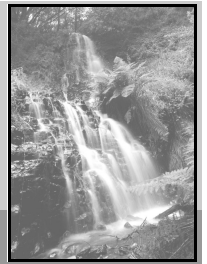


# BPUD PIPELINE



Spring 2009

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

## In Brief...

*Update on Terrace Avenue:* Supervisor Kinsey in February 2009 requested that the BCPUD and the Bolinas Fire Protection District ("BFPD") make a specific financial commitment to participate with the County of Marin in paying the engineering and permitting costs necessary to an engineered solution to preserve Terrace Avenue at Surfer's Overlook. The Boards of both districts met individually in February to discuss this request and held a special joint Board meeting on March 4, 2009 to further debate the issue. In the end, both Boards voted to approve a joint expenditure of \$25,000 (the amount requested by Supervisor Kinsey) for this purpose given the extraordinary significance of this County road to our community and the visiting coastal public, as well as the vital need to protect district facilities and emergency access. We will continue to keep you updated on this important topic.

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**Water or Sewer-Related emergency?**  
Call 868-1224

## WATER RATIONING IN BOLINAS – 2009 (AND BEYOND??)

For the first time in its history, the BCPUD Board of Directors on January 28, 2009 approved a resolution imposing mandatory water conservation requirements on all district customers. This decision was based on the BCPUD staff's assessment of the district's available water supply as of that point in the year – the third year in a row of unusually low rainfall: briefly stated, BCPUD staff projected that based on current supplies (i.e., historically low levels of stored water and surface water creek flow) and current consumption

rates (which were on the rise due to an unusually warm and rainless January), the district would be out of water by approximately April 30, 2009. Accordingly, BCPUD staff recommended that the district adopt a resolution limiting water use to no more than 150 gallons per service connection, per day.

As our customers are all aware, the Board of Directors approved the staff's recommendation and enacted BCPUD Resolution 575, effective January 28, 2009. This action prompted intense media interest in the Bay Area and beyond, as evidenced by an article on the front page of the San Francisco Chronicle on February 4, 2008 (see photo to the left), as well as articles in the Marin Independent Journal and television coverage on the local networks. BCPUD staff immediately commenced

**San Francisco Chronicle**  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2009

**THE CALIFORNIA DROUGHT**

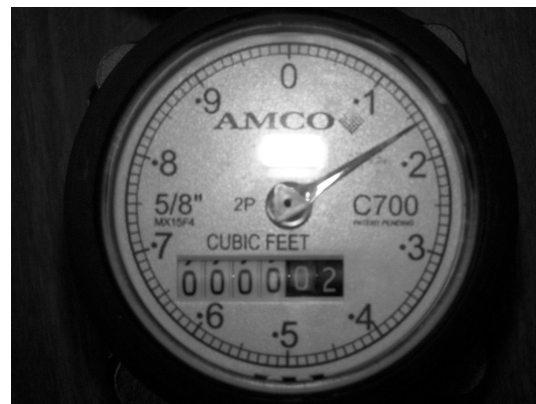
**RECOVERY PLAN Stimulus bogs down Senate**

**Bone-dry Bolinas — barometer for state?**

**Water usage for Bolinas**

	Conventional	Low-flow
Toilet flush	5-7 gallons	1.5-3.5
Shower per minute	7-10	2-4
Laundry per load	45-50	12-17
Dishwasher per load	15	7
Dishwashing by hand	30*	5-10**

meters to ensure they were complying with the ration amounts (*see photo of water meter face to the right*) and then discovered leaks in their plumbing; others were motivated and/or financially able to replace their old toilets or washing machines with low-flow appliances; and still others purchased large water tanks and installed catchment systems to capture rainwater for their landscape irrigation needs. Due to the phenomenal response and cooperation of the district's customers, water consumption dropped immediately and compliance with the rationing requirements exceeded 98%.



Fortunately, winter rains arrived during February 2009: the district's reservoirs slowly filled and the surface creek levels rose. BCPUD staff monitored water supplies carefully and, at the March 18, 2009 regular Board of Directors meeting, recommended that the mandatory water conservation measures of Resolution 575 be rescinded. The Board accepted this recommendation and passed BCPUD Resolution 576, which rescinds mandatory rationing in favor of continued voluntary conservation efforts. Resolution 576 also directs staff to develop a water conservation and dry year water use reduction program for the Board's discussion and enactment; this program will include provisions defining foreseeable circumstances in which the district will re-establish mandatory use restrictions (i.e., rationing) so that our customers have a clear articulation of the circumstances that will trigger water rationing and so that the district reduces and/or eliminates the need to take such action on an ad hoc basis. Resolution 576 provides that staff should specifically consider the inclusion in this program of circumstances in which the district is unable to produce sufficient water to meet demand for seven (7) or more consecutive days.

Unfortunately, despite the recent rains, as of the date this newsletter goes to press in early April, we have received only about 2/3 of our normal rainfall. Given that this is the third consecutive year of less-than-normal rainfall, the BCPUD remains concerned that the district will experience an early drop in creek flows this spring, which will then require us to turn to our emergency reservoir water supplies prior to the fall months. In the event this occurs, particularly given the anticipated high fire danger for the upcoming summer and fall months, it may be necessary for the BCPUD to re-institute mandatory water rationing to ensure adequate supplies until the rains return at the end of the year.

In the meantime, the BCPUD extends its sincere appreciation to you, our community members, who were nothing short of extraordinary in your efforts to comply with Resolution 575's rationing requirements. ***Thank you, Bolinas, for all of your hard work – we all benefit from the permanent reduction in water consumption that our system will experience as a result of your conservation efforts.***

Thank you!!

