

Bradford Rec. Dist. 2059

Volume 1, No. 4

~Transparency In Our Public Agency ~

November 2015

2015/16 ASSESSMENT STICKER SHOCK

If you haven't already paid it, the first installment of your 2015/16 property tax bill is late after today, Dec 10th. You probably did a double take at the amount so let us say this again...this high assessment is only for this first year. *See included insert*

"With four people you can create one very strong kind of energy, but if you can get 65 people working together, and swinging together, that's a whole other kind of energy."

Chuck Mangioni

Barrier Breached October 1, 2015:



The Victory II re-power is scheduled for the end of December to accommodate the corn harvest and taking livestock to market. (*Read more pg. 3*)

Work began in September to remove the Emergency Drought Barrier placed across False River this past July under the Governor's Executive Order.

The rock barrier was breached October 1 and the District has been informed that the entire structure, including the abutments will be removed. The king piles (shown in photo to left) will be cut off and capped.

We knew that Bradford Island played a critical role as one of the Eight Western Delta Islands but in the last five years, this tiny island has become pivotal to an increasing number of California's strategic water initiatives.

This newsletter provides a recap of events over the last five years that are impacting our assessments today.

It also provides an overview of initiatives and recent actions impacting the island.

We will also be providing you with an update of accomplishments, most recently in the past two years, as well as goals projected for the next two years.

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5-Year Recap

Pump Station Rebuild:

By 2009 the Board was faced with the challenge of building a new pump station and how to get the funds to do so on a very small and constrained budget. Original estimates to rebuild the pump station ranged from half- to three quarters of a million dollars. The accepted bid came in under \$300,000. The Board of Trustees passed a resolution to obtain a \$300,000.00 loan with the Bank of Stockton with terms of four (4) years with a 4.5% interest rate. During construction the Board approved change orders such as rebuilding the pumps and putting in new pipes that increased the cost of the pump station re-build project to \$365,000. The Board of Trustees passed another resolution authorizing an additional \$65,000.00 with the same re-payment terms and interest rate.



Water and Fire:

2009/10 saw the island face adverse effects from a ship that ran into the levee along the northeastern San Joaquin and a fire that burned homes along Fisherman's Cut. Were it not for the quick actions of our Program Manager, Smith Cunningham, we could have lost the entire island. A heartfelt thanks to all who worked tirelessly through the days and nights to keep the island safe.

2010 Proposition 218:

The economic downturn of 2008 had substantial negative consequences for Bradford. The District was having difficulty paying its bills and doing needed levee maintenance. The District contracted with KSN Engineering, Inc. to conduct a Proposition 218 election to increase assessments for the pump station re build, ferry expenses and District Operations and Maintenance (O&M).

2010 Prop 218 Specifics:

- Increased the District annual budget to \$313, 605
- 5-yr sunset clause voted in which meant that after the 2015/16 assessment, the assessment rolled back to the 2009/10 assessed value.
 - ☞ an ad valorem assessment of \$30 per \$1000 per the 2009/10 assessed parcel value which cannot be raised
 - ☞ gives the District \$158,000 in annual assessment revenue in perpetuity
- Indebted the District to another ~\$45,000 in 5 yrs. for another Prop 218
- Assessment roll teetered by the Contra Costa County Treasurer. This means that the assessment is collected on behalf of the District by the County in two installments at the same time as the parcel property tax. The District receives the assessment revenue from the County irrespective of parcel payments
 - ☞ One property not teetered leaving the District \$22,000 short
- District was carrying substantial debt:
 - ☞ \$50,000 unpaid OES debt from 1983 flood
 - ☞ \$24,240 unpaid monthly ferry assessment
 - ☞ \$17,500 ferry lift gate special assessment
- The budget set the pump station repayment plan out to 2023/24. This conflicted with the Bank of Stockton and the 5-yr sunset clause.

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Ferry:

When the District was informed the barrier was going to be installed, we knew there was no fighting an Executive Order from the Governor. However, the District did have control over the encroachment and easement terms for the placement of the barrier. One of the terms of the encroachment permit was that should the barrier have any adverse impact on ferry operations, the State would immediately mitigate. As many of you experienced, the ferry had multiple difficulties during the time the barrier was installed from running aground and bending a prop to missing runs—mainly due to increased velocities at the Bradford ferry slip.

As a result, the State is funding a complete re-powering of the ferry—new engines, electrical, props,—and because the ferry will be in dry dock for the re-powering, the DFA is working with the Coast Guard to see if the mandatory 5-year inspection can be done at the same time.



During one of the Prop 218 public workshops, the question was asked about limiting ferry service by two days as a means of reducing District expenses. An analysis was conducted with the following results: Currently the largest variable costs to operate the ferry are fuel and payroll (including taxes & insurance) at \$194,898/yr. Assuming the current schedule and adjusting for overtime, the additional two days account for 17.67% of the total variable budget, or \$34,443/yr. This breaks down to a potential savings of \$1,435/month or \$17,220/yr. for each district, given both members of the DFA (Bradford and Webb) vote for the reduction.

2015 Proposition 218: from pg. 1

This year is the last assessment for the 2010 Proposition 218. Starting with the 2016/17 assessment, the annual assessment rolls back to the 2009/10 annual assessment of \$158,000 and continues at that rate forever. This assessment is identified on your property bill as “Special Assessment CB.”

\$158,000 is not sufficient to fund District obligations for flood control, ferry access and District operations. The Board engaged Larsen Wurzel and Associates to conduct another Proposition 218 election for a supplemental assessment to augment the CB assessment. This Proposition 218 assessment passed August 4, 2015. For the next five years, you will see two assessments on your tax bill—the \$158,000 roll-back CB assessment and the new 2015 Proposition TU assessment. Refer to the insert for more details.

District Trustee Election:

The District has previously posted, according to law, the expiration of and election for, two Trustee terms—President Cate Kuhne and Trustee Michael Craig. Three nomination forms were received by the District and a date for the election was set. At the November Board of Trustees monthly meeting, President Kuhne announced she was withdrawing her nomination, resulting in only two valid trustee nomination forms. Therefore, no election is required and Mr. Craig and Mr. Folsom will be seated for a four (4) year term at the December 15, 2015 Board of Trustees meeting.

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Strategic Initiatives

There are a number of strategic initiatives impacting RD 2059 in the upcoming years.

Background:

In January, 2009, the Legislature enacted the Delta Reform Act (SB X7 1) which lays out a clear path for governance of the Delta, and establishes the two co-equal goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. ***See the attached chart for Delta Planning Relationships.***

Of interest to the District are initiatives dealing with the levees, flood control, and more importantly, The Bay Delta Conservation Plan (the BDCP) and the role Delta Wetlands plays in the storage of water for Southern California.

Current:

This last quarter has seen major revisions to the Delta Levee Investment Strategy, the BDCP has been abandoned and replaced by the Governor's two-prong California Water Fix and Eco Restore. We have seen the withdrawal of funding of directed actions for levee projects and Metropolitan Water of Southern California has purchased the four islands comprising Delta Wetlands, of which Webb Tract is one.

What does this mean for us?

The District will be applying for the upcoming Delta Levees Special Projects Program Project Solicitation Package to complete our levee upgrade work, the District will continue to participate in the Subventions Program at a 75% reimbursement for approved levee maintenance, and the District Engineer and legal counsel have begun reviewing the Seepage Control Plan identified in the Delta Wetlands Protest Settlement Agreement of July 2013.

