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What You Should Know About the Delta Plan

If you keep your eye on local news, it's likely that you've heard that the California Delta is embroiled in conflict. This conflict is not a simple one—it is rooted in who and how various interests should be allowed to use the Delta's resources.

Decisions made regarding how Delta resources are used have a direct impact on water users across the state, including you as a CHWD customer. For this reason, we are doing all that we can to advocate on behalf of the region with the ultimate goal of ensuring sufficient water supplies and keeping reasonable prices.

Formed by the confluence of the state's two largest rivers, the Sacramento and the San Joaquin, the Delta has long been a battleground for many competing interests. As a water source for many people, a water conveyance system, and a beautiful outdoor playground for others, this ecosystem is a valuable resource for a variety of consumers.

The environmental health of the Delta region has been of increasing concern to Californians for decades. The question that weighs on the minds of many is: How do we protect this unique ecosystem while still trying to satisfy the state's farmers, consumers, environmentalists, fishermen, businesses and recreationalists who need and use it so extensively?

At the heart of this complicated issue is the Delta Stewardship Council, which has been charged with crafting a plan to increase state water reliability and improve the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta ecosystem. The Council is considering issues such as conservation, ecosystem restoration, regional sustainability, growth, flood protection, and financing.

As revised versions of the Plan continue to be released, there is growing local concern that the impacts of a proposed Delta "solution" would pose serious potential



Sandhill cranes are one of the many species that call the Delta home.

risks to the six-county Sacramento region's economy, water supply, environment and quality of life.

The CHWD Board of Directors has taken an active role in ensuring that Sacramento regional principles are included in a Delta solution. The Board passed a resolution in October of 2011 declaring that the Delta Plan should be based on sound science, be funded fairly, and not shift negative economic, environmental, or societal impacts to our region.

Additionally, a framework is in place to build a Regional Water Resources Coalition. This Coalition, composed of many water agencies and public groups in the Sacramento area and northern California, including CHWD, would collaborate to protect local water supplies, collaborate in a Delta solution, and work towards developing implementable solutions to future water resources challenges and opportunities.

The District is keeping a keen eye on this controversial and important issue, and we are actively working to protect our customers' and region's water rights. As developments occur, we will continue to let our customers know how the evolving Delta Plan may affect our water and our wallets.

Prevent Wasting Water this Winter

Once the rain starts to pour, it's easy to forget about the importance of water conservation. But being good stewards of our water supply is a year-round commitment here in the Sacramento region. To help you be careful about your water usage and avoid unnecessary waste or accidents, here are some tips to consider this winter:

Plenty for the Plants

Once the weather cools, your landscape will need much less watering. If your sprinklers are on a timer, remember to adjust them for cool-weather watering; and then turn them off when the rainy season begins.

Beat the Leaks

You may have a water leak and not even know it. Why pay for water that's being wasted? One way to find leaks is to read your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, you probably have a leak. Call the District for more tips on finding and fixing leaks around your home.

Know Where to Shut it Off

Make sure you know where the master shutoff valve is. This valve turns the water off to the entire house if a pipe bursts. All family members should be aware of its location. If you can't shut off the water for some reason, call (916) 725-6873.

Fight the Freeze

Pipes can freeze in very cold weather. Exposed pipes on the exterior of your home or unheated areas like the attic, garage, or crawl space under the house should be wrapped with insulation before the freezing temperatures arrive. Insulation is available at your local hardware or building supply store.

For more information about water conservation, visit www.chwd.org/conservation.



Wrapping exposed pipes will prevent them from freezing and save you from costly repairs.

CHWD'S LATEST ADDITION: DAVID GORDON

We're pleased to announce that we've added a talented new staff member to our family. David Gordon joined us in May 2011, and quickly jumped into his position as Construction Inspector.

Gordon enjoys the challenges and responsibilities of the job, which include working with both CHWD and private contractors on an array of capital improvement projects. He is currently working on the large-scale Auburn Boulevard water main replacement (see page 3 of this newsletter) and the construction of a CVS Pharmacy on Greenback Lane at Fair Oaks Boulevard.



Gordon's favorite part of his inspector job is "the people I work with," he notes happily. "The District is a very tight-knit group, and they're all very friendly and helpful." Leaving work is also a joy, however, since Gordon and his wife Lauren recently welcomed their own new family member—baby Audriana, who arrived in April of 2011.

Underground Service Alert

Planning to plant some trees, put in a new fence or pool, or even build a sandbox for your kids?

Before you pick up a shovel (or rent a backhoe) and start digging, please contact your utility providers or USA North, the Underground Service Alert of Northern California and Nevada (see www.usanorth.org). Call at least 48 hours in advance of digging to ensure that CHWD and other underground utilities have time to locate their facilities in the area you plan to dig.

You may not know it, but there could be utilities, lines or mains running through your property underneath the ground that, when disturbed or broken, could be very dangerous (and expensive) for you and your family. Take the time to make that call—it will not only keep money in your wallet, but most importantly, keep you and your family safe.

Water Use Trends

Water consumption in CHWD is about 20 percent below the most recent 5-year average!

Kudos to our customers for their efficiency and commitment to thoughtful water usage. Keep up the conservation!

Auburn Boulevard Construction Resumes

Construction to replace the 60-year-old water main along Auburn Boulevard will continue in the new year.

While construction is underway, impacts to traffic and lane closures are anticipated, so drivers should consider an alternate route to avoid getting caught up in traffic. However, all retail and professional services located along this corridor will remain open and accessible.

The good news is that work on the project is moving faster than planned. Work was originally expected to be completed in June 2012. At its current pace the work may be done by early April 2012. Winter weather conditions may affect the final completion date.

The project, which began in October of 2011, spans from Cedar Drive to Linden Avenue.

Three thousand feet—that's 10 football fields—of the original 8-inch steel water main is being replaced by 12-inch ductile iron pipe. This new pipe is expected to last 50 to 100 years, and is considerably more durable than the steel pipe.

This high-priority project will also replace the water services associated with the main. Three existing hydrants will be upgraded and six new hydrants will be installed, providing better fire protection for the Auburn Boulevard corridor.

CHWD has budgeted approximately \$1.36 million for the project, which was originally scheduled to occur in 2008. It was delayed by the CHWD to reduce the impact on its customers from a rate increase that was implemented at the time.

For more information, call Project Manager David Rossi, (916) 725-6873.

MORE WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS FOR 2012

| Project Name | Description | Timeframe | Cost |
|---|---|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Livoti Tract Water Main Replacements | Replace old 6-inch water mains in Livoti and Frances Avenues in the Livoti Tract area of Placer County. | 2012 – Schedule to be determined | \$328,000 |
| Antelope Road Water Main Replacement | Replace old 8-inch water main east from Lauppe Lane | 2012 – Schedule to be determined | \$97,000 |
| Auburn Boulevard – Watson Way Water Main Replacements | Replace sections of old water mains on Auburn Blvd from Sylvan Corners to Rusch Park in conjunction with City street improvements | 2012 – Schedule to be determined | \$590,000 |

An Easier Way to Pay: CHWD Autopay



We are pleased to invite you to try the fastest, most convenient way for you to pay your water bill—CHWD Autopay. By enrolling in the CHWD Autopay program, your

payment will automatically be withdrawn from your checking or savings account. Never worry about having a late bill again, and have one less bill to think about!

If Autopay isn't for you, consider paying your bill online at www.chwd.org/payment or check with your bank for other convenient payment options.

Visit www.chwd.org/payment to learn how to streamline your way to pay!

Moving Soon?

Moving can be a complicated, tiring process. Fortunately, CHWD is on hand to help you out with your water services when you decide to relocate. Make sure your checklist includes a call to us, so we can come out and get that final meter reading done for you, then quickly provide you with a final bill.

Did you know that there is an application process for the closure of a water account when you move? The account closure application provides important information, including forwarding address for final bills, dates for when water service is requested to be shut off and more.

To schedule a final meter reading or to ask questions about your water services when you move, call (916) 725-6873.



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PRESORTED STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA
 PERMIT NO. 393

Mailing Address
 P.O. Box 286
 Citrus Heights, CA
 95611-0286

Street Address
 6230 Sylvan Road
 Citrus Heights, CA
 95610-5610

Office Hours
 8:00 am – 5:30 pm M-Th
 Closed on Friday, Holidays

24-Hour Phone:
 (916) 725-6873
 Fax: (916) 725-0345
 Web: www.chwd.org
 Email: custserv@chwd.org

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ECRWSS

Postal Customer and Water Consumer in Citrus Heights Water District

Sunday FunDay

On September 25, 2011, CHWD enjoyed participating in Sunday FunDay, a long-standing Citrus Heights tradition that draws thousands of enthusiastic attendees from the community. A colorful, family-friendly event held annually in Rusch Park, FunDay features everything from pony rides and foot-stomping musical entertainment to a classic car show and a mouthwatering lineup of food booths.

CHWD is proudly on hand each year at this wonderful event to promote water education and water use



efficiency in the community, and we are always pleased to meet and talk with so many friendly folks. We hope to see you at 2012's Sunday FunDay!

A young FunDay participant learns about water conservation and spins the wheel for a chance to win a prize.

CHWD Rates to Remain the Same

If you were expecting an increase in your water rates for 2012, we hope you won't be too disappointed to learn that this year's rates will remain the same as last year! CHWD is pleased to announce that there will be no change in the pricing for 2012.

CHWD rates are only increased when necessary to cover the increased cost of operations, maintenance and capital improvement projects. Although 2012 costs for the District will rise, your CHWD Board of Directors agreed in September of 2011 to not seek a rate increase for the coming year.

We hope you will enjoy a small relief from rising rates. And please remember, that no matter what the rates are, the most effective way to keep your water bill low is to use your water wisely.