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Rick Trites Nancy Veerkamp
Meter Reading/Backflow Board Clerk/Admin

Solano Irrigation District
Operator & Maintenance

May 2023 Newsletter

“The Mission of the Rural North Vacaville Water District is to deliver, efficiently and reliably for many years, quality water for domestic use and fire protection.”

Proposed Water Rate Increase

There will be an informational meeting on May 9th and May 23rd to discuss the proposed rate increase. Reference the Notice for time and place and the packet of information posted on the website and mailed to your address.

Word from the General Manager

After 11 years as your General Manager, (GM). I will be retiring as of June 30th. I thank you for your trust and support during this time. It has certainly been an honor to represent the District. Dale Motiska is currently the Assistant GM and he is in the process of orientation and training. He will take over as the GM on July 1, 2023.

Word from the incoming GM

The following is from Dale with a brief history of our District: “Greetings neighbors and fellow customers. I have lived in our District since before it was a District and I remember what the quality of life was living here in” Vacaville Country” at that time. Things got better with the formation of our District. Since then, our district has grown and aged. Equipment wears out, pipes age but the need for quality water in our homes goes on every day. Major capital improvements have been made to our system. We are in the process now to have both wells in operation after Well #2 has sat idle for 20 years. We now have new backup generators to use in the event of PGE outages. Our district encompasses about 5 thousand acres. Our pipes run over hills, down valleys, under creek beds, around curves to get to your faucets. This year’s more than abundant rainfall (although a blessing) has caused chaos to the stability of hillsides, roadways and our pipelines. Several late-night emergency repairs have been necessary to keep the water flowing to you. These unexpected expenses have drained a good portion of our reserves. We must look to the future and what Mother Nature may bestow on our community next.

Our rates are determined by the current year’s operating expenses and projected to future years in the 5-year plan. The cost of normal maintenance and minor repairs has continued to increase along with Operations, Management and Administration. The 4-year effective price increase since 2019 is about 22% due to inflation. When, in 2002, the state shut down Well #2 for being above new arsenic concentration levels, I asked why not put a filter on it? The answer to that question is that the filter system would cost almost \$1.5 million dollars, and no one wanted to pay for it until recently. Our Board

has approved the loan for the Arsenic Removal Facility with good cause to have Well #2 become active. Now we will have the security and reliability of a backup water supply readily available.

Of course, all these explanations lead to my requesting each one of you to support the much-needed rate increase that our Board has proposed. We need to build our reserves to the target that was approved by our all-volunteer Board. We need to greet the life expectancy of our system with calculated pragmatism for the future. We need to be ready for the unexpected. I welcome your comments to Dale@RNVD.com ”

Major Issue with the Landslide Cantelow Road

There is a section of Cantelow that has been known to be a landslide area since the design and installation of the original infrastructure. This is a county road. Two major components of our system are located in the slide area, 1.) a 12-inch main line feeding water from the lower Cantelow tank near Steiger Hill to the higher Bucktown tank and 2.) a 12-inch main line servicing the homes in the higher elevations on Cantelow, Stagecoach, Ciarlo, Skyhawk and other areas. The slide has moved 6-12 inches in the past months and continues to be unstable. We have made 3 repairs in the last 30 days to these lines in the slide area. The county has closed the road. Heavy rains this past season have contributed to the earth's movement. This is a significant and very expensive issue to resolve, requiring a long term engineering solution with the county and with our infrastructure.

PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE RNVD.COM contains detailed information about the District. We continue to post current information such as: annual water quality reports, board meeting agendas, meeting minutes, service area maps, annual audit and budget, rules and regulations, policies, by-laws, alerts, notices and much more. If you are not finding the information you are looking for, please contact Nancy, our Administrator and Board Clerk, at ADMIN@RNVD.COM

Board Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every other month at 7:00 pm at **4135 Cantelow Road at the fire station**. The Public is welcome to attend and be heard. Reference each Board Meeting Agenda for more information. The next 3 Regular Board Meetings are scheduled for June 13, 2023, August 8, 2023, and October 10, 2023.

COMMUNICATION

Email is the best way to contact the District with your questions. Providing your current email and cell phone number is the best way for the District to contact and notify you of outages and alerts. **For Billing questions**, paperless email billings and automatic payments contact Brenda Kane, our Billing Manager, at 707-689-7971 or BKRNVD@AOL.COM. **To Report Leaks** and other operational issues or emergency situations call SID at 707-448-6847. If you have **any questions** or request additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Gordon Stankowski, the General Manager, at GM@RNVD.COM or phone 707-447-8420.