

MEETING REPORT  
WATER COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2009  
2:15 P.M.

Directors:       Ralph Retherford  
                  Delbert Rotelli

Staff:            Pete Kampa  
                  Kelly Klyn  
                  Casey Prunchak

**Review Request for Exemption to Drill a Well in Springfield Estates - Oeschger**

Kelly Klyn reported that Rob Oeschger, owner of a lot in the Springfield Estates subdivision near Columbia, is requesting to drill a private well. The developer of this 60-lot subdivision agreed to grant groundwater rights to the District in 1990. The subdivision was originally developed with an isolated water system, and the water source was from two wells within the subdivision. The transfer of groundwater rights was intended to prevent lot owners from drilling private wells which could impact the public wells. Mr. Klyn explained that due to high levels of iron and manganese in the wells, an interconnection pipeline was later constructed from the Columbia system to serve the subdivision and the wells are not used. In January 2007, the District approved a similar request for another lot owner, Pete Kleinert, noting at that time concerns were raised regarding precedent and impacts to the aquifer if numerous requests ensued. To date, this is the second such request.

***Staff recommendation: Approval of request.***

***Committee recommendation: District staff to handle administratively; notify Mr. Oeschger that the District has no objection to him drilling a well in the Springfield Estates since it appears that the District does not own the groundwater rights.***

**Discuss Proposed Five Year Water and Sewer Budgets and Proposed Rate Plan**

Pete Kampa reported that the changes in the proposed water and sewer rates reflect suggested revisions made by the Fiscal Committee. Mr. Kampa explained that the proposed rates extend out evenly over a five year period and allows the District to fully fund operations, debt service, and capital reserves. Mr. Kampa noted that the Fiscal Committee recommended that District staff move forward with the proposed rate increases, and to be further reviewed at the March 24, 2009 Regular Board meeting.

District staff and Committee members reviewed in detail the consolidated budget water and wastewater funds projections and proposed five year rate plans.

Director Retherford indicated that he completely objects to the five year rate plan proposal, noting that with the current hard economic times he will not support this rate proposal. Director Retherford explained that the proposed budget shows no belt tightening within the District, noting that that District can not proceed with "doing business as usual".

***Committee recommendation: District staff move forward with the proposed rate increases, and to be further reviewed at the March 24, 2009 Regular Board meeting, however Director Retherford will not support the proposed rate plan as presented.***