

Running Springs Water District

October 2009 District Newsletter

We are providing this Newsletter to our customers in an effort to share information regarding the District's ongoing activities, operations and services.

District Election November 3, 2009

The November 3, 2009 ballot for the Running Springs Water District will include the election of three members to the Running Springs Water District Board of Directors and an advisory measure that asks voters whether they would prefer to hold mail only ballot elections beginning November 2011.

There are five candidates running for three Board of Director positions. The candidates are: Kenneth Ayers, Pamella Bennett, Jane Garvin, Kirk Garvin, and Paul Shouse. The three candidates receiving the most votes will be sworn in during December to serve a four year term, from December 2009 through December 2013.

The advisory measure, which the Board approved placing on the November 3, 2009 ballot by adopting Resolution 12-09 at the July 15, 2009 Board Meeting, consists of the ballot question "*Shall the mail ballot be used to conduct all future general district elections?*" Should the voters affirm the mail ballot election, the District can conduct the mail ballot election beginning with the 2011 General District Election. This is an advisory measure only, and while the election results are not binding, the results will advise the Board of the voters' sentiment in holding mail ballot elections in the future.

A mail ballot election involves having ballots mailed to all voters registered to vote within the District. There would be no

polling sites and all completed ballots must be returned to the County Registrar of Voters by the election deadline. Other features of the mail ballot election, as determined by the Registrar of Voters, are as follows:

- The cost of the election is less. The District could save up to \$6,000.
- Voter turnout is usually higher for vote by mail elections.
- Ballots are mailed to voters 29 days before the election.
- The election date is the last Tuesday in August (rather than the first Tuesday in November) each odd numbered year. The election date is the final date that the Registrar of Voters will accept mail ballots.
- Return postage paid envelopes are provided to voters.
- The District may establish a central drop-off location for voters who do not want to return their ballots by mail.
- Semi-Official Election Night Results are released at 8:00 pm.
- There is a further reduction of cost when other jurisdictions consolidate their mail ballot elections.
- Voters will make the final decision whether or not future elections (elections following the initial mail ballot election) are to be conducted by mail ballot. This decision will be made by voting on a binding measure, comparable to the November 3, 2009 advisory measure.

ACH Debit Bill Payment Program

Beginning November, 2009 the Running Springs Water District and First Mountain Bank will provide Running Springs Water District customers with an option for bill payment known as the Automatic Payment Processing via ACH Debit program.

The Automatic Payment Processing via ACH Debit program allows Running Springs Water District customers, at their option, to pay monthly water/sewer bills on the first day of each month. This feature will automatically debit your Running Springs Water District account balance from your checking or savings account and deposit those funds into the Running Springs Water District account at First Mountain Bank on a monthly recurring cycle. Your water/sewer account will then be credited with the payment. You can pay multiple water accounts each month, or pay just one if you prefer. Enrollment is free to all Running Springs Water District property owners and tenants and you are not required to be a customer of First Mountain Bank to take advantage of this new program.

To enroll in the program, customers first need to contact the Running Springs Water District to receive an application packet. Once the District office receives your returned completed packet, you will be immediately enrolled into the program and scheduled for the following month's automatic payment processing via ACH Debit. Your first automatic payment will occur on the first day of the month following your enrollment. Please note, if the first day of the month falls on a weekend or holiday, the automatic payment will be deducted on the next business day.

To cancel automatic payment service, customers must submit a written request to cancel the Automatic Payment Processing

via ACH Debit to the Running Springs Water District. The Automatic Payment Processing via ACH Debit payments will cease upon receipt of your cancellation request. This program can be cancelled at anytime during regular business hours. The recurring payment schedule will cease as of the date specified.

Please note, all payments returned as non-sufficient funds (NSF), will be assessed a \$20.00 processing fee. This fee will be charged to your water/sewer account for collection. The monthly water/sewer bills will continue to be mailed to the legal property owner, or to the leasing agent if directed by the property owner.

For more information about the Automatic Payment Processing via ACH Debit program please contact the District office during normal business hours by visiting us at 31242 Hilltop Blvd (Highway 18) in Running Springs, or calling us at (909) 867-2766.

For more information regarding District functions and activities, please contact the District office by phone at (909) 867-2766, or by mail at P.O. Box 2206, Running Springs, CA, 92382. In addition, we hold public Board Meetings at 6:00 pm every third Wednesday of the month at our District Office located at 31242 Hilltop Blvd (Highway 18) in Running Springs.

The mission of the Running Springs Water District is to provide water, fire, emergency medical service, sewer, and other beneficial services to the community: The goal of the District shall be to do so with the highest level of integrity and ethical principles and in the most efficient and cost effective manner possible.