

Alta Sierra Mutual Water Company
A Mutual Benefit Non-Profit Corporation

Annual Membership / Shareholders Meeting

The Annual Meeting has been cancelled due to the Covid-19.

If you have “**questions or concerns**” please contact our Secretary by e-mail, USPS or phone. The listings are on the last page.

Election for One Directorship Position: The term of Board Member Larry Hoopes expired this year and he ran unopposed for re-election. Due to the vacancy and cancellation of the Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors appointed Larry under section 5.04(c) of the Bylaws to serve until the next Annual Meeting or an earlier special meeting.

Capital Improvement Funding: The current 5-year Assessment Program for (2018-2022) is \$25.00 per month per share. The scheduled pipeline work planned for this summer has been rescheduled for next year due to the County Road Dept. request that we have the existing roadway surveyed prior to applying for the encroachment permit. The proposed route from Fir & Juniper to Oak & Pine is scheduled to be surveyed this summer. The survey is the only pipeline project scheduled for this year.

The current Billing for property with a water (service connection) is \$35.00 per month. Vacant lots with water rights and no service connection (repair & replacement fee) is \$17.50 per month. This money covers the operating cost of the water company. The Assessment money of \$25.00 per month per share is dedicated to the pipeline / water system upgrade and tank maintenance.

The water system upgrade is necessary because of our aging distribution system. Additionally, in many cases the current spacing between water lines and septic systems do not meet Code. For a historical perspective, the first sale of Lots at Alta Sierra Tracts 1 & 2 began in 1927-1928, at the time outhouses were the common means of sewage disposal. Over time septic tanks and sewage leach fields were installed, but with little regard to the spacing requirement between water lines and the septic systems. The American Water Works Association requires a 25-foot space between water lines and septic systems. There is no “Grandfather Clause” in our case because of the potential Health issues. However; we are able to maintain our State Operating Permit because we have not had a Water Quality Violation since 2007. But the fact is, our water system is vulnerable to contamination from sewage leach field systems.

Our three main water storage tanks are on a ten-year inspection cycle and all are due over the next few years. Each tank is inspected for structural integrity. The underside of the floor area is tested by ultrasound to determine if there is any metal wall loss from exterior corrosion. Once the tank is determined to be mechanically sound the interior of the tank is sandblasted and recoated with an epoxy material. Tank No. 1 was completed in 2018 at a cost of \$ 25,720.00. Tank No. 3 is scheduled for 2020 and Tank No. 2 for 2021. The cost to inspect and recoat each tank was estimated at \$ 30K.

The first effort to begin funding the pipeline upgrade began with the 2007-2011 Assessment Program. In 2014-2015, we looked into the State sponsored low interest loan program for small water systems. Various loan options were available to us at 1.5-2.0% the downside was that the loan would require several restrictions; state oversight / documentation, licensed contractors, state prevailing wage rates, each job / loan would be limited to a specific short-term project.

As a Utility Company, we are conducting the system upgrade on our existing water system. We have the necessary training, engineering study / plan and permits are applied for as required. The funding for the project is through the membership Assessments Plan. This is a long-term project and will take several years to complete the overall upgrade.

Property Owner Construction Projects: It is crucial that property owners contact the Water Company before starting construction projects. Water lines need to be identified to ensure that the line will remain accessible and that your construction project does not violate the spacing requirement. In many cases, individual homeowner service lines can be relocated to meet the minimum spacing requirement.

Membership Requirement: Some Members have decided not to pay the required membership fees (Repair and Replacement Fee) on their vacant/undeveloped property. Unfortunately, forfeiting your “Right to Water” for that property may pose a problem at a later date, especially if you plan to develop or sell that property separately. Once a membership has been terminated for non-payment, that specific Lot cannot be retrieved on a balance due basis, this is also true for developed Lots with a water connection. If the Share/Membership for the property has been terminated the Lot owner must re-apply for a new Membership on that property and pay all past Assessments all over again from the time the company was formed in 1949 forward, plus pay whatever the Water Connection fee is at the time. A paid Membership in “Good Standing” assures the landowner that water will be available to that specific Lot on request. In some cases, if the Lot is not buildable, used as a driveway or just open space it may be desirable to let the Share terminate as long as the membership requirement is understood.

ASMWC 2019 “Consumer Confidence Report”: The report addresses the water quality from our source wells. You are encouraged to review the report and raise any questions you may have, either by contacting the Manager, a Director, or by calling the USEPA” S Safe Drinking Water Hotline @ 800 426-4791. The report is available on our website www.altasierrawater.com may request a copy by calling (760) 376-4111.

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Lead Exceedance Precaution: Although, the Lead threshold limit for our drinking water **was NOT** exceeded during the 2019 sampling year. We know from past years that Lead is prevalent in parts of our water system, particularly the older Cabins that have household water fixtures containing Lead. We know the source water (wells) do not contain significant amounts of Lead. The problem occurs when the water leaches out the Lead contained in older internal piping systems such as kitchen / bathroom fixtures. As a precaution homeowner are advised, to change-out old fixtures (pre-1986) and even the internal piping of the cabin if possible. If you use the cabin infrequently, be sure to allow your water system to flush before drinking the water. A copy of the Health Department "Public Information Letter" explaining the Lead problem and the things you can do to limit the effect is available on our website www.altasierrawater.com.
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The Board of Directors wish to welcome all new Members and thank the Membership for their continued support.

Directors

- Joe Hughes, President, 14500 Raphael Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93306 (661) 872-5114
- Larry Hoopes, Director, 3343 Corby Ave, Camarillo, CA 93010 (805) 482-8041
- Robert Hand, Director, 10301 Planebrook Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93312 (661) 589-1791
- Joe Balas, Director, 534 Rio Bravo St, Ridgecrest, CA 93555 (661) 221-1620
- Tom Steele, Director, 4300 Bonaire St, Bakersfield, CA 93306 (661) 871-1524

Staff

- William Preston, Manager, 10621 Conifer Lane, Wofford Heights, CA (760) 376-1561
- David Sprayberry, Serviceman, 10771 Oak Drive, Wofford Heights (760) 376-2316
- Annie Asher, Secretary, 10929 Laurel Drive, Wofford Heights, CA (760) 376-4111
- John Black, Trainee, 10935 Elm Drive, Wofford Heights, CA (661) 480-8103

Mailing Address Alta Sierra Mutual Water Company
P.O. Box 1268
Wofford Heights, CA 93285

Phone Numbers Business (760) 376-4111 / Emergency (661) 619-4708

E-Mail Address altasierrawater@aol.com
Internet Site www.altasierrawater.com