



## BELLA VISTA WATER DISTRICT

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Volume 23 – No. 6

NEWSLETTER

Nov-Dec 2011

### DRAFT PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE DELTA PLAN AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The package of bills passed by the Legislature in November of 2009 has become an historic landmark in California water policy. The package included the Delta Reform Act of 2009, which created the Delta Stewardship Council, established new standards for groundwater monitoring, statewide water conservation, enforcing Delta diversions and setting state policy that achieving water supply reliability and restoring the Delta's ecosystem must be applied coequally. SBX7-1 requires the Delta Stewardship Council to develop, adopt, and implement by January 1, 2012 the Delta Plan, a legally enforceable, comprehensive, long-term management plan for the Sacramento - San Joaquin Delta and the Suisun Marsh (Delta) that achieves the coequal goals (Water Code section 85300(a). "Coequal goals means the two goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The coequal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place" (Water Code section 85054). Achieving the coequal goals is a primary and fundamental purpose of the Delta Plan. A draft Delta Plan to meet the requirements of SBX7-1 has been prepared and is available for public review and comment for 60 days, from November 4, 2011 through (and including) January 3, 2012.

What makes up the Delta?

The Delta is formed by the confluence of the state's two largest rivers: the Sacramento, flowing south from its headwaters near Mt. Shasta, and the San Joaquin, flowing north from its origins high in the southern Sierra Nevada. Joining the Sacramento and San Joaquin are the Mokelumne, Cosumnes and Calaveras rivers. These rivers plus their tributaries carry about half of the state's total annual runoff. Freshwater from the rivers mingles with saltwater from the Pacific Ocean, forming the largest estuary on the west coast of North America. It includes about 1,100 miles of levees and 57 leveed island tracts.

Is the purview of the Delta Stewardship Council and the Delta Plan limited to the legal boundaries of Delta?

No. In order to meet the coequal goals of a reliable water source and a restored ecosystem, coupled with the recognition of the Delta as an evolving place, the California Legislature has given the Delta Stewardship Council authority over any project or action that stands to affect the Delta. Given the amount of water supply that flows through the Delta, its inter-connectedness with the majority of the state's watersheds, and its critical role in the state, the scope of the Delta Plan stands to encompass much of California.

Source: <http://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/faq>, <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/>

## TIME TO RESET IRRIGATION TIMERS AND WINTERIZE WATER SYSTEMS

It may seem obvious to turn off irrigation timers and systems once rain arrives, but it can be easy to forget until an unnecessarily high usage billing arrives. Fall is the time to reset (or turn off) irrigation timers and reduce irrigation run times to match the greatly reduced irrigation demands when dormancy and rain arrives. 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 approach, 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.

- You can turn off automatic sprinkler timers altogether once freezing temperatures arrive and deciduous plants and trees are dormant 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 hose bibs, backflow devices and valves.
- If you have a frozen pipe, probably the most popular and safest pipe-thawing option is to use hot water. Wrap and secure a heavy towel or burlap bag around the pipe to concentrate and hold heat against it. Place a bucket under the pipe to catch runoff water, then pour hot water over the towel. Avoid using torches or heat guns, which create a risk of fire. Too much heat can also generate steam, which in turn can increase pressure inside the pipe and cause it to burst.
- For irrigation systems that will not be utilized through the winter, it is best to drain or otherwise purge the waterlines with air.

## THE BEST VALUE AROUND

On average, a gallon of clean, safe Bella Vista Water District tap water costs less than one sixteenth of a cent! Alternatively, that is more than 16 gallons for 1 penny! When compared with the cost of other products we use every day, tap water is clearly one of the best values around.

<http://www.bvwd.org/pdf/fact-sheets/Value%20of%20BVWD%20Water.pdf>

A GALLON OF	A GALLON OF	A GALLON OF	A GALLON OF	A GALLON OF
				
<b>\$45.00</b>	<b>\$16.00</b>	<b>\$11.00</b>	<b>\$3.50+</b>	<b>\$3.00</b>

**OFFICE HOURS:** The District's regular office hours are as follows: Monday thru Thursday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm; Fridays 8:00 am – 4:00 pm.

**BOARD MEETINGS:** Board of Directors' Meetings are open to the public. Information, including Board Meeting Agendas and prior meeting Minutes, can be reviewed online at: [www.bvwd.org](http://www.bvwd.org).