



Konocti County Water District

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Dear Water Consumers,

We are writing to give you important news about our water district and the water we provide to you. Please read this letter carefully.

THE GOOD NEWS:

It's our 63rd anniversary! Since 1961 we have been providing you with **quality drinking water at the lowest possible prices**. We are able to keep our prices below the national average. We also provide water to fight fires. We make sure all our facilities are up to code on a regular basis. We do not have any deficiencies and have never had any major violations.

THE GREAT NEWS:

In the last few years, we have received **\$17 MILLION** in grant money from the State Water Resources Control Board for improvements to our treatment plant and distributions systems. These projects are currently underway and should be completed in the next few years. You can see our new raw water pump house next to the boat launch in Redbud Park!

OTHER NEWS:

High Pressure: Some areas of the District, especially west of Highway 53 and the Dam Road area, are subject to high water pressure. Property owners are responsible for the placement of a pressure reducing valve on their property.

Meter Replacement: The batteries in the water meters in the boxes in front of your houses are failing ahead of their projected lifespan. We are in the process of replacing all the old meters at no cost to you.

Water Theft: Water theft costs all of us! Please report water theft to our office as soon as possible.

Water Conservation: The lake is full and the drought and water conservation is over for now.

THE BAD NEWS:

Unfortunately, due to Covid, the drought, and inflation of prices **we will have to do another rate increase** similar to the one we did five years ago. We are currently doing our rate study to see how much we need to raise the rates for us to keep the District running. We will hold a public hearing on this issue later in the year. You will be notified of the public hearing in advance. Please be aware that **we put all the money you pay us back into the District**.

THE WORST NEWS:

The City of Clearlake has been making moves to try to take over the water providers in Clearlake, including the Konocti County Water District. The City wants to be the only water provider in Clearlake.

They have been saying there are not enough fire hydrants for fire protection. We currently have adequate fire hydrants for our existing infrastructure, but any new development will require additional fire hydrants to support the new development of our community. They are saying the District's boundaries are confusing even though they have been given maps and could easily call us. They say we are preventing new development and growth of the City because we don't pay to provide the new infrastructure. Our ordinance has always required new developers to pay us a deposit for services before any services are installed.

Our research shows that water provider **takeovers** like this **result in the cost** of the water rates **doubling or tripling** with the quality of the water and related services being poorer. The City will not put all of your money back into the District.

We believe the City should be fixing their own deficiencies in their basic public services before trying to take on any more public services. We lack decent roads, enough animal control, code enforcement, and police. Instead, they persist in trying to make the water providers look bad so they can take over and double your rates so they can fund their other projects that you may not want.

So far, we have been able to fend off their advances. However, **we may need your help** to prevent City takeover. You may be sent a petition of protest to sign and return. You may need to **officially vote** on the issue. Please be sure you are registered to vote at your current address. We encourage you to express your thoughts directly to the City Council during the public comment section of their meetings. City Council meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of every month at 6:00 pm at City Hall.

We hope you will agree with us and take the steps stated above to continue having Konocti County Water District provide your water the way we have for the past 63 years. We welcome you to attend any of our regular Board of Directors meetings with your comments and questions. Our meetings are held the 4th Wednesday of every month at 1:00 pm at our office. November and December meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of the month due to holidays.

Water is so necessary and important! Thank you for your careful consideration in this matter. We will let you know as things progress.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Priebe

President of the Board of Directors