

# Diamond A Mutual Water Company



Fall 2014

## Increase in Maintenance Fees

The Board has approved an increase in maintenance fees from \$120 to \$200 per quarter. This will provide funds to upgrade the system at a more desirable rate. We, as users tend not to pay much attention to the workings of the system until it fails as it did in September.

Maintenance and repair costs have increased since 2013. Given the aging system, this is unlikely to remain static.

The level of work associated with operating and maintaining the entire system has risen. The Water Company is evaluating outsourcing much of the work associated with filing standard reports with the State and testing and inspection of the system in accordance with State requirements. Although cumbersome and costly, all of these requirements are in place to assure we have safe and sufficient drinking water.

It was never the intent for Bill Angeloni to assume such extensive

duties in managing the system. If anything, we anticipate that over the next several years the level of specialized work will increase.

The 100,000 gallon tank in Zone 1 at White Oak Court is on "life support" to put it mildly. It is only capable of storing about 50,000 due to leakage at the upper half of the tank. Divers were recently hired to plug the leaks in the lower half.

Other issues at the White Oak Ct. tank include:

- The large outlet valve needs replacement;
- The telephone lines controlling the operation of the pumps filling the tank have failed several times over the past 3 months and generally have been unreliable. This either causes tank over-flows or an empty tank. We are planning on installing a wireless control system that should be much more reliable than the AT&T phone system has been.

The Board is evaluating a leasing program to accelerate replacement of the tank.

## Emergency Notification

After the contamination issue we faced in September, we have developed a multi-pronged emergency notification system that has been approved by the State Water Board. As we did in September, we will be using email.

In addition, we have added an automated telephone notification system that will notify every phone number we have on record (including cell phones if provided) to every household. This will be an essentially instantaneous notification which will provide confirmation of picked up calls. PLEASE, if you receive such a call, please pick up so we will know you got the message. For those we cannot confirm have been reached, we will hand deliver notifications.

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# Diamond A Mutual Water Company

## Well Level Monitoring

We are proceeding to install well water level devices in all 4 of our wells so that we can keep track of any changes in our ground water conditions. So far 3 out of 4 of our wells now have monitoring devices so we can closely track well levels. The fourth well monitoring system should be operation in early 2015.

Since our wells are in volcanic formations, their capacities and interactions with other wells are not well known. In addition, it can take several years for rainfall to make its way down to the aquifers. Therefore, there can be a significant lag between amounts of rainfall and actual groundwater levels. So, if we have a good year or rainfall this year, it could take several years for it to make its way down to our wells.

Being able to monitor our well water levels will provide us with the ability to determine if there are any water table issues of concern well in advance of there actually being a problem.

## Water Company Committees

We are strongly encouraging shareholders to join one of these committees if you believe you have an interest in the area of focus of a committee.

Committees are as follows:

**Finance:** headed by Dave Martinelli and joined by Mike Buckley and Bill Angeloni.

**Operations & Technology:** Patrick Treacy in charge, and accompanied by Dick Bryan and Bill Angeloni

**Communications:** Joe Lieber in charge and joined by Celia Schake. For now, this mainly involves developing our newsletters.

**Governance:** Peter Hohorst in charge and Dave Martinelli assisting. The present assignment is getting our bylaws updated to conform to AB240.

**Administration & Professional Services:** Dick Bryan in charge, Celia Schake and Shirley Angeloni assisting.

## Water Conservation

Please continue to pay close attention to your water consumption. It is recommended that you avoid any large plantings until we are through this drought. ANY new plant requires a lot of water just to get it started at least through the first summer. Planting is best done just before the "rainy season".

## New Invoicing and Payment Options

The Board has approved to move from paper to electronic invoicing.

Beginning January, invoices will be emailed to all members, except those who have requested a paper invoice and for those who do not have email addresses. In addition, the January billing will offer the ability to pay via credit or debit card and these options will be detailed on the invoice.

## New Office Manager

As of January 1, 2015, Shirley Angeloni is retiring from Diamond A Mutual Water Company and Dee Young will be replacing her. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Shirley who has worked for many years keeping our administrative house in order.

Note, all accounting matters should be addressed to Dee Young at 707-338-0115. Calls for water problems continue to be received at 935-0176

## Current Maintenance & Repair List

### Wells 1 and 2

- Install water sample fittings

### White Oak Tank

- Install temporary tanks from Well 3
- Site Plan from Breljje and Race Engrs.

### White Oak Pump Bldg.

- New roof, new door, repair and paint

### Well 3

- Back-flow units for three homes
- Spray for weeds
- Install water sample fitting

### Well 4

- Repair slow leak at well head
- Install water sample fitting

### Well 4 pump bldg.

- New roof, repair door, repair siding and paint

### Viewcrest Tank

- Install temporary tank
- New roof
- Clean/remove leaves and needles from around the tank

# Diamond A Mutual Water Company

## **Election**

*The water company will be having elections coming up this Spring. Celia Schake is the chair of the Nomination Committee. Please contact her if you are interested in becoming a board member or are wanting to serve on the Nomination Committee.*

## **Pressure Regulating Valves**

*Just a reminder that for those of you who have high water pressure (over 60 psi) you are encouraged to either install or make sure your pressure regulating valves are working. Check the Diamond A Service Directory for recommended plumbers.*

*If you are experiencing water hammer (a knocking sound whenever you turn off a water tap), there is a pretty good chance you have excessive water pressure. Reducing your pressure with a properly functioning pressure regulating valve should minimize the effects of water hammer.*

## **The Drought**

*So far it is encouraging that the drought may be behind us. However, unlike reservoirs (which fill up quickly with large amounts of rainfall), ground-water can take years to replenish. Additionally, although intense rainfall does a great job of refilling reservoirs it does little to replenish ground-water as most of it runs off and does not penetrate the aquifers.*