



Blucher Creek Watershed Council

2100 Blucher Valley Road, Sebastopol, CA 95472
www.bluchercreek.org

May 19, 2006

Dear Watershed Neighbor,

In our February newsletter, Blucher Creek Watershed Council (BCWC) announced changes to our Well Monitoring Program for members. The changes have to do with the release of well monitoring data for study purposes. If you have had BCWC monitor the static water level of your well in the past or wish to do so in the future, you are invited to choose between two options: keep the data confidential or release it for the benefit of countywide water-study purposes. With both options, data will be encrypted for privacy.

There are two project categories: The well data of those members who sign onto *Project 1* (see below) will be released for the study (names and addresses will be held confidential by BCWC and SWiG). The well data of those members who sign onto *Project 2* will be retained, as has been the ongoing policy, by the well owner and by BCWC. *Project 2* data will not be released for the study. All watershed property owners wishing to participate and benefit from either program will be asked to join BCWC, if they haven't done so already, at our sliding scale fee (from \$10-35. See our informative website at www.bluchercreek.org).

For members wishing to continue participating in the ongoing well monitoring program, complete the enclosed form, sign and date. Please return the form in the envelope provided by June 1, 2006. If you are not currently a member and wish to have your well monitored by BCWC send the form now anyway. You can join at a later date.

Background: In many parts of Sonoma County, people are reporting falling water levels or dry wells. Some studies have shown depleting groundwater trends in the southern Santa Rosa Plain, formerly one of the most "water rich" areas. The Blucher Creek Watershed may directly connect to the Santa Rosa Plain groundwater basin.

In 2002, the Blucher Creek Watershed Council began to measure static water levels in private wells located in our watershed. One of the purposes was to track the local groundwater supply over time to find out whether water levels are generally dropping or staying steady.

In 2005 BCWC voted to ally with the Sebastopol Water Information Group's (SWiG) well monitoring in south Sebastopol. The troubling trend of water wells going dry became noticeable 2001. SWiG and Openspace Water & Land (OWL) both contribute well monitoring volunteers and equipment, and SWiG provides computerized data

analysis. We hope that the combined information will help all of us to better understand water conditions across the area and perhaps affect local water policy.

Well Monitoring Projects: BCWC members are invited to participate in one of two well monitoring projects.

Project 1 — Twice-a-year measurement of static well-water levels to evaluate long-term water trends in and near the Santa Rosa Plain. *Well owners interested in joining this program are asked to sign the form below authorizing release and use of the data collected from their wells—there is the possibility that the measurements may be contributed to the current US Geological Survey / Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Study, and that maps and graphs created using their water level data may be added to SWiG’s observational database.* Your data will help all of us understand the future of Sonoma County’s water supply.

Data to be collected will include:

- Property owner name and address
- Date and time
- Well location coordinates
- GPS readout of elevation
- Height of well’s port, relative to ground level
- Static water level
- Original water depth at well construction, if available
- Casing material and diameter
- Type of pump
- Changes in the condition of adjacent creeks, streams or springs, and other related information

Well Owner Security: To maintain the confidentiality of the BCWC well owners, SWiG will maintain separate databases, one containing owners’ names and another containing the well’s physical attributes, its map coordinate location, and the measured water levels. Personal well owner information will remain confidential: names, addresses, telephone numbers, and the like, will not be included.

Project 2: — Monitoring of wells at request of BCWC member. The well measurements will be collected using the same protocol as *Project 1*, however, the resulting data will be reported only to the well owner and stored in the BCWC database. Project 2 well data **will not** be released under any circumstances unless authorized by the well owner.

If you have questions, please call me at 829-1452

Jeannette Baumgardner, Chair
Blucher Creek Watershed Council



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Permission Form

*Please fill out and return to BCWC at the address above.
Thank you!*

Name: _____

Address/well location: _____

Mailing address (if different from above): _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I want to participate in the following well-monitoring project (*please check as appropriate*):

Project 1:

I authorize the use of my well data to help establish groundwater conditions in and around the Santa Rosa Plain. The specific data authorized to appear in records kept by SWiG and the USGS, for scientific analysis, shall consist of the following:

- Date and time of measurement
- Location by earth coordinates
- Static water level depth

The additional data collected by the well monitor, specific to my well, will remain confidential.

I also authorize the use of my well records by a professional hydrologist, who will combine data from other wells inside the Blucher Creek watershed. This assessment will indicate the overall rise and fall of our common water table.

OR

Project 2:

The well measurements will be collected by the same method as for Project 1, but the data will be reported only to the owners and be stored by BCWC. Project 2 measurements WILL NOT be included in any comprehensive studies of Santa Rosa Plain water conditions.

Printed Name

Signature

Date