

BCPUD PIPELINE



Winter 2016-2017

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In Brief...

Water Supply Update

The 2016-2017 rain year is off to a roaring start! After a typical summer of no rain, we received 6 inches in October, 4.1 inches in November, 6 inches in December, and 13.5 inches in January, for a total of 30.2 inches so far this rain year. (As a point of comparison, during the previous rain year, Bolinas received 20.95 inches of rain between July 2015 and January 2016.) While the rains are welcome, California has experienced drought-like conditions for many years now, and conservation should continue to be a “way of life” for Bolinas residents, given the limited nature of our water source. Your conservation efforts are vital to the BCPUD’s responsible management of this resource for our community. Overall, you (i.e., BCPUD customers) have reduced your water usage by more than 25% since 2013, which exceeds the conservation targets set by the State Water Resources Control Board. Thank you for all that you do to reduce your water consumption, and please keep up the good work!

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

CAL FIRE AWARDS THE BCPUD \$150,000 IN GRANT FUNDING TO REDUCE HAZARDOUS FUELS IN THE EUCALYPTUS GROVE BELOW THE SEWER PONDS.

The BCPUD is very pleased to report that the district has been awarded \$150,000 in grant funds by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (“CAL FIRE”) to treat approximately ten (10) acres of invasive brush and a large stand of eucalyptus trees on BCPUD property behind the Resource Recovery Project and below the district’s sewer ponds. Many of you will remember that the BCPUD conducted a similar project in 2011 when the district partnered with the Conservation Corps North Bay on a grant-funded project to remove hazardous fuels from a nearby section of this same property adjacent to Mesa and Olema-Bolinas Roads. *Please see the photos below of the 2011 project in action.*

In September 2016, the BCPUD submitted an application to CAL FIRE for a grant from the State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Fund (“SRAFPF”) to continue this work and fund the selective thinning of smaller trees, the removal of ladder fuels and brush, and the limbing of branches up 10-feet in order to increase forest resilience and reduce the potential for a fire to threaten downtown Bolinas. Bolinas is part of a State Responsibility Area (“SRA”) urban-wildland interface and Bolinas property owners pay an annual SRA fee to the state which, among other things, helps fund the SRAFPF. The BCPUD’s grant application was strongly supported by the Bolinas Fire Protection District (“BFPD”) and supports the goals and objectives of the Community Wildlife Protection Plan, the CAL FIRE Unit Fire Plan, the Fire Safe Council Action Plan, and the Marin County Fire Department Strategic Fire Plan, in addition to the BFPD’s fuels reduction planning for Bolinas. The BCPUD and the BFPD will jointly contribute approximately

\$35,000 in matching funds and in-kind labor that will extend the impact of the proposed project, which will be completed by no later than March 2019.



BCPUD'S VOLUNTEER COMMITTEES ARE HARD AT WORK ON BEHALF OF THE BOLINAS COMMUNITY.

From time to time, the Board of Directors of the BCPUD appoints a volunteer committee of community members to discuss and resolve specific community issues and make recommendations for action to the Board and community. At present, three of the Board's volunteer committees are very active. The following is a summary of their current activities:

Internet Access Committee: The newest of the BCPUD's volunteer committees, the Internet Access Committee was established and appointed by the Board of Directors at its regular monthly meeting on January 18, 2017. The purpose of the committee is to gather information, strategize, and make recommendations to the Board of Directors about how to improve broadband internet access to the residents of Bolinas. Among other things, the committee is coordinating with the County of Marin, reaching out to internet service providers elsewhere in the County, and researching the potential for state and/or federal grants to help pay for improvements to broadband internet access. At present, there is no existing cable provider in Bolinas and only limited DSL service by AT&T; significantly, new residents of Bolinas have been unable to obtain DSL service and there is a growing concern throughout rural communities in California and elsewhere about reliable broadband access to the internet. The committee held its first meeting on January 28, 2017 and will continue to be very active throughout the calendar year.



Downtown Parking & Traffic Committee: This committee was appointed by the Board of Directors in April 2016 to continue the work of prior BCPUD-appointed committees and make recommendations to the Board about how to improve parking and traffic in downtown Bolinas. The committee worked diligently during the summer of 2016 to conduct a broad survey of Bolinas residents and visitors to obtain their input about the extent and severity of downtown parking and traffic problems. The tabulated survey results are available on the BCPUD's website at www.bcpud.org. The committee intends to build upon the concepts contained in a parking plan created by a prior Downtown Parking & Traffic Committee in 2005 and approved by Bolinas voters in an advisory ballot measure that same year. Although approved by the community, the parking plan was never implemented due in part to concerns informally expressed by Coastal Commission staff at that time that the plan *may* create barriers to the public's access to the coast.

Land Stewardship Committee: The Committee was appointed by the BCPUD Board in June 2014 and has focused on the district's sewer pond property. Throughout the latter half of 2014 and during 2015, the committee worked hard to conduct a thorough mapping of this property, document past and present uses, and draft an extensive list of recommendations for the future. The committee also prepared an exhibit on the history of the sewer pond property and current uses which was displayed at the Bolinas Museum during the summer of 2015. The committee presented a comprehensive report to the BCPUD Board in January 2016 and, since that time, has continued its work to identify and implement projects to maintain and enhance this special property. For example, the committee made specific recommendations concerning the removal of invasive, non-native pampas grasses as well as recommendations for the use and improvement of existing paths on the property, which the Board approved and funded. The committee currently is at work on a native habitat enhancement project planned for the "Knoll" area above the Resource Recovery Project and adjacent to the asphalt path that leads steeply down to Olema-Bolinas Road.

