

# BCPUD PIPELINE



WINTER 2015-16

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## In Brief...

### Update on the Wharf Road Lift Station Pump Replacement Project

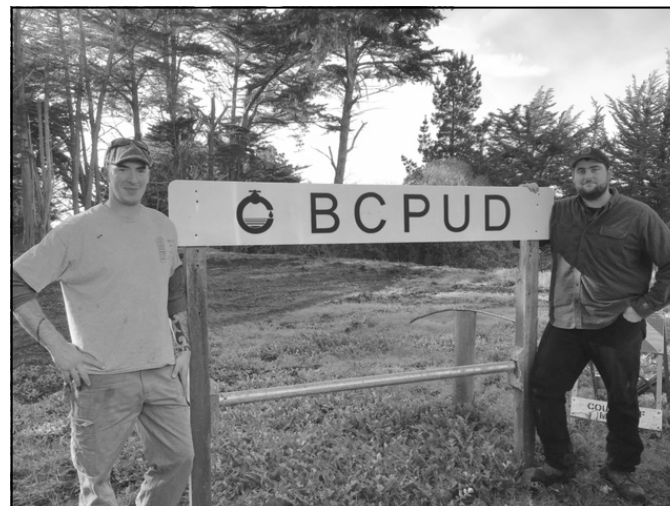
As this newsletter goes to press, the BCPUD is in the final stages of preparing for the replacement of the pumps at the district's downtown sewage lift station (across the street from the Bolinas Museum). Following an extensive assessment of replacement pump alternatives, the district ordered two replacement pumps last Fall and the pumps were delivered in January. The district's engineers are finalizing the technical specifications for the installation of the pumps (which will require modifications to the lift station) and the project is expected to go out to bid in February, with installation occurring as soon as possible after the project is awarded. The district will post updates to the project schedule on the fence outside of the lift station and in the *Hearsay News*. We extend our deep gratitude to our wonderful community for the amazing patience everyone has displayed while the temporary pumps have been in place.

As always, if you would like more information about this or any other BCPUD project, please call our office at (415) 868-1224.

## Recent Developments at the BCPUD

### *Election News . . .*

Vic Amoroso and Don Smith were reappointed to their positions as directors on the BCPUD's Board of Directors by the County of Marin in November 2015 in-lieu of an election (no one filed papers to contest their re-election). Vic has been a director on the BCPUD Board since 1983 and Don has served since 2003. Vic and Don both bring invaluable experience and outside expertise to their work as directors for the BCPUD. Vic has been a downtown resident and business owner in Bolinas since the 1970's and knows the community and its colorful history very well; he brings a business accounting background to the district and serves as the Board's Vice President, as well as on the Board's Finance, Parks and Recreation and Sewer Committees. Don is a retired chemical engineer who lives on the Big Mesa; he has a deep commitment to renewable energy and affordable housing, among his many interests, and he serves on the Board's Sewer and Mesa, Septic Flood Control and Roads Committees.



### *Hiring News . . .*

The BCPUD has two new employees! Ryan Fitzgerald and Stew Oakander were hired in 2015 and are working as shift operators-in-training to attain their water and wastewater certifications. Many of you likely have seen Ryan and Stew out and about in the district as they work with Chief Operator Bill Piece and Shift Operator Seth Kline to learn all of the facets of BCPUD operations. Ryan originally is from the Boston area and moved to Bolinas in 2009; he has a background in mechanics and already has had the opportunity to demonstrate his expertise by working on the BCPUD's vehicles and equipment. Stew grew up in Bolinas as part of the extended Oakander family and has many years of experience working outdoors and in team environments on challenging tree projects. Please extend a warm welcome to Ryan and Stew as they work hard to serve our community in their new positions.

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## ***Project Updates . . .***

**Surfers Overlook:** At the end of January, the County of Marin was putting the final touches on its repair of the road-level retaining walls at Surfer's Overlook. This project was made possible by the generous donations of Bolinas townspeople who came together during the Spring of 2015 in an incredible fundraising effort. The Save Terrace Avenue at Surfers Overlook Fundraising Committee, comprised of Ralph Camiccia (chair), Remick Hart, Rudi Ferris, Ken Masterton, Dick Bass, and DJ O'Neil worked tirelessly to raise the project funds. The wonderful non-profit Bolinas Community Center served as the project's fiscal sponsor (thank you BCC membership!), which enabled the project donations to be tax-deductible. As a result of these efforts, the County of Marin elevated this repair project to the top of its list for Fall 2015 installations and work began in late November.



Photo by Ro'von Sanders

**Chlorine Disinfection Byproduct Reduction:** The BCPUD has been evaluating different methods by which it might reduce the levels of chlorine disinfection byproducts (DBPs) in its treated drinking water because, from time to time, the water has levels of DBPs that exceed the maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) established by federal and state law at one or more of our sample sites. Over the last several years, the district has run pilot tests to evaluate the efficacy of, among other things, granular activated carbon filtration, aeration, nano-filtration and – most recently – coagulation prior to filtration to remove the DBPs. The coagulation pilot testing was run on the district's source water at different times of the year during 2015 (it is important to test at different times of year as the water's temperature and composition change over the course of the year) and the laboratory test results are very promising (i.e., levels of DBPs and of total organic carbons were significantly reduced via coagulation). The BCPUD Board soon will consider a recommendation by staff that the district request formal permission from its regulators at the State Water Resources Control Board to install coagulation prior to filtration as a permitted part of its treatment process.

**Garbage Collection:** After discussing the topic at several regular Board meetings, notifying the community and holding a public hearing, the BCPUD Board voted unanimously to extend the term of its franchise agreement for solid waste services with Redwood Empire Disposal, Inc. As stated in the community notifications, a rate increase also was approved. The franchise agreement has been extended to 2030 and the rate increase is effective January 1, 2016 (and for specified years thereafter per the approved schedule). As a convenience for Bolinas customers, Redwood Empire will hold two bulky waste clean-up events per year during the term of the extended agreement, one in the Spring and one in the Fall.



**Non-Toxic Protocol with the Marin/Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District:** At the request of the West Marin Mosquito Control Coordinating Council, the BCPUD Board in October 2015 agreed to take a leadership role in negotiations with the Marin/Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District to extend the non-toxic protocol agreement that has been in effect in West Marin for more than 10 years. In brief, under this agreement the Marin/

Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District agrees to use only OMRI-approved non-toxic products to control mosquitoes and other vectors in West Marin unless a public health emergency is declared. Board member Grace Godino is the BCPUD's primary representative in the negotiations to extend the agreement and Supervisor Steve Kinsey is providing invaluable assistance as facilitator of the negotiations.



**Upcoming Projects:** Among other things, the BCPUD is planning to undertake water main replacement projects on the Big Mesa beginning this summer; we will notify affected neighborhoods of the exact locations well in advance as soon as the schedule of work is set. The BCPUD also will continue its program to replace aging fire hydrants on the distribution system. On the sewer side of operations, in addition to the Wharf Road Lift Station Pump Replacement Project (see sidebar), the BCPUD is working on plans to design an upgrade to the treatment process at the sewer ponds.