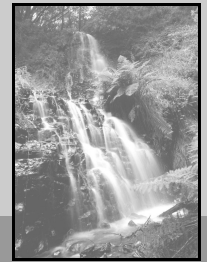


BCPUD PIPELINE



Spring 2007

NEWS FLASH!!!

BCPUD Board of Directors approves quarterly metered water rate increase.

On March 21, 2007, the BCPUD Board of Directors held a public hearing on a proposal to increase the district's quarterly metered water rates — the rates charged to customers based on their quarterly water consumption. The proposed increases are designed to bring the district in line with the other districts throughout Marin, to encourage water conservation and to more equitably charge customers for metered water delivery based on their actual rates of consumption. Customers will see the new rates implemented on bills issued as of the beginning of May 2007 and thereafter.

For more information about the new water rates or if you have any other questions about district operations, please call us at 868-1224.

A Heartfelt Community Thank You to Kate Currey!



After nearly twenty years with the BCPUD, Kate Currey, Chief Operator of the district's wastewater operations, retired effective March 8, 2007. As a long-term employee of the district, Kate has been a familiar figure in the community and is a good friend to many Bolinas residents. Recently, we sat down and talked with Kate about her memories of her career at the BCPUD. Here is a snapshot of that conversation:

Let's talk about how your career with the district started – why did you decide to work

here? It was 1987, the year the sewer line broke downtown during the Sun Festival. *[ed. note: the Sun Festival used to begin with a parade from downtown up to the district's sewer pond property; one of the existing seepage ponds continues to be referred to by BCPUD staff as "the Sun Festival pond" and a painted wooden sun sign is still located on the property.]* I was living in Nevada City at the time, but I was in town that day to do some termite repair work for a friend. I was sitting on the bench outside of Smiley's, watching the Sun Festival participants parade by as the sewer spill was happening, and I thought: "This place needs help!" I went up the BCPUD office the next business day and filled out an application.

Who were your colleagues back then? Well, Phil was the manager back then, of course. Mike Healey, the operations manager, was the other full-time field staff employee and I worked closely with him. Bill Pierce was working part-time and so was Lewie Likover. Lewie worked the weekends as did Bill; when Bill went full-time, we hired on another part-time employee, Steve Pechak. When Steve left, Dennis Dierks was hired into that weekend position. Seth Kline joined the staff when Mike left in the mid-1990's.

Did you always focus on the wastewater side of the district's operations? Yes, I did; however, I would always work on the water side of our operations whenever the situation required. The BCPUD's sewer system as it is now operated *[ed. note: with the pump station, force main and integrated pond treatment facility]* was installed in the mid-1970's and rehabilitated in 1990. We contracted out the rehabilitation project, which was performed in order to eliminate stormwater runoff and seawater intrusion into the collection system, but the BCPUD oversaw the project. We basically slip-lined most of the existing collection lines, although certain sections were replaced entirely—the downtown area was torn up from the intersection of Wharf and Brighton, down Brighton Avenue, up the Little Mesa, and up Park and Terrace Avenues. The project went well, due in large part to the incredible cooperation, support and understanding of our customers.

What memories do you have of the sewer pond property? When I started working for the BCPUD, a local rancher leased a portion of the property to graze cattle; this unfortunately turned out to be a problem because the cattle tended to damage the sprayfield sprinkler heads by rubbing up against them. The cattle also compacted the soil, reducing its drainage capability. The cattle eventually were moved off the property; but a few years later when a local property owner needed a place to house goats for a period of time, we experimented with using



goats as a vegetation management tool. The goats were great because they ate up all of the non-native vegetation that was encroaching on our operations, but they tended to break free from the electrical fences we used to contain them. One memorable moment was when a goat broke free and I later found him in the front yard of a house on Overlook Road. The goat evidently saw its reflection in a long window

on the street side of the house and thought he saw a competitor goat; when I got to the house, the goat was head-butting the window and the window was literally flexing in place. I quickly got a rope and managed to tie him up; I enticed him back to the sewer pond property with some alfalfa. The goats did not last long, however – one day a resident called us saying they heard a blood-curdling scream in the sprayfields; when we investigated, it turned out that a dogsitter was walking large dogs (they were part wolf, I believe) on the property and one of the dogs took down two goats right before her eyes. The dogsitter is the one who was screaming. That was the end of the goats on our property!



The wildlife up at the sewer pond property can be incredible; have you seen anything unusual there over the years? Oh, yes; all kinds of migrating birds are there at different times of the year. I'll never forget the time when a local birder saw a rare Russian bird at the property – it had been blown thousands of miles off course from its usual migration route. He was very excited about this bird and got the word out on the birders' network. Well, have you ever heard of "life lists"? Serious birdwatchers keep lists of all the birds they see in their lives and when the word got out about this particular bird, the race was on to come see it. Bus loads of people were coming up the ponds to try and see the bird. I even had to kick a TV crew out of the interior ponds, which are fully fenced and closed to the public – they had climbed over the fence!

Any final thoughts about your career at the BCPUD? Yes, I'd like to say that I had the privilege of working with a great group of guys over the years. You really bond with your coworkers when you have to work together on major repairs to the district's infrastructure under emergency circumstances at all times of the day and night. Also, the Board of Directors has consisted of an amazing group of people over the years – those with the courage to enact the moratorium, the foresight to opt out of conventional chemical treatment for wastewater as well as drinking water, and the leadership to push a low-tech, environmentally friendly approach to utility management.

Thank you, Kate, for your service and dedication to the BCPUD!

Spray Season—April 15 to November 15

A reminder to our customers: spray season at the sewer ponds begins on April 15th and continues through November 15th. During the spray season, BCPUD staff typically runs the sprinklers in our sprayfields on weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please avoid the sprayfield areas during these times. Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

Water Conservation Alert!!

As this newsletter goes to press, we have received only 20 inches of rain since last July (our usual rainfall average is approximately 30 inches per year). Unless we receive significant late rains this Spring, we are likely to have a difficult Summer and Fall and could even be looking at mandatory conservation measures. Please keep this in mind when planning your activities in upcoming months — for example, take your cars to a carwash rather than washing your car here in Bolinas; consider replacing old appliances such as washing machines, dishwashers, toilets and shower fixtures with water efficient appliances; do not plant new areas of your garden until the Fall rains start; be proud of a "Bolinas lawn" that goes brown in the summer time. Please do your part to start conserving now!