

Cold Springs, California - August 3, 2011

We are well into summer here in Cold Springs. Today it's about 90 degrees with a clear sky. A few days ago we had beautiful thunderheads with thunder and some rain reported at high elevations. We have had wonderful summer weather - just a few hot days, mostly very pleasant. Mosquitoes aren't unusually bad; it's been pleasant to sit outside at dinner time.

Further up the hill its still spring. On Friday I took a walk with family to Sardine Fall. That's on the eastern slope at about 9,000 just off Highway 108. It was a good hike for the 4 year old in our group. Overall it's about a mile's gentle walk: across the meadow, then alongside and through a couple of streams - Cold and swift but not too deep to cross using care. I have never seen so many Mariposa Lilies blooming – hundreds and hundreds of them in dozens of fields. Sardine Fall itself was spectacular; the most volume of water that I have seen coming off. (I've been there when it's frozen and it is equally spectacular.)

Lots of people are out walking in Cold Springs. Several people have told me how much they like walking from the **Fraser Flat Bridge** up the old railway grade towards Strawberry – a great place for dogs to run.

Pinecrest Lake is near maximum elevation and the surface water is warming a bit. Some of our family jumped off the party boat for swims and the youngest were in the water at Beach #1. We've been up to Kennedy Meadows a few times for picnics in the upper meadow and dinners and horseback riding - well more like me leading the horse with the 4 year old 'riding'. Can't beat the fun for \$10!

While there is a lot of local **road work** to be done, the County has spent some time and effort in Cold Springs applying 'cold patches' to the worst potholes and repairing some of the damage caused by routine snowplowing. If you have substantial **potholes** or drainage ditch issues I suggest you call the Public Works Department (533-5601) and ask to speak-with or leave a message-for the person who handles road maintenance issues for Cold Springs. I did take pictures of the worst problems along my usual route and sent those by email with a specific request back on May 2nd.

As a reminder, maintenance of the **roadside ditches for water runoff** is responsibility both of the County and of the property owner for those culverts installed parallel to the road. It was reinforced to us at last year's CSPOA Annual Meeting by the County's Public Works department staff that property owners must maintain culverts (usually found under driveways) – property owners are responsible for their functioning while the County is responsible for the open roadside ditches and those culverts that cross streets (underground). Property owners are also responsible for maintaining the natural, historic water runoff routes across their own property.

When the County road crews did work on streets near me they did open up some of the most clogged ditches – I had asked them to do this.

Cold Springs Water Company has nearly completed installation of new meters. They tell me that they expect to have all parcels with water service on meters before the end of this summer – no more flat rate service. The meters record and store usage electronically thus the time and effort for meter reading is substantially reduced. Meters are read by a radio device which collects usage information without having to look at the meter (drive-by reading). I'm told that the meters also store usage information for discrete periods of time so that it's easier for the water company to answer questions about usage that might be related to leaks. I've taken to reading my meter and recording usage, both to moderate how much I use (in the garden) and to be aware of leaks. The Cold Springs Water Company has our thanks for allowing us to include occasional flyers in the water bills at no cost to CSPOA. This greatly reduces expenses for the Association.

Some residents have asked about **refuse collection**. The County has given the garbage and recycling service contract to **Cal Sierra Disposal** – part of Waste Management (532.1413). For a bi-monthly fee of about \$50 Cal Sierra will pick up weekly the contents of a 32 gallon container and every other week the contents of a 64 gallon container of recyclables. The company provides both containers. Seasonal service is available or, alternatively, regular pickup and with 'vacation' holds. It might be possible on your own to work out an arrangement between neighbors to split the cost of regular service.

The **Annual Meeting** for the Cold Springs Property Owners Association has usually been held on the Saturday of Labor Day Weekend with our County Supervisor, Forest Service staff, and others present to provide information and answer questions. This year we are having a bare-bones, minimal meeting that will satisfy the requirements of the Association's by-laws. Members are welcome to join the CSPOA Board of Directors on at 10am, Sunday, September 4th in front of 29311 Shasta Drive for a stand-up 'technical' meeting which we expect to last perhaps 10 minutes. (We will post information on-line about actions taken, if any, at that meeting.

For **next year (2012)** we expect our annual meeting to be held on the Saturday of the Fourth of July Holiday. We hope to coordinate that meeting with the Strawberry Property Owners Association meeting which is typically held at Dodge Ridge. This will allow us to share matters of common interest (public safety, including fire suppression, road maintenance, and USFS recreation matters) with the larger group.

Membership Dues have not been collected since 2008. The board of directors has determined that sufficient funds are on hand (approximately \$4,600) that **dues should be waived for 2011** year. The board reduced some expenses (notably insurance) and has moved most communications to the web site resulting in considerable savings in postage and printing costs.

Parcels, on which dues were paid in 2008, or later, continue to be members/parcels in good standing. We expect to request dues for the 2012 year.

If you have comments or questions which are not addressed elsewhere in the Cold Springs Property Owners Association website (<http://www.coldspringspoa.org/>) please feel free to contact me – Email works just fine: JasonXReed@GMail.com

Jason Reed

CSPOA President 2011-2012