

Bishop Creek Water Association
Monthly Board Meeting Agenda
June 10, 2025
7:00 pm

1. Opening and Introduction
2. New Watermaster
3. Acceptance of the May 13, 2025 Monthly Board Meeting Summary
4. Approval of the May 2025 Financial Report
5. Bishop Creek Precipitation, Flow, and Storage Report
6. Appointment of Finance Committee
7. Old Business
 - a. Street Culverts:
 - i. Inyo County Road Department Position regarding Plugged/Deteriorated Street Culverts
 - ii. Culvert Obstructions/Blockage at 3068 Laurel Rd.
 - b. Flow in Mattlick Ditch
 - c. Leakage from Waterson Area Ditch unto LADWP
 - d. Water Rights Filing
 - e. Collection of Past Due Assessments
 - f. Failing Check Structure in No. Fork of Bishop Ck at Vista Ditch
 - g. Ditch Relocation at NW corner of Carol Ln. (parcel no 011-510-27)
 - h. Ditch Diversion Box Repair/Rebuild Project
 - i. Bishop Tribe BCWA Membership?
8. Watermaster Report
9. New Business
 - a. Other (by Board or members in good standing)
12. Next Monthly Board Meetings: July 8, 2025, at 7:00 pm at GLCC
13. Adjournment

Monthly Meeting Summary
May 13th, 2025
7:00 pm

1. Opening and Introduction

BWCA monthly Board meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm. Trustees in attendance: Gene Coufal, Eric Tillemans, Mark Frumkin, Don Kunze and Merry Armstrong. Watermaster Terry Crowl was not in attendance.

2. Acceptance of April 8th Monthly Board Meeting

The April 8th monthly meeting summary was accepted as written.

3. Approval of the March and April 2025 Financial Reports

There were discrepancies in the Accountants March and April financial reports. Mark presented his reports for March and April (attached), which were based on bank transactions rather than checks written. The Board unanimously approved Mark's reports and after discussing, moving forward agreed with transitioning to using Mark's monthly financial reports (based on bank statements).

4. Bishop Creek Vision Project – Mo Loden, LRWQCB

Mo Loden from the LRWQCB described a water quality improvement project for Bishop Creek that she is heading up. She basically has been exploring with local entities' support for the project. Discussions revolved around exploring how the BCWA might be able to assist in the project. After the Board described what the BCWA's function is she said that she may come back at a future date with some thoughts on how there might be some collaboration on the project.

5. Bishop Creek Precipitation, Flow and Storage Report

SCE significantly reduced flow in Bishop creek, down to minimal Chandler Decree levels.

6. Appointment of Water and Arbitration Committee

The board unanimously voted to approve Jan Hamilton, Marlena Baker and Don Kunze to serve on the Water and Arbitration Committee with Merry Armstrong.

7. Appointment of Finance Committee

These appointments will be made next month.

8. Flow in Matlick Ditch

The Los Angeles Dept of Water and Power made adjustments to upstream flows in the Matlick Ditch.

9. Old Business

- a. Street Culverts
 - i. Inyo County Road Department Policy Regarding Plugged/Deteriorated Street Culverts: Do to potential legal issues, this discussion took place in closed session.
 - ii. Culvert Obstruction/Blockages at:
 - o 3068 Laurel Lane: County is currently backlogged
 - o 309 Grandview: Done
- b. Water Rights Filing: waiting on write up from LADWP
- c. Collection of Past Due Assessments: waiting on final check by Eric for discrepancies.
- d. Ditch Relocation at NW Corner of Carol Ln (Parcel no 011-510-27): this relocation will take place as soon as possible. An email from Eric Rose was presented (attached).
- e. Ditch Diversion Box Repair/Rebuild Project: On hold
- f. Failing Check Structure in No Fork of Bishop Creek at Vista Ditch: On hold until winter flows
- g. Bishop Tribe BCWA Membership: No update

10. Watermaster Report

Most of the issues experienced throughout the month were due to SCE lowering flows.

11. New Business

- a. Leakage from Waterson Area Ditch onto LADWP: DWP will double check the property line (location of tree causing problems) and Watermaster will look into possibility of reducing flows.
Other:
- b. Egan Letter dated 4/8/25 regarding 2025 irrigation season (attached).
- c. Closed Session to discuss IC Culvert MOU. Gene distributed a draft table of subject culverts for attachment to the IC Culvert MOU. The Board will divide up culverts to field verify for the list.

12. Next Meetings

- a. The next monthly Board meeting will be held on June 10th, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the Inyo County Board of Education Facility, Lozito Conference Center (GLCC), 166 Grandview Dr., Bishop.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Eric Tillemans
Secretary
Bishop Creek Water Association

BISHOP CREEK WATER ASSOCIATION

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE MONTH

MARCH 2025

USBANK CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$ 3,221.70
USBANK SAVINGS ACCOUNT	74,956.54
USBANK TIME CERTIFICATE - Matured June 2nd	-
USBANK TIME CERTIFICATE - Matured September 23rd	-
	<hr/>
TOTAL BANK BALANCES - February 28, 2025	78,178.24

DEPOSITS:

Customer Deposits - Into Checking	\$ -
Customer Deposits - Into Savings	-
	-
Interest Income - Into Savings	-
Interest Income - Into CD	-
Transfer from Savings	<u>15,000.00</u>

TOTAL DEPOSITS 15,000.00

CHECKS WRITTEN:

Water Master Pay -	963.91 x 2	\$ 1,927.82
Truck Allowance -	225.00 x 2	450.00
Additional Pay - Vacation Time		-
Telephone		81.03
Payroll Taxes - IRS		-
Payroll Taxes - State		-
Payroll Taxes - IRS Unemployment		-
Cal Rural Water Assoc - Dues		265.00
Cal Rural Water Assoc - Insurance		6,636.00
Gene Coufal - Inyo Register Ad		57.50
Holland & Allred - Quarterly Accounting		673.13
Alex Printing		-
Transfer to Savings		<u>-</u>

TOTAL CHECKS WRITTEN (10,090.48)

USBANK CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$ 8,131.22
USBANK SAVINGS ACCOUNT	59,956.54
USBANK TIME CERTIFICATE	-
USBANK TIME CERTIFICATE	<hr/>
TOTAL BANK BALANCES - March 31, 2025	\$ 68,087.76

BISHOP CREEK WATER ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE MONTH

APRIL 2025

USBANK CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$ 8,131.22
USBANK SAVINGS ACCOUNT	59,956.54
USBANK TIME CERTIFICATE - Matured June 2nd	-
USBANK TIME CERTIFICATE - Matured September 23rd	-
	<hr/>
TOTAL BANK BALANCES - March 31, 2025	68,087.76

DEPOSITS:

Customer Deposits - Into Checking	\$ 19,598.00
(DWP \$19,438.00)	-
Customer Deposits - Into Savings	-
Interest Income - Into Savings	403.55
Interest Income - Into CD	-
Transfer from Savings	-
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TOTAL DEPOSITS	20,001.55
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CHECKS WRITTEN:

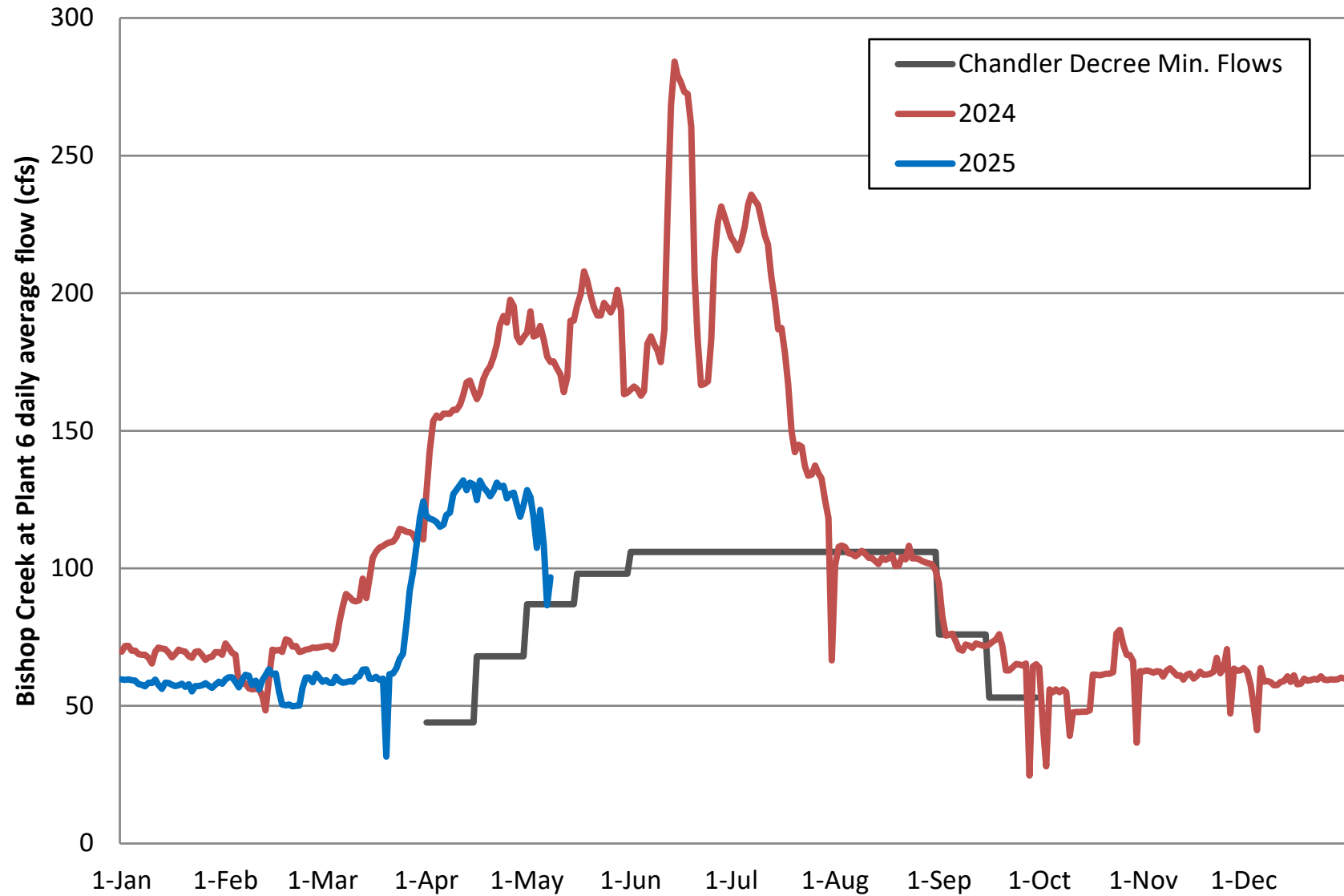
Water Master Pay - 868.34 x 2	\$ 1,736.68
Truck Allowance - 225.00 x 2	450.00
Additional Pay - Severance Time	481.95
Telephone	81.05
Payroll Taxes - IRS	970.79
Payroll Taxes - State	177.67
Payroll Taxes - IRS Unemployment	-
USBank - Service Charge	13.00
State Fund - Workers Comp	327.75
Gene Coufal - BCWA Hats	144.50
Holland & Allred - Quarterly Accounting	-
USPO - Stamps	657.00
Transfer to Savings	-
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TOTAL CHECKS WRITTEN	<hr/>	(5,040.39)
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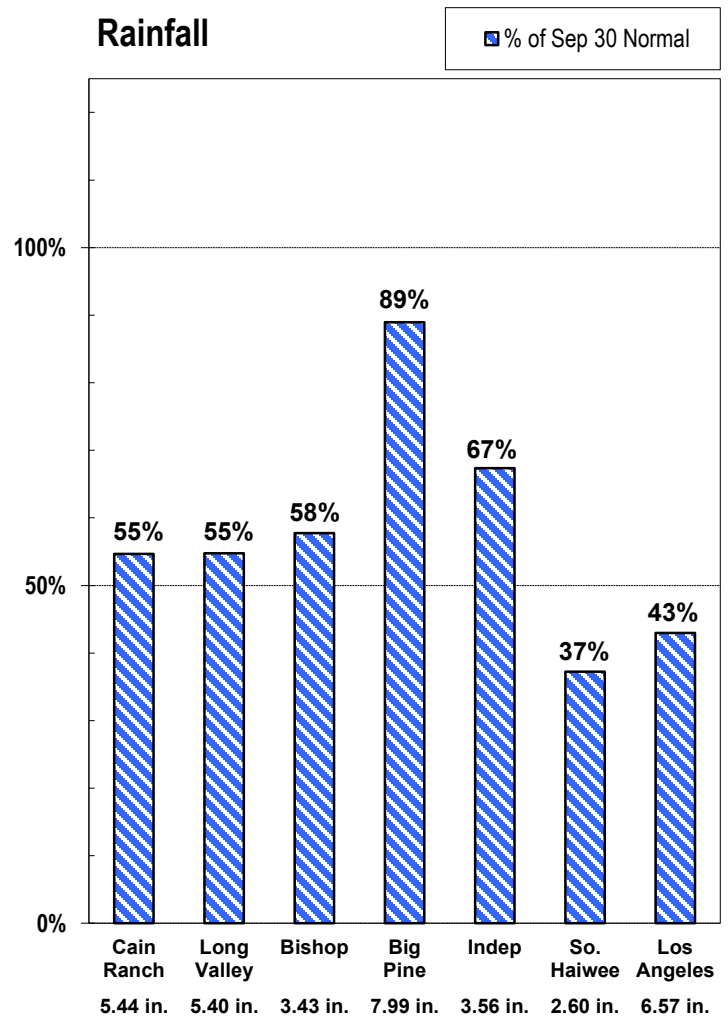
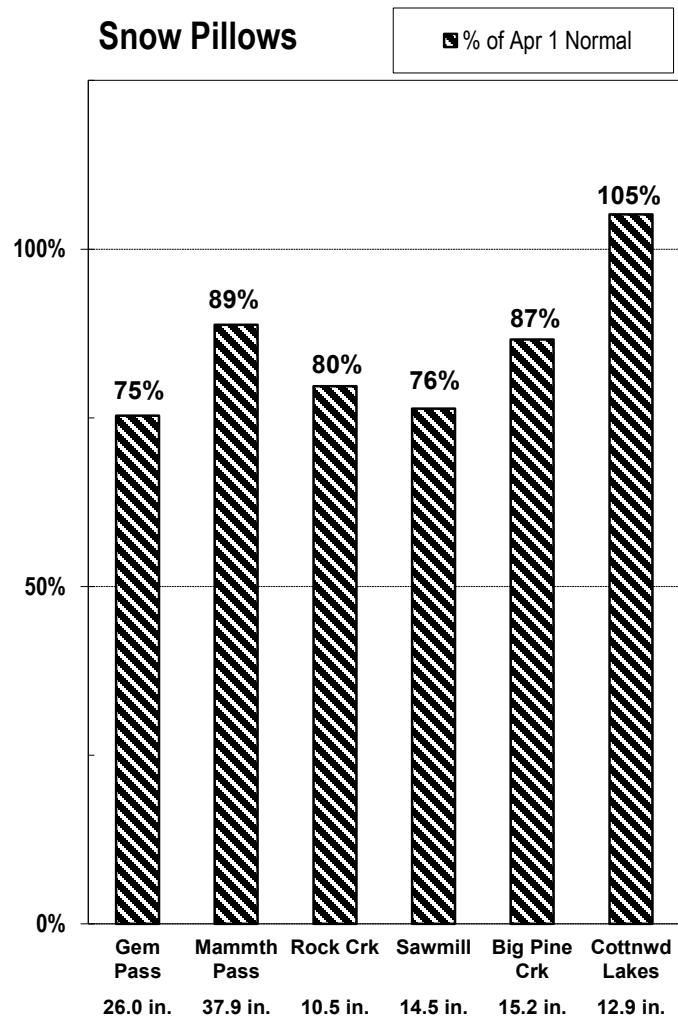
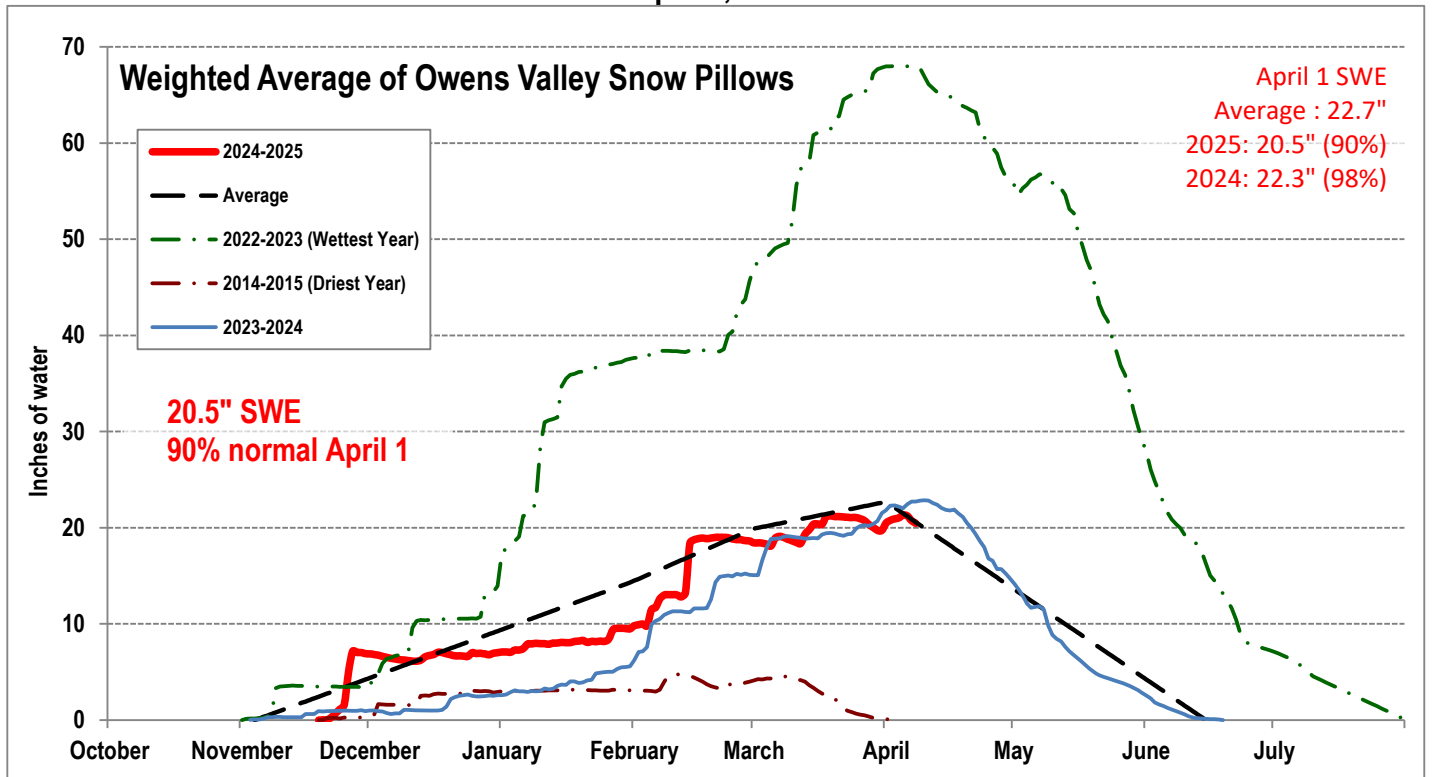
USBANK CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$ 22,688.83
USBANK SAVINGS ACCOUNT	60,360.09
USBANK TIME CERTIFICATE	-
USBANK TIME CERTIFICATE	-
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TOTAL BANK BALANCES - April 30, 2025	\$ 83,048.92
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Bishop Creek Flows at Plant 6



EASTERN SIERRA CURRENT PRECIPITATION CONDITIONS April 8, 2025



Measurement as Inches Water Content; Precipitation totals are cumulative for water year beginning Oct 1

BISHOP CREEK WATER ASSOCIATION

Post Office Box 1273
Bishop, California 93515

Dear Bishop Creek Water Association Member:

May 1, 2025

After a slow start, the snowpack in the Bishop area mountains came in at about 90% of the April 1 average. Because of the recent wet years and the resulting good residual base flow, runoff from the Bishop Creek drainage for the coming Runoff Year is estimated to be 110% of normal. There should be sufficient water to meet all member needs this year.

To keep the distribution system flowing efficiently and fairly, it is important that members be diligent about keeping their ditches clear and free of debris. Debris needs to be removed from ditches and not sent downstream. And please do not tamper with headgates. It only creates problems and headaches for the Watermaster. The Watermaster has sole authority and responsibility to divert water and change flows. If you have a problem with your water, check with your upstream neighbors for obstructions or if irrigating. If the reason for the problem is not obvious, call the Watermaster for help.

Plugged and deteriorated street culverts continues to be a problem, and in fact it was probably the biggest issue that the Board had to deal with in the past year. Plugs mainly occurred in the fall when trees lose their leaves, get into ditches, move into street culverts, and get lodged. This is especially true for properties where water leaving the property enters a street-crossing culvert. It is surprising how quickly a small branch, twig, or little bit of debris can trap more and more debris, which blocks the ditch or culvert, resulting in flooding. The best way to prevent this from happening is to screen the entrance to street culverts, preventing vegetation and other debris from entering the street culverts. Also, at locations where street culverts discharge ditch water onto private property, the water needs to flow freely as it exits the culvert.

As previously reported, the Inyo County Road Department (ICRD) has made the determination that it is not responsible for maintaining or replacing street culverts carrying Bishop Creek water and that those street culverts are solely the responsibility of the BCWA. The Board is currently discussing/negotiating with Inyo County regarding responsibility for maintenance and replacement of these street culverts.

With the mapping of the Bishop Creek Water Association (BCWA) ditches and reconciliation of the BCWA database complete, the Board is now moving forward with collection of past due assessments. This process will require taking members who do not pay their assessments to small claims court to get a judgement against the property owner, then filing a lien on their property. This will require an amendment to the BCWA By-Laws regarding liens, which the Board is in the process of preparing. Remember that the BCWA cannot maintain the necessary distribution facilities and provide for equitable distribution of water to all its members unless members utilizing and enjoying these waters pay the assessment. The assessments cumulatively pay the Watermaster's salary, BCWA bookkeeping, maintaining adequate insurance and maintenance of an aging distribution system.

BISHOP CREEK WATER ASSOCIATION

Post Office Box 1273
Bishop, California 93515

With the new BCWA maps, member property acreages can now be more accurately determined. This resulted in changes in the large property owners (10 or more acres) acreage. For some the acreage amounts changed, some parties fell off the list and some were added. At the BCWA Annual Meeting in January membership approved a budget that called for no change to the annual assessment for individual parcels and reduced the per acre assessment rate for large landowners from \$2.90 per acre to \$2.50 per acre. This assessment rate change maintained a neutral income and also maintains the current ratio of income from large property owners compared to individual parcels.

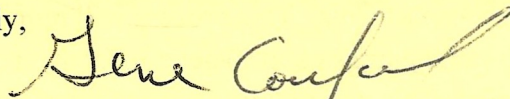
For reports on the progress of other ongoing activities and issues, i.e., water rights filing, structure repairs, ditch obstructions, etc. see the monthly Board meeting summaries posted on the BCWA website (www.BishopCreekWater.org).

Lastly, we want to extend thanks to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) and Southern California Edison, for their efforts and cooperation, and to all the BCWA members for their continued help and support. We want to especially thank LADWP staff for performing the secretarial duties of the BCWA. As a final note, we want to give a special thanks to Watermaster Matt Durkee, who has resigned. He has been our Watermaster for the past 8 years and has done a wonderful job. He will be missed. He has been replaced by Mr. Terry Crawl, who brings significant experience in surface water management to the job. The Watermaster's phone number has not changed and is listed below.

The Board continues to meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. You can find upcoming meeting agendas and packets, and information/announcements on operations on the BCWA website. All members are invited to participate and are encouraged to provide input on any water association related issue. The monthly board meetings are currently being conducted in the George Lozito Conference Center at the Jill Kinmont Booth/ICOE facility at 166 Grandview Drive.

Again, if you are having issues with your ditch water call the Watermaster. If you have any questions about the above or any other BCWA matter, please do not hesitate to contact one of your Board members listed below. Again, thank you for your support. We are here to serve the BCWA membership.

Sincerely,



BCWA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Gene Coufal, President (760) 873-6209

Merry Armstrong (760) 873-6519

Don Kunze (760) 873-3375

Mark Frumkin (818) 590-0554

Eric Tillemans (LADWP) (760) 920-8989

Terry Crawl, Watermaster (760) 920-7981

BISHOP CREEK WATER ASSOCIATION

Post Office Box 1273
Bishop, California 93515

May 2, 2025

Ms. Nora Gamino
City of Bishop
Director of Public Works
377 West Line Street
Bishop CA 93514

Dear Ms. Gamino,

By letter dated May 15, 2018 (attached), then Director of Public Works, Mr. David Grah, requested information regarding the assessment the City of Bishop (COB) receives from the Bishop Creek Water Association (BCWA). The letter specifically questioned the assessment on parcel 008-080-09. Thank you for your patience and please except our apology for the lengthy delay in responding to this request.

If you are not familiar with the Bishop Creek Water Association, it was formed in 1905 by the users and appropriators of the waters of Bishop Creek for use on lands located on the Bishop Cone in the County of Inyo, State of California, for the purpose of: 1) protecting their rights to the waters of said Bishop Creek; and 2) to apportion said waters among the several users. In 1922, the court ordered Chandler Decree adjudicated the waters of Bishop Creek and the diversions of waters from the main canals by the Association of Bishop Creek. This caused the members of this Association to amend the Articles of the Association to conform to the changes. A copy of the BCWA Articles and By-Laws can also be found on the BCWA website, www.BishopCreekWater.org.

Provisions for membership are found in Article VIII, Sections 1-3 (pages 6-7) of the By-Laws. The following is a key applicable provision:

Section 2 – “Any owner of real property whose property is traversed by, borders on, or has access to any stream, canal, or ditch carrying the water of Bishop Creek, and located within the boundaries as shown on Exhibit A, shall automatically be a member of this Association and shall be entitled to the benefits and burdened by the duties imposed herein. Any question of membership shall be referred to the Arbitration Committee, shall be binding upon all parties. “

BISHOP CREEK WATER ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1897

BISHOP CREEK WATER ASSOCIATION

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Bishop, California 93515

The reason for the delay in responding to COB request was mainly due to a lack of historic documentation regarding the COB account. What we can tell you is that the above-mentioned parcel was used as a place holder in the BCWA billing data base to represent applicable COB properties. In addition, thanks to a recently completed mapping project we are now equipped to address issues regarding membership and boundaries within BCWA's jurisdiction.

We could not find any documentation to explain past assessments, however with the currently available data we are able to identify the COB properties that are crossed by ditches conveying Bishop Creek water and therefor subject to the BCWA Articles and By-Laws.

Our mapping and records indicate that 3 parcels, 008-260-02, 011-360-02, and 008-140-28, have ditches conveying Bishop Creek water across them. At the current assessment rate of \$40 per parcel, the City of Bishop will be assessed a total of \$120 for 2025. The COB will receive 3 invoices in early May, one for each parcel.

Again, sorry for the delay. I hope this answers the City 's questions. If you have further questions or other information regarding this, please contact me on (760) 873-6209.

Sincerely,



Board of Trustees

Gene Coufal - President

Merry Armstrong

Don Kunze

Mark Frumkin

Eric Tillemans

Enclosure: COB letter dated May 15, 2018
c: BCWA Board Members

BISHOP CREEK WATER ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1897

Bishop Creek Water Association
2025 Financial Report

	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	YEAR
BEGINNING SAVINGS BALANCE	74,736.54	74952.65	75148.38	60360.09									
BEGINNING CHECKING BALANCE	10,878.86	6731.40	4131.96	16265.63									
CUSTOMER DEPOSITS TO CHECKING	392.00	544.00		19598.00									
WORKERS COMP REFUND													
CUSTOMER DEPOSITS TO SAVINGS													
INTEREST INCOME TO SAVINGS	216.11	195.73	211.71	168.90									
TOTAL DEPOSITS	608.11	739.73	211.71	19766.90									
TRANSFER FROM SAVING			15000.00										
EXPENSES													
WATERMASTER PAY	1927.82	1927.82	1880.67	1832.25									
TRUCK ALLOWANCE	450.00	450.00	225.00	450.00									
WATERMASTER VACATION PAY	726.15												
WATERMASTER PHONE	81.09	81.07	81.03	81.05									
PAYROLL TAXES - IRS	1132.60			970.79									
PAYROLL TAXES - STATE	120.87												
PAYROLL - TAXES UNEMPLOYMENT	100.93			177.67									
STATE FUND - WORKERS COMP INS.		578.05		327.75									
CAL RURAL SPECIAL DISTRICT INS.				6636.00									
HOLLAND & ALLRED CPA'S			673.13										
USPS - STAMP/ BOX RENT				657.00									
PRINTING													
LEGAL FEES		100.00											
WEBSITE & ZOOM													
Cal Rural Water Assoc - dues				265.00									
Misc.				202.00									
DITCH COLVERT FACILITY REPAIR/ MAINT.													
BANK CHARGES		6.50	6.50	6.50									
DINNER													
BROWN'S													
TOTAL EXPENSES	4539.46	3143.44	2866.33	11606.01									
ENDING CHECKING BALANCE	6731.40	4131.96	16265.63	24257.62									
ENDING SAVING ACCT. BALANCE/CD'S	74,952.65	75,148.38	60360.09	60528.99									
TOTAL BANK BALANCE	81684.05	79280.34	76625.72	84786.61									
A/R	0-30	31 - 60	61 - 90	>90									
4/8/2025A				10371.80									

5/13

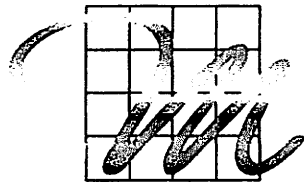
From: Eric Rose Eric@masterstouch.co
Subject: RE: Carol Lane Stream Modification
Date: May 12, 2025 at 4:48:41PM
To: nc3e@aol.com

Hi Gene,

We've been out of town quite a bit lately, but we are here now. There is an existing old stack board style gate on the stream that would work in a pinch, but it's not nearly as fancy as the newer models... I will schedule to get the new gate relocated asap.

Thanks for the reminder!

Eric Rose
707.539.7600



MASTERSTOUCH
CONSTRUCTION INC.

From: nc3e@aol.com <nc3e@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2025 3:02 PM
To: Eric Rose <Eric@masterstouch.co>
Subject: Re: Carol Lane Stream Modification

Eric,
It has been a while since we communicated. Checking to see what progress has been made on getting the headgate moved? We continue to be concerned regarding the uncontrolled situation without a functioning headgate. Thanks, Gene

On Saturday, August 10, 2024 at 11:02:28 AM PDT, GENE COUFAL <nc3e@aol.com> wrote:

Eric, thank you for the update, this is very helpful and reasonable. I will report this to Board. Getting the head gate in the flow channel as soon as you can is important. Gene

On Aug 10, 2024, at 7:47 AM, Eric Rose <Eric@masterstouch.co> wrote:

Hi Gene,

I'm still working on getting permits to build the house... I don't think the stream course will change from the current configuration, but once we get the permits, the course of the stream will be solidified, and I will get the easement taken care of at that point.

Thanks,

Eric Rose

707.539.7600

<image001.jpg>

From: GENE COUFAL <nc3e@aol.com>

Sent: Friday, August 9, 2024 2:06 PM

To: Eric Rose <Eric@masterstouch.co>

Subject: Re: Carol Lane Stream Modification

Eric, thanks. What about the dedicated easement for the new ditch? As I said earlier, we will be having a Board mtg Tuesday and I will need to give an update. Gene

On Aug 9, 2024, at 8:12 AM, Eric Rose <Eric@masterstouch.co> wrote:

Good morning Gene,

UGH... amazing how time flies. Thanks for the reminder... I'll get that gate relocated asap.



**BILL AND MAGGIE EGAN,
AT THE GARDEN OF EGAN
3613 RANCH ROAD, BISHOP, CALIFORNIA 93514**

TO: Board of Directors, WaterMaster
Bishop Creek Water Association
Post Office Box 1273, Bishop, California 93515

FROM: Bill & Maggie Egan

DATE: April 8, 2025

Hello.

Per the BCWD Bylaws, we are writing to inform you of our intended use of ditch water for this spring, summer and fall at our 3613 Ranch Road full-time residence .

As you likely are aware, we are one of the properties in the system that still flood irrigates; we do not have a sprinkler system. It has been our practice over the past 27 years to flood irrigate on Mondays and/or Thursdays. Depending on water supply and climate, we plan to continue with that practice. In the event we need to amend that schedule, we will notify the WaterMaster.

It is our goal to minimize the impact on water users downstream. To that end, the greater the flow when we are flooding, the shorter the period of time that we will need to divert the main ditch. As such, we ask that the WaterMaster assure that properties upstream are not diverting flow while we are flooding. In the event we suspect that upstream diversions are reducing flow in the main ditch, we will first check the ditch above us. If the ditch appears to be clear of debris and/or diversions, we will contact the WaterMaster for a remedy, as stated in the BCWD Bylaws.

Thank you.

William "Bill" Egan

Margaret "Maggie" Egan

Date 5/13/2025

[illegible]

Bishop Creek Flows at Plant 6

