

## MEMBERS UPDATE FOR JANUARY 2010

It is hard to imagine we are entering 2010. Hopefully the holidays left you rested and eager for the beauty winter brings to our Valley, especially if you had the good fortune to spend them in the Valley with the snow that covered us in the nick of time mid-December. The thin snow cover and cool temperatures have frozen water at the meters for many members, especially those gone for a period of time. If you haven't already done so, please put some insulation in the meter access to help protect them from freezing in the absence of our normal insulating snow cover. Some have had the freeze damage their meter.

The annual maintenance dues for roads and WCPOA expenses other than the water supply portion covered by the water bills will go out in early January and due by February. As announced to the membership on the website immediately after our last Board meeting, the dues for 2010 will be \$399 for the year (really – that's exact figure from the calculation!) to cover our expenses. The WCPOA 2010 budget projection was approved at the last meeting, which is important because the annual dues for 2010 and the amount of money the water rates need to generate is determined by this forecast. The 2010 budget projection has been posted on the website.

The board expects to select and approve an equitable water rate system at our next meeting on January 14<sup>th</sup> to replace the temporary billing system for last year, using input from the membership. Some of that feedback has come in with the November water bill payments. We are also re-evaluating when and how often water bills should be sent. As you know, our costs as a Group A water system are rising, and as the board well knows, none of us want to see bills go up any more than is essential to keep our water system compliant with state law, dependable, and a safe source of drinking water. As soon as we have a final approved rate system, we will provide the details on the WCPOA website. With the new meter data from last year, we are updating our system capacity calculations and are in discussions with DOH to lift the restriction we now have on all but a few new connections, or free substantially more new connections. Concurrently, the board is considering whether any system improvements for capacity will be needed through buildout, and if warranted, what those would consist of and how to fund them. The board is also taking up the issue of backflow prevention, which prevents the potential for contamination of our common supply system whenever low system pressure occurs from a system break or maintenance.

Happy New Year to you and your families,

WCPOA Board