

BCPUD PIPELINE



Summer 2018

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

BCPUD and Fire District Staff are Working on Recommendations for Preserving the Public Rights-of-Way on the Bolinas Mesa.

The staffs of the BCPUD and the Bolinas Fire Protection District (“BFPD”), as directed by their respective Boards of Directors, have been meeting to formulate a set of mutual priorities and prepare a work plan for preserving the public rights-of-way on the Bolinas Mesa to reduce wildfire risk and ensure public safety. The Boards of the BCPUD and the BFPD share a high level of concern about the extent of encroachments into and obstructions of the public rights-of-way on the Bolinas Mesa and the resulting implications for access to critical public infrastructure (existing and planned), as well as BFPD’s engine access and resident egress in the event of a fire or other natural disaster. The encroaching vegetation in the rights-of-way poses an acute fire risk in light of the drier-than-normal winter and extended dry season and we urge all residents to cut back/ remove as much of this vegetation as possible where it is adjacent to your property.

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

Summer 2018 Water Conservation Alert!



For many of our customers, this Summer Pipeline newsletter article will come as no surprise – yes, we are issuing another plea for everyone to *please conserve water and reduce your current water use as much as you possibly can!*

The 2017-18 rain year closed on June 30, 2018 and, according to BCPUD measurements, the town received 28.2 inches of rain. This rain total compares very poorly to last year, an unusually heavy rain year in which we received 51.3 inches of rain, and is well below our annual average rainfall of 32 inches. Unfortunately, water use has been rising across the district for each of the last ten months, with an appreciable increase beginning in June, coinciding with summer landscape irrigation season. Please make every effort to reduce your water use, especially with regard to your garden watering and/or consider installing a grey water system. BCPUD staff members are available to meet with you at your property and provide advice as to how you may be able to reduce your water consumption. If you would like a consultation, please call our office at (415) 868-1224.



What is an Expanded Water Use Permit?

From time to time the BCPUD is asked: “What is an expanded water use permit? Why would the BCPUD grant someone *more* water? I thought we are supposed to conserve water in this town!” We agree, the terminology is confusing, so we will do our best to explain it here.

First of all, the term “expanded water use permit” is derived from the original water moratorium resolution (BCPUD Resolution 173) which states, in pertinent part (i.e., in paragraph 6, as amended by BCPUD Resolution 655), as follows:

“Water will not be provided to any expansion or modification of an existing service which would require a County building and/or use permit and which, in the judgment of the Board of Directors, could result in an increase in demand for District water by more than 50% of the service's average consumption over the prior 12 Quarters (3-month periods), or by 1500 cubic feet per Quarter, whichever is less.



“An Expanded Water Use Permit must be applied for from the District for continued water delivery to an existing service in which there is expansion or modification of the service which would require a County building or use permit. Application must be made on a form provided by the District, and applicant must supply such information as the District may request to assist the District in evaluating the application. Permits will be granted upon a determination that the expansion or modification will not exceed the above limits. Permits are conditionally granted and subject to revocation if average water use in any two successive Quarters exceeds the permit limit granted.”

In other words, when a property owner applies to the County for a building or use permit for a project to remodel or expand a home in Bolinas, if that home is served by the BCPUD’s water system, the property owner must also apply to the BCPUD for an “expanded water use permit”. The BCPUD Board considers all applications for expanded water use permits at duly noticed public meetings. If the BCPUD Board determines that the project has the potential to increase water use at the property by more than 50% of the current water use, or 1500 cubic feet per quarter (which is 125 gallons per day), whichever is less, then the BCPUD Board will **limit** the amount of water that can be used at the property so that water use **cannot** increase beyond the limit imposed by the Board.

The expanded water use permit process is one of the important tools the BCPUD uses to fulfill its duty to carefully manage the district’s scarce water supply. Perhaps a better name for this permit would have been a “limited water use permit”. It certainly would be less confusing!

BCPUD Shift Operator Dennis Dierks Retires!

One of the district’s beloved shift operators, Dennis Dierks, retired from his position at the BCPUD at the end of May 2018 after a long career as a part-time shift operator. Many of you may know Dennis in connection with his “real job” as an organic farmer and co-founder (with his wife, Sandy) of Paradise Valley Produce. The BCPUD is very grateful to Dennis for his decades of dedicated service to the community and we wish Dennis and Sandy all the best as they enjoy their retirement!

