

MARCH 2019

# PINERY PIPELINE



## *From your board of directors*

Why is the water so expensive here? We have a lot of snow in the mountains therefore we should have plenty of water at a cheap price! "RIGHT?!" While we have a lot of snow melt running off our mountains, because of interstate and international requirements, Colorado can only keep 1/3 of the water runoff. The other 2/3 goes out of our State to supply 6 other states (New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, Nevada, Arizona and California) by way of 1400 miles of the Colorado River system which supplies water to 40 million people.

The beginning, or headwaters, of the Colorado River is on the west side of the Continental Divide in Rocky Mountain National Park. The river begins at Grand Lake, Colorado's largest natural lake and the western gateway to the Rocky Mountain National Park. In an average year, Colorado snowpack generates approximately 16 million acre-feet (maf) of renewable water that flows in streams and groundwater. For reference, about 1/2 of an acre-foot of water would supply one household water for an entire year. On average, 8.67 maf of renewable water leaves Colorado to the Pacific side of the Continental Divide and 1.33 maf to the Atlantic side.

On January 3, 2019, I watched a feature on Channel 31 5 o'clock news by Jeremy Hubbard where he talked about the "Thirsty Colorado Water Crisis." He stated, along with Brad Udall of the Colorado Water Institute, that the 2018 water year was the driest year since 1987. He also noted that there is a warming trend (Climate Change) in Colorado. We are not getting enough snow to keep up with the demand and there is not enough water to supply Colorado customers, let alone the 6 lower states in our compacts. Bottom line, we all need to manage our water better.

Jeremy also pointed out that as of December 31, 2018, all the major Colorado reservoirs are depleting. Blue Mesa Reservoir, near Gunnison, is down 70% of capacity and dropping 6 inches per day. Standley Lake, in north Denver is down 16%. Rifle Gap Reservoir (near Rifle, CO) is down 36' and Ridge Way Reservoir is down 50%. Dillon Reservoir, supplies the Denver Metro area is down 20%. By far, the biggest "reservoir" in Colorado is the snow pack because water is stored as snow through the entire winter.

The news feature detailed above should be disturbing to all of us. The lack of water is everyone's problem because a water shortage affects not only home owners but all water consumers: Farming, Recreational (fishing, swimming, boating, Golf courses etc.), Industry (Beer, Oil etc.). We need to do our part now to manage our water resources better. Go to [Pinerywater.com](http://Pinerywater.com) to see how you might better manage your water usage for yourself, family and yard and click on "Water Conservation". The Pinery Water and Wastewater District Staff and Directors have planned ahead so this community will not run out of water but we still need use water efficiently which

ultimately helps our pocketbooks at the same time.

**Russ Hokanson,  
Board Member, Pinery Water and  
Wastewater District Board of Directors**



**Please join us at our District Office for our regularly held Board Meetings at 6:30pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.**

**Upcoming Board Meetings will be held at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, April 17, 2019  
Wednesday, May 15, 2019**

## Water Main Flushing

As an essential part of our system's maintenance program, the District will begin flushing water mains through the Pinery. The District opens hydrants and blow-off valves each spring in an effort to clear our water mains of sediment and mineral buildup. This practice not only extends the life of our water mains but improves the water quality. It also offers us the opportunity to test our hydrants so that we know they are operating properly.



To cleanse the system, we systematically open hydrants or blow-off valves to increase flows in the water mains, allowing us to "flush" minerals and deposits from the pipes. Though flushing will not interrupt your water service, when crews are working in your area, you may notice a temporary drop in water pressure or discolored water. This is normal. After flushing in your area, you may need to run cold water briefly until the water runs clear, drawing out any mineral deposits from your service line.

Crews will be flushing Monday through Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM throughout the spring. For questions or concerns, please call the District office at 303-841-2797 or email us at [info@pinerywater.com](mailto:info@pinerywater.com).

## Due Date Change

**In March we will be migrating to a new due date which means for the month of March you will have two due dates.**

Here is how it will work: Your February bill (January usage) will be due on its regular date of March 11th. Then we will immediately send out your March bill (with your February usage) that will have the new due date of March 31, 2019. Going forward, you will receive your monthly bill by the 10th of each month with the due date being on the last day of that month. During this period of transition there will be no late charges or penalties assessed. For questions or concerns, please call the District office at 303-841-2797.

## WATER EFFICIENCY TASK FORCE

The Pinery Water and Wastewater District Board of Director's approved a Water Efficiency Task Force in July 2017, the purpose of which is to advise the Board and work with District staff on topics of water efficiency and other related matters. This group was instrumental in crafting the update to the Water Efficiency Master Plan and will now be recommending to the Board which of the listed water efficiency activities are most beneficial to the District and its residents and have met twice since that time. The Task Force is currently looking for more interested residents to join the group. If you are interested in observing the discussion, please call the District office at (303)841-2797 for further information.



## Pinery Water and Wastewater District Contact Information:

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