

The Waterline



Arrowbear Park County Water District

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January 2020

District Implements SB 998 Which Changes How Shut-offs Are Done

There will be new requirements for residential water service discontinuation when customers are delinquent in paying their water bills under Senate Bill 998, signed into law in October 2018 by then Governor Jerry Brown. The legislation goes into effect in January 2020 and impacts existing practices, policies, and procedures relating to delinquent accounts and discontinuation of water service by water providers statewide. Arrowbear Park County Water District's Board approved the new changes at their Regular Board Meeting in November. Here is a summary of the new timeline for payment of bills and when and how water service will be discontinued for nonpayment and restored afterwards.

- Meter reads are generally performed from the 17th to the 19th of each month (weather permitting) for the service period of the 20th of the prior month to the 19th of the current month.
- Bills are created on/about the 23rd of each month and are due upon receipt of the bill.
- On/about the 23rd of each month, late fees are assessed to any account with an outstanding balance and the following bill will indicate a past due and current balance.
- 50 days after a due date, if a past due balance has not been paid, a hanger with notice of imminent discontinuance of service is placed on/near the front door of the property, notifying the customer that their service will be discontinued in 10 days if the past due amount is not paid or payment arrangements, for the past due amount are made. Qualifications for payment arrangements can be found on the District's website.
- 60 days after a due date, if that balance has not been paid water meter is turned off and locked, and a \$30 shut-off/dispatch fee is assessed. Water service may be restored once the past due balance and the \$30 shut off/dispatch fee is paid. Minimum monthly charges continue to be assessed regardless of water on/off status.
- 90 days after a due date, if the past due balance has not been paid, a pre-lien letter is mailed to the customer on record, advising customer that if no payment is received in 7 days from the date of the pre-lien letter, a lien will be filed against the property and a \$123 lien fee will be assessed. A lien will be released and service restored when all account balances are paid.

Board Meeting Highlights

Regular Board Meetings are the Third Thursday at 6:30 PM

October – Supervisor Miller reported on the maintenance and repairs in the District as well as the progress of the Squirrel Ln. pipeline project, manhole raising, and completion of the sewer cleaning and video inspections for the year. Chief Ozias reported on the Fire Department calls, water tender deployment, and preparations for the Community Open House to be held on Oct. 26th. General Manager Huff reported that he was reviewing the new requirements for SB 998 with the District's legal counsel for implementation by February 2020, the survey and building plans being done for the warehouse expansion project by Kadtec. The Board approved the allocation of surplus funds from FY 18-19 and discussed the Battalion Chief position and adopted a residency requirement for that position.

November – Supervisor Miller reported on the maintenance issues for the month and that the paving was complete for the Squirrel and Chipmunk Lanes pipeline projects. Chief Ozias reported on the Fire Department calls, the success of the Open House and recent wildland fire deployments of the water tender. General Manager Huff reported on the progress of the warehouse addition and some updates to the website which would provide more information to District residents and additional transparency. The Board discussed the Battalion Chief position and adopted, by motion, some minor changes to the job description and requirements which were recommended by the Fire Chief. The Board also amended Rules and Regulations Handbook Policy 3050 – Water Service Charges & Billing and Policy 2060 – Sewer Service Charges to comply with SB 998 requirements regarding discontinuation of service (shut-off), effective with the billing cycle beginning January 23, 2020

December – There was no Regular Board Meeting in December.



NOTE: THE MOST RECENT FULL MEETING AGENDAS AND APPROVED MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE DISTRICT WEBSITE, ARROWBEARWATER.ORG

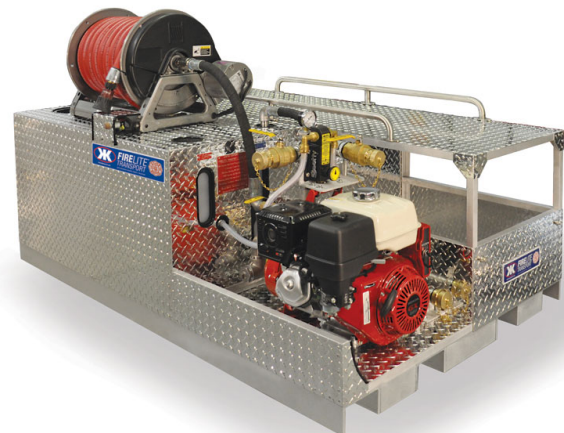


ARROWBEAR LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Department Improvements – In an article on the FireRescue1 website by Robert Avsec titled *Rapid response vehicles: The answer to downsizing fire apparatus* it was noted that with ‘rapid-response vehicles’ “volunteer departments and smaller career departments can right-size their apparatus without giving up operational capabilities.” The author went on to emphasize that, “Advances in vehicle technology and fire suppression technology – now, more than ever before – make smaller fire apparatus a viable option for many



departments.” With this in mind, the Fire Department is pleased to announce the addition of a new piece of equipment to the Arrowbear Lake Fire Department. It was obtained through a grant from CalFire, Department of Homeland Security, and FEMA. The Fire Department was able to obtain a federal government surplus Ford F-350 Crew Cab 4-wheel drive truck which will go through the process of conversion to a Type 6 Fire Engine with a prefabricated ‘skid’ unit (pictured below) that slides into the bed of the truck (pictured above). This unit contains a 200 gallon water tank, 5 gallons of fire suppression foam, a gas-powered pump, and a hose reel with 100’ of hose. In the fire service this type of firefighting apparatus is known as a ‘rapid or quick response’ vehicle that can be manned by any available Firefighter for initial response to a car, brush, or structure fire. The vehicle will be self-contained with its own water supply and pumping capabilities, as is typical in a larger fire engine, but have easier mobility and will allow a single firefighter to start an initial attack on the fire. This will decrease response time and allow your Fire Department to increase the protection we want for the community and its residents, this is my New Year’s pledge to you.



Sincerely,
Jim Ozias, Fire Chief

ARROWBEAR LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

909-867-3479

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