

### Upcoming Events

The Park will close the end of September or at the first snowfall.

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#### **Board Meetings**

At the District Office:

Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m.

Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m.

Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m.

#### **ASCWD**

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#### **UPDATE ON ALPINE MEADOWS FUELS REDUCTION PROJECT – STILL ON HOLD**

As reported in past newsletters, Alpine Springs County Water District received a grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy in the amount of \$176,375 for the “Alpine Meadows Community Consolidated Fuels Reduction Project”. Additional funding for the project was to be provided by AMEA (\$2,500), JMA (\$2,500) and ASCWD (\$5,000). The project got underway last year after the District retained the services of registered professional forester, David Jaramillo, to manage the project. The community defensible space inspections and chipping program were completed. The boundaries of the project were marked during August and September 2008. Work on the mitigation and monitoring program was started. Then, on December 17, 2008, the District received notice that it was to “stop all work” on the project until further notice. The stop-work order was due to California’s financial crisis. In August 2009, the District received notice that invoices received before December 17, 2008, were being processed for payment and payment would be received within 45 days. SNC has not notified the District of a possible date to restart the project and, if restarted, how much money will be available to complete the project’s goals.

#### **ANNUAL BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICE CERTIFICATION**

Backflow prevention devices are installed by a homeowner to protect the District’s water supply distribution system from possible contamination from a source within the home or property. Generally, homeowners who have a hydronic heating system, fire sprinkler system or landscape irrigation system have installed these devices. Under Ordinance 2-88, Alpine Springs County Water District requires that these devices be tested by an approved backflow tester on an annual basis. The results are then sent to the District’s office. The District will send the homeowner a letter if the annual inspection and test results are not sent to the District each year. Help the District keep its expenses down, **mark your calendar** and don’t forget your annual backflow prevention device test. The test should be completed while it is possible to access the device, that is, before it snows. A list of qualified testers can be supplied to you by calling or emailing the District office at 530-583-2342, x-15, or [buz@alpinesprings.org](mailto:buz@alpinesprings.org). If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email.

#### **VEHICLE STORAGE BUILDING EXPANSION**

After a one-year delay, the District is starting the process of expanding the existing vehicle storage building (VSB) by one bay. The one-year delay was caused by discovery of unexpected objects and materials during the excavation for the footings. The soils in the affected areas were removed and tested for harmful chemicals. After reviewing the test results, the Placer County Environmental Health Department gave its approval to use the soils as engineered fill for the footings on the building. The additional bay, which is approximately 20 feet by 40 feet, will provide storage for North Tahoe Fire Protection District’s vehicles. To finance the expansion, the District and NTFPD entered into a 40-year lease agreement. By the terms of the agreement, NTFPD will pay for the construction, but the building annex will be owned by the District. The District will lease the annex to the Fire District for the first 15 years at no cost. Then, commencing 15 years after the effective date of the lease, the Fire District will pay the District a monthly fee of \$250 per month, adjusted annually by the increase or decrease in the Consumer Price Index. The current schedule is to complete the foundation before the snow starts falling, so that the building project can continue during the winter and be completed by spring.

#### **NEW PARK ACCESS CONTROL SYSTEM**

After 13 years of use, the original park gate access control system failed last month. As Pam Zinn, District Office Administrator, was going about her normal routine of checking out the Park access system, she noticed that the system was not responding. AWAXX, the District’s maintenance company, recommended a new controller and card reader system manufactured by Keri System Inc. As a result of having a new laser beam card reader

system, all park pass holders were notified and issued new cards. **The new gate access system will not allow the gate to be left open.** When entering the Park, the gate will automatically close behind you. Please do not prop the gate open with a rock or other object. If the gate is left open, a loud alarm will sound and the control system will notify the office that the gate was left open, by whom and when. During the hours of 9:30 p.m. to 6:30 a.m., all access to the Park will be denied.

**PROPOSITION 1A SUSPENDED - WHAT DOES THAT MEAN TO THE DISTRICT?**

In simple terms, Proposition 1A states that the State of California cannot borrow property tax money from special districts, cities or counties. During the State’s budget crisis this year, the legislature voted to suspend the ban on borrowing these property tax monies. With the suspension, the State can “borrow” an amount equal to 8% of the 2008-09 property tax revenues of local governments. This amounts to approximately \$43,800 for the District. The District can either pay the amount this year or participate in a loan securitization program administered by the California Statewide Communities Development Authority (CA Communities). If the District joins the CA Communities’ loan securitization program, the District will receive cash to pay the loan to the State and CA Communities will sell bonds to finance the cash distribution to the local governments. It is expected that the bonds will be repaid from the State’s repayment to the District in 2013. If the District chooses not to participate in CA Communities’ loan securitization program, the District can expect to be repaid directly from the State by June 30, 2013, with interest. The loan to the State will not undermine any of the services provided by the District. Property tax revenues received by the District pay for fire services and the Park, exclusively. The annual amount paid to North Tahoe Fire Protection District is 80% of the District’s property tax revenues. All other services are supported by user fees. The District will continue to be financially sound and will not implement a rate increase to cover the lost revenue this year.

**SUCCESSFUL ALPINE MEADOWS FIRE SAFE COUNCIL (AMFSC) WORK DAY**

Congratulations to the Alpine Meadows Fire Safe Council and all the volunteers on the very successful project to reduce the wildfire fuels on the USFS property adjacent to the Alpine Meadows Stables. The District thanks each and every person who worked so hard on the project. A special thank you also to the North Tahoe Fire Protection District for providing chipping services and clearing the piles. The AMFSC is delighted with the level of participation and is already planning future projects to make our valley safer!

Lee Massick has posted a photo album of the day’s activities on the web at <http://gallery.me.com/lmassick#100106>. Instructions on viewing options are displayed on the website. The photos are best viewed with a broadband connection (Grid, Mosaic, Slideshow, etc.)

**LATCH THE DUMPSTERS**

As winter approaches, the bears are on a day-long search for food, and the dumpsters at the District office are one of their favorite locations. Unfortunately, some people either leave their garbage sitting outside the dumpsters or do not latch the dumpsters after putting in their garbage. As a result, the bears make a mess of things. As we approach winter, you can help by following all the posted rules every time you use the dumpsters. Be sure to latch the dumpsters after every use. Two disposable plastic glove dispensers, located on a stand marked “Gloves”, have been provided for your convenience.

