

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

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Dear Owner/User –

May 2014

Enclosed is the BCCWID annual “CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT” (CCR) for the calendar year ending 2013, a report designed to keep you informed of 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! Not all testing is required annually as we are on a reduced monitoring program with the State.

**The GOOD news is we meet or exceed ALL state and federal safe drinking water 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 measures. Drought predictions for AZ and the west continue and we thank you for all your conservation efforts! The District has a Drought Emergency Plan and details 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 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. Evaporative coolers and drip irrigation systems also need periodic checkups. These types of repairs could save you several thousand gallons of water per month! **And, never water plants or trees by a hose unattended.** Also, as a cautionary reminder, if you are a “snowbird” or leave your home for extended/lengthy periods of time consider turning off your water at your shut-off valve. If a leak or rupture occurs on your property with no one home, huge amounts of water can be wasted and be very costly to you.

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 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, obstructed meter box, 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 and check it out.

The Water District is a Special District of Yavapai County with elected Board members. A water district is not privately owned, and therefore, 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 on the 3rd Thurs. of each month at 6:30 PM (with the exception: no meeting in June or August).

The current 2014 Board is comprised of:

Robert Marley, Chair
623-252-4471

Lavon Van Dusen, Secretary
602-245-4524

Barrie Dickerson, Treasurer
623-374-5897

Will Stice, Vice Chair
623-694-3173

Susan Marley, Member-at-Large
623-252-4471

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."

2014-2015 Board Approved Budget and Rate Change

At the May 22, 2014 Public Rate and Budget Hearing the Board deemed it necessary to approve the budget with a 16% water rate increase. Complete copies of the 2014-15 Budget are available at the Water Management Office.

An increase was approved last year and it was anticipated would be needed again this year to protect the long term financial condition of the District from rising costs. The Budget Committee, Treasurer, Management Team, and Board were all in agreement another increase was necessary. Conservation is very much a double-edged sword. On one side are the benefits of conserving, but on the negative side the success of conserving and protecting our water results in a need to rebalance the rates to insure adequate revenue is collected. This was and continues to be our focus for the good of the Water District.

A great deal of 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 during the analysis process the Board considered the overall economics of our community and decided 16% was the maximum change bearable by our Owner/Users.

The other major billing change you will notice is there will no longer be a line item for Water and a separate line item on the bill labeled Maintenance/Operations. These TWO line items make up the General Fund or Operating Budget and will be incorporated as just ONE line item under the heading of Water. There will continue to be a separate line item 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 inadequately buried under the ground. Every paving project is a potential piping project for the District. This year the District completed a seventy thousand dollar project insuring reliable water delivery to our customers on the east side of the freeway by boring a second larger NEW line under the freeway. Some people might say, "Well I don't live on the east side; you haven't done anything on my street". The truth is YOU and everyone owns the WHOLE system, not just what is in front of your property. The WHOLE system needs to be maintained and that takes money. It costs fifty thousand dollars per well site to simply replace the arsenic media. 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 with the end result costing everyone even more with long-term financing costs. For well over a decade your Water 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. 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 thus avoiding the burden of increased financing costs.

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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P. O. Box 1007
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2013 Consumer Confidence Report