

# BOLINAS COMMUNITY PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

BCPUD

BOX 390 270 ELM ROAD BOLINAS CALIFORNIA 94924

415 868 1224



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Jennifer Blackman

RE: Update on District Water Supply and Recent Consumption Data

DATE: October 21, 2020

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This memorandum briefly summarizes the status of the District's water supply as of today's date and provides a snapshot of water consumption throughout the district in September and thus far in October 2020.

- Water Supply: At the present time, the district is producing approximately 82,000 - 92,000 gallons of treated water per day (on average) at the Woodrat Water Treatment Plant ("WWTP") to meet current demand (more detail on demand below). As I reported last month, the amount diverted from our primary (preferred) water source, the Arroyo Hondo Creek, and the amount diverted from the Woodrat Reservoir 1 on any given day varies depending on a number of factors, the most significant of which is the creek flow that day (which we monitor on a daily basis). The amounts diverted from these two sources tend to "mirror" each other; in other words, as the creek flow rises, the amount diverted from the reservoir declines, and vice versa. In October, our diversions from the Arroyo Hondo Creek and from the Woodrat 1 Reservoir have now stabilized at about 50,000 gallons per day (each) after fluctuating significantly at the beginning of the month with the extreme heat. The cooler/foggier weather and shorter days also have helped stabilize creek flows.
- Water Consumption. At the present time (i.e., for the month of October thus far), water consumption in the district is averaging 85,988 gallons per day, or 148 gallons per day per connection. In September, consumption averaged about 98,562 gallons per day, or 168 gallons per day per property.<sup>1</sup> As such, water consumption in October has declined by approximately 10,000 gallons per day, or 20 gallons per day per connection, as compared to September, which is great news, and perhaps a direct response to the BCPUD's request for everyone to voluntarily reduce usage to no more than 150 gallons per day at the special Board meeting on September 30, 2020.

The reduction in water consumption across the district thus far in October is encouraging and very much appreciated, but individual consumption remains quite uneven. We continue to measure wide divergences in individual water consumption. For example, in September, the

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<sup>1</sup> As a reminder: water consumption in the district averaged 123,527 gallons per day in June 2020 (or 210 gallons per day per connection); 102,027 gallons per day in July (or 174 gallons per day per connection); 97,282 gallons per day in August (or 166 gallons per day per property); and 98,562 per day in September (or 168 gallons per day per property).

highest 25 water users consumed between 400 and 1,700 gallons of water per day and more than 60 customers (including the 25 just referenced) used more than 300 gallons of water per day; another 90 customers on top of that used between 200-300 gallons per day. Overall, in September, 233 customers used more than the requested 150 gallons of water per day at their properties.

Staff is working with these “high water use” customers to help them identify the source of their high usage and reduce it asap. (At this point in time, the two most commonly reported explanations of high water usage (apart from several leaks that were located) are landscape irrigation and/or a larger than usual number of people living at the property.) Staff believes it is critical to continue to regularly monitor individual consumption notwithstanding the decline in overall consumption during the last 20 days as the district needs to be able to accommodate changes in potential demand such as businesses coming back on line after being closed due to the pandemic, to have sufficient water for firefighting purposes, and so on. Accordingly, we hand-delivered and mailed letters to all customer using more than 200 gallons per day of water on October 14 -15. We asked for the recipients to call or email the office to acknowledge receipt of the letter and to make clear they understand the urgency of the situation, and approximately 70 have done so. We then followed up this week by re-reading the meters of all customers using more than 300 gallons per day and contacting them again to request more conservation if they have not reduced their usage. We are now working on the next tranche of customers, those using between 200-300 gallons per day of water, and will follow the same protocol. Finally, as the Board likely is aware, we have posted official signs at many locations around town to even more visibly remind everyone in town (residents and visitors alike) of the water supply shortage and the need to reduce water usage.