

# BLACK CANYON CITY WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

P. O. Box 1007

34501 S. Old Black Canyon Hwy, #6

Black Canyon City, AZ 85324

623-374-9408

Fax 623-374-9747

Dear Owner/User –

May 2013

Enclosed is the BCCWID annual “CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT” (CCR) for the calendar year ending 2012, a report designed to keep you informed on the status of your Water District. The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) sets forth requirements for the report and it is not exactly easy reading!

**The GOOD news is we meet and/or exceed ALL safe drinking water standards set forth by both state and federal standards. There were -0- detects during the year for the monthly coliform & E-coli sampling and there were -0- ADEQ violations.**

**Bob Hanus continues to be the District’s licensed Grade II Operator/ ADEQ OP008114**

## **IMPORTANT . . .**

**Conservation/Drought Concerns** - We encourage our Owner/Users to keep up their voluntary conservation efforts. The Board implemented a **Level 3** declaration in 2012 under the District’s Drought Emergency Plan and it continues to remain in effect. Thank you for all your efforts! Complete details of the Drought Emergency Plan and restrictions are available at the water office or on our website. Occasionally Owner/Users call to report possible leaks, which we truly appreciate. If you ever see standing or running water along the road, please call us so we can check it out. Sometimes it is a false alarm, but better safe than sorry. On a personal level, you should do periodic leak checks at home, including checking toilets. Put food coloring in the tank and let it stand without flushing; if color appears in the bowl after a period of time, the tank flapper is faulty and should be replaced. Evap coolers and drip irrigation systems also need periodic checkups. These types of repairs could save you several thousands of gallons of water per month! **And, never water plants or trees by a hose unattended.**

**Water Hardness** - One of the most commonly asked questions is – How hard is our water? Water throughout Arizona is hard and ours is no exception. The hardness level varies, but registers at 280 mg/l, which is high and is why some people install water softeners.

**Chlorination** – Use of chlorine is another topic customers ask about, as some people are more sensitive to it than others. The EPA-required arsenic filtration systems raised the need to increase the level of chlorine. A new ADEQ mandate requires the chlorine level to be a minimum of 0.46 mg/l at the point of entry. This requirement increases the amount of chlorine being used; however, with the state-of-the-art injection systems in use, the amount is controlled and still far below the maximum level of 4.0 mg/l. The use of chlorine requires daily monitoring by the District with results reported to ADEQ quarterly.

**Water Pressure** - ADEQ requires a minimum of 20 pounds pressure at your meter. The lowest pressure we have tested is 22 pounds and there are other Owner/Users with pressure of 90 pounds or more. At their own expense, homeowners with high pressure may install, pressure-reducing valves. Likewise, although more than the minimum pressure has been provided, customers with lower levels who desire higher pressure, may install private boosters. The lower pressure areas are most typically homes located on the higher hillsides.

**Meter Readings** – Meters are read every month. There are, however, a few occasions when a reading may be estimated. This happens for a variety of reasons, such as “bees” in the box, inaccessibility due to high weeds, meter box blocked, dogs, etc. If this happens the read sheet is marked accordingly. Please remember it is the property owner’s responsibility to have the meter box accessible. Weed control, in addition to accessibility, reduces snake danger. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

**Website** – To increase the Public’s access to information about their Water District, the Board has created a District website. When you have time go to [www.bccwid.org](http://www.bccwid.org) and check it out.

**The Water District is a Special District of Yavapai County with elected Board members. A water district is NOT governed by the PUC (Public Utilities Commission), but by the elected Board.**

**Board meetings are held at the Albins Civic Center, 19055 E. K-Mine Rd., Black Canyon City the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs. of each month at 6:30 PM (with the exception: no meeting in June or August)**

**The current 2013 Board is comprised of:**

**Robert Marley, Chair**  
623-374-9270

**Lavon VanDusen, Vice Chair**  
602-245-4524

**Barrie Dickerson, Treasurer**  
623-374-5897

**K. Wolf, Secretary**  
520-477-1138

**Will Stice, Member-at-Large**  
623-694-3173

## **MISSION STATEMENT:**

"We, the Board members and Management of the Black Canyon City Water Improvement District, are dedicated to assured delivery of quality water that meets, or exceeds, all county, state, and federal requirements to every user within the District boundaries. We believe in superior service for our customers and competitive rates for our product. Whenever possible, required capital improvements will be revenue financed. We ask all our Owner/Users to help protect our water resources by learning and practicing conservation methods as much as possible to help safeguard our way of life and our community's future."

## **2013-2014 Board Approved Budget and Rate Change**

**At the May 16, 2013 Public Rate and Budget Hearing the Board approved the 2013-2014 Budget with a 20% water rate increase. In addition, Capital Improvements have been funded without borrowing funds or taxation and an additional \$3.00 flat rate per mo/per customer was deemed necessary to maintain this policy. Complete copies of the 2013-14 Budget are available at the Water Management Office**

The primary reason for the increase is the Board and Management recognized the hard times people experienced after the housing crash in 2008 and were unwilling to increase the problems of those most affected. Last year saw a very minimal increase but the financial strength of the District needs to be addressed and the negative trend has to be ended. The Budget Committee, the Treasurer, the Management Team and Board were all in agreement an increase was necessary. In the past 4-5 years our costs have risen about 10%. The Consumer Price Index maintained by the Federal Government, representing the costs of goods sold, has increased by about the same amount. Money buys less today than what it did 4-5 years ago. Meanwhile our revenues have declined by 15-20%. One doesn't have to be a financial wizard to see an enterprise with declining revenues and increasing costs will not be sustainable in the long term.

There are two reasons for the revenue declines. The first is fewer customers, the foreclosure problem, using less water, individuals trying to save money in trying times. The second is a decision made by the Board to follow ADEQ's recommendation to use a tiered billing structure. Tiered billing definitely influences people to use less water but the success of the program can also result in revenue difficulties. However, reduced water use is definitely a very good thing when you live in a desert that's in a 10 year drought! Water should cost more for those who choose not to conserve or even use it wastefully. Success, however, in conserving and protecting our water can result in a need to rebalance the rates to insure adequate revenue is collected. This was our focus for the good of the Water District.

Extensive calculations and analysis went into the process by the Budget Committee, Management and Board Members before approving the increase. It is expected the increase will impact large users significantly and small residential and business accounts minimally. A higher increase was also discussed, but through the analysis process the Board took in the overall economics of the community and agreed on the 20% as the maximum amount for the Owner/Users of the community.

The other major change on your billing will be the amount collected for Capital Improvements. Many wonder why this number is such a significant portion of their water bill and where the money goes. The short answer would be in the past decade a half-million dollars went into the arsenic system when the federal government mandated new safety levels. Another hundred thousand went into a state-of-the-art chlorination system that insures adequate levels as REQUIRED by ADEQ. Surprises occur like the Yavapai County paving project of a couple years ago requiring an investment of two hundred thousand dollars. Our District has a very old water distribution system with much of it not adequately buried under the ground. Every paving project is a potential piping project for the District. This year the District has approved a seventy thousand dollar project insuring reliable water delivery to our customers on the east side of the freeway by boring a second larger line under the freeway. Some people say well I don't live on the east side; you haven't done anything on "my street". The truth is YOU and everyone else owns the WHOLE system, not just what is in front of your property. The WHOLE system needs to be maintained and maintaining a system of this size takes money. Just replacing the arsenic media is close to fifty thousand per site when needed. For large projects, the Board can plan ahead and collect reasonable amounts in advance to take care of future problems or they can wait until problems develop and run to the bank for money to fix them, pushing the District into debt and damaging its financial position. For well over a decade now your District has chosen the first course of action resulting in it being recognized by State and County agencies as the best small water delivery system in the State. The District Board believes the Capital Improvement collections are currently too low. ALL funds collected for Capital Improvements are held in a separate fund from the general operating fund to be used solely for Capital Improvement Projects.

## **The July bills will reflect the new Board approved rates**

**Should you have any questions or concerns about your water supply, please call or stop at the Water Office, check the website listed above, or call or e-mail any Board member for additional information.**

**We invite you to get involved; attend the public Board meetings, volunteer for the budget committee.**

**New ideas are always welcome; we're all in this together. It's our investment and our Water District**

**REMINDER: All contractors and property owners are REQUIRED by AZ state law to call Blue Stake before digging. If a utility is damaged from digging and Blue Stake was NOT called it could result in a hefty fine plus repair costs for not calling. Blue Stake is a "free" service so PLEASE call 1-800-STAKE IT (1-800-782-5348) BEFORE you dig.**

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## **2012 Consumer Confidence Report**