

# BCPUD PIPELINE



Summer 2019

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

## Rainfall Update

The total amount of rainfall received in the district during the 2018-19 “rain year” (which began on July 1, 2018 and concluded on June 30, 2019) was 41.9 inches. As a result of the relatively late timing of the rainfall (31.6 of the 41.9 inches fell in the last six months of the rain year, January-June 2019), the flows in the district’s preferred water source, the Arroyo Hondo Creek, remain strong as we move into the heart of the dry season. All of this rainfall has encouraged a lot of growth in vegetation around your property – please be sure to cut this vegetation back and maintain a defensible space around your home! Please also keep in mind that our overall water supply is limited (notwithstanding the rainfall this year), so continue your water conservation efforts. Thank you!

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

## The BCPUD and You: Some Frequently Asked Questions!

Here at the BCPUD we receive a lot of questions from our customers and the public and we’ve noticed these questions tend to come in bunches. It seems like building projects trigger questions, or articles in the mainstream news about water quality prompt calls to our office, or just genuine curiosity on the part of folks in town prompts queries. In any event, we thought we would take this opportunity to answer some frequently asked questions!

*Q: Does the BCPUD add fluoride to its treated drinking water?*

A: No, the BCPUD does not add fluoride or any other chemical additive to its treated drinking water with the sole exception of chlorine for disinfection (the district is required by law to disinfect its drinking water). There is some naturally occurring fluoride present in the district’s raw water, but the district does not fluoridate. If you would like more information about the quality of the district’s treated drinking water, please consult our most recent Consumer Confidence Report, available on the district’s website at [www.bcpud.org](http://www.bcpud.org) (found on the Water Quality page under the Water tab).

*Q: May I pay my water bill by credit card?*

A. Unfortunately, we are not able to accept credit card payments from our customers but we gratefully accept your cash and checks!

*Q: Does the BCPUD decide whether people can add second units to their property?*

A: The BCPUD does not have any authority over planning, land use or building projects. Because Bolinas is unincorporated, the County of Marin has jurisdiction over those activities. And, because all of Bolinas is in the Coastal Zone, the community also is subject to the planning, land use, building and other requirements set forth in the Coastal Act and implementing regulations. If the County of Marin determines that a particular project (such as a second unit) is a permissible land use and issues a building permit for that project, the BCPUD then reviews the potential water use implications of the project (consistent with the requirements of the water moratorium) and, where appropriate, issues a limited water use permit to “cap” the amount of water that can be used at the property.

*Q: Does the BCPUD allow someone with a limited water use permit to use as much water as they want to use as long as they pay for it?*

A: No, the BCPUD manages the district’s scarce water supply in a variety of ways, including but not limited to the issuance of limited water use permits. If a

customer subject to such a permit exceeds the amount of water use allowed by the terms of the permit, the district issues a notice of violation and, if the exceedance continues, the district notifies the Board of Directors about it for discussion at a public meeting. Limited water use permits are subject to revocation for non-compliance and the BCPUD may discontinue water service to a customer whose limited water use permit has been revoked. That said, the district historically has never had to discontinue water service to a customer for this reason; instead, the district has worked with the customer to bring water use down below the limit set by the permit.

*Q: Can someone buy an undeveloped lot in Bolinas and build a “tiny house” on that lot to stay in from time-to-time (or all the time)?*

A: The BCPUD has been advised by the County of Marin that *any* development of an undeveloped property in Bolinas (i.e., a property without an “established primary use” such as an existing single family residence) requires a coastal permit. Development includes tiny homes, other accessory structures, fences and so forth. Additional information can be found on the County’s Community Development website at <https://www.marincounty.org/depts/cd>.

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## **Another Update on the BCPUD’s East Tank Rehabilitation Project**

In our Spring 2019 newsletter we included a short article to inform you about the rehabilitation of the BCPUD’s “East Tank”, one of two treated water storage tanks on Mesa Road. The project is proceeding well with safety improvements installed, the interior of the tank sandblasted and nearly ready for re-coating, and portions of the exterior sandblasted and ready for re-coating. Unfortunately, the sandblasting process revealed extensive corrosion on the roof of the tank, so it will be necessary to replace some of the roof plates and spot-repair other sections of the roof. As a result, the project will be extended by several weeks as the new roof plates are fabricated and installed before the final tank interior and exterior blasting and coating takes place. We now anticipate the tank will be restored to service sometime in October 2019.

