

Water Usage Model Retooled by County

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Nathan Solis
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Shasta County officials changed how some residents will be billed for water and clarified the county's responsibilities when water supplies are limited, the Board of Supervisors learned at its meeting on Tuesday.

Pat Minturn, director of Public Works and chief engineer when the Shasta County Board of Supervisors makes decisions on water issues, detailed billing and water supplies in the county.

During summer, limited water supplies for county service areas require the county to purchase water from the McConnell Foundation. Customers will first use the McConnell Foundation water before using any additional water provided by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Minturn said

Minturn said that arrangement is more cost-effective for the county. The county pays McConnell Foundation \$250 per acre-foot up front, whereas the Bureau of Reclamation bills the county after the water year.

The water board issued a \$2,172 credit to the Jones Valley CSA and \$11,703 to the Keswick CSA for their conservation efforts from 2014. They were forecast to use a certain amount of water but came under that.

Meanwhile, the board of supervisors revisited the topic of an Inner Coast Range Conservancy, presented at last week's regular meeting.

Supervisor Les Baugh said he and the Rural County Representatives of California oppose the model of the conservancy laid out in Senate Bill 1396. Baugh sits on that organization's board.

Baugh suggested there is an imbalance for representation in the conservancy between local and state officials. Baugh suggested the opposition was unanimous from the RCRC, whose members felt there are a number of red flags in the proposal.

Supervisor Leonard Moty asked the board to wait on County Executive Officer Larry Lees to conduct an investigation on the topic.

Supervisors also put their names on a letter of opposition on Assembly Bill 2395, the replacement of public telephone land lines with Internet protocol enabled services and networks.

The board said the bill overlooked rural communities, which would suffer under the model of the transition from one type of phone service to another. The lack of

communication with emergency services would pose a problem, as not all residents in rural parts of the county have access to cell service or an Internet line.

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