

BCPUD PIPELINE



Spring 2017

270 Elm Road, P.O. Box 390, Bolinas, CA 94924 (415) 868-1224

Please think before you flush!

The BCPUD would like to issue a “gentle reminder” to all of our sewer customers and their guests to be mindful about what you flush down your toilets. In particular, **please do not flush babywipes, cleaning rags or any so-called “flushable” hygiene products!!!**

To put it bluntly, there is no such thing as a truly “flushable” baby wipe, rag or feminine hygiene product (no matter what the label on your package says).

BABY WIPES, CLEANING RAGS AND FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO CAUSE SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE TO THE DISTRICT’S SEWAGE PUMP STATION!

Please dispose of all waste (other than human waste and toilet paper) in your garbage can, not the sewer system.

Thank you!

**Water or Sewer emergency?
Please contact our office at
415-868-1224**

A WINTER FOR THE RECORD BOOKS?

The 2016-17 rain year in Bolinas thus far is one of the wettest in many years. Many of us are feeling at this point like it is THE wettest rain year in many years, perhaps ever. Is that correct? No (at least not yet)! A review of the BCPUD’s rain data reveals that the wettest years since 1952 are as follows:

1972-73:	64.89 inches	*also record year for most rain received in any October (8.06 inches)
1973-74:	54.68 inches	*also record year for most rain received in any November (14.60 inches)
1981-82:	65.76 inches	
1982-83:	70.05 inches	*also record year for most rain received in any March (17.60 inches)
1994-95:	50.05 inches	
1997-98:	53.13 inches	*also record year for most rain received in any February (16.97 inches)
2005-06:	55.35 inches	*also record year for most rain received in any April (8.45 inches)

As this newsletter goes to print during the second week of April, BCPUD staff has measured nearly 50 inches of rain received so far this rain year, with unsettled weather (and the potential for more rain) in the near-term forecast. The above data indicates that it has been more than 10 years since we received this much rain in a single rain year, so the impacts are significant – swollen creeks have flooded our roads and properties, pounding rains have created hundreds of ponds and potholes throughout the Mesa, stormwater run-off has infiltrated the sewer collection system and filled the treatment ponds to their brims, and landslides and bluff erosion have closed roads, damaged homes and threatened infrastructure. Although the rains are very welcome from a water supply standpoint after several years of drought, the consequences are significant for our community. BCPUD staff are busy assessing those consequences and coordinating within the district, with customers and with other entities such as the County of Marin on strategies to move forward with repairs where needed.



Some of the most profound effects of the winter rains have been on Highway 1. At one location south of the “Wye” and before Audubon Canyon Ranch, a swollen creek has spilled over its banks and across the highway, resulting in chronic flooding and creating a very hazardous condition. *(See photo to the right).*

The BCPUD and the Bolinas Fire Protection District sent a joint letter to CalTrans on March 10, 2017 requesting that an emergency repair be conducted as soon as possible to reduce the risk to public health and safety. The Bolinas-Stinson Union School District also sent a letter, emphasizing the hazard posed to that district’s school buses which drive back and forth between the Bolinas and Stinson campuses many times daily. If you would like to send in a letter to CalTrans personally to support the local districts’ request for an emergency repair, please address it to: Bijan Sartipi, District Director, Department of Transportation, District 4, 111 Grace Avenue, P.O. Box 23660, Oakland, California 94623-0660 or send it via email to bijan.sartipi@dot.ca.gov.



In addition, Highway 1 currently is completely closed between Mill Valley and Stinson Beach at two separate locations due to slides/road collapses. According to the CalTrans website, the repair of Highway 1 between Mill Valley and Muir Beach near the driveway to Green Gulch Farm Zen Center is underway and scheduled to be completed by May 1, 2017. The second repair site is located near Slide Ranch just south of Stinson Beach and is considerably more extensive. The current estimated completion date posted on the CalTrans website is October 20, 2017. As a result of the current closure at both sites, all vehicular and bicycle traffic which ordinarily would use Highway 1 to travel between Mill Valley and Bolinas instead is traveling “over the mountain” via Panoramic Highway. Unfortunately, the resulting congestion is extremely frustrating and, in some instances, has prompted impatient drivers to make unsafe and highly risky passing decisions on blind curves, endangering themselves and oncoming traffic. *Please, allow yourself extra time for traveling between Bolinas and Mill Valley over Panoramic Highway while the repairs to Highway 1 are underway and be cautious and alert for oncoming traffic.*



Photo courtesy of the Marin Independent Journal

Please, allow yourself extra time for traveling between Bolinas and Mill Valley over Panoramic Highway while the repairs to Highway 1 are underway and be cautious and alert for oncoming traffic.

Update on the Chlorine Disinfection Byproduct Reduction Project: The BCPUD received permission from the State Water Resources Control Board (“SWRCB”) in February 2017 to begin operation of the aluminum chlorohydrate (ACH) coagulation process prior to microfiltration at the Woodrat Water Treatment Plant to reduce chlorine disinfection byproduct precursors in the district’s treated drinking water. (A complete description of this process was described in the Fall 2016 Pipeline.) BCPUD is reporting regularly to the SWRCB about the new treatment process and will update customers about the quarterly water quality test results as soon as that information is available.