



RURAL NORTH VACAVILLE WATER DISTRICT

675 Texas Street, Suite 5500, Fairfield, CA 94533 (707) 784-6064

NEWSLETTER

Issue 19 (February 2008)

THE FIRST ELECTED RNVWD BOARD TAKES OFFICE

On December 7, 2007, the first elected RNVWD Board of Directors took office. The first five members of the Board of Directors you elected are Martin Joye, Trish Landis, James Mortensen, Robert Whitehouse and Carl Fowler. Prior to taking office on December 7, 2007, Carl Fowler resigned because of health concerns. His replacement, Dieter K. Teschke, was appointed by the Board at the second Regular Board of Director's meeting, January 8, 2008. The first Regular meeting of the Board was on Tuesday, December 11, 2007. At that meeting Robert Whitehouse was elected Board President, Jim Mortensen, Vice – President and Trish Landis, Secretary. In addition to amending the District Bylaws, which enabled the new Board to begin governing the District, the Board established the Board of Directors Regular Meeting time and date. The RNVWD Board of Directors will meet monthly on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. at the Vacaville Fire Protection District Fire Station # 67 located at 4135 Cantelow Road, Vacaville, CA. The Board of Directors meetings are open to the public and an agenda for each meeting will be posted in accordance with State law, 72 hours prior to the meeting. The agenda will be posted at 675 Texas Street, Fairfield (County Gov. Center), 4135 Cantelow Road, Vacaville (Fire Station), and 4819 Midway Road (Oates County store), or visit the County website at www.solanocounty.com, click on the "Services" tab at the top of the webpage and go to RNVWD.

WHY DID WE NEED A NEW BOARD ANYWAY?

Good question! After 3 years of delivering water at an economical price, with few problems, why try to fix something that isn't broken? The answer lies in the history of our Water District.

The District was conceived in the early 1990's when the growth of the Steiger Hills and English Hills area of Northern Solano County and a drought resulted in a water shortage in the shallow groundwater table serving the area. The need for a water system became evident. Community groups formed and the County became the conduit to get a water district started. Meetings were held and homeowners decided if they wanted to be a part of the Water District. After an election, and with the County's assistance, nearly \$14,000,000.00 in low interest loans were obtained enabling construction to begin. However, as a condition of approval by LAFCO

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(Local Agency Formation Commission), which approved the formation of the Community Service District, the Solano County Board of Supervisors was appointed to manage the operation of the District for the first year and to serve as the District's initial Board of Directors.

So why did it take so long to elect the new Board? To start with, the Board of Supervisors decided to hold an election to allow the District residents to decide if they wanted their Board of Directors to be appointed by the Supervisors or to be elected. When the electorate decided to elect their Board of Directors, the Supervisors then scheduled the election. State law specifies when and how the District's Directors are to be elected. Due to legally imposed scheduling requirements, the election was held in August 2007, and your first elected Board of Directors took office on December 7, 2007.

So there you have it! From the beginning, your Water District, the Rural North Vacaville Water District, was conceived and built to be governed and managed by you, the District's customers and users.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

We have now started the process governing our RNVWD by replacing the Solano County Board of Supervisors with our own newly elected Board of Directors. The County, however, is still providing all of our very important staff functions. Birgitta Corsello, the Solano County Director of the Department of Resource Management, is serving as the RNVWD General Manager. Dan Bellem, Solano County Staff Analyst, provides our day to day operational coordination. Cal Water Services, under an operational contract with the District, operates the water distribution system and handles the water service billing. Currently, Solano County charges the District for the staff support services we use, however it is understood that eventually we will be setting up our own office and management staff.

Your RNVWD Board of Directors is currently becoming familiar with the policies and procedures being used to operate the District. This, along with trying to completely understand where our District stands financially, is our top priority.

WHERE DOES THE NEW BOARD STAND CONCERNING A RATE INCREASE?

The current water rates were established prior to the date the RNVWD started delivering water, which was January 2003. Under the direction of the Board of Supervisors, a rate increase was proposed in 2006 and submitted to the water users for their approval. A majority of the water users said "no" to the proposed rate increase and, as a result, the Board of Supervisors did not increase rates. The new Board of Directors is in the process of learning exactly what the current cost of production of our water is, what our operation and management costs are, and how much of a Reserve Fund we need in case of an emergency.

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The Rural North Vacaville Water District is owned by us, the users. We bought it and are paying for it through our benefit assessment collected on our property tax bills. The rate we pay per unit of water (750 gallons) is established to cover the cost to pump and treat the water, the day to day operation & maintenance, legal, operational permit fees, and all other District costs. We only have one source of income to support our District and that is the rate we pay for the water we use. All other sources of funding require a very lengthy and expensive process which requires voter approval.

Until we, your Board of Directors, thoroughly understand the District's financial status, we can't propose any change to the current water rate. If a rate increase is needed we want to be able justify it completely to you our users. We are a public agency, a Special District formed under the Community Service District law and we are a "not for profit" operation. Our goal is to keep our water rates as inexpensive as possible while maintaining the integrity of the public domestic water service system insuring its financial health.

WHAT MAKES UP OUR DISTRICT'S WATER SYSTEM?

If the RNVWD were a private corporation, you would be shareholders and part owners of that corporation. But because the RNVWD is a public agency, you "own" the benefits that the District is able to provide to your property because of the water system. The District borrowed just under \$14,000,000.00 to build that system, and you are paying off that loan through your annual assessment as part of your property tax bill. Perhaps you are one of the homeowners who decided not to use the low interest State financing and have already written a check paying off the entire amount you owe. The District is able to provide water service to your property because you help to pay for a system that includes the following:

1. Two deep water wells for production and two monitoring wells, on two well sites
2. 43 miles of pipeline
3. Two 300,000 gallon water storage tanks
4. 4 miles of access roads to the storage tanks and well sites
5. 6 booster pumps
6. 5 pressure reduction valves
7. 107 air release valves
8. 65 fire hydrants

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RNVWD
Board of Directors

Rural North Vacaville Water District
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