

# BCPUD PIPELINE



Spring 2018

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

## **Please Let the BCPUD Know if You Move or Sell Your Home.**

We would like to remind all district customers to contact the BCPUD if you move or sell your home, or if another person otherwise takes over responsibility for your water bill, so that we can make sure our records are up-to-date. Most often, a real estate agent or homeowner contacts us if a property changes hands, new tenants move in, or someone else is going to be responsible for the water bill. However, from time to time we do not receive any notice and we receive returned bills or other communications. It is particularly important that we know how to contact the responsible person at a property if there is an emergency or other urgent need to communicate.

Please call us (415-868-1224), email us ([bcpud@bcpud.org](mailto:bcpud@bcpud.org)) or stop by our offices at 270 Elm Road in Bolinas and let us know if there is a change of information.

Thanks very much!

**Water or Sewer  
emergency?  
Please contact our  
office at  
415-868-1224**

## **Update on the Water Supply**

After the early April rain deluge (7 inches of rain in one storm!), many people are asking: how's the town's water supply? It's a good question and a bit complicated to answer. As of March 31, 2018, and before the major rain event on April 5-7, the district had received a scant 19.3 inches of rain. At the same time last year (i.e., March 31, 2017), the district had received 45.2 inches of rain, so that is quite a contrast! That said, last year was a very heavy rain year as we received a total of 51.3 inches (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017), which is far above the district annual average rainfall of 32 inches.



As this newsletter goes to print in mid-April, our rainfall total for the year is approximately 27 inches and unsettled weather in the forecast suggests we will receive additional rain. But we remain well below average for the year, although the fact that we are receiving rain "late" in the rain year is significant as it will help deter early landscape irrigation and better prepare the district for the typically dry Summer and Fall months. The BCPUD has measured a worrisome increase in the town's water use over the last year, perhaps inspired by a false sense of confidence since Bolinas received so much rain last year. Please keep in mind that our water supply is very responsive to *current* weather conditions: last year is in the past, and this year is the one that matters. It is important, as always, to conserve water whenever possible. Thanks very much for all that you do!

## **BCPUD's Chlorine Disinfection Byproduct Reduction Project: First Year Report**

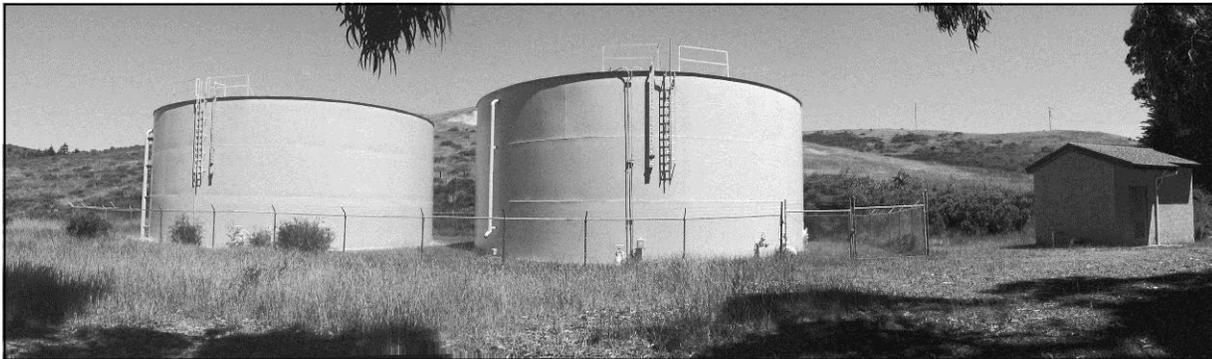
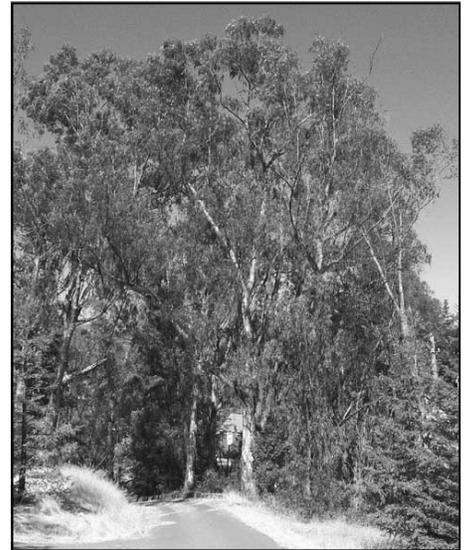
Remember the notices you received for several years informing you that BCPUD's water system "violated a drinking water standard" due to the detection of total trihalomethanes ("TTHMs") and/or haloacetic acids ("HAA5s") above the applicable maximum contaminant levels ("MCLs")? The BCPUD was required to issue such notices by the State Water Resources Control Board ("SWRCB"). The quality of BCPUD's drinking water had not changed; rather, the SWRCB tightened its rules to limit exposure to TTHMs, HAA5s and other disinfection byproducts (DBPs). The BCPUD worked actively for several years to comply with the new standards in the most effective and cost-efficient manner possible.

As we informed you in our Summer 2017 issue of the Pipeline, the BCPUD installed an inline coagulation treatment process at the Woodrat Water Treatment Plant during the Fall of 2016 for the purpose of lowering TTHMs and HAA5s below the applicable MCLs. The objective of the coagulation treatment process was to sufficiently remove organic and inorganic DBP precursors from the district's raw water prior to filtration so that any DBPs remaining after filtration and chlorination would fall below the applicable MCLs. The SWRCB granted the district permission to operate the new treatment process on February 21, 2017 and the process has been a wonderful success. The BCPUD mailed out its last violation notice to customers last summer; since then, the district has been in compliance with SWRCB rules.

Many in the community know that former Shift Operator Lewie Likover was integral to the success of this BCPUD project. He devoted his post-retirement years as a part-time consultant to the BCPUD on this project, along with Jonathan Van Bourg (formerly of Inverness). The BCPUD Board and staff are forever grateful to Lewie and Jonathan for their excellent work and their joint commitment to a comprehensive and elegant solution to a challenging water quality problem.

## BCPUD's Current Projects

***Bolinas Eucalyptus Grove Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project:*** as this newsletter goes to print, the BCPUD's project to reduce hazardous fire fuel vegetation in the eucalyptus grove above the Resource Recovery Project area is out to bid. The project includes the treatment of approximately 10 acres of invasive brush in this grove. By selectively thinning smaller trees, removing ladder fuels and brush, and limbing up branches to 10-feet (while leaving larger eucalyptus and native trees), the project is designed to increase forest resilience and reduce the potential for a wildland fire in the Project Location. Per the advice of the BCPUD's environmental consultant and to avoid any impact to threatened or endangered species, the fuel treatment performed by the selected contractor will consist of hand treatment using chainsaws and chipping only; no ground-disturbing equipment will be utilized. The Project is scheduled to be completed between August 15, 2018 and October 1, 2018. The BCPUD has been awarded \$150,000 in grant funding from CALFIRE under the State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Fund to conduct this Project.



***East Tank Rehabilitation Project:*** the BCPUD's engineers are finalizing the design plans and specifications for this project with the expectation that it will be put out to bid this summer and completed during the Fall. The objective of the project is to rehabilitate one of the district's two treated water storage tanks on Mesa Road (the other, "West Tank", will be similarly rehabilitated in two years). The project includes, but is not limited to, the sandblasting and recoating of the exterior roof and spot repairs of the exterior coating, as well as sandblasting and recoating of the interior tank ceiling plates, rafters and upper shell plates. All exterior surfaces not requiring full recoating shall be power-washed, sanded and top-coated to match the exterior areas of the tank.

***Wastewater Pump Replacement Project:*** the BCPUD is planning to replace the irrigation pumps at its wastewater treatment facility (locally known as "the Sewer Ponds") and rehabilitate a component of the treatment process involving the recirculation of wastewater between the treatment ponds. The district's engineers currently are in the design phase and we anticipate that design plans and specifications will be completed this Fall. Installation of the new pumps likely will occur during 2019.

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BCPUD staff regularly updates the Board of Directors on these and all other district projects, so check out our website ([www.bcpud.org](http://www.bcpud.org)) if you would like more information about projects or other district activities!

