

BCPUD PIPELINE



SPRING 2016

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In Brief...

PLEASE, DO NOT PLACE FOOD SCRAPS IN YOUR GREEN WASTE BINS!!!

It has come to our attention that Redwood Empire Disposal recently mailed out a customer flyer which may be confusing for Bolinas and/or Stinson Beach residents. The flyer states prominently that food scraps are permitted in the green waste bins; an exception for Bolinas and Stinson Beach is noted in the flyer, but much less noticeably. We are concerned that Bolinas and Stinson Beach residents may read the flyer quickly and mistakenly believe it is now ok to put food waste in their green bins. As always, only yard waste is accepted at the Bolinas-Stinson Beach Resource Recovery Center.

Thanks very much for your cooperation!

If you have any questions, please contact our office at 415-868-1224.

Some Important Reminders for the Bolinas Community About What Not to Flush into the Downtown Sewer System!

Many of us do not give a tremendous amount of thought to what we flush down our toilets and, in general, what happens in the privacy of our bathrooms is and should be our own business. However, whether you are served by the BCPUD's sewer system or are responsible for your own wastewater treatment via a septic system on your property, what you flush down your toilet can have profound implications for your system. In general, *neither sewer systems nor septic systems are designed to process anything other than toilet paper* (in addition to human waste, of course). Toilet paper is the only product manufactured to break down when it is flushed; when items other than toilet paper are flushed, they can lodge into sewer or septic system pumps and jam up the system.

With regard to the downtown sewer system, the BCPUD staff has been finding an increasing amount of non-flushable items in the system's wastewater. On two occasions in recent months, rags or wipes that had been flushed into toilets served by the BCPUD sewer system ultimately clogged and jammed the intake piping of the temporary pump serving the downtown lift station on Wharf Road, causing the pump to cease operating and resulting in significant unbudgeted costs to the BCPUD. We urge all customers reading this newsletter to take steps to ensure that *only* toilet paper is being flushed down your toilets. If you rent out your home on a full-time or short-term basis, especially if your home is served by the BCPUD's sewer system, please ensure that all renters and guests have a copy of this newsletter or otherwise informed that:



No rags, diapers, wipes, feminine hygiene products, condoms, paper towels, dental floss, cotton balls, Q-tips, cigarettes, plastic items (such as small toys or eating utensils), glass, metal, wood, soil, or any other items other than toilet paper should be flushed down toilets in Bolinas.

In addition to the problems and costs posed by inappropriate items flushed into the Bolinas sewer system, BCPUD staff also observed substantially higher wastewater flows into the sewer system during the winter rains this year. The correlation between the rains and the spike in flows into the sewer system suggests that some customers may have connected roof downspouts, foundation drains, sump pumps or other sources of surface runoff or groundwater into the BCPUD's sewer system. *Please be advised that the BCPUD's sewer system is not a combined sewer/storm system – as such, the connection*

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of any such surface or subsurface drains into the BCPUD's sewer system is prohibited by BCPUD Ordinance 29 (available on our website at www.bcpud.org).

The reason these connections into our sewer system are prohibited is because the diversion of such additional sources of water during the rainy season **substantially** increases the total flows far beyond what the system is designed to collect and treat. These increased flows result in many more pump hours (i.e., wear and tear on the pumps) and a much greater amount of water at the sewer ponds that must be treated and disposed in our spray fields (also resulting in wear and tear on the irrigation pumps at our treatment plant). *Accordingly, if you have connected your roof downspouts, foundation drain or sump pump into the BCPUD's sewer collection system, please disconnect them immediately.*

Water Supply Update for 2016

So far this rain year (July 1, 2015 – March 31, 2016), Bolinas has received the following amounts of rain (as measured at the Woodrat Water Treatment Plant):

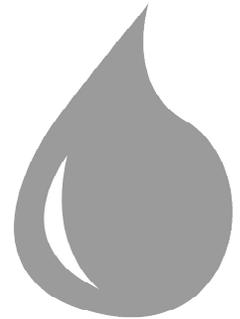
July 2015: 0 inches
August 2015: 0 inches
September 2015: 0.7 inches
October 2015: 0 inches
November 2015: 2.0 inches
December 2015: 7.8 inches
January 2016: 10.4 inches
February 2016: 1.3 inches
March 2016: 7.5 inches
April 2016: N/A
May 2016: N/A
June 2016: N/A

Total: 29.70 inches

Last rain year (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2015), we received the following amounts of rain (again, as measured at the Woodrat Water Treatment Plant):

July 2014 0.1 inches
August 2014 0 inches
September 2014 0.6 inches
October 2014 0.7 inches
November 2014 5.1 inches
December 2014 22.2 inches
January 2015 0 inches
February 2015 3.4 inches
March 2015 0.1 inches
April 2015 1.8 inches
May 2015 0.0 inches
June 2015 1.0 inches

Total: 35.00 inches



Please keep in mind that the emergency regulations issued by the State Water Resources Control Board for all Californians to reduce water use by 25% (as compared to water usage during 2013), are still in effect. In fact, on February 2, 2016, the State Water Resources Control Board extended the emergency requirements through October 2016. Bolinas has achieved the 25% target thus far -- as such, if we all use our best efforts to continue our current water-saving practices, the community will be in compliance with the state requirements. Most importantly, **please keep your automatic irrigation systems turned OFF!!!** Thank you for all of your conservation efforts, and keep up the good work!