

Squaw Valley Mutual Water Company Newsletter



Winter 2015/2016

P.O. Box 2276, Olympic Valley, CA 96146-2276

WINTER EDITION

Board members added

There are two new Board members, Bob Barnett and David Stepner. One Board member, Hans Burkhart was seriously injured when he fell from a tree while pruning it near his house. He required surgery and hospitalization and we are wishing him a successful recovery.

David Stepner is a retired CEO from Silicon Valley who has lived full time in Squaw Valley for seven years. He is a ski patroller at Squaw and teaches emergency first aid to candidate patrollers each year. David has been active in community affairs for some years. He is on the Design Review Committee and the Municipal Advisory Council for Squaw Valley. David earned his Ph. D at Stanford

Bob Barnett had a 45 year career as a trial attorney and now makes his home full time in Squaw Valley. He has been a homeowner in Squaw Valley for 25 years. In community affairs he was a legal advisor to Incorporate Squaw Valley. He is a member of the Squaw Valley Masters Ski Team. Bob attended Occidental College and UC Berkeley Law (Boalt Hall).

How you get water

Our water system has three wells. Two are located in the Squaw Valley parking lot and one is in the hillside above the developed streets on the north side of the valley. There are two holding tanks above the streets also on the north aide. All water is pumped into these tanks and then gravity fed through our distribution system to the 267 users of our system.

What is that number sent to me on the Presidents letter?

There was a number sent to you in the Presidents report dated January 11, 2016. When you go to our website and click on the button labeled "Water Usage by Account", you can see how much water you have used by going to the line associated with your number.. Why might you want to know your usage? Because usage will be a factor in the upcoming change to our rate structure. Our website is: <http://www.svmwc.com>. See the image on the next page.



Rate Structure Change

Up until now, your water charge was based on the size of your home and the number of bathrooms. It was independent of actual water use. However, we were required to meter the lines as part of the USDA loan, and so a system that takes into account usage can now be part of a new billing system. The sole purpose of the bills is to pay for the upkeep of the system and the delivery of water. This is a non-profit organization. The Board is not paid for the volunteer work to administer the system. There are no full time paid employees.

The Board is studying comparable systems of our size in other parts of Lake Tahoe. We are also researching published methods of rate structures. Our new rates will take into account both fixed costs for the system (the vast majority of our costs, for example, USDA loan payments, capital reserves, taxes & insurance) and variable water usage (gallons used). As a rule of thumb 10,000 gallons per month will serve a family of four with some irrigation. That means about 120,000 gallons utilized per year for a full time user. Here is the usage in our system based on data we have collected so far, but we do not yet have a full years' data, so this is an estimate.

Number of gallons :	Number of users:
0 to 100,000 gallons	187 users
100,000 to 200,000 gallons	48 users
200,000 to 300,000 gallons	16 users
300,000 to 400,000 gallons	9 users
above 400,000 gallons	7 users

We plan to publish our proposed rate system by May, 2016. We will plan a public meeting on June 5th at 3PM, PSD meeting room, for our members to review our proposed rate system and to make comments before final approval of the rate structure. The new rates go into effect July 1, 2016.

Capital Improvements

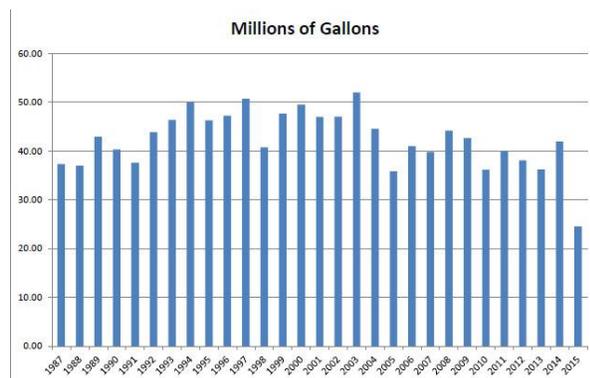
California Law requires that we have a plan to maintain and replace our infrastructure as it exceeds its useful life. Hopefully, replacement should occur before pipes explode during freezing weather or we bleed a good portion of our water into the ground through leaky decayed pipes without delivering it to households. For example, when we did the major infrastructure improvement over the last several years (moving

main lines into the streets and putting in new laterals) we found that we had been losing about 25% or more of our water to leakage.

The history of our water system has been that adequate capital infrastructure reserves have not been budgeted. We want to keep our system functional into the future. We are in the process of finalizing a 20 year plan to replace elements of our system as pipes, pumps, etc reach the end of their expected lifetime, without raising billing rates. There are, at present, 14 projects on this capital expenditure list compiled by Shaw Engineering, a well respected engineering firm. When we have finalized the list we will publish it on our website.

The Mutual Scores Big on Water Consumption Reduction!

The Mutual has reduced its water consumption by close to 35% over the past three years (See chart below). A combination of water system improvements, conservation and leak detection has led to the big reduction. Thanks to all the members and staff for their efforts. More detailed information available on the Mutual website.



The Drought Lingers

Even though we've had a decent Winter the drought still haunts the Valley. The State of California has continued the Stage II requirements. Please see the suggestions below:

Inside the Home:

Kitchen:

- Wash Veggies in a container, not under running water.
- Only run the dishwasher with a full load.
- Cool drinking water in the refrigerator.
- Make sure you have aerators are installed on all faucets.
- Fix all leaks right away – even a small drip can waste 70 gallons of water a day.

Bathroom:

- Install low flow shower heads.
- Take shorter showers – a shower kept under 5 minutes can save about 15 gallons of water.
- If you take a bath, only fill the tub halfway – you could save 10-15 gallons of water.
- Install an efficient Ultra Low Flow toilet – 1.6 gallons per flush.
- Make sure you have aerators installed on all faucets.
- Turn off the water when brushing your teeth.
- Fill the basin when shaving.
- Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket.
- Check for a leaking toilet by putting food coloring in the tank, if you see color in the bowl after 20 minutes, you have a leak.



Laundry Room:

- Only run the washer with a full load.
- Purchase a high efficiency washer – you could save 20 gallons per load.

Outside the Home:

Landscaping:

- Irrigate your yard in the morning or evening when temperatures are cooler.
- Make sure you have a timer on your irrigation system – adjust your schedule frequently to keep up with changes in the weather.
- Check your sprinklers frequently for breaks and overspray.
- Choose a water-efficient (Drip) irrigation system for trees, shrubs and flowers.
- Water deeply but less frequently to create healthier and stronger landscapes.
- Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants.
 - Plant drought-resistant trees and plants.



Cleaning Up:

- Use a broom, instead of a hose, to clean patios, driveways and walkways.
- Take your car to a car wash instead of washing at home.

Squaw Valley Mutual Water Company
 PO Box 2276
 Olympic Valley, CA 96146

The Latest Presidents Letter

Presidents Report
 February 29th, 2016

To All,

The drought may not be over. As we have witnessed during this month only minimal precipitation has happened. The Mutual must still comply with Governor Brown's mandate for conservation. As the California Department of Water Resources states:

"While the early winter rain and snowpack are promising, this may yet prove to be a fifth consecutive year of drought in California. To learn about all the actions the State has taken to manage our water system and cope with the impacts of the Drought, visit Drought.CA.gov. Every Californian should take steps to conserve water, find out how at SaveOurWater.com."

Please continue to conserve. Tips on household conservation are available on our website.

The Mutual Board is very involved with the Olympic Valley Groundwater Management Plan Advisory Committee which met on Thursday the 25th of February. It is the Board's goal to keep the monitoring, reporting, conservation and usage of the groundwater under local control. The Groundwater Management Advisory Committee is working on, with the assistance of outside engineers, to develop a plan for how the users of the Aquifer monitor and coexist in the preservation of our water. The emphasis is on maintaining our existing Water Rights in the future. Stay tuned more to come in the next months. This is an ongoing, important project for the Valley.

As I stated in January's Presidents Report, all members will have the ability to track/monitor their water usage on a monthly basis. You should have received a code number on your last bill, to read the monthly total and accumulated total of water usage. This information is now listed on the Mutual's website: www.svmwc.com.

We are still looking for member's comments on the water rate schedule the Board is developing and will be put in motion on the 1st of July, 2016. This can be done through the website or directly to me: president@svmwc.com. All comments are welcomed.

Note: No electronic votes were taken since the last Board meeting.

Respectfully,

 President, SVMWC

Operations Manager: Public Service District
 Office Manager: Daniel Collin

For the office call (530) 583-3674
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 Website: www.SVMWC.com

Comments and ideas for newsletter articles are always welcome.



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