

## **WATER UPDATE**

### **PUBLIC MEETING HELD BY COUNTY OF LAKE SPECIAL DISTRICTS**

Held at Riviera Heights Club House on October 1, 2016

The following will serve to recap highlights of the public meeting held on October 1, 2016, regarding Special Districts County Service Area (CSA) 20 status of water projects and updates, wildfire preparedness and drought conservation: (Special Districts CSA 20 includes Riviera Heights):

Representatives attending the meeting from County of Lake Special Districts included Jan Coppinger, Administrator; Josefina Chester, Deputy Administrator-Fiscal; and Scott Harter, P.E., Deputy Administrator. Also attending was California State Water Representative Sherri Miller, District Engineer.

- County of Lake Special Districts has received the results of the medium household income survey that was recently completed. Special Districts CSA 20 was deemed a “severely disadvantaged Community”, making us eligible to qualify for 100% grant funding for water projects through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program. Prior to this survey, Special Districts 20 had only qualified for 80% grant funding. Special Districts thanks everyone who participated in this survey.
- The State requires water conservation over 2013 usage levels by end of year, so please keep Conserving water. This is a State mandate, not Special Districts.
- County of Lake Special Districts reminded all customers to turn off water during wildfire evacuations. Limiting unnecessary water use during a wildfire emergency is critical to ensure water resources are available for fire protection activities in the community, and makes it easier for crews working to restore disabled utilities. Do not put sprinklers on your roofs or turn your garden hoses on and leave them running when you are notified to evacuate.
- Currently, there are four (4) redwood water storage tanks in the Riviera Heights. Hazard Mitigation Grant funding applications have previously been submitted by Special Districts for the replacement of these old wooden tanks with steel tanks. Cal OES and FEMA must approve the grant, which is at a cost of \$800,000 for tank replacement. Special Districts has recently received notice that grant approval has been obtained from Cal OES. FEMA grant approval is pending and Special Districts hopes to hear favorable news from FEMA in the next 2 to 4 weeks.

The grants will pay for \$600,000 and Special Districts property owners will be responsible for paying \$200,000. Special Districts CSA 20 homeowners’ have already been assessed \$9.00 per month towards this cost.

There was also discussion on pros and cons of purchasing one large steel tank instead of 4 smaller steel tanks.

WATER UPDATE (CONTINUED)

- The redwood water tank on the corner of Marina View and Riviera Heights Drive does not have a liner and the tank leaks; emergency grant funding for a liner was applied for in January 2015 by Special Districts, project is still pending.
- **Regarding water hookups, due to water conservation efforts by homeowners' and residents, water usage consumption has dropped in Special Districts CSA 20. Water conservation is state mandated. As consumption has dropped, Special Districts will now release a limited number of water hookups (10) to qualifying property owners in Special Districts CSA 20.**

There are two different prices for water meter hook ups:

**(1) For those property owners who have been paying the DWR Soda Bay loan assessment (this will be indicated on your property tax bill) the cost for a water hookup will be as follows:**

a. Capacity fee	4,988.40
b. Meter Set	872.83
c. Line Tap & Set	997.68

**(2) For new property owners who have not paid the DWR Soda Bay loan assessment, the cost for a water hookup will be as follows:**

a. Capacity fee	11,738.40
b. Meter Set	835.66
c. Line Tap & Set	955.20

**(Special Districts provided the above figures in follow up to this meeting). As long as the rate structure does not change these rates will likely remain in this price range when more water hookups become available.**

**To apply for one of the 10 available water hookups, or to find out more information regarding what is necessary to qualify, please contact Jill Shaul at County of Lake Special Districts, (707) 263-0119 or visit their office at 230 N. Main St., Lakeport, CA 95453**

There were comments and discussion by Homeowners' who disagreed with allowing the 10 water hookups, due to concerns of jeopardizing current water quality and conservation demands. Special Districts stated that adding the limited number of water hookups will not impact water quality or availability.

- Once the 10 water hookups have been issued, all other water hookups will be available only after the construction/renovation of the Special Districts CSA 20 water treatment plant. According to Special Districts, it is anticipated that the water treatment plant upgrades, which are moving forward, will be completed in approximately one and a half years from now (18 months).

#### WATER UPDATE (CONTINUED)

- The Capital Improvement Project for system upgrades for the water treatment plant is at an estimated cost of \$6.4 million. Partial grant funding has been submitted and is pending approval. The remaining grant funding for this project is still being prepared to submit for (WATER UPDATE – CONTINUED)
- funding. Special Districts previously received a \$500,000 grant for plans, engineering, etc., for the water treatment plant. Plans have already been completed. This water treatment plant scope of construction/renovation project includes:
  1. Replacement of existing raw water pumps, filter effluent pumps, high service Distribution pumps, backwash pump and backwash recycle pumps.
  2. Construction of a concrete masonry unit (CMU) block building to house dissolved air flotation (DAF) clarification equipment, solids handling equipment, chemical storage and feed systems, pumps, piping, valves, electrical equipment, instrumentation and control equipment and other ancillary equipment.
  3. Replacement of existing ozone generators and desiccant dryers (if not previously replaced with separate grant funding), coating of the ozone contact chamber, construction of ozone cooling system.
  4. Rehabilitation of existing Trident treatment (the primary clarifier and filter for water treatment) units.
  5. Replacement of existing granulated activated carbon (GAC-which addresses taste and odor concerns) filter media.
  6. Structural modification to the existing backwash clarification ponds to accommodate site work needed for the DAF building and large truck (chemical delivery, refuse and waste water off haul) access.
  7. Paving, grading, fencing, yard piping and drainage improvements.
  8. Inspection and rehabilitation of the Clearwell.
  
- Please be mindful that the grant application and funding process is very, very slow. Both Special Districts and area homeowners would like to get the money to do these projects as soon as possible. While it takes a long time to obtain grant funding, it saves homeowners a tremendous amount of money to undertake these costly projects. County of Lake Special Districts acknowledged valuable support from State Representative Mike Thompson, Senator Mike McGuire and Assembly Member Bill Dodd on these projects. Homeowners' attending this meeting applauded the efforts and hard work being done by County of Lake Special Districts and the State of California on our behalf.
  
- **THE STATE MANDATED WATER MORATORIUM IS STILL IN EFFECT – PLEASE CONSERVE**
  
- County of Lake Special Districts is trying to get capabilities to e-mail important notices (such as boiling water, etc.); should you wish to be on their e-mail list, please provide Special Districts with your e-mail contact information.

