

BPUD PIPELINE



Winter 2009

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

In Brief...

Update on Terrace Avenue: Supervisor Kinsey has expressed his commitment to identifying and implementing an engineered solution to preserve Terrace Avenue at Surfer's Overlook. Supervisor Kinsey convened a meeting in November 2008 with representatives of the County's Department of Public Works, the BCPUD and the Bolinas Fire Protection District ("BFPD") to discuss this challenging public works problem, renew the partnership between the County and the Bolinas community on this vital infrastructure issue, and forge agreement on how to move forward .

The BCPUD and the BFPD would like to thank all members of our community who took the time to write or call Supervisor Kinsey to express your views about the importance of preserving this vital County roadway. Thank you so much for your support!

**Water or Sewer-Related emergency?
Call 868-1224
(24 hours)**

ENHANCED WATER CONSERVATION EFFORTS NEEDED BY BCPUD CUSTOMERS DURING 2009

As most BCPUD customers know, 2008 was one of the driest years on record and 2007 was no better. Even more worrisome is the fact that, as of the date that this newsletter goes to print (early January 2009), Bolinas has received less than seven inches of rain. Given the dry conditions of the past two years, most of this rainfall has been absorbed into the ground rather than accumulated in our reservoirs. If current local weather patterns do not shift dramatically in the next two months, we will be heading into the spring and summer



months with extremely limited emergency water supplies (i.e., the water remaining in Woodrat #1 Reservoir) because the district used virtually all of the available stored water in the Woodrat #2 Reservoir to supplement the community's water supply during the summer and fall of 2008. Cities and towns all over California are in similar scarce water circumstances; in fact, water districts in the greater Bay Area already are predicting water rationing for 2009 due to below-normal snowpack levels in the Sierra Nevada.

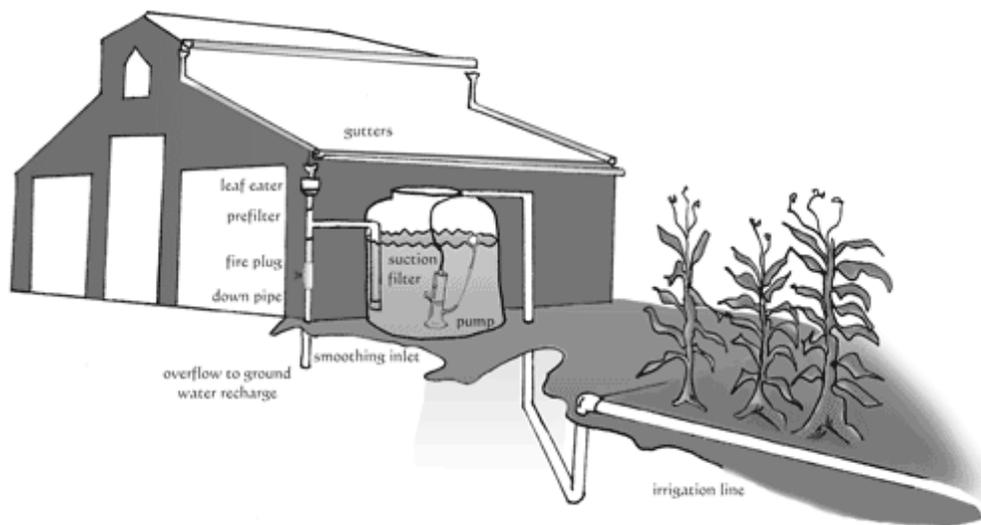
What does this mean for customers of the BCPUD? It means that you should continue and even increase your water conservations efforts immediately! Yes, that means NOW, during the winter months. Efforts that we all make now, during the purported rainy season, will help ease the inevitable shortages that we will face this spring and summer.

What can you do? First and foremost, please vigilantly inspect your property for leaks. In recent months, numerous customers have discovered long-standing toilet and hose leaks

at their properties which have resulted in water losses of hundreds of gallons per customer day. (How can you check if you have a toilet leak? Put some food coloring into your toilet tank — if it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak.) Not only do such water losses heavily impact a customer’s water bill, but they impact our entire community because this water is no longer available for distribution to and use by other customers.

Please also limit the length of showers and/or bath water levels. Shortening your shower time by just two to three minutes and/or lowering the level of your bathwater by an inch or two can save hundreds of gallons of water per month. Make sure that you have low-flow fixtures installed in your bathrooms; these water-saving devices can reduce your water consumption by as much as 50%! Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth and

when washing dishes (between washing and rinsing); wait to run laundry and/or dishwashing appliances until you have a full load. Be sure to replace old water-intensive appliances with new, water-efficient appliances — a new front-loading washing machine uses approximately 17 gallons of water per load, whereas an older top-loading model uses more than 50 gallons of water per load!



For those of you with landscaping, please strongly consider installing a water catchment system

so that you can irrigate your landscaping this spring and summer with stored rainwater, rather than with the district’s treated water. Please see the figures on this page for examples of potential catchment system designs. (These images are from the Wonderwater website, which contains other useful information and conservation tips, www.wonderwater.net). The BCPUD may well have no choice but to impose mandatory rationing of water in 2009 and if you have your own emergency water supply in the form of a catchment system, you will be able to keep your plants alive.

