PALOMINO LAKES MUTUAL WATER COMPANY

POST OFFICE BOX 687 CLOVERDALE, CALIFORNIA 95425

COPY ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY
TO FLOREY + PARTIAL
MAY 0 1 2009

26 April 2009

File: 42-4.19&6.19-9 Correspondence Related to SWRCB Order Approving Temporary Urgency Change in Permits 12947A, 12949, 12950 & 16596 (Order WR 2009-0027-DWR)

Ms. Lynn Florey, Principal Program Specialist
Sonoma County Water Agency
POB 11628
Santa Rosa, CA 95406

Re: Your 17 April 2009 letter (arrived on 20 April)

Dear Ms. Florey;

In response to your letter we are providing the information you requested. Below is a brief description of the Palomino Lakes Mutual Water Company (PLMWC) system for your information.

PLMWC operates under SWRCB permit #17247. Water is pumped from the Russian River underflow to a series of storage tanks at various elevations within the community. These tanks serve as distribution hubs.

The system serves both the fire suppression and domestic water needs for 110 homes. Six additional home sites are still undeveloped. All properties are metered.

Data requested

(1) 2004 Diversion volumes for July, August, September and October.

Developing this has presented a problem because PLMWC reads meters quarterly utilizing a skewed quarter system of F/M/A - M/J/J – A/S/O – N/D/J. This method prevents the heaviest months of July, August and September being lumped together in a single billing period. The portion of the 2004 M/J/J applied to July was calculated using historical Cloverdale climatological data from the National Climate Data Center at Oak Ridge National Laboratory to develop the percentage differences between the months. The same procedure was used to arrive at the monthly totals for A/S/O.

July 2004	1,982,466 gallons
August 2004	1,833,934 gallons
September 2004	1,781,535 gallons
October 2004	1,624,341 gallons

Please note the diversion information for October is supplied as requested. However, since DRW order WR 2009-0027-DWR terminates on 2 October, the PLMWC requests clarification as to the necessity for the October information.

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(2) How will a 25% reduction be accomplished during A/J/J/A/S/?

- Please note October is not included per the comments on the bottom of page one.
- Please note that because of the timing of the conservation mandate no reductions can be expected in the April usage.
- The PLMWC Board of Directors met to review the previously adopted emergency rules specifying a wide range of conservation measures and to consider additional steps. Please see exhibit A.
- A program of increased meter reading was implemented so that we will have better indications of the success of our efforts. Increased meter reading will also allow us to quickly spot and correct problems.
- Since the basis for changing any community is education, a letter is being mailed to every household in the community stressing the necessity for additional conservation.
- Community members have been encouraged to use the media to learn more about the problems as well as the solutions.
- Customers have been encouraged to talk to each other about ways to save water.
- On 23 May the PLMWC holds its annual meeting and this meeting will place the maximum emphasis on conservation.
- The community website has been modified to feature water conservation prominently and is now linked to the SCWA website.
- Signs urging water conservation are being posted at all three community entrances.

(3) Short term reduction measures and estimated water savings.

(A) The short term reduction measures are detailed on page one of Exhibit A.

(B) The PLMWC Board estimates that the short term reductions will meet the goals outlined in your letter.

(4) Long term reduction measures implemented in the past and estimated water savings.

(A) In 2003 PLMWC's newly elected Board of Directors began to institute a tiered rate billing system. The intent was two fold. First the new system was designed so that you only paid for the water you actually used. The second part of the tiered system's design was to encourage conservation by water becoming increasingly costly as usage volumes increased.

(B) Also in 2003, the PLMWC instituted an aggressive program to reduce leaks in both our distribution system and customer homes. The distribution system was inspected and leaks and questionable equipment repaired. The PLMWC Board members also worked closely with all customers to identify, locate and repair leaks. Our computerized billing system reviews customer usage and flags unusual changes in use for further on-site investigation.

(C) *Using 2003 as the base year (since that is when the conservation effort started) total water savings of 16,607,844 gallons have been achieved from 2003 through 2008. This is a total water use reduction of 22% and has been accomplished even though additional connections have been added to the system.*

(5) Future long term reduction methods.

There are several infrastructure improvements being studied to reduce distribution leakage. Additionally education programs concerning irrigation methods and promoting native, low water use vegetation will continue as will usage monitoring.

(6) Future water conservation savings.

It should be noted here that PLMWC seriously started water conservation back in the fall of 2003. With reduction of 22% over the five year period, the PLMWC feels that we are close to the end of significant gains. While we will continue to work towards conservation we strongly feel that any further significant reduction in water use will require more than conservation…it will probably necessitate mandated quotas.

It is time that comprehensive water use policies for the Russian River Watershed are adopted, and those policies firmly applied to all water users, including every community, agricultural and commercial user. The PLMWC has reduced usage 22% over five years and we feel it is grossly unfair to continue to ask for more until everyone is held to uniform standards.

Howard C. Blake
Director, PLMWC

FOR LEE TOLBERT PER HIS REQUEST

Lee Tolbert
Director, PLMWC

Richard M. Corriea
Director, PLMWC

Enclosures: Exhibit A – Community mailing
Exhibit B – Typical community entrance conservation sign

PALOMINO LAKES MUTUAL WATER COMPANY

PO BOX 687 – CLOVERDALE, CALIFORNIA

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State Mandated Water Conservation
April 6th to October 2nd 2009

This year's rainfall was significantly below normal. Water storage in Lake Mendocino on the Russian River is dangerously low and the California Water Resources Control Board has ordered us to implement mandatory water conservation measures. **Please reduce your overall water usage.** The following is a list of mandatory measures and additional suggestions in order to meet the State mandated reduction. **Mandatory measures appear in bold face type.**

PLEASE READ THIS LIST CAREFULLY AND DO YOUR PART TO CONSERVE WATER TODAY AND TOMORROW!

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CONSERVATION MEASURES

- **Reduce your irrigation.**
- **Watering during midday hours is prohibited. Landscape irrigation is confined to night time hours between 9:30 PM and 8:30 AM. In addition to reducing evaporation loses this period is when the PGE rates are the lowest so it keeps the pumping costs down.**
- **Irrigation which allows run-off of water from or over-spray of the areas being watered is prohibited.**
- **Washing of walkways, driveways, and other hard-surfaced areas by direct hosing is prohibited.**
- **Washing cars, boats, trailers, or other machinery directly with a hose not equipped with a shutoff nozzle is prohibited. Please restrict washings to those absolutely necessary.**
- **No PLMWC water shall be used for the initial filling of a new swimming pool or the refilling of a pool after repairs have been made.**
- Learn how to read your water meter. Check your meter weekly to ensure that leaks and/or high uses are discovered promptly.
- Water your lawn in 2 short cycles rather than one long cycle. By splitting your watering time in half and repeating it again about one hour later, you will reduce water runoff and water more deeply, which encourages deeper, healthier root development. It also allows the turf to go without water for longer periods of time. Adjust your lawnmower to the maximum height - longer grass requires less water.
- Find and repair exterior irrigation piping/sprinklers and interior leaks (dripping faucet, faulty toilet flapper, etc.).
- Cover your swimming pool to cut evaporation loss.
- Use a broom or leaf blower to remove debris from your driveway or deck areas.
- Don't let water run while shaving, brushing teeth or rinsing dishes. Use a dishpan to capture dish washing rinse water and use this water for container plants & trees.
- Replace old toilets, shower heads, dishwashers, and clothes washers with water smart models.
- Turn off water softeners. Each recharge cycle can use up to 100 gallons of water.
- Mulch plants to significantly reduce a landscape's water requirements.

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REVISIONS TO PLMWC POLICY

- Your PLMWC Board has suspended the leak adjustment policy and will not adjust bills during the term of this water emergency.
- Water meters will be read on the 1st and 15th of May, June, July, August and September.
- The quarterly billing cycle will remain.
- All installations of new water service connections are suspended during the stated period.
- The PLMWC Board will turn off water at the meter of unoccupied properties when possible leak situations conservation violations are observed.

PLEASE HELP INSURE THAT OUR WATER SYSTEM CAN CONTINUE TO PROVIDE FOR THE FIRE PROTECTION AND POTABLE WATER NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY DURING THESE DROUGHT CONDITIONS!

IF YOU NEED FURTHER ASSISTANCE, CALL ONE OF YOUR PLMWC BOARD MEMBERS

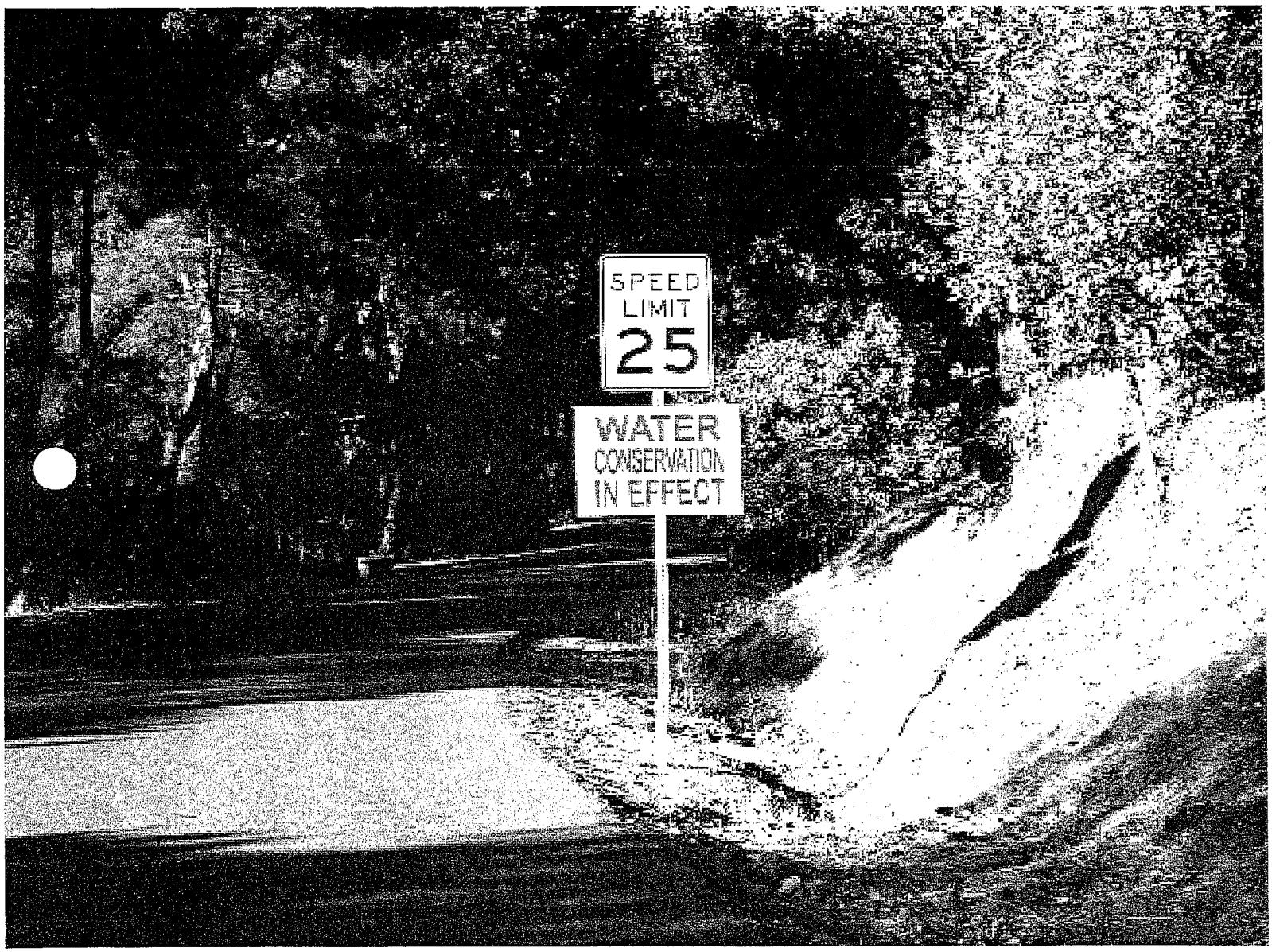
894-4709 (Howard) / 894-0432 (Rick) / 481-3475 (Lee)

PLMWC ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY MAY 23 at 10:00 AM

CLOVERDALE VETERANS HALL

205 WEST FIRST STREET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