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EAST DILLON WATER DISTRICT

October 2004

WATER USAGE

The Voluntary Water Restrictions ended October 1st. Voluntary restrictions are used during the landscape season as water usage increases by over 60% compared to usage during the winter. The District has established 23,000 gallons per quarter as the amount of usage adequate for a home utilizing xeriscape and practicing water conservation. During the just completed landscape season, 80% of the properties served by the District had water usage at or below this level. Of the 20% exceeding the conservation level, 4% exceeded the 50,000 gallon level the District defines as excessive. The District anticipates maintaining the existing user rates for 23,000 gallons or less while increasing fees for usage in excess of 23,000 gallons in 2005 to further encourage conservation. The amount of usage during the 2002/2003 mandatory water restrictions and during the 2004 voluntary restrictions was almost the same. **Thank you to the majority of our customers who are following water conservation practices!**

WATER LEVELS

The water source for the District is the Soda Creek Aquifer. The wells to access the water are located near the Elementary School soccer field. The District has monitoring sensors in the aquifer to register water levels. Levels in the aquifer this year are at historic lows. The recharging of the aquifer is dependent on winter snow pack. The low level in the aquifer is a result of limited snow fall last winter combined with several years of low snowfall during the current drought period. Rains during the summer and the recent autumn moisture are beneficial to maintaining the aquifer levels mostly as they help limit the need for outside irrigation. It is typical for aquifer levels to be at their low point during the fall and winter and this generally does not cause a problem due to reduced water usage demands during the winter. At least an average winter is necessary to improve the aquifer levels for the landscape season next summer.

The next Board of Directors meeting is Monday December 6th in the East Dillon pump station on Gray Fox Lane. The meeting will include the 2005 budget. For additional information regarding the meeting or a copy of the budget you can call (970) 668-5655 Ext 12 or email admin@eastdillon.com.

Summit Cove Medians

Residents in areas of the District that are served by Cove Boulevard should have received a separate mailing that provided additional information concerning the rebuilding of the medians. A portion of the funding for the median project will be through voluntary contributions from area residents and associations. To date over 230 residents have made donations or committed to do so in the future. Once plans are finalized and a schedule for the median work is confirmed, the District will begin the contribution collection process.

WATER PROBLEM UPDATE

The District and its engineers has continued to study the well pumping incident the morning of July 4th that resulted in some residents receiving dirty water. The low aquifer water levels combined with high outside water usage during the holiday period and the break in period for a new high volume well were all factors in the problem. The District continued to utilize the well during the remainder of the summer at a lower pumping volume to complete the initialization of the well and to gain additional data on the operation of the aquifer during low water levels.

The Soda Creek Aquifer is not an underground reservoir of water, but rather saturated soils and gravel in the green belt area. The bottom of the aquifer is about 60 feet below the surface at bedrock. The water levels used by the District to monitor the system refer to the feet of saturated soil above the bottom pumping levels of the wells. Low water levels during drought periods limit the water column area around each well reducing the ability to recharge the water during pumping. While the July 4th problem was caused by low water levels, it was not due to running out of water. The problem was a factor of a low column level limiting the recharge resulting in bringing some of the soils in the saturated water into the distribution system.

The District will be installing an on line turbidimeter normally used for surface water systems. The turbidimeter measures scattered light caused by particulates in the water and by connecting it to the pumping computer system it will automatically shut down the water treatment plant should a dirty water situation occur again in the future.