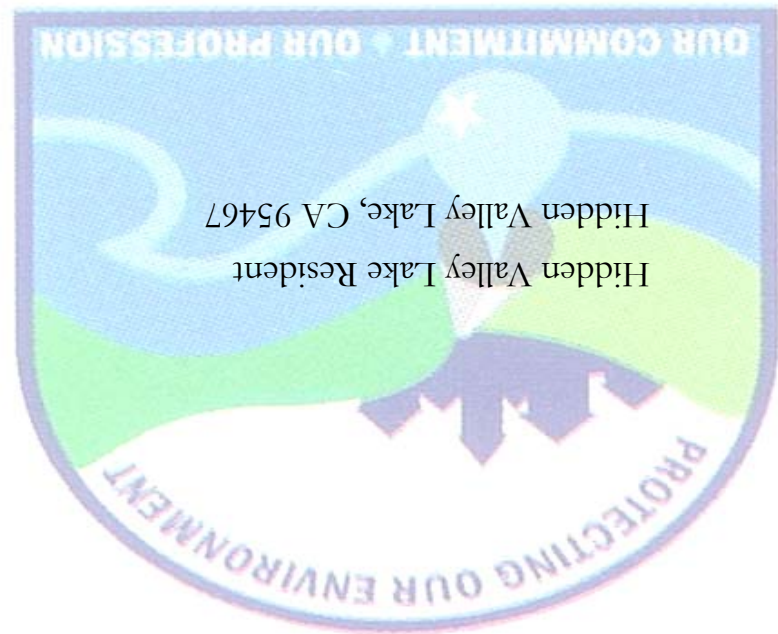


Hidden Valley Lake  
Community Services District



Hidden Valley Lake Resident  
Hidden Valley Lake, CA 95467

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Hidden Valley Lake  
Community Services District

A public service to the HVL community

Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District



Table Top Exercise Staged At  
District's Water Reclamation Plant

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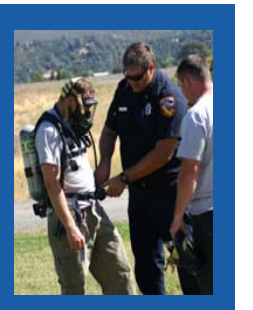
On September 16, 2010, the District hosted a chlorine awareness training involving the Lake County Sheriff's Department, Lake County Environmental Health and several Lake County Fire departments. The exercise taught the importance of safely handling chlorine if a leak or other chlorine related disaster should occur. All participants were briefed on

the exercise to be performed and introduced to the District's facilities and equipment available on site.



During the day-long event, District personnel were fitted with ventilation equipment and instructed on proper use. They learned how to determine how much time they had available on their air tank and what to do when their air is getting low. The District's

various evacuation plans were reviewed and employees were reminded of the locations of wind socks used to determine an evacuation site upwind of the chlorine gas. District staff performed a mock rescue drill from the chlorine room. Cory Ipsen, Operator I, and Sam Garcia, Utility Worker, assisted in the drill using their ventilators and first aid skills.

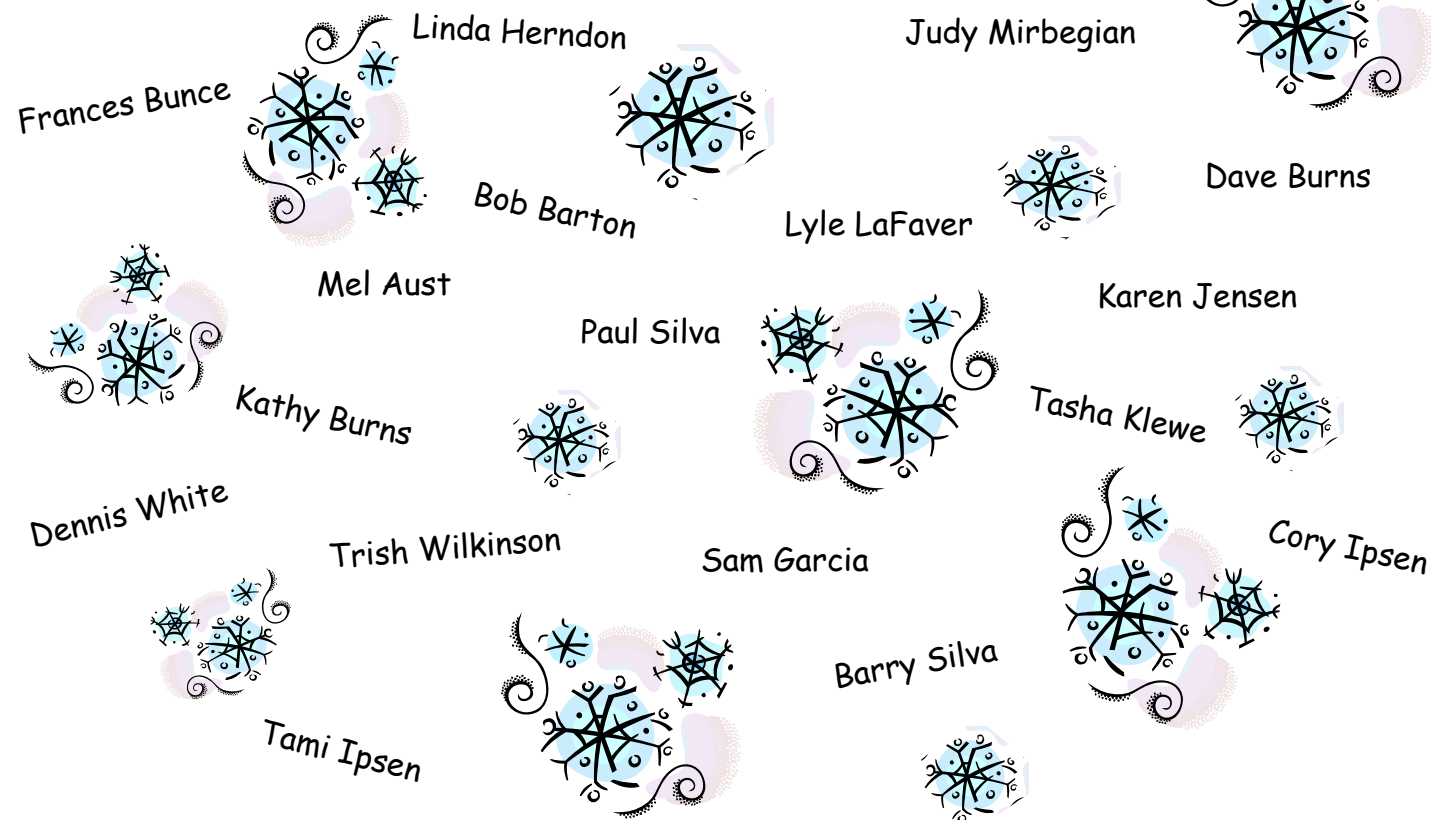


As potential first responders to a chlorine gas leak, involving the Lake County Fire districts and Sheriff's Department was very important. The training provided the "Need to Know" information on handling chlorine gas and its danger if handled incorrectly and allowed members of these agencies to become familiar with District operations and facilities

The Chlorine Awareness Training Table Top Exercise was a great hands-on learning tool for the District's staff. We would like to specially thank Willie Sapeta and Marc Hill, from Lake County Fire, who did a great job coordinating this exercise. Thanks also to the other participants who made this exercise a success.

Hidden Valley Lake CSD  
Board of Directors  
Linda Herndon - President  
Judy Mirbegian - Vice President  
Bob Barton - Director  
Lyle LaFaver - Director  
Frances Bunce - Director

Happy Holidays From All of Us!!!



## Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District Case Study In The Water Utility Sustainability Planning Guidance - EPA



For its exemplary leadership and operational practices, the Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District was asked to participate as a small utility in a rural area as a case study for the Water Utility Sustainability Planning Guidance through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The study details the cost savings in operation achieved by the merger of the Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District (District) and Stonehouse Mutual Water Company (SMWC) in 1993 and the subsequent water efficiency and sustainability practices that the District has employed.

Stonehouse Mutual Water Company was established in 1968 and supplied water to the Hidden Valley Lake subdivision and sewer to 200 lots around Hidden Valley Lake. Circa 1990, SMWC's financial problems led to discussions of a merge with the District. By combining operations, the merge saved \$300,000 per year in administration and operation costs. Additionally, as a government agency, further protection to the community was provided by State oversight with full transparency, and the agency was allowed access to low cost loans and grants. It was an obvious

choice for SMWC.

In 1991 the appropriation of Putah Creek Water Rights was established by the SMWC and the District, as co-applicants, prior to the merge. The District was named the lead agency, handling all California Environmental Quality Act documents and requirements. This could not have been accomplished without the transition from a private to a public agency.

In order for the merger to occur, 1,400 approval votes were needed from Hidden Valley Lake property owners. A landslide victory of 1,544 votes moved the merger through, and it was considered the greatest victory in Hidden Valley Lake history!

District staff crafted and pushed for the passing of AB 1504 which transitioned full ownership of water rights from SMWC to the District and allowed the transfer of assets between the two to be exempt from taxation. Following the passage of AB1504, the merge was complete January 1, 1993 at 12:01 am.

With the merger between the two organizations, the District inherited more than \$1 million in delinquent water and sewer bal-

ances. The District was successful in assessing the delinquencies on the Lake County tax roll to ensure payment. Shortly thereafter, the District secured four sewer bonds and a State loan to build the Water Reclamation Project.

In 2004, the Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District obtained a low interest \$3 million loan as a public agency and launched the Water Infrastructure Improvement Project. The project allowed for one million gallons of additional storage capacity to be added to the District's infrastructure, which increased fire protection. It also provided for improvements to the SCADA system, the replacement of water regulator valves throughout the water system and new pump stations. This enabled the District to operate its pumps during off peak hours and utilizing the lowest energy costs. The savings from the Water Infrastructure Improvement Project have helped sustain the water rate structure and have allowed the District to avoid huge rate increases.

The District's case study will be in the Water Utility Sustainability Planning Guidance publication by EPA, which will be available in 2011.



## What Is A Groundwater Bank?

Using groundwater has always been essential in the West and groundwater banking has become a common option for stabilizing California's water supply without the many challenges that comes along with surface water storage.

Banking millions of acre feet of water in aquifers to be used during drought conditions has pioneered a new outlook of water sustainability. Banking water is a system in which surface water and groundwater can be used alternately to sustain water use without drawing down rivers or aquifers. There are groundwater banks throughout California with a potential for more.

Current groundwater banks store water for other agencies that have deposited water and will use at a later date. This process has saved many agriculture areas during drought conditions that California has faced in recent years.

The enthusiasm for groundwater banking is challenged with the bureaucracy of water quality issues, water level impacts, questions of ownership (state vs. local control) and acquisitions of water rights are privatizing a public resource. The battle will continue as water demand grows in California, but today's groundwater banks have proven their functionality and purpose many times over.

Groundwater banks.... a new way of banking.

## Frozen Pipes

Winter has arrived, and the cold weather can cause havoc on your home's plumbing system. Freezing weather can cause pipes to freeze and possibly break, costing hundreds of dollars to repair. So what can you do? Here are a few things you can do to prepare your home from the winter's cold weather and prevent your pipes from freezing:

- Disconnect and drain outdoor hoses.
- Insulate pipes and faucets in unheated areas.
- Consider installing "heat tape."
- Seal off access doors, air vents and cracks.
- Know where your master shut off valve is.

### If your pipes do freeze:

Slowly apply warmth to the frozen pipe by wrapping rags around the frozen pipe and slowly pouring warm water over the rags, or use a hair dryer (on low heat). Be prepared for the pipe to leak when it thaws, and, if it leaks, shut the master valve off. Do not apply hot water to pipes or use an excessive heat source, as you will cause more damage.

## Water Main Repair



Photo on the left shows Operator I, Barry Silva, straddling 12" water main during repair.

On October 18, 2010, water services to some District customers were temporarily interrupted while repairs were made to a 12" water main. Staff notified customers of the anticipated eight hour interruption, but they were able to complete the repairs in only three and a half hours. Following the repair, fire hydrants in the area were flushed to relieve air left in the distribution system. We would like to thank all of the customers affected by the service interruption for their patience and our field staff for the outstanding job they do.



## REMINDER!

Turn off or reset your irrigation to manual during the winter months.



## Toys for Kids Needs Wrappers!

Calling all "Wrappers," your moment has arrived! We have already received several items for our annual Toys for Kids Holiday toy drive. By mid-December, we will have collected more than 800 gifts to be distributed to needy families within Lake County. Gift wrapping will be December 14th and 15th, 2010 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the District Office, at 19400 Hartmann Road.



If you are a wrapper and wish to assist us in wrapping gifts, please contact Tami Ipsen at 987-9201 to sign up for a wrapping shift.

THANK YOU!