

THE BUBBLER

Blue Lake Springs Mutual Water Company Newsletter

October 2020



Wildfire Preparedness

As wildfires continue to ravage much of CA, Calaveras County has been fortunate to have escaped the threat thus far. Blue Lake Springs has a fire safety plan in place and encourages you to do the same. It's also a good idea, if you rent your home out, to post the "plan" for others. We have taken the opportunity to include CalFire suggestions here in the Bubbler.

CREATE A WILDFIRE ACTION PLAN

Your Wildfire Action Plan must be prepared, and familiar to all members of your household well in advance of a wildfire. Use the checklist below to help create your plan. Each family's plan will be different, depending on a variety of issues, needs, and situations.

Ensure you plan with COVID-19 in mind. Ask friends or relatives outside your area if you would be able to stay with them, should the need arise. If you do need to evacuate and plan to stay with friends or relatives, ask first if they have symptoms of COVID-19 or have people in their home at higher risk for serious illness. If that is the case, make other arrangements. Check with hotels, motels and campgrounds to learn if they are open. Also get set by learning about your community's response plan for each disaster and determine if these plans have been adapted because of COVID-19.

Your Wildfire Action Plan Checklist—Create an evacuation plan that includes:

- A designated emergency meeting location outside the fire or hazard area. This is critical to determine who has safely evacuated from the affected area.

- Several different escape routes from your home and community. Practice these often so everyone in your family is familiar in case of emergency.

- Have an evacuation plan for pets and large animals such as horses and other livestock.

- A **Family Communication Plan** that designates an out-of-area friend or relative as a point of contact to act as a single source of communication among family members in case of separation. (It is easier to call or message one person and let them contact others than to try and call everyone when phone, cell, and internet systems can be overloaded or limited during a disaster.)

Be Prepared:

- Have fire extinguishers on hand and train your family how to use them (check expiration dates regularly).

- Ensure that your family knows where your gas, electric, and water main shut-off controls are located and how to safely shut them down in an emergency.

- Assemble an **Emergency Supply Kit** for each person, as recommended by the American Red Cross. (See next section for details.)

- Maintain a list of emergency contact numbers posted near your phone and in your emergency supply kit.

- Keep an extra **Emergency Supply Kit** in your car in case you cannot get to your home because of fire or other emergency.

- Have a portable radio or scanner so you can stay updated on the fire.

- Tell your neighbors about Ready, Set, Go! and your **Wildfire Action Plan**.



publicdomaininvestors.org

October 2020

LRPC REPORT

Over the past couple months, LRPC efforts have focused on the remaining USDA Project scope and continuing the development of Asset Management Plan funding options.

The LRPC has been working with MC Engineering to complete fact-finding and negotiation of their proposed Amendment 7. Based on construction weather delays from this past winter and previous new scope tasks requested by BLSMWC, the Amendment includes funding for an estimated construction completion date extension from July 31, 2020 to October 30, 2020 as well as supporting USDA Project Closeout tasks into December. In addition, based on remaining funds within our USDA allocation, the Amendment also requests proceeding forward on additional scope tasks already presented to the Board. Most of those tasks are now complete with only the installation of house services, meters and 6 inch mainline pipes on Del Rio Dr. and Boro Court; and pipelines and valves at the water treatment plant. Amendment 7 status was presented to the board at our September meeting. As it stands, the above tasks to complete as well as estimated remaining construction change orders may slightly exceed our USDA allocation, which will be covered by an equal reduction in our reimbursable request.

As mentioned in previous Bubblers, the Asset Management Plan (AMP) funding plan goal is to develop options that are sufficient enough to meet our critical needs (highest risk assets) while being financially affordable within our annual and long-term budget forecasts, and avoid the need for assessments down the road. As we develop the AMP funding plan requirements, consideration will be taken into account for existing funding source options available to supplement the required asset replacement costs. These include funds already set aside in our Capital Asset Reserve Fund as well as USDA Project eligible reimbursements available at the end of construction. In addition, future years AMP funding requirements can be off-set by the payoff and elimination of the USDA Debt Reserve expense in 2030 and the USDA Loan Repayment in 2060. The funding plan options were presented to the LRPC for review and feedback on August 14th and to the board at our September meeting. Examples of 20, 40 and 90 year funding plan options were included for discussion with varying levels of annual funding required. Initially, the \$346K to be allocated to our Capital Asset Reserve Fund at USDA Closeout will get the AMP funding process started. The recommendation agreed to by the board is to hold off on proposing the full funding process until the completion of the USDA Closeout.

REMEMBER THE SIX "P'S"

Keep These Six "P's" Ready In Case Immediate Evacuation Is Required:

- People and pets
- Papers, phone numbers, and important documents
- Prescriptions, vitamins, and eyeglasses
- Pictures and irreplaceable memorabilia
- Personal computer hard drive and disks
- "Plastic" (credit cards, ATM cards) and cash

GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT

Dear Shareholders,

Fall is here and it's time to check your irrigation systems. Look for any leaks, broken sprinkler/mister heads, and bad timers. Also start thinking about winterizing your irrigation and cabin. It's still quite warm out for October, but this can change fast as the days go by.

USDA Infrastructure Project

The last piece of pipe was put in the ground, and the last connection was made in September to complete the main part of our project. The last service boxes were installed and the pipe was pressure tested and sanitized. Letters will go out soon for those last 60 or so homeowners to connect to their new service box. Water meters are being installed and soon all residences will have a meter as mandated by the State of California.

We are able to fund a couple of extra projects that we hope to complete before the end of October, and final close-out will be December 15th.

We are shutting off many old water mains where all have connected to the new mains, and we are seeing a slight decrease in usage due to leaks in these old pipes. For those who haven't connected, please make arrangements with a contractor, (we have a list of local plumbers at the office).

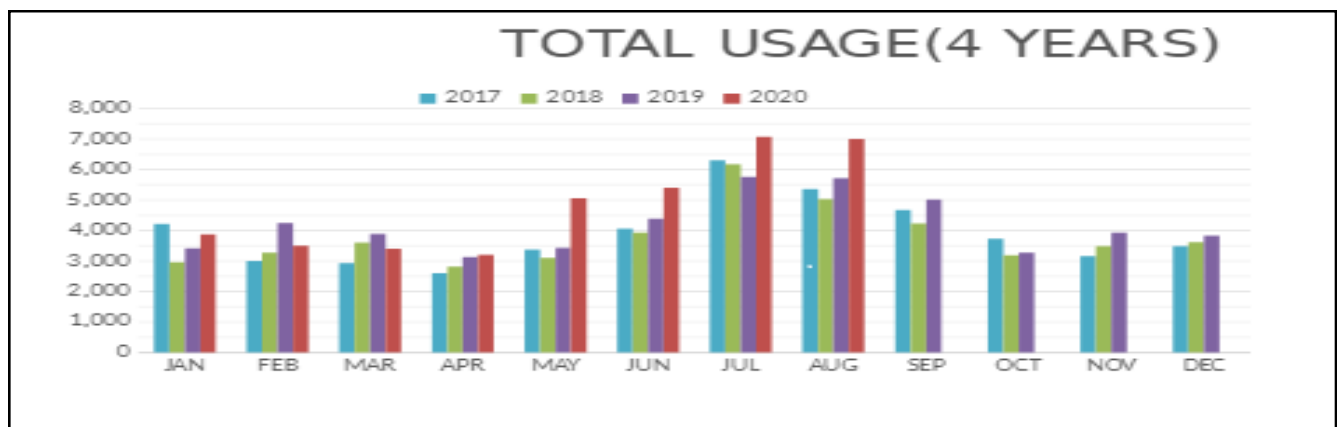
You or your contractor will need to pick up a pressure reducing valve from our office. These are offered at no charge and will protect your house plumbing from high main pressure.

Water Usage

Water usage has been high for the months of July, August and September.

Remember to be aware of your water use, and conserve when possible, especially during PSPS events.

Dave Hicks
General Manager
Blue Lake Springs Mutual Water Co.



President's Report

Included in the past few Bubbler, I have alluded to the impending conclusion of the infrastructure project. That moment is now before us. Final touches and "punch-list" work are starting to be addressed which are signs that the project is truly coming to a close.

There a lot of folks to thank: Dave Hicks, the General Manager as well as the entire BLSMWC Staff; MC Engineering; Mozingo Construction for walking their talk; BLSMWC Board of Directors for having the courage and insight to move forward accepting known and unknown risks; and to our customers whose patience was sought and delivered. The collective effort is a system designed to handle growth and has been constructed with products that are poised to last 60 to 120 years.

Delivering water is expensive. The system was not cheap, nor was it intended to be. A cheap system is just that.

For the past few years, we have been purchasing water from the Calaveras County Water District (CCWD). Even though our complex of ground water wells can adequately supply our customer demands, the option of purchasing water serves to prolong our wells and all related equipment. We are very appreciative of this partnership. We have travelled a long way from CCWD summarily cutting our complete supply to a viable contract that benefits both companies. Special thanks go to Michael Minkler, the General Manager of CCWD, and former Legal Counsel for BLSMWC; and the CCWD Board of Directors.

The local population seems to be shifting, hence the addition of users of our water system.

The virus has created a stay-at-home-working population and sales of homes in Arnold have increased rather dramatically. The Arnold Post Office has opened two hundred new PO boxes, the school population at the two local schools has increased, and other demands are noted like use of the internet/wi-fi. Added to this is an increase in water consumption of 12% in 2020 over 2019. The "future" that we often refer to is upon us. Our much improved system was designed and constructed to meet such growth. The water company receives a notification from Title Companies on the sale of properties and thus transfers of ownership. In the first nine months of 2019, 66 were noted and in 2020, 97 were reported in the same 9-month period. That is an interesting but reflective measurement in population movement.

Once again I want to thank you the shareholder for being patient. The project could not have been as successful without your cooperation and understanding.

Bob Maginnis, President- BLSMWC Board of Directors



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: Pam Bowman

pbowman@blsmwc.com

**Blue Lake Springs
Mutual Water Company
1011 Blagen Road
PO Box 6015
Arnold, CA 95223**

Phone: (209)795-7025

Fax: (209)795-7019

**For general information:
info@blsmwc.com**

**Or for answers, visit us
on the web:
www.blsmwc.com**

What is a Public Safety Power Shutoff?

High temperatures, extreme dryness and record-high winds have created conditions in our state where any spark at the wrong time and place can lead to a major wildfire. If severe weather threatens a portion of the electric system, it may be necessary for PG&E to turn off electricity in the interest of public safety. This is known as a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS).

We are learning from past events. This year, PG&E is improving our PSPS program by making events smaller in size, shorter in length and smarter for our customers. To check your address for a shutoff or sign up for notifications, visit the PGE website.