have all been living with is 85% complete. The answer to the questions: (1) When is my property going to receive a meter, (2) When is our area going to be completed, are best answered by calling the water company office at (209)795-7025, or by emailing Carrissa at [cschlaht@blsmwc.com](mailto:cschlaht@blsmwc.com). There are better answers available than what can be found on NextDoor.

- The new billing format has been launched and by now you have received the first of six annual bi-monthly payment requests. The new invoice generated a great deal of interest and a highly unusual number of calls as to the bill's purpose. At last count, within three days of the initial billing, the office staff received about 225 calls regarding the new billing document. The vast majority of the questions were answered by simply READING the invoice. Every endeavor has been made to simplify the process and we will continue to refine it. The invoice includes:

- The Base Rate, or your share of operational company costs
- Your share of the USDA Loan interest and,
- A charge for water use based upon your bi-monthly metered consumption.

Your Board has been working on bringing the company's Bylaws up-to-date by reflecting all recent changes in state laws and by more accurately addressing the needs and functions of the company and the Board. This is long overdue. As these changes will need to be voted on by you, every shareholder will be receiving a revised and updated copy in the mail. The Board of Directors encourages an affirmative response (Yes Vote).

June is election month and if you're of a mind to run for the Board, you are encouraged to do so. The Call for Candidates has gone out, please look for that in your mail.

The winter we have been waiting for seems to have arrived, kind of late but here. This is nature's reminder that all need to winterize. This noun and verb are easy to apply and costs almost nothing. If you ignore nature's warning or choose not to do so, be prepared to pay nature's price. Information on winterizing can be found on our website: [www.blsmwc.com](http://www.blsmwc.com).

Earlier the project was discussed. The weather now dictates if and when any work is to be done. The water company is using every modem available to get the word out as to where and when the work will be done. If you feel you are out of touch, or have an expectation that you will be contacted and have not been, call the water company.

Finally, I want to re-thank all for their continued patience as the project continues. If all goes according to plan, the majority of all work will be done by this fall.

Be ARNOLD STRONG! Don't give COVID-19 a chance!

Bob Maginnis  
Board President

