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Secretary/Treasurer/General Manager

BELLA VISTA WATER DISTRICT

11368 E. STILLWATER WAY • REDDING, CALIFORNIA 96003-9510
TELEPHONE (530) 241-1085 • FAX (530) 241-8354

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NEWSLETTER

Nov - Dec 2009

2009 LEGISLATIVE WATER PACKAGE

Water legislation has emerged the week of October 26th, with the introduction of competing bills and informational hearings by the Assembly and Senate water committees. Governor Schwarzenegger had called for a special legislative session on October 11 to continue work on the package after the regular session came to close on September 11. Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg introduced [SB 7X 1](#), which includes policy elements related to the Sacramento - San Joaquin River Delta, defines as coequal goals ecosystem restoration and improved water supply reliability, defines a new governance structure for the Delta, sets the stage for major decisions on Delta conveyance and establishes new requirements for groundwater monitoring and reporting, water conservation and water rights enforcement. Assembly Republicans have introduced their own version of the package in [AB 7X 1](#). Related funding bills, [SB 7X 2](#) (Cogdill) and [SB 7X 3](#) (Steinberg), each call for a \$9.4 billion bond measure on the November 2010 ballot. These broad and sweeping bills are likely to be further revised and amended as they make their way through the legislative process. Water users are encouraged to read the bills and to contact their elected representatives with questions and concerns.

The Association of California Water Agencies maintains a web site with a summary and links to the current draft legislation here: <http://www.acwa.com/issues/09LegWaterPackage.asp>

2010-2011 ASSESSMENT RATE

The District's special assessment for fiscal year 2010-2011 has been set at \$0.3700 per \$100 of assessed "land only" valuation. This compares with last year's rate of \$0.3529. The assessment is collected by Shasta County as part of your annual property tax bill and is referenced as "BV Land Only."

WINTER MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION

Unlike most years, the District has no major construction or rehabilitation projects scheduled this winter and instead crews will concentrate on maintenance of existing facilities and replacement of water meters. At least one day prior to replacing a meter, staff will attempt to contact the customer informing them of the planned replacement and temporary service interruption. A door hanger notice will be left whenever direct contact is not made. Prior to initiating the work, staff will again attempt to directly contact and inform the customer on the day of the scheduled replacement. In many cases, a simple meter replacement will only require a 15-20 minute interruption of water service.

RESET IRRIGATION TIMERS AND WINTERISE WATER SYSTEMS

It may seem obvious to turn off irrigation systems when rain arrives, but can be easy to forget until an unnecessarily high usage billing arrives. Fall is the time to reset irrigation timers and reduce run times to match reduced irrigation demands. If you have an automatic irrigation system, it is easy to add a rain sensor to override the system whenever a rain event occurs. As water evaporates from the sensor, the irrigation timer will resume. Locate your rain sensor away from overhead obstructions, with a clear view of the sky and at least five feet away from air-conditioning units or pool heaters.

As freezing temperatures arrive, it is necessary to winterize your system piping and components to prevent freeze damage. Even if you have drained some water out of your system, the remaining water can freeze, expand and crack piping and system components such as valves and backflow devices. Following are some suggestions to avoid the costly damage freezing conditions can cause.

- Turn off automatic sprinkler timers altogether once freezing temperatures arrive as plants begin dormancy and don't require irrigation
- Insulate all above ground piping (including the water line coming out of the ground that feeds into your house) and items such as backflow devices and valves.
- Don't use boiling water or a torch to "thaw" frozen components as they will often expand and crack. Instead, use lukewarm water.
- For irrigation systems that will not be utilized through the winter, it is best to drain or otherwise purge the waterlines.

CUSTOMER RECORDS

The District urges all customers to maintain and update their contact information, as necessary. This information can be critical in the event of a water outage.

OFFICE HOURS

The District's regular office hours are as follows: Monday – Thursday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm; Friday – 8:00 am – 4:00 pm.

We wish you a safe and joyous holiday season! The District office will be closed on the following holidays:

Veteran's Day	Wednesday, November 11, 2009
Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 26, 2009
	Friday, November 27, 2009
Christmas Eve	Thursday, December 24, 2009
Christmas Day	Friday, December 25, 2009
New Year's Eve	Thursday, December 31, 2009
New Year Day	Friday, January 1, 2010

BOARD MEETINGS

Regular Board of Directors meetings will be held on the fourth Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the District office located at 11368 E. Stillwater Way, Redding, California, and are open to the public. District information including Board Agendas and Minutes can be reviewed online at: www.bvwd.org