



April 16, 2015

Two meetings last week focused on water.

The first was an educational meeting organized by [Hidden Valley Lake's Community Services District](#) (CSD) at the at the Coyote Valley Elementary School on April 7th.

CSD's Board President, Jim Freeman, introduced CSD's General Manager, Roland Sanford, who gave a 45-minute presentation over 90 minutes to ca. 50 residents. A copy of his [slides](#) is available [here](#).

Roland carefully explained the changes in water and sewer rates, currently scheduled to take effect in July. CSD billing will change from bi-monthly to monthly, which will provide quicker feedback of residents' water usage.

Although the water rate proposal was developed prior to Governor Brown's order for residential cutbacks, it is consistent with what the State is requiring water districts to do.

As outlined in my earlier eNewsletter on "Water Rates aRising," the rate changes proposed over the next four years will result in most customers' water-related costs increasing between 30% and 100% (depending on water consumption and whether a sewer connection is involved).

Roland carefully explained what the rate increase will be used for: (1) infrastructural upgrades required on a nearly 50-year-old system, (2) compliance with new State regulations regarding water quality and composition, and (3) making the CSD more competitive in the bond market so that it can secure reasonable terms for a long-term bond required to pay for most of the infrastructural upgrades.

Because of the importance of water conservation and the need to monitor water consumption monthly, there are plans to introduce automatic meter readings some time over the next year (currently, this is done manually). The installation of automatic meters will incur an initial cost, which should over time be offset by savings in employee time (reading the meters).

The principal reason for the presentation taking so long was

Roland patiently listening to residents' concerns about the water rate changes and water conservation issues in general. I was extremely impressed with his ability to explain complex material to the audience as well as his patience in responding to a number of questions of limited relevance to the evening's focus.

There will be an official hearing (in place of the usual CSD Board Meeting) concerning the water and sewer rate changes on April 21st, beginning at 7 PM in the CSD's Administrative Office Building (19400 Hartmann Road). A representative from the consulting firm guiding the CSD on the rate changes will be present to answer any questions.

The New York Times has been publishing an excellent series of articles about California's (and the West's) water issues:

[California Imposes First Mandatory Water Restrictions to Deal With Drought](#)

[In California, Spigots Start Draining Pockets](#)

[With Dry Taps and Toilets, California Drought Turns Desperate](#)

[California Drought Tests History of Endless Growth](#)

[Californians Who Conserved Wonder if State Can Overcome Those Who Didn't](#)

[In Parched California, Town Taps Run Nearly Dr](#)

[For Drinking Water in Drought, California Looks Warily to Sea](#)

The second water-related meeting last week was held on April 10th in the Middletown Library/Senior Center building. The venue was the monthly Middletown Area Town Hall, which featured newly elected [Assemblyman Bill Dodd](#) (who was accompanied by his Community liaison, Logan Pitts, who is based in Santa Rosa).

Assemblyman Dodd spent ca. 30 minutes describing who he is (he began as the "Culligan Man" in Napa, served on the Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Commission, was a Napa County Supervisor for 14 years, raised on a farm that grew almonds, grapes and other crops), and what he hopes to achieve.

Due to his professional and political background, he serves on the Agriculture, Transportation, Water, Parks and Wildlife Committees (among others). Bill Dodd also serves as the Chair of the Select Committee on Wine (Napa background relevant here), as well as serves on the Select Committees for Improving Bay Area Transportation Systems and the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Education.

After his presentation, the Assemblyman entertained

questions for another 30 minutes. Most of these concerned water, particularly Governor Brown's mandatory water cutbacks for residences. He pointed out that this is a very long-term problem that will take many years to resolve (but is optimistic that California will address the problems appropriately). In reply to a question concerning water allocations to large agricultural operations ("big ag") it was pointed out that there have been cutbacks mandated by the State for several years now. Desalination is another option for dealing with the State's drought, particularly for southern California. A number of attendees mentioned some of the challenges confronting the Middletown area's water district ([Callayomi](#)).

I came away from Bill Dodd's presentation extremely impressed with his dedication to his constituents and hard work ethic. I met for over an hour with his liaison, Logan Pitts, in Santa Rosa to discuss several prospective initiatives that might benefit Lake County Communities (of which I'll describe in a future HVLARising eNewsletter). I found Logan to be, like Assemblyman Dodd, extremely knowledgeable and dedicated to helping Communities such as ours.

Although today's eNewsletter focused on water-related issues, I wish to bring to your attention an extremely important meeting next Month on May 14th (7 PM).

That [MATH meeting will be devoted entirely to Dollar General's application to open a store in Middletown](#), directly across the High School. There is a tremendous amount of opposition to the company's application. About half of those who showed up for last Friday night's MATH meeting were there specifically to voice opposition to the Dollar General proposal. That item was tabled in order to give Dollar General an opportunity to present their side. A representation of the company will be traveling from Texas specifically to discuss the application and hear why so many residents oppose a Middletown store. Stay tuned.



CONCERTS ON THE GREEN
 BEGIN
 APRIL 17 - CALIFORNIA GROOVE
 5 - 8PM
 BEHIND THE PRO SHOP ON THE GREEN
 PLEASE NO DOGS

WILDFIRE COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS DAY

Saturday, May 2, 2015

PEOPLE PROJECTS PURPOSE

- Noon till 3PM
- Admin Offices Quad
- Fire engines/equipment tours for adults and children.
- Free Snacks and refreshments

Get Wise About:

- Firewise, property maintenance standards to reduce hazardous fuels
- Services available to assist members with meeting weed abatement/fuel reduction standards and deadlines
- Emergency preparedness and evacuation plans
- NIXLE mass notification program information (emergency and non-emergency advisories) and sign-up forms, coloring books for children and more.
- Participants include representatives from the Association (S&S Committee, HVLA Management, and Security Services), Cal Fire, Lake County Sheriff's Office, Office of Emergency Services, Bureau of Land Management (Fire Mitigation & Education Specialist), and California Highway Patrol.

Increase Your Knowledge of fire prevention, hazardous fuel reduction, emergency preparedness, evacuation procedures, and public safety agency services and roles during an emergency.



HIDDEN VALLEY LAKE

www.WildfirePrepDay.org



Sponsored by:



HVLA, Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) and State Farm are pleased to support the 2015 Wildfire Community Preparedness Day campaign, but have not assumed or endorsed any of the community projects, activities or initiatives. Acceptance of any kind is in no way further endorsement or approval of a project, its safety or effectiveness, and the supporter disclaims all liability to

SUMMER CRAFT SCHEDULE



Crafts Every Wednesday 2:00pm-3:00pm
Ages 5-12 years
\$5 for each class or \$30 for 8 Classes

June	10	Fathers Day Photo Frame
June	17	Keepsake Box
June	24	Bottle Cap Magnets
July	1	Wooden Birdhouse or Wind Chimes
July	8	Foam Door Hanger
July	15	Sand Picture Frame
July	22	Bead Wind Chime
July	29	Wine Cork Angel

Pre-register at administrative office
\$5 per child per class or 8 classes for \$30

Community Facebook Pages and Websites

[Middletown Art Center](#)

[HVLownerAdvocate](#)

[Hidden Valley Lake Forum](#)

[Hidden Valley Lake Friends and Neighbors](#)

[Hidden Valley Lake Exchange](#)

[Hidden Valley Lake Association](#)

PETITION CENTRAL

Wild Diamond Vineyard

Petition for Requiring an Environmental Impact Report for Vineyard close to Eagle Rock in Hidden Valley Lake

If you would like to sign the petition, Please Click on this [link](#).

Additional information can be found [here](#).

Stop the Hartmann Project From Encroaching on Open Space

Petition Background (Preamble): The Hidden Valley Lake Association (HVLA) Board

of Directors are proposing to build a 12,177 square foot facility to house a new events center. The proposed facility encroaches on recreational open space, which is a benefit to all Lake County residents.

The building will also abut a pond that has proven to be a danger to human life.

Petition:

We, the undersigned, call on Lake County Board of Supervisors to deny any rezoning, variance or other instrument that would allow this egregious encroachment. Open space in a residential development is especially beneficial to personal enjoyment and for wild life.

If you'd like to sign ... [Please Click on this link](#)

Hartmann Event Center Project

Petition for requiring the HVLA Membership to be surveyed before building.

If you would like to sign the petition, [Please Click on this link](#).

eNewsletter Archive

An archive of many of the eNewsletters sent over the past year is now online. It can be accessed via the link below:

[HVLaRising eNewsletter Archive](#)

HVLaRising Website

The HVLaRising website has been revised to take into account current circumstances in our Community. It can be accessed [here](#).

Sincerely,

Steve Greenberg

HVLaRising | steven@hvlarisng.org | <http://www.hvlarisng.org>

Hidden Valley Lake, CA 95467

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