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Chris Calvert      Bob Whitehouse  
President          Vice President  
  
Mike Bianco        Elizabeth Miles  
Director            Director  
  
Joe Gates  
Director



STAFF  
Gordon Stankowski      Brenda Kane  
General Manager        Billing Manager  
  
Rick Trites                Nancy Veerkamp  
Meter Reading/Backflow      Board Clerk/Admin  
  
Solano Irrigation District  
Operator & Maintenance

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## FALL 2020 RNVWD NEWSLETTER

### **LNU Lightning Complex Fire**

This unprecedented event took us all by surprise as there was little warning in the middle of the night to prepare for the evacuation. 47 of our District members lost their homes to the fire. The fire burned a good portion of the acreage in the district and impacted all of us. Neighbors helping neighbors teamed up to defend and save property and find haven for livestock and to assist others. The District's main Well #1 pump station off Timm Road was not in the burn area but it was affected by a PGE power shut off. Solano Irrigation District, SID, moved quickly to utilize one of their mobile generators to get the pump station up and running to produce water and fill the tank off Cantelow road.

Over the course of the fire, our two 300,000-gallon storage tanks were drained by firefighters and homeowners in fighting the fire throughout the District utilizing many of the District's 87 fire hydrants. Trites Backflow Services worked with SID to shut off leaking water at numerous locations. Then the Cantelow and Bucktown tanks were refilled. Station 5 at the top of Ciarlo lane was completely destroyed including the PGE power pole. Service there was restored once a temporary pump was located and installed with a temporary generator. We have filed a claim with our insurance carrier to recover our costs related to the devastation and recovery. We are also filing claims for financial assistance with FEMA, and the State Office of Emergency Services, OES, for possible sources of grant funding. Many thanks to the SID staff, Rick Trites, and Brenda Kane in handling the numerous calls from customers.

In April of this year the Board approved the purchasing of a permanent backup generator for our main Well #1 station that pumps water to our first tank site at Cantelow Road and we are also purchasing a second generator to pump water to the higher elevation storage tank off Bucktown Road. This will allow the District to operate uninterrupted during PGE outages.

### **Water Quality**

As you may know, the COVID-19 virus is not transmitted through the District's potable water. We also want to assure you that our operator, SID, and backflow specialist, Trites, all utilize best practices in the daily operation, repair and maintenance of District facilities. Out of an abundance of caution SID issued a Boil Water Notice with the occurrence of the fire. Water in the main lines was tested and then the Division of Drinking Water, DDW, allowed for us to remove the boil water notice. Again recently, the DDW requested additional testing for a sampling of the service lines serving individual homes that were destroyed. These results all showed no contamination in the drinking water. We are fortunate that the original design of the District water system has a Backflow Preventer at each service location that prevents contamination from entering the main system from fire, landscaping, livestock, or other cross connections from individual customer uses.

### **VOTE November 3<sup>rd</sup>**

When you vote in November, you will find on the ballot that there are 5 candidates running for 3 Director positions on the RNVWD board of directors. The Directors serve a 4-year term and perform their duties without compensation. More information is provided on the Solano County website Registrar of Voters.

### **New Customers**

We have had several applications for new customers to join the District. This is generally because customers have an issue with their well water and or they want the benefits of our public water system. We have sold 14 of the 37 District owned water rights to the owner of the property at Cantelow and Gibson Canyon. New customer connections help to cover the cost of operating our system. Currently we have 400 connections. This is significantly under our design capacity of 533 connections.

### **Financial**

The District is in good financial condition and we have the reserves necessary to get us through the cost impact caused by the fire. This is the final tax year for the annual assessment on your property tax. The original \$13 million dollars in state loans to build the water district will be fully paid off by June 2021. The District is 20 years old and we need to plan for future repair and maintenance expenses and capital improvements needed for the next 20 years.

### **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.

Our **website RNVWD.COM** contains detailed information about the District and it is updated monthly. 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, at [ADMIN@RNVWD.COM](mailto:ADMIN@RNVWD.COM)

During this time of Social Distancing, the **Board Meetings** are being held on the second Tuesday of every other month at 7:00 pm via Teleconferencing. The Public is welcome to attend and be heard. Reference the Board Meeting Agenda for more information. The next 3 board meetings are scheduled for October and December of 2020 and February 2021.

**For billing questions**, paperless email billings and automatic payments contact Brenda Kane, our Billing Manager, at [BKRNVD@AOL.COM](mailto:BKRNVD@AOL.COM). **To report leaks** and other operational issues call SID at 707-448-6847.

If you have **any questions** or if you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Gordon Stankowski, the General Manager, at [GM@RNVWD.COM](mailto:GM@RNVWD.COM) or 707-447-8420.