

COUNTY OF SONOMA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
AND PUBLIC WORKS
2300 COUNTY CENTER DRIVE, SUITE B 100
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95403

Phillip M. Demery, Director



AREA CODE (707)

ROADS.....565-2231
TRANSIT585-7516
REFUSE565-7940
AIRPORT565-7243
AIR POLLUTION.....433-5911
FAX565-2620
www.sonomacountypublicworks.com

August 11, 2011

Donita Proctor
2600 South Fitch Mountain Road
Healdsburg, CA 95448

Subject: Fitch Mountain Water District Comments

Dear Donita,

This is to follow up my letter from last month, regarding several matters related to the Fitch Mountain Water District. The maintenance staff at Russian River Utilities (RRU) has been busy in your area, primarily checking the system for possible sources of water loss. The following represents their latest findings which addresses the primary issues that were still outstanding from our last communication on July 15, 2011:

- Leak Detection: Two weeks ago, RRU pressured tested the McDonough system that serves this area where they found some variations in the water sales vs. the Healdsburg meter readings. According to staff, RRU found two leaks, one very small and the other one "fairly significant." Both leaks were repaired, and the system retested satisfactorily. This is good news that the leaks were found. Normally, water leaks of any size can be observed at the ground surface so it is a little puzzling why the one leak had not been observed.

The 2-inch galvanized line that had previously been reported as leaking and in need of replacement turned out to be an abandoned line and no longer provides service to the two customers. Therefore, no additional action is required.


- Master meter reading vs. billed water: The meter readings of Healdsburg supply and Fitch Mountain customer usage are on different cycles, therefore it is important to view multiple billing periods to determine trends and possible leakage. Russian River Utilities completed a review of two billing periods to compare usage. The results showed that there was approximately a 14% discrepancy or loss. Finding the leak in the McDonough area confirms that this is probably accurate and appears to be the cause for the trend that was mentioned at the community meeting whereby the usage this current fiscal year was tracking 2 months ahead of last year's usage. The usage will continue to be monitored over the next three billing cycles to evaluate trends and to observe impacts the repairs have had on the system loss.

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As I mentioned in my earlier letter, Russian River Utilities responded favorably to the idea of their taking over the Fitch Mountain water system. The utility representatives indicated that they would put together a proposal this month. Once it is received, we will evaluate the proposal and schedule another community meeting to discuss prior to making any decisions.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas F. O'Kane, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas F. O'kane, Jr., Deputy Director
Engineering Operations