

Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency



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Newsletter

Spring 2011

Bighorn Desert View Water Agency says goodbye to a familiar face: Customer Service Representative Mary Jo Cleveland. Mary Jo began service to the Bighorn Desert View community in 2005 when her husband, Ryan, relocated to the Twentynine Palms Marine Base from Camp Pendleton. He has now been assigned to Charlotte, N. Carolina

having been recently promoted to the rank of Captain. Mary Jo has been instrumental in managing the day to day accounts payable functions as well as

assisting customers with their accounts. We will miss Mary Jo but know she is looking forward to becoming a "southern belle" too!



Important Water Quality Update

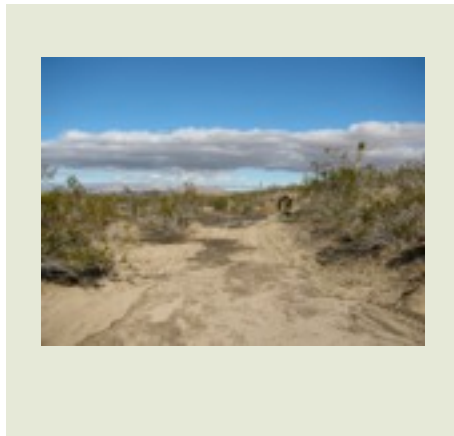
All water served by BDVWA meets or exceeds all federal and state drinking water standards.

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Ames / Reche Project Update

The Agency continues to make positive progress on a recharge facility designed to accept imported water from the Morongo Basin Pipeline. The Ames/Reche Groundwater Storage and Recovery Program is designed as a sustainable solution to the continued water level declines in the Pipes and Reche



groundwater basins utilized by several municipal producers: Co. Special District Zone W-1 (Landers), Hi Desert Water District and Bighorn Desert View Water Agency. The project has also been offered as a mechanism for our neighbors in Pioneertown to receive a potable supply of water as well. The project

is being funded by a grant issued to BDVWA as well as financial participation by Mojave Water Agency. In essence, the customers of Bighorn Desert View are receiving a benefit that might otherwise be very cost prohibitive. At this time, permits are still being processed through various federal and state agencies while the design of the pipeline extension and related facilities are currently at 60% complete. The recharge facility itself is located within Pipes Wash at Winters Road. Upon completion the Board will have fulfilled a decades old strategic vision to have an outside supplemental supply of water to meet the communities needs now and in the future.

IMPORTANT Water Quality Update



IMPORTANT Water Quality Update: All water served by BDVWA meets or exceeds all federal and state drinking water standards. During the last year BDVWA was testing certain wells for a radiological compound known as Gross Alpha. The Department of Public Health informed the Agency that levels of Gross Alpha in certain wells was very near the allowable level in drinking water. The Agency had enough well capacity unaffected by Gross Alpha so the subject wells were simply shut down while required testing continued over the last year. Recently, the Department of Public Health, in reviewing the Gross Alpha drinking water regulations notified the Agency that in recalculating compliance for Gross Alpha they had

determined that the maximum levels were never high enough to warrant shutting the wells off. In summary, our approach was conservative and protective of public health and with this new information the wells will begin operating again. Quarterly testing will also continue for at least another year.

Financial Health:

As required by law the Agency conducts an external annual audit which serves to “benchmark” the financial health of the Agency. At this time we are pleased to report that reserves continue to rise as expenses have been kept down. There are certain specific elements of the audit that demonstrate this such as *net assets*. The increase or decrease in net assets can provide an indication as to whether the overall financial position of the Agency improved or deteriorated during the year. During the last three years, the Agency’s net assets have increased from -\$267, 000 to +\$367,000. While the 2008 rate increase and the billing of all service connections regardless of water consumption are contributors, some of this was off-set by lower overall

consumption by customers. However, the Agency, with the hiring of a full-time general manager, was able to eliminate two senior level positions. While an increase in net assets does not enable the Agency to reduce water rates it does demonstrate that the Agency is building reserves to meet needs in an emergency as well as make needed infrastructure upgrades. With only 1,900 service connections BDVWA is proud to say that our water rates, while not the lowest in the Morongo Basin, they certainly not the highest either!

