

Loyal Customers and Friends in Tres Pinos,

During this difficult time with every family affected, the Tres Pinos Water District wishes you safety and good health. We hope you continue to exercise protocols to keep our town healthy and happy. We are all strong and we will get through this terrible time working cooperatively.

Ed Schmidt
Board President

Payments During and After the Covid-19 Pandemic

Following are the details regarding payments during the pandemic:

- TPWD customers can continue to make payments online with a small fee, through the mail, or slip a payment through the door.
- Customers are not permitted to enter the office.
- It is important that our customers pay their complete water bill.
- As per the Governor of California's Executive Order, TPWD will not shut off water due to non-payment.
- However, we encourage you to contact our office if you are experiencing financial difficulties during the pandemic to discuss options.
- **BE ADVISED** that as a district we have almost \$10,000 of monthly bills including a large PG&E bill for running the pumps, Bracewell Engineering who runs the sewer plant, rent, office staff, book keeping, etc.
- Without your payment, we will quickly begin using our limited reserves.
- All past payments will still be due when the Governor lifts the Executive order.
- Once the order is lifted, the district will resume charging late fees from that day forward.
- Please help our district; pay your bill.

We Need a Board Member

- There is currently a Director's position open on the Tres Pinos Water Board.
- The position is posted at our office, the Post Office, and the General Store.
- Director Janie Lausten has recently resigned her position. We are all very sad to see her go, but wish her every happiness in her future endeavors.

Gumming up the Works

- Please do not flush disinfectant wipes, wet wipes, paper towels and other disposable products down the toilet. Blockages in our pipes are a costly problem.

What's happening with the Sewer?

- In a previous newsletter we touched on the fact that with our 2018 income survey, we did not qualify as a DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY status.
- What does that mean?
- We do not qualify for sewer construction grants or grants to replace our storage tank or install a new well.
- Consequently, the Water District will need to finance all future state- mandated improvements using low interest loans.
- The District and its customers will need to pay off these loans.
- Options include payment by rate hikes or property assessments.

Partnership with Stonegate Homeowners

We are in the process of formulating an agreement with the Stonegate Homeowner's Association. Here are the details.

- It would create a permanent emergency connection of our water supply.
- The connection would be used only if either water district had a problem with their well.
- The connection would be for current customers only, not for new connections.
- The agreement would not allow new growth.
- The agreement allows each water district to borrow water and return the same amount of water. There would be no exchange of money, just water.
- Why do we need this? Our costs for an outside vendor to haul water would be a high of \$16,000 per day and a low of \$8,000 per day.
- This would put a huge financial strain on our district.
- We believe this is a financially wise way to help secure our water needs in case of an emergency.

Thank you.

Ed Schmidt - President

Michael Sargeant – Vice President

Cassandra Spencer – Finance/ Public Relations Officer

Valerie Smith - Secretary