



UP THE CREEK

May 1, 2009

IFAQs - Infrequently Asked Questions (which maybe should be asked more frequently)

- Q:** I can't seem to find my USCDWUA stock certificate. You can issue me another one, right?
- A:** Yes, but only after you (1) obtain a lost document bond - "obtain" means "buy" in this context; (2) fill out a new membership application; (3) pay a \$50 transfer fee.
- Q:** Do I need to have a new stock certificate?
- A:** Not necessarily, but it does serve as your proof of ownership of a water tap. When you sell your property, you must surrender your stock certificate. If you don't have it, you will have to obtain - oops - buy a lost document bond at that time.
- Q:** How many dwellings may I connect to a USCDWUA water tap?
- A:** One (1).
- Q:** And what constitutes a dwelling?
- A:** It means suitable for human habitation, with a kitchen, bathroom and sleeping area.
- Q:** But what if it's a guest house that's hardly ever used?
- A:** We don't know whether it's vacant or occupied, and really don't want to come snooping around to find out. Our policy states that if it's connected to USCDWUA, it needs a separate tap.
- Q:** What is the rationale for this policy?
- A:** Suppose that we sell a tap to Smith for \$10,000. The next applicant, Jones, gets one free. That practice would obviously be unfair, but it's essentially the same as allowing an extra house on every tap.
- Q:** Are we under watering restrictions?
- A:** No special restrictions. Please observe your watering days on the calendar printed on the flip side of this sheet. Also, please do a little math to predict what your water bill could be if you don't exercise caution.
- Q:** Are USCDWUA water rates regulated by PUC or other agency?
- A:** No. Water rates are set by the Board of Directors, as provided in the bylaws. Proposed rates are part of the budget presentation at each annual meeting. At that same meeting, Board members are elected. So, your water rates are governed by a much more effective regulatory body than the PUC - you!
- Q:** Who sets the membership fee, which is now at \$10,000?
- A:** The membership fee is proposed by the Board of Directors, and ratified by a vote of the general membership.
- Q:** I've got enough neighbors. Why not make the membership fee \$50,000?
- A:** The Association is not chartered as a growth control agency, but as a water provider. While \$50,000 might seem like a fair and just charge to slap on a newcomer, remember that your son or daughter may wish to build a home here too.
- Q:** Why does my water have a yellow-green tint to it?
- A:** That's a temporary color that comes from last year's leaf litter. We can't remove it with our filters. It is not harmful, although a little unsightly. It will be gone in a few days.
- Q:** Regarding last month's newsletter, what is this awful stuff dihydrogen monoxide?
- A:** It's water. Sorry for any alarm that may have been caused inadvertently. It was a joke, folks.