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BEAR VALLEY'S SEWER SYSTEM MANAGEMENT PLAN (SSMP)

In July 2005, Regional Water Boards in California decided to move forward and implement the last major component of the wastewater management system yet to be regulated: collection systems.

All public wastewater collection system agencies in California are now required to develop and maintain a Sewer System Management Plan, also called an SSMP. The SSMP is the document that describes the activities wastewater agencies use to manage their wastewater collection system effectively.

Effective management of a wastewater collection system includes:

1. Maintaining or improving the condition of the collection system

infrastructure in order to provide reliable service into the future.

2. Cost-effectively minimizing infiltration/inflow (I/I) and providing adequate sewer capacity to accommodate design storm flows; and

3. Minimizing the number and impact of sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) that occur.

Pursuant to Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ, the Bear Valley Water District undertook development of its SSMP in 2006 culminating with the certification of complete SSMP implementation in August 2010.

In accordance with SSMP Section XI concerning the development of a communication program with customers and other stakeholders, BVWD will begin to use this newsletter as a forum to regularly

communicate on the development, implementation, and performance of its SSMP as well as provide the opportunity for the public to provide input on the District's program.

As a start, below is a summary of the elements which currently comprise BVWD's certified SSMP:

SSMP Elements

- Section I – Goal
- Section II – Organization
- Section III - Legal Authority
- Section IV - Operation & Maintenance Program
- Section V - Design & Performance Provisions
- Section VI - Overflow Emergency Response Plan
- Section VII - FOG Control Program
- Section VIII - System Evaluation & Capacity Assurance Plan
- Section IX - Monitoring, Measurement, and Program Modifications
- Section X - SSMP Program Audits
- Section XI - Communication Program
- Complete SSMP Implementation

In future newsletters and other communication, look forward to regular updates on SSMP program development, implementation and performance.

AUTOMATING UTILITY PAYMENTS & e-BILLING

Beginning with the July 2013 quarterly billing cycle, Bear Valley Water District (BVWD) will begin offering both an automatic payment option, allowing your quarterly wastewater utility payment to be automatically deducted from your bank account, as well as an e-billing service providing the ability to receive your quarterly wastewater invoices via e-mail.

The automatic payment option is a long awaited customer service improvement that will alleviate our customers from writing checks as well as save on postage, envelopes and potential late fees.

At the same time, as our customers elect to take advantage of automatic payment services, the District's operating budget will also benefit from decreased costs surrounding paper invoicing including paper, envelopes, stamps and personnel costs. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of this mutual savings benefit!

Similarly, electronic billing will provide for invoices to arrive via e-mail, alleviating the need to be near your mailbox to receive a statement and again reduce the number of disposable envelopes you receive.

To initiate one or both of these

services, please complete the enclosed [ACH & eBilling Authorization Form](#) included with this quarter's mailing and return the form to BVWD along with your April 2013 quarterly service payment.

After receiving your signed authorization, each quarter beginning July 2013 we will automatically debit your bank account for your quarterly wastewater service fees and/or also send you your wastewater bill via e-mail.

Of course, you may initiate or terminate either of these services at any time.

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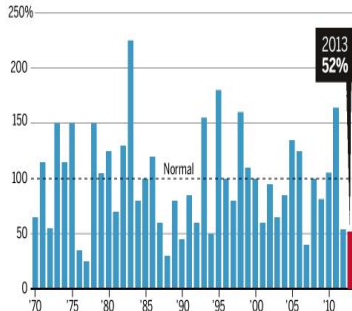
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Snowpack about half of normal

The water content of the Sierra Nevada snowpack is 52 percent of normal for April 1, when the rainy season ends. Snowpack levels were 54 percent of normal at the same time last year.

Percent of historical average around April 1



Source: California Department of Water Resources BAY AREA NEWS GROUP

HISTORICALLY DRY 2012-13 WINTER & PERMIT COMPLIANCE CHALLENGES

The rain that fell in the northern Sierra between January and the end of March this year is the least since records were first kept in 1920. State water officials early this month announced that the Sierra Nevada is at an anemic 52 percent of its historic average.

Paradoxically, this peculiar weather pattern has at once posed both a simplified disposal outlook for this summer's wastewater disposal operations as well as unanticipated compliance challenges for Bear Valley Water District's NPDES "discharge permit," which allows for disposal

of treated wastewater effluent to Blood's Creek under specific conditions.

With the adoption of Order No. R5-2011-0053 (NPDES Permit CA0085146) the Bear Valley Water District accepted a range of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) and Time Schedule Orders (TSOs). The provisions of these permit guidelines require submission of specified technical reports and progress reports by dates provided in the Order.

Perhaps the most critical of these technical reports due later

this year is one based on samples of the "priority pollutants" copper, aluminum, lead and ammonia. For purposes of this permit, samples of each pollutant are to be taken and analyzed *only after* the District's 106 million gallon (MG) storage reservoir is approximately 2/3 full, or at about 70MG. Yet, the lack of rain and snow since the beginning of the year has led to greatly reduced storage volumes with only 48 MG stored at the end of March 2013.

The District is now working with the Water Board to determine an alternative TSO for this technical data and remain compliant.

POLLUTANT DISCHARGE PERMIT LEGAL APPEAL - UPDATE

In August 2011, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board awarded the Bear Valley Water District Order No. R5-2011-0053 (NPDES Permit CA0085146) permitting BVWD to discharge treated effluent to Blood's Creek under specific conditions.

The 2011 NPDES permit followed BVWD's 2005 NPDES permit with enhanced monitoring and reporting requirements related to preventing violations of both the federal Clean Water Act and the California Water Code to protect beneficial uses of downstream water ways and meet water quality objectives.

Despite a comprehensive "Report of Waste Discharge" filed in advance of the permit leading to greatly increased monitoring and reporting requirements, on September 6, 2011, Bill Jennings, Executive Director of the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA), petitioned the State Water Resources Control Board to "vacate" this order and prepare a new tentative order that complies with the State's *Policy for Implementation of Toxics standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California* (SIP).

Meanwhile, according to Philip Wyels, Assistant Chief Counsel for the State Water Resources Control Board, the Board's legal department has dedicated so much time to only a few permits in the state that he believes the Board may ultimately be incapable of processing the backlog of legal appeals to various permits in a reasonable period of time.

Instead, Wyels is now working with industry groups, regulators and legislators on a proposal to dismiss its backlog of legal appeals, including CSPA's appeal of BVWD's NPDES permit.

NEW CONSTRUCTION, ADDITIONS & CAPACITY FEES

While new construction and remodels have been relatively few over recent years, the Bear Valley Water District would like to remind our customers that wastewater capacity is funded through **capacity fees** assessed on new properties or remodels where new kitchens or bathrooms are added.

As the cost of providing added capacity has increased over the years, so have these capacity fees. In particular, when state

regulatory agencies required a tertiary treatment plant be built for Bear Valley, capacity fees were increased to support this project.

If you are considering constructing a new home or adding a bathroom or kitchen to an existing residence (home or condo), please note that the following fees are the current wastewater capacity charges required to be paid to the Bear Valley Water District prior to the

issuance of a permit by the Alpine County Building Department:

Current Capacity Fees:

- \$5,247 – Addl Bath or Kitchen
- \$15,247 – New Homes (one kitchen and up to two baths)

If you are considering a new project, please contact Bear Valley Water District to seek an application for a new connection at 209.753.2112 or bearvalleywater@sbcglobal.net.

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