

SQUAW VALLEY MUTUAL WATER COMPANY NEWSLETTER



Winter 2014/15

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

WINTER EDITION

NEW BOARD ELECTED

On August 31, 2014 the Mutual held its annual general meeting and the Board of Directors elections. Elected to two year terms were John Johnson, Lizzie Day, and Hans Burkhardt.

Remaining on the Board are Tim Mattheis, John Coyle, Patti Guilford and Julee Rosa. The Board positions election also took place keeping John Johnson as President. Hans Burkhardt was elected Vice President, John Coyle, Treasurer and Tim Mattheis, Secretary.

NEW SCADA CONTROLS PROJECT COMPLETED

The Mutual completed the installation of the new well and tank monitoring system as the last upgrade project to the Mutual's system utilizing the USDA loan funds. The XiO system allows for wireless real-time monitoring of both wells, chemical dosage and quantities and the water levels of both storage tanks. The system is a huge advance in the efficiency of monitoring operations and will allow maintenance crews to identify and respond to system problems on a more timely basis.

DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS

We are all aware that Governor Brown declared a drought state of emergency on Jan 17, 2014. The State Department of Water Resources has forecast a moderate to dry winter and anticipates water shortages to continue thru 2015. The PSD reports that the current level of our aquifer is the lowest on record; however the static level continues to rise, indicating the aquifer is recovering from pumping by all users.

It appears unlikely that precipitation totals will bring the aquifer level back to normal for the duration of 2015 which may require all users of the aquifer to implement water use restrictions on a voluntary and possibly mandatory basis. The MWC is coordinating information and efforts with the PSD. The MWC will participate in the *Olympic Valley Ground Water Management Plan Advisory Group* if conditions do not improve. For now the MWC Board will consider measures to advise on conservation and if needed, more restrictive water use methods.

WATER CONSERVATION

With three dry winters in a row the possibility of water shortages is on everyone's mind. Here are a few basic tips for water conservation. Please keep in mind that we all share the Valley's water.

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

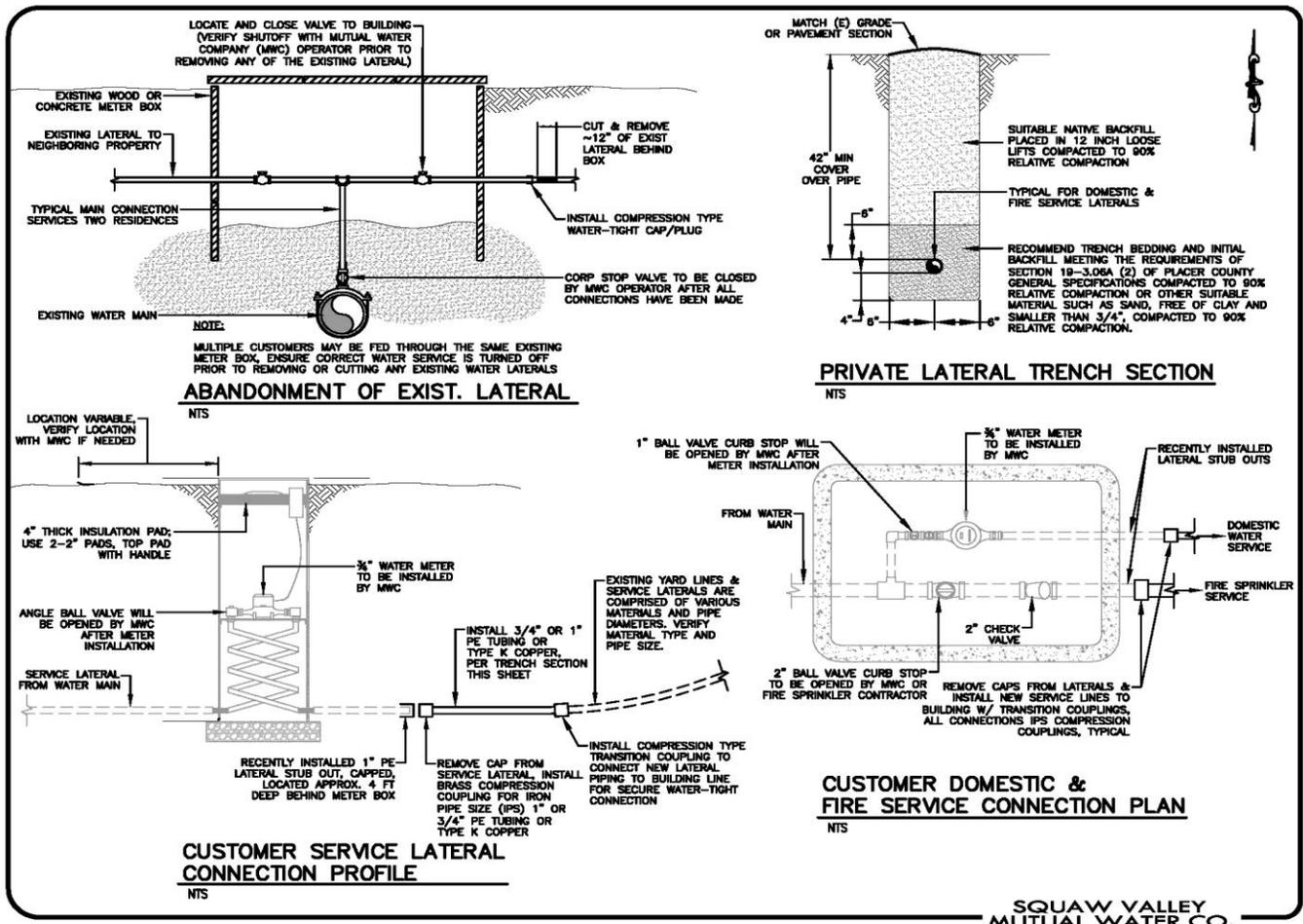
Landscaping:

- 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.



NEW SERVICE LATERALS AND METER INSTALLATIONS

As of October of 2014, 230 of the Mutual's 281 shareholders had installed new lateral service connections. The Board thanks all the members now connected for their pro-active action installing their lateral lines. Meter reading has already identified dozens of leaks to the system which have now been repaired, and has saved millions of gallons of water from being wasted.

The Mutual will reimburse members for 75% of the original estimated cost of installing their lateral lines. Reimbursement is deducted from member's water bills over a three year period. To claim your reimbursement, submit receipts and/or contractor invoices to the Mutual for the work completed.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Effective June 30, 2014 John Collins retired from the SVMWC as Operations Manager. Last spring, the Mutual sought proposals from qualified operators. After extensive review and discussion the Mutual awarded the contract to the Squaw Valley Public Services District, (PSD) as both the most responsive and cost effective option. In addition to learning the operations of our system, the PSD has been extremely responsive in responding to several system problems and instrumental in installing the new SCADA XiO monitoring system.

For a larger version of the lateral connection and abandonment detail please visit our website www.SVMWC.com

NEW SERVICE CONNECTION DETAILS

As a guide for those Members who have not connected to the new meter boxes in the street we have included a detail (above) for you and your contractor's reference. The detail shows the correct connection and trench installation for the house service and the fire service if applicable. Please note the detail for the abandonment of the old service after connection to the new meter. Please contact the Mutual office or the Operations Manager for more information. A California licensed Contractor must be used for this connection.

NEW METER CONNECTION

The Squaw Valley Mutual Water Company Board would like to encourage all those property owners who have not connected to the new meter system to do so as soon as possible. In light of the probable continued drought it is imperative that we are able to monitor water use and volume for the entire Mutual system and the new meter system gives us this capability. The Board has mandated that everyone be connected by October 15, 2015. Your cooperation on this is highly appreciated. We have included the above detail drawings for connections as a construction reference.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

The next scheduled Board meetings will be held 1/03/15 and 3/07/15 at 3PM. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. The Board meetings are held at the Public Service District Community Meeting Room.

NEW OFFICE MANAGER

In the June meeting, the Board voted to not increase the current Office Managers contract amount as proposed by Mrs. Giese. Anne-Marie Giese chose not to accept a new contract and resigned. Members of the Board nominated and approved by electronic vote to accept Mr. Daniel Collin as the new Manager. Mr. Collin is a long-time Squaw resident CPA. Daniel can be reached at the office number for administrative issues and to report system problems.

WATER OPERATIONS REPORT

The PSD reported the total gallons used from all wells as:

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
June	6,458,650	4,741,000
July	5,372,180	5,463,000
Aug	4,371,480	5,563,000
Sept	3,601,920	4,874,000
Oct	2,791,050	2,410,000
Nov	1,175,100	1,220,000
Dec	1,231,100	2,103,000

In 2014 monthly tests for Total Coliform in the system and chlorine residuals were within state standards. The water meets all federal and state standards for drinking water.

METER BOX SNOW STAKES

The Mutual's Operations and Maintenance crews, over the past three months took the time to inventory, locate and mark all the house service boxes with blue painted steel stakes. A number of the stakes were removed by the homeowners. These stakes are very important to the winter operation of our water system. When the snows build up and there's a problem with your house service this is the easiest, quickest way for the maintenance crews to find the service and correct the problem.

Removing these stakes is not the option of the homeowner. If a problem occurs and the lack of a marker stake requires additional time to locate the house service, the homeowner will be charge to replace the stake and the extra time to find the service.

Your cooperation with this issue will be greatly appreciated



SQUAW VALLEY MUTUAL WATER COMPANY

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Comments and ideas for newsletter articles are always welcome.

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