

Minutes 1/29/19 Boonville Water Projects 7 PM Firehouse

Called to order: 7 pm Chair Hanelt

Persons present: see sign-in sheet attached

Introduction of agency personnel:

Rachel Pratt (North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board) Permitting agency for sewer project

Charles Reed (North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board) Permitting agency for sewer project

Trey Strickland (Mendocino County Environmental Health Dept) – here because Mendo will permit homeowner wells/septic through their office. When gets to level of waster water treatment plant/municipal system will not be involved and will be out of the picture. Just wells and septic systems.

Roy O'Connor (North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board) – we understand small town identity, here to answer questions and help in any way they can.

Chloë Guazzone-Rugeberg (Anderson Valley Health Clinic Director) and Luiza Savin (Nurse Practitioner.

Jesse Strickland (Mendocino County Building & Planning- Sr. Planner) – here today to answer any questions about planning needs for the systemsç

Ted Williams – (County Supervisor)

CSD members present: François Christen, Val Hanelt, Kathleen McKenna, Larry Mailliard

CSD manager: Joy Andrews

Brelje & Race: David Coleman (sewer), Jack Locey (drinking water), Justin Witt (Environmental Planning – CEQA)

First topic: Financing and why this is a window of opportunity for us.

Roy: Prop 1 came out in 2014.

Val: Frank Wyant called all the CSD board directors in Oct 2014 about frustration that the 1980's project failed and told us that we had to get going on it. Kathleen and Val wandered around asking questions and in Oct 2014 ended up at the Water Board office and met with Rachel Prat. She was the original person in 2014 that we talked to.

Roy: Wow, you got in very early. Prior to 2014 very limited funds available. Been on the Water Board since 1988 and I worked with communities that stayed on the same application for 30 years. Some communities worked toward systems for longer than that. When Prop 1 funds came out it gave an opportunity for communities to go that route and have some services if they wanted them. In 2014 when Prop 1 funds came out we were the first Regional Board of the State of California (of 9) and we hammered this to the communities that had been stalled for over 30 years or more. We were successful in getting funding for two communities. One is

Willow Creek in Humboldt county. They had been trying since Ronald Reagan was Governor. They couldn't do anything to develop. They are 100% fully funded through Prop 1. Lewiston in Trinity Co. went same route. 16 million project in severely disadvantaged community. Before Prop 1, communities withered on the vine and almost died. Willow Creek couldn't even put in a deli in the last 50 years.

With this funding there is still a window of funding and there are a lot of communities that are going after it. So we are trying to put the most effort into communities that want it. We need to know what direction this community (Boonville) wants to go in.

Val: Could you speak to the fact that we got passed over in the 1980's?

Roy: So many communities got sewerred in the late 70's and early 80's. There were a handful of communities that for whatever reason didn't. Laytonville, Willow Creek, Orick, Lewiston, Guerneville. Some of the communities stymied; Willow Creek was not able to put in a hotel or deli. They went through similar process in Orick (north of Eureka); they had a \$500,000 grant to plan as Boonville has, plus \$34,000 and that project went nowhere. We want to see the money going to a project that will actually happen. We don't want to see a waste of tax dollars (as in Orick). There are only 4-5 communities in our Region that didn't go the route of sewerred and water systems in the 1980's.

Lewiston had water funds due to the sewer program and was able to increase tanks and sizes of supply lines. If they hadn't done that they would probably be burnt to the ground now from the Carr Fire. It was the Prop 1 program that saved that town.

Val: At this time our financing situation looks good. We have been assured that the private laterals for the sewer system will be paid for. We have also been assured that between Ground Water Funding and Prop 1 funding we will probably be fully funded for the infrastructure for Sewer project. We are close for the Drinking Water. We are looking for a grant for private hook ups to the water meters from the Community Development Block Grants. We are looking to very little outlay of expense from parcel owners for the cost of infrastructure.

Val to Chloë: Could you talk about our well testing results from our dense areas – Haehl and 128 across from Mt View:

Chloë: Public health fact sheet attached. Broad implications of not having a public water systems. Worked in the Caribbean and third world countries and seems strange to working on this in Boonville. It's hard to imagine until you experience first hand. It can be devastating and is being experienced in many communities in the US. Strictly from the health perspective water borne illness can cause everything from diarrhea to death. Birth defects, etc. One important perspective is renters who are not in charge of the systems in the places they rent. Landowners do not always take care of their systems and we see the repercussions.

Luiza: A lot of people can't afford to maintain their water systems. It's hard to put that responsibility on someone who can't afford it. There are a lot of disparate outcomes in Boonville, and esp the Latino population definitely suffers from not having access to safe public water.

Chloë: It's hard for us to know on a statistical level when there is an outbreak whether we can attribute the health issues to the water; but for us if we have a couple of kids with

gastroenteritis or colitis and the stool testing comes back positive for E-Coli bacteria – there are many factors – but definitely water could be a source of it.

Roy: We have a lot of studies about people drinking groundwater (as in current wells) and E Coli and nitrates results. But ground water is a lot of stuff: what's flushed in toilets in high density is pharmaceuticals from medicines, estrogen, chemotherapy medicines, pesticides, oven cleaners, etc. It isn't just bacteria and nitrogen that is loading ground water. There is a host of stuff because it is difficult to regulate. What you are hearing about bacteria and nitrogen is just the little tip of the iceberg about what is in your water. They are indicators of a whole lot more.

Charles Reed: Recent State Law and State Board policy that people have the right to access clean water for their personal use. Push in state to promote human rights to water and environmental justice. To support communities that are getting the short end of the stick. There are pockets in our region where ground water has significant problems and your monitoring of your ground water indicates Boonville has significant problems with bacteria and nitrate.

Health Questions:

Is there a risk that our whole aquifer could be contaminated?

Dave Coleman: Shallow aquifer here, we haven't done exhaustive geotechnical studies of the region, but from our water project studies we know we have a very shallow aquifer/ground water, very porous strata of rock and soil. There is a potential for filtering from water that goes laterally through the aquifer. Some contaminants don't get filtered or absorbed and some do. Yes, there is a potential that contaminants go across parcels. This is why sewer needs to be compulsory. It's all or none.

Justin Witt: As far as contaminants go, it's like fuel that travels. It's the same with contaminants. Generally the approach is to mitigate at the site and monitor at a distance.

Question: Can we know the actual well results – can we make them un-anonymous? Is there a way to know where it comes from?

Roy: Our approach is to not be regulatory – not to set blame or a responsibility on an individual landowner. There is the possibility to cite a landowner and require sewerage. But it is not a functional way to work. The parcels need centralized collection and treatment.

Trey: That's what we (Mendo Health) see. We know you have old septic systems, high ground water, and very small lots in a lot of cases. You are not going to be able to put in individual replacement systems in there – you can't fit them in there.

Roy: Looking at the dense areas with small lots, I can't imagine all of those lots have properly maintained septic systems and adequate leach fields.

Dave: I would suggest that even if they had brand new septic systems and fully sized leach fields, if they are in proximity to water wells, they are going to add coliform and nitrates. A septic system is not going to remove coliform and nitrates.

Val: There are folks who object to a sewer system because they feel that their septic system is functional and they paid a lot of money for it. Is there any way we can monitor whether they are contaminating?

Roy: If they flush something and it disappears, then it appears to be a functional system. If I flush something and it comes up in my bathtub it is not functional. So most people would consider it functioning and it stays underground. But if it is close to the well then the water is iffy. And if you want to permit an addition – you can't, if it is not code. So is that functional if you can't have a variable used of your property? No.

Question: Is there a filtration system that can be attached to your well to take care of these problems?

Roy: They can filter many different things and there are disinfection systems for bacteria, you can chlorinate, nitrate filters – they are expensive. But there are other things I would be concerned about that these systems don't treat. I don't know of any well-head treatments in our region (Charles and Rachel are also shaking their heads "no"). Central Valley, yes. We haven't seen it, but there is a lot of stuff out there – so just because we don't know of it, it doesn't mean it isn't out there.

Comment from a Boonville Planner – Don Sanfrey: This system is going to be looked over and watched and all the levels will be tested and everybody will know the levels. If you go private, the amount of expense and work might be so crazy that you might start doing it but you might have so much to do that you might not be able to keep it up. State provides regulated clean water.

Roy: In theory, if it is what everyone wants, we can look at a whole host of things, not just nitrogen and bacteria. We are looking more and more at things we should have been looking at a long time ago – birth control medications, estrogen, chemo radioactive things. We might have mechanisms to look at those things and the operator would take samples. In our view, that keeps those things out of the ground water, but also out of the feeder creeks and the watershed.

Question: What gets through the water system? Can you filter out 100%? What gets through?

Roy: There's a lot of things that go through discharge for which we don't require sampling from of municipal waster water plants. There's things that we are coming up to speed on. Things we didn't realize....For example, caffeine. Which seems to have an effect on frogs. Frogs are susceptible species.

Chloë: This is a very important point. When you have a public health system you can quickly identify risk. Shared resources is everyone's household. The ability to head off public health nightmares is huge.

Question: Could the 24 property owners with the negative results band together and solve their problem instead of doing a whole municipal project? Could they have an option that would be an alternative to the large project?

Trey: Generally, the biggest problem, if there is no centralized wastewater treatment plant, is the size of those lots. The Regional Water Quality Control Board requires a certain size lot,

first of all, and there must be room for an extension field. So if your primary leach field fails you can use the secondary area. None of these lots can support that.

Roy: On many lots there is literally no room. We try to not be confined to regulatory boxes. We tried to do a pocket of parcels in Orick. The parcels were to work together. (And they really weren't able to work together.) They explored having another parcel somewhere else for discharge. It got really cumbersome. They tried to come up with a plan to use a parcel two blocks away. The County didn't have a mechanism to allow that.

Jesse: We would certainly discourage the offsite easements – just the history is that over time it becomes difficult. Property owners change. It becomes very difficult to use the parcels in that subdivision, because you tie in your ability to operate and use your land based off of the easement on another property. It creates complications down the road.

Chloë: The Health Center is in this exact situation right now. We would love to expand our services, but we can't add even another sink right now. We can't add a sink because our septic is over capacity and we are looking into an easement on the school property. There are services we can't provide such as mental health and more services for the elderly that we can not provide given that we can't expand. We are lucky to have great partners in the school district. But we are talking a clinic and not private property.

Charles: An individual parcel would need to come up with cost of treating wastewater could be \$20-60,000. Even more for larger flows like the health clinic. An economy of scale if everyone goes in together.

Roy: We are gearing up our Environmental Justice programs– services such as mental health & care for the aging. Every community has a right to that. If those services are limited by wastewater disposal, that's where we see our obligation to help if we can. We will have as many meetings here as we need, and we will go to Sacramento, to help the community get the services it wants. Also Worker housing.

Don Sanfrey: This project is trying to bring the quality of water to the highest level possible with the least amount of the expense to the users.

Roy: Anyone who can make their way up to Willow Creek (east of Arcata) should tour it – it is a wonderful system.

Val: We're going to have Dave Coleman give us an update on the sewer system. We do not have a treatment site at this time. So we are not going to be discussing a site for treatment.

Dave Coleman: We are doing two planning studies: waste water and water. I am performing the wastewater. Quick overview: purpose of the study is to establish a need and also looking at ways to rectify the problems and fulfilling the needs in the most cost effective way possible. We studied attributes of a centralized wastewater system which is deemed to be necessary in this situation because of the centralized and dense nature of this community. Phasing, or cluster (going after the worst areas first), just won't achieve any measurable results.

Collection: Looked at gravity sewer, septic effluent pumping (STEP), and low pressure pumping system. Pumping system most cost effective.

STEP is problematic because septic tanks aren't all up to code, and they would have to be maintained. Val interjects: "The State made us take it off the table – no STEP" Also, we looked at a community leach field for the STEP effluent and we were required to have a full treatment plant to highly treat the effluent.

Gravity would be useful as the service area along Hwy 128 is on a gradient. The gravity sewers are a lot more expensive to build as well. And as we might be siting the treatment site on the uphill side of the community, that would make the low pressure system the best choice; for engineering and cost considerations.

Low Pressure system (the final choice):

Collection: every property would have its own grinder pump system, it could be placed where the septic tanks are now – the septic tank would be replaced with a grinder pump, probably abandoned in place or removed completely –grinder pump would be installed – lateral would be connected to it. Grind the sewage and pump it into small diameter mains that would be buried a minimum of 3 ft depth along side the roads.

Treatment: We looked at facultative or aerated ponds but they require large amounts of land area and then you have to worry about lining ponds and having the large areas of water surface that could produce odors. So we ended up with a mechanized packaged waste water system and we are looking at a membrane bioreactor system that would have all the treatment within one package unit. For a community this size, that unit would be roughly 12x12x50 feet. We would have other tanks that would do things like equalize waste water, esp the water that we would collect from the Fairgrounds, from the three major events that you have each year. That kind of treatment is fairly reliable, fairly easy to keep going, and it takes a small footprint. It can be tucked away and would produce very small amount of odors, if any. Could be operated by contract operator that the district would hire.

Disposal: We are looking at two different methods. 1. underground through leach fields – treated wastewater applied underground. 2. Overland spray irrigation, usually done on hayfields so there is beneficial use out of the water. That method requires seasonal storage because you can't spray over the winter when the ground is wet, so you have to have a storage pond to store approximately 6 months worth of water when you can't spray. That takes about 15-20 acres for treatment and disposal. We had a site that we had performed some planning for and environmental studies on, but that site is now withdrawn from consideration. So we are looking for a new site. We are looking at sites on the south end of town. They are not as close to the collection systems as the original site would have been, so it will take a little more infrastructure to get to it. We are also considering the Airport property for underground disposal, putting leach fields along the runway. One disadvantage of underground disposal is that we can't have deep leach lines because of the ground water elevations, having agricultural operations over a leach field is not something you can do. But at the airport that is not something they are doing.

Question: Why no sewer for Meadow Estates? (Airport area)

Val: explains service areas for sewer/water. Answer: Meadow Estates parcels large enough for septic so not included.

François: Is there any sites we can go check out?

Kathleen: Francis Ford Coppola Winery. Smaller than our community but same system.

Rachel: Right behind the building and the pool cabana.

Val: Two parts to maybe create odor – Box and disposal.

Dave: If you go right on top of the wastewater treatment plant (the 12x12x50' box) you might smell a musty smell from the aerated wastewater. It's not the same smell as a septic tank because it is not anaerobic, it is not septic. When you are 100' away you would not smell it.

The treated wastewater pond water would not produce odors.

Question: What was the problem at the last site? Why did it stop being considered?

Dave: The property owner changed their mind about wanting to participate.

Val: The perception was that it was a sewer treatment pond and that it would be smelly and noisy.

François: The perception was that it would pollute the air in Boonville.

Roy: An MBR plant similar to this at Smith River produces water that is a touch more "iced tea" color. When it was first put it they needed to do some adjustments and scrubber things. That whole system is next to the elder home of the local tribe. There are no odors from it. These type of spray fields have no odor. Our office in SR is next to the SR spray fields. I have experienced some odors at the headworks at the outset when the procedures to offload the solids are being fine-tuned, but there is no odor from the MBR facility or the irrigation. Treatment plants used to be stinky, not so much now.

Question: Would the treatment plant remove the pharmaceuticals?

Dave: Not all of them, no. It would remove more constituents than septic tanks would, but there are a lot of things that could just pass right through treatment.

Roy: And to be fair, they are passing through all the plants that discharge to the Russian River and the ocean. But the great thing about an MBR is that once we get a handle on these substances it makes it easier to address it at the level where it is collected and the engineers can come up with a way to treat it for you.

Dave: If you had a reverse osmosis system on the very tail end of the treatment plant you could remove a lot of substances, but that is a very expensive system.

Question: The smell from the Brewery is very bad.

Roy: Brewery wastes are 300-400 times as bad as household.

Charles: It is also expensive to run the blowers all the time – so operators may not run it as much as they should.

Val: But they are not our using our system, right?

Dave: No, we would have the MBR which is not the same as the Brewery.

Projected: a picture of the MBR treatment plant. 12'x12'x50' on screen. It looks like a big shipping container. Steel tank mounted on a concrete pad. You could put this into a steel building if you really wanted to hide it, but that adds to cost. Open on top, trees should not be planted close.

Question: To be clear, we are not putting by the airfield – just the leach field, right?

Val: We don't have a site for this.

Roy: The three MBRs we have used, (Smith River, Trinidad Rancheria/Cherry Heights, Lewiston) are different looking.

Dave: The life of the equipment wouldn't be extended, but the aesthetics would be better with a building. Different manufacturers will bid on this, so this is just a general idea.

Val: We need to move on to Drinking Water component.

Jack Locey: Project manager leading up the water study for the community. Brief overview of what was presented at the NOP (Notice of Preparation for the CEQA). Two potential needs of the community are clean drinking water and fire suppression. If we do the water system, making that level of investment, would be wise to make the incremental investment for fire protection.

The additional territory beyond the sewer area and including Meadow Estates and AV Way to the Elementary school is being considered for two reasons.

1 - There is a mandate to reduce the number of water systems that have to be regulated by the state. There is an opportunity to absorb several small water systems that currently have to be regulated. AV Health Center, Meadow Estates, High School, Elementary schools.

2 – Both the schools and the downtown would benefit from fire protection. As I understand it, every time there is a state funded project at those schools, the question comes up as to whether there is adequate fire protection at those sites. The answer is always no. That places your Fire Chief in the position of having to say, “yes, there is not enough, but it will be OK” and please allow us to have the money for the project. I'm sure he would prefer not to have to do that and get up every morning and wonder if there is going to be a catastrophe affecting the children in this community”.

We envision a system supplied by ground water wells. We learned early on that supply from an individual well is not as robust as we were hoping. It is going to take a number of wells spread out throughout the community to generate enough source capacity for the entire area. Using production capacity figures from well reports, combined with testing of several wells, we determined that our approach should include 4 cluster locations from which we will draw water. The locations include private parcels in the Lambert Lane area which have turned out to be the highest producing areas, a well field in the west central area south of the existing airport closer to the creek, utilization of the Meadow Estates well field combined with expansion to parcels adjoining and in the neighborhood. Perhaps the Health Center and a High School property well. We would develop them incrementally to see what supply was available, and if not enough, there is a parcel on AV Way and finally the well at the AV Elem at the far end.

Because of the high ground water, all the wells developed for private residences tend to include only 20' sanitary seals. This is inadequate for public water system. Water Board considers a seal less than 50' to be under the influence of surface water and the mitigation for that is essentially you tack on extra treatment process that assumes the water could have the same constituents in it that you would find if you were drawing directly from a creek. In each of these cluster locations we will bring the raw water to a centralized small treatment facility. We consistently noted elevated levels of manganese, sometimes iron in the groundwater. Both of those elements can be treated by a simple filtration process. So that process would be provided at the front end of the treatment train, then followed up by simple cartridge filtration. There are inexpensive large scale cartridge filters that can accomplish the surface water treatment requirements at the tail end of the filtration process. Final treatment would consist of disinfection before that water is discharged into the distribution system.

We have a potential site on a hill at the south end of town for storage tanks that will provide the proper service pressures in the community and extend all the way down to the elementary school.

The distribution itself is essentially one large trunk line running down the Highway with smaller 6-8" branches, whatever size necessary to provide the fire flows. One of the complications we have identified is that you don't want the water in the mains to get too old, the disinfectant can dissipate with a potential for bacterial regrowth in the pipes. There will be a mile and a half of main from the south end of town to the elementary school with only 20 or so potential connections along the way plus the elementary school itself. In order provide adequate fire flow at the school, a 10" main will be needed that will contain 40,000 gallons of water, whereas there will only be about 5,000 gallons potential daily use in that segment. What you end up with at the very end is water that is weeks, or a month, old. We need take another approach. The most positive way to handle this problem is to extend two mains; a fire main connected to the hydrants with a flap valve on the upper end so the water can only head north (to the school) and a 3" main to which all the water services are connected. That way the water in the 3" main will always stay fresh. We asked State Water Board if we can put both mains in the same trench as there are regulations on potable and non potable separation requirements. We did get a positive response to our request so that will help with the cost. The 10" main will occasionally have to be flushed out. State staff suggested that we work with the school to use that flushed water for irrigation purposes.

We have looked at the specifics of the proposed water system to get a better handle on the costs. The current estimate, including some plug in numbers for right of way and well acquisitions is 18.3 Million. We are going to fine-tune the cost estimates. We will be meeting with the various parcel owners to make sure they are willing to enter into an agreement with the district to allow the facilities to be located on their parcels and to set the parameters for compensation. That is the last open component or unknown in the current cost estimate. Currently there is \$1 Million in the estimate for the right of way acquisitions.

Question: Can you describe the fire system?

Jack: Standard fire hydrants at 500' spacing along the pipeline. The system will be sized so that as there is new construction (commercial or residential the current standard requirement for sprinkling can be accommodated.

Roy: Do you have any idea how much money from the State Board Financing Division is available to you?

Val: Right now we have about 5M in Ground Water, 5M Prop 1, and 5M water for Drinking Water for Public schools. So we are 2-3 Million short.

Roy: Because they gave you money for consolidating water systems?

Val: We are also going to the Feds (USDA) as well.

Question: How will we pump it to the south end of town?

Jack: We will design each well pump to provide sufficient pressure to convey water through the filtration process and into the distribution system at a pressure equivalent to the level of the water in the storage tanks.

Val: The state will not fund the project without fire suppression.

Justin: The money is there. There are a couple of hurdles we still have to pass. One of which is environmental review. We did the NOP (Notice of Preparation of the CEQA) in November at which point we thought we would be going forward with the draft EIR (Environmental Impact Report) in late January. Clearly, based on the feedback we got there we need to do some more work on siting the wastewater facilities. Once we have that we can get the biologists and archeologists out to those sites so we get information the environmental review. So the hard part will be finding the site and a parcel owner who is willing to participate. So if anyone has 20 acres? Once that is done, doing the rest of the work for the EIR is not much of a hurdle. All of you who got a notice about that meeting will be notified about the draft EIR.

Roy: You are not unique with running into hurdles with the disposal parcel. Another community lost their planned site and now they are regrouping. They have given up looking for a private landowner to help out and are now looking at using a community soccer field. This happens on projects. There are so many communities in the running for the Prop 1 money so we need to keep this project going. We meet with the State Board Financial people and we want to keep your project high up on their list. Meetings like this are important as we tell them what we hear.

Question: Are Native American sites included in that study?

Justin: It looks at all types of things. With the Native American study we contact the tribes that were traditionally here and we give them the opportunity to consult with the district. We do a lot of outreach to them.

Val: So we will start the EIR over with the new site.

Val: Andres will talk about Fire Suppression

Andres: One of the major things I see from my side is Fire Suppression and it is a slam dunk. When we get water here we will move into the 20th century. We are way behind and we are due for a big fire here and I can tell you that water is one of my biggest challenges. When I get on scene I have the logistics hurdle of arranging apparatus to keep up with fire flow. Fire flow is extremely hard to keep up with especially in the summertime when there is no water to tap into. A hydrant system will be great. The critical infrastructure, the two schools, the clinic, the

museum, Fairgrounds....we need to have water flow to keep up with fire flow. If something were to start on the north end of town we would have a good chance of fire going through this town, especially when we get the winds that whip through here. Even without the winds the radiant heat coming off the Farrer building, wooden buildings, the fuel loads in that, would absolutely destroy the buildings next to them. Water flow at the GPM that we are talking about would absolutely assist us. When we go to a fire we can do two hoses that would deplete our largest engine in 5 minutes. If we are talking about saving downtown we need a lot of water. In the Lighting Strike series we had fog and had no air support.

Another point is ISO. Insurance Services Office. We have a 5Y5 rating which means that in rural areas within 5 miles of a Fire Station you get a pretty good discount. If you are within 1000' of a hydrant you get an extremely good discount. You are getting a decrease in your insurance rate if we have hydrants and that may offset some of your costs as a rate payer.

Also not having hydrants inhibits growth. Fire sprinklers, having a water supply is required in the new Fire Code. In 2016 Fire Code adopted by the State, we are required to have a stringent fire code. That means that unless you have water supply, that means tanks and the space to put them and a pump to pump them you need a municipal system. So if you want growth, a mercantile or a bank, you won't have those unless we have a system.

Val: Can we use highly treated effluent? Can he put it into his hoses?

Dave: It wouldn't hurt your equipment.

Val: So at the end of this they will come up with the costs for Operation and Maintenance. We don't have to pay for the infrastructure, so we have to figure out how much we need to run the systems. That calculation results in the "rate" for the ratepayers. Karen could help us with that? Karen McBride?....she's gone.

Roy: It varies community to community. Wastewater \$45-65 a month. I'm not sure about the water supply. But relatively low.

Val: We come up with an actual rate. If you are in the service areas you will receive a letter with that rate. Quinn Donovan at the Feds says that we have to set it for 5 years. There is something in place so that we can't raise it fast. So you will receive the letter in the mail. You have two options; you can just leave it - and that is a "yes", or you can say "No" and put it in envelope and mail it back. Say there are 200 letters. 50% plus 1 (or 101 parcels) would have to say No for it to fail. One parcel; one vote. Owners not renters.

Jack: You cannot have a subsequent rate increase without conducting the same notification process and 218 vote. There is the option to adopt a rate schedule that has an escalation clause in it, but by law the duration over which the escalation clause is in effect is limited. At the end of the period, the rates would stay at that level until you go through another rate hearing process and Prop 218 vote.

Val: Also if you vote "No" and you decide to hook up later there will be a hook up charge. We don't know how much yet, but it could be over \$8,000. Another point is that you can hook up to the drinking water system and still keep your existing well for irrigation.

Question: Will the CSD be in charge of the Water districts?

Kathleen: The same board of the CSD will have additional powers. The CSD Board will administer the Water Board. That is why we have latent powers. We will have to go to LAFCO. We don't see any difficulties with that.

Val: We also have to go through the County Building and Planning process to get approval for the use of our designated parcels in our systems.

Andres: Is there any potential transfer of taxes or funds being diverted to the water district from one of the other agencies?

Kathleen: No. Water will be self-sustaining.

Larry Mailliard: When is the rate established?

Jack: It is scheduled within this calendar year.

Ted Williams: I think it would be helpful to educate people on what it costs to maintain a private well or septic system long term. Because the \$45-65 is offset by what it costs to replace a well pump or clean out a septic tank. Knowing what that costs locally – a valley average.

Val: It would be great if someone would take on developing a worksheet. People, don't put any heavy duty money into your septic or well for the next couple of years. Do a work around or short-term fix. We don't want you to be the last person to dump \$35,000 on a new well and not need it.

Roy: In general, does the community want it? (General assent - no nays)

Larry Mailliard: If we don't do it now with the money that's available...it was first started in the 50's, and then the 70's. I knew about it in the 80's. Here you have the opportunity. I don't live in the district, I live 8 miles thataway. If you don't take advantage of the opportunity now when it is virtually free, it won't be available and the water situation will be 10 times worse.

Audience: Hear hear.

Val: Please keep checking avcsd.org for all progress, etc.

