

Heber Public Utility District

Report to the Board of Directors

MEETING DATE: November 21, 2019

FROM: Laura Fischer, General Manager

INFORMATION ONLY: Regarding: Request for Agenda Item – Resident Living on Appaloosa Road.

ISSUE:

Residents on Appaloosa Road in El Centro are requesting the opportunity to request permission from the Heber Public Utility District Board of Directors to use the untreated water from the IID canal for irrigation purposes.

BACKGROUND:

The State of California Water Code regulates drinking water providers and requires that HPUD protect its water supply from “auxiliary” water sources by administering mandated cross-connection contamination and backflow prevention and monitoring programs to ensure public health.

The HPUD Board, through very proactive measures, and in response to development demand, of which it has no control over, has invested substantially in its water distribution and treatment system. The HPUD water treatment and distribution facilities represent a significant public investment and it is imperative that we not only operate in an efficient and sanitary manner to protect public health, safety and welfare, but that we ensure financial stability and safeguard system revenues and HPUD’s financial resources. These objectives are critical to maintain District stability, affordable services and continue support of new development within the Heber community, without having to compete with other agencies that may provide water services.

EXISTING CONDIONS:

Currently there are five (5) secondary water service connections for commercial businesses within the HPUD service area that also have a water service connection with HPUD. The private connections include:

- Ormat with two connections, one on Dogwood Road and one on Pitzer Road. The raw water is used for their cooling towers and some landscaping.
- El Torro with one connection on Fawcett Road. The raw water is used for dust mitigation and watering livestock.
- Valley Harvesting has one connection on Pitzer Road. The raw water is used for dust mitigation.
- Pyramid Construction has one connection on Dogwood Road. The raw water is used for dust mitigation.

- There is only one public connection. The Dogwood Elementary School also has a raw water connection that is used for irrigating the playground fields.

Additionally, there are seventeen (17) secondary water service connections for residential uses, but these are all outside of our delineated service area. They are all within the McCabe Cove, McCabe Road, and Magnolia Gate subdivisions which are within the City of El Centro Service Area. These secondary water service connections were pre-existing and allowed under the agreement with the developer when the HPUD agreed to provide them with water services. The residents requesting approval to connect to a secondary water service with the IID are outside of our current service area, but are within our Sphere of Influence.

COST TO HPUD:

Every year the HPUD spends staff time, and money to ensure that all customers who have secondary water connections are in compliance with the State Water Code back flow prevention testing. Additionally, we must complete a cross control connection (CCC) compliance report which must be completed by a certified CCC Specialist. This all costs HPUD money for staff time, consultant services, and material costs to mail notices. It is a very time consuming task as customer are required to have their backflow prevention device tested by a certified backflow tester. This test costs each customer about \$40-50 per year. After the tests are completed and assuming that no repairs/improvements must be made, the certification is submitted to HPUD and we maintain these records. HPUD does not receive money from our customers to maintain the mandatory certifications. These customers have a regular water service connection and pay the regular rates approved and adopted by the HPUD Board via Ordinance. Cost recovery is not included in the current rate structure. HPUD loses money with each secondary water service connection allowed within our service area. The properties in question are outside of the HPUD service area and the HPUD does not receive property tax revenue for this area.

RESOLUTION TO RESTRICT SECONDARY WATER SOURCE SERVICE CONNECTION: On August 20, 2015, the HPUD adopted Resolution 2015-12 restricting secondary water source service connections within the Heber Public Utility District Service Area. These properties are outside of our service area.

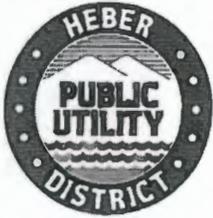
In 2017, the HPUD Board heard the same request from residents on Mustang Road. The Board supported their request, and staff was directed to prepare an Agreement that each resident property owner must sign before we would authorize a secondary water source connection. To day the four residents on Mustang Road have not signed the Agreement nor are they connected to a secondary water source.

CONCLUSION:

The Agreement is attached for your review. Mrs. Rodillas, who is making the request is planning on subdividing her lot to allow two new homes be build. She is requesting approval of a secondary water source prior to construction so that the engineer can include this connection in their plans.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Fischer, General Manager



Heber Public Utility District

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Heber, CA 92249

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REQUEST FOR AGENDA ITEM (PETICION PARA ARTÍCULO EN LA AGENDA)

TO (PARA): H P U D BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM (DE PARTE): SANDRA RODILES 1358 APPALOOSA RD E.C.

MEETING DATE (FECHA DE JUNTA): _____

Please list below any items you want to discuss with the Board of Directors. In addition, enclose any supporting documentation that is to be considered by the Board of Directors on the day of the meeting. (Por favor indique cualquier artículo o tema que quiera discutir con la mesa directiva. Adicionalmente incluya cualquier documento(s) que quiera que la mesa directiva considere durante la junta):

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED LETTER

The Heber Public Utility District requires that supporting documentation for any agenda item be provided by 4:30 p.m. on the Thursday before the holding of the regular board meetings which are held on the third Thursday of every month. In case of a special meeting supporting documentation shall be provided at least 24 hours before the date and time of the special meeting scheduled. Thank you. (Heber Public Utility District requiere que cualquier documentación que se relacione a un artículo de la agenda tiene que ser proveído antes de las 4:30 p.m. el jueves antes de las juntas regulares de la mesa directiva. Las juntas regulares se llevan a cabo el tercer jueves de cada mes. En caso de una junta especial la documentación deberá ser proveída por lo menos 24 horas antes de la fecha y hora de la junta especial. Gracias).

Signature of petitioner
(Firma de la persona
Haciendo la petición)

Sandra Rodiles

11/17/19 SANDRA RODILES

760-791-4914

November 17, 2019

To the Board of Directors of Heber Public Utility District

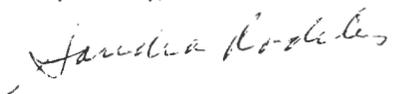
My name is Sandra Rodiles and I live at 1358 Appaloosa Road, El Centro. I understand that my neighbors have requested your permission to request a secondary water source from IID for irrigation purposes. My property is 3 ½ acres and we have been living at this home since 1994. For more than 8 years we had access to canal water from the delivery ditch just south of our property for irrigation. We also own the two 1 acre lots between our home and the delivery ditch. We are surrounded on three sides by farm land and over the years the farmers have prevented us from using the delivery ditch because they do not maintain the gates to their fields, and when I opened the main gate at Dogwood, water would also seep into their fields through the broken gates.

I finally had to connect my sprinkler system into the HPUD line to prevent all our landscaping from dying. This has been a very expensive change over and a waste of good treated water just to keep my grass and trees alive. Incidentally I have been paying IID for small acre water annually for the past 25 years and have not been able to access it.

We are in the process of plan check to build a home on each of the two parcels next to us for our adult children. Therefore, I am requesting your authorization to IID to be able to access the IID delivery line my neighbors are planning. This request is for our property at 1358 Appaloosa and also the two lots at 1354 & 1356 Appaloosa Road. As stated by our neighbor's letter to the board, all the costs for this line and connections will be paid by the homeowners.

Unfortunately, I will be out of town the day of your next meeting and hope my letter will be enough to represent me in this matter. I appreciate your consideration of my request and hope the Board will not have any reason to deny it. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Respectfully,



Sandra Rodiles
1358 Appaloosa Road
1356 Appaloosa Road
1354 Appaloosa Road
El Centro, CA 92243