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# City Manager's Report

**City of Benicia**  
**January 27, 2015**

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Welcome to the latest edition of the *City Manager's Report* from City of Benicia City Manager Brad Kilger. The *City Manager's Report* is published twice monthly highlighting the activities of the departments of our full-service city. Previous editions are available on the City of Benicia [City Manager's page](#).

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*Brad*

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THE CITY OF  
**BENICIA**  
CALIFORNIA

**Holiday Closure**

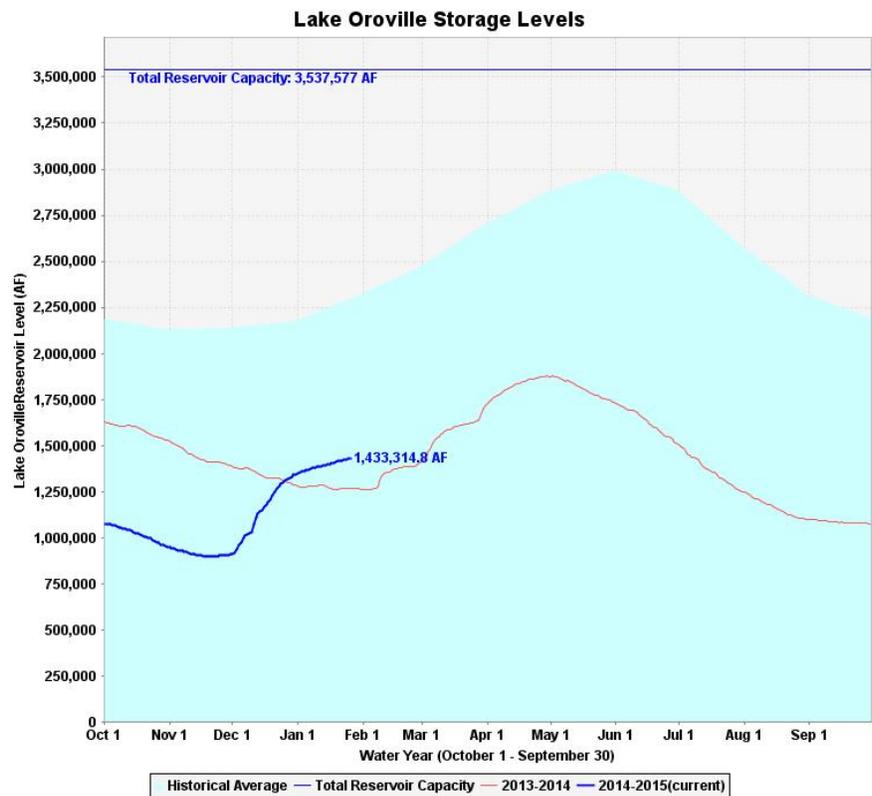
**California Bracing for Fourth Year of Drought**

Despite early December rain; there is a strong likelihood that California is facing yet another year of drought. We need a lot more rain and snow to pull us out of this drought, and unfortunately very little is on the horizon. Water conservation by residents and businesses remains critically important.

The best way to save water right now is to make sure you leave your irrigation systems off. You might be tempted to turn your irrigation system on since it hasn't rained in over a month. This time of the year if your lawn is brown it is most likely because it is dormant due to the short days and cold temperatures. Your landscape doesn't need much water this time of the year.

In Benicia, the emergency outdoor watering restrictions are still in effect. From October 16 until **March 31** automatic sprinklers are limited to one day per week. Customers can choose either Saturday or Sunday only.

Below is a graph illustrating storage levels at Lake Oroville. For more information about the drought, go to [www.saveourwater.com](http://www.saveourwater.com). For information regarding water conservation rebate programs, go to [www.solanosaveswater.org](http://www.solanosaveswater.org). - Public Works

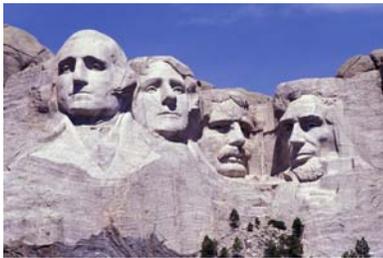


**Alice in Library Land - Trivia Bee XXIV**

Find your way down the rabbit hole to join Alice and her friends in Libraryland at this year's Trivia Bee. The Bee is the signature fundraising

City Hall Offices, Benicia Public Library, Benicia Community Center and administrative offices will be closed **Thursday, February 12** in honor of Lincoln's Birthday and **Monday, February 16** in observance of President's Day.

Requests for emergency water and sewer service may be made at the Benicia Police Department, 200 East L Street or 707.745.3412. - *City Manager's Office*



## Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan

The City of Benicia was awarded a Coastal Conservancy Grant to conduct a Vulnerability Assessment and develop an Adaptation Plan. Community members and technical experts have identified assets in Benicia that may be vulnerable to expected higher temperatures, rising sea level, and increased flooding during storms, which could impact the city's economic vitality and local ecology. On November 20, the public was invited to participate in a public workshop where the team discussed project goals, key sectors/ assets, vulnerabilities, and some proposed adaption strategies.

If you could not attend the public workshop or you have additional comments, now is your chance! The City is inviting

event of the Benicia Public Library, where they host a trivia competition similar to that on the game show "Jeopardy". The difference is that instead of individual players competing, the Bee is a team competition. The competition consists of teams from local businesses and community groups, all vying for the honor of being Benicia's Top Toad(s). There are three spirited rounds of trivia questions in a variety of categories such as: entertainment and culture, sports, history and geography, literature, science and technology, and wild card.

This fundraising event helps provide services at the Library, including Adult Literacy Services (ALS), English as a Second Language (ESL) Programs and more. ALS has been in existence since 1987 and serves the community through specific free learner-centered services that include small groups, one-to-one tutoring, computer lab classes, workshops for learners and tutors, learner book clubs, and family programming. The services are individually geared to each learner. They reach-out to the adult learner because in doing so, they address a critical step in addressing the literacy needs of the entire family.

**TRIVIA 24** Saturday, February 28  
**The Clocktower**  
 Doors Open 6pm

**Tickets \$30 per person.**  
 Available at the Library, or call 746-4358  
 Benefits the Benicia Public Library  
 Co-sponsored by Soroptimist of Benicia and Rotary of Benicia

This year's event takes place at the Clocktower on **Saturday, February 28 at 6:00 PM**. The evening features a a no-host bar (please do not bring alcohol to the event!), dinner, a small silent and live auction, and a raffle. Of

you to visit the [Open Town Hall web page](#) and review project documents, goals, and rank strategies, make individual comments, or even suggest we add or delete a strategy. Community input is key to developing a plan that will make Benicia more resilient. We need your input on how we can prepare the City for future sea level rise and temperature changes!

Need more info on the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaption Plan? Contact [Alex Porteshawver](#) by email or call 707.746.4276. -Community Development Department

## Benicia Repairs Earthquake Damaged to Pipeline

The 24" pipeline that carries untreated Lake Berryessa water from the end of the Putah South Canal in Cordelia to the Benicia Water Treatment Plant was damaged by the South Napa Earthquake on August 24, 2014. City staff discovered the leak on December 1, after placing the pipeline into service on November 15. This section of the pipe is suspended on pipeline insulators within a 36-inch steel casing as it transits under Interstate 80 in Fairfield. The seismic epicenter was five miles away and caused the pipe to compress and recoil within the casing, damaging three pipe joints. Over the past month, construction crews excavated the pipeline, videotaped the interior, and repaired cracks in three welded pipe joints. The City has requested damage repair reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA),

course, the Trivia Bee is the main event. Tickets are \$30 per person and can be purchased at the Library or Bookshop Benicia and must be purchased in advance of the event.

The Bee draws an enthusiastic sell-out audience of 300. Audience members dress to suit the theme and they are not shy about cheering on their favorite teams. So get out your favorite Alice in Wonderland costume and see if you can win a prize for best costume. For more information, call 707.746.4358. -Library

## Recent King Tides

On January 20, cities around California experienced King Tides, or super high tides caused by a particular alignment of the sun, moon and Earth. There is not a lot that humans can do to change something like that, but water levels are higher because the earth is warmer. To help improve scientific models of sea level rise and better inform the vulnerability assessment and adaptation plan process currently underway in Benicia, a group of Benicia High School students and the CAP (Climate Action Plan) Coordinator went to the State Recreation area and took photos. Students sent those photos to the King Tides Project and answered questions about climate change and sea level rise. They also received extra credit for participating. Those photos are posted on social media sites under #kingtides.



Want to learn more about King Tides and the City's Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan? Visit the [City's Plan](#) site and <http://california.kingtides.net>. - Community Development Department

and it is likely that the City will be reimbursed for 93% of the \$105,000 repair cost.

The City of Benicia utilizes three sources of water supply and the public was supplied with treated water from two of the three sources while these repairs were being made. Historically, 75% to 85% of the City's water is supplied from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta through the North Bay Aqueduct, 15% to 25% is supplied from Lake Berryessa through the Putah South Canal, and, in an emergency, raw water is supplied from Lake Herman in Benicia. The City uses approximately 10,000 acre-feet or 3.3 billion gallons of water per year.

Following the December storms, the natural organic concentration increased in the North Bay Aqueduct source, making this water more expensive to treat and providing a lesser quality to our customers. At the same time, Lake Herman rose to the overflow point. In the interest of using "free rainfall", the water treatment plant staff switched to the Lake Herman source on December 18. The Lake Herman source meets all federal and state standards for primary drinking water quality and is perfectly safe to drink. Lake Herman water quality is free of mercury contamination, as has been demonstrated in the past five years of sampling.

Some consumers may have noticed a slight change in flavor and possibly aroma, due to the algal concentration in the lake. But during the winter, algal growth is stunted due to cold weather and reduced sunlight. The water treatment plant has not received any water quality complaints during the switch over to Lake Herman water.

## Fire Department Monthly Report

The Benicia Fire Department monthly report for December 2014 is now available. It contains information about Emergency Operations, Training, and Prevention. Click [HERE](#) to read more. - *Fire Department*



## Benicia's Blueprint for Romance

The latest blog from VisitBenicia.org provides ideas on how to celebrate romance in February in one of the San Francisco Bay Area's most romantic cities...Benicia! Look for ideas on dining, drinks, the best waterfront views, do-it-yourself glass blowing, overnight stays and wine & chocolate pairings. Read more [here](#).

For more information about a Benicia getaway, please check out [VisitBenicia.org](#). Facebook members are invited to become a fan at [www.facebook.com/VisitBenicia](http://www.facebook.com/VisitBenicia). - *Economic Development*



## Personnel News

The Benicia Police Department is proud to announce the hiring of Jaclyn Loftin to the position of Police Officer. Jaclyn is a native of Los Banos. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Cal State University Chico. Her law enforcement experience began as a Community Services Officer, then Public Safety Dispatcher with CSU Chico. After graduating from the Butte College Law Enforcement Academy, she was employed by Oroville Police Department as a Police Officer until 2012, and then by

Butte County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy.



Because of this decision, the City was able to treat over 400 acre-feet of rainfall that was captured in Lake Herman during the December storm, thus conserving our North Bay Aqueduct supply.

Water treatment plant staff monitored the water quality of the North Bay Aqueduct weekly during January and then returned to this source on January 27. Once the 24" Cordelia Transmission Main is placed back into service, staff will switch back to the Lake Berryessa source, via the Putah South Canal.

Questions about water quality, treatment or supply may be directed to Water Superintendent [Scott Rovenpara](#) at 707.746.4240. - *Public Works*



## SolTrans Finalizes Schedules

In November 2014, the SolTrans Board approved the service changes for 2015. These approved changes reflect improvements such as increased frequency on high demand routes, more direct and bi-directional routes, streamlined express routes with new regional destinations, and updated timetables to correct on-time performance on existing routes.

Effective **January 31, 2015**, the system changes include all SolTrans routes with the exception of limited service routes 12, 15 and 17, and routes 80 and 80S.

Jaclyn has experience in crisis counseling, hostage negotiations, scenario evaluation, Taser instruction, Honor Guard, and marijuana eradication.



Jaclyn enjoys spending time with her family and traveling, along with hiking and fishing. She will begin with Benicia Police

Department on **Monday, February 9**. - *Police Department*

## December Wind Storm

On December 30, Benicia, along with many other Bay Area cities, experienced high winds. The local damage consisted of several trees uprooting. The first of these fallen trees came to rest on the East 5th Street west-bound on-ramp to Interstate 780. Maintenance staff contacted Caltrans for the removal. The ramp was reopened within a few hours.

Two more trees, which stood side by side on Benicia Unified School District (BUSD) property, fell onto the street right-of-way on the 300 block of East J Street. The roadway was closed for approximately 1-1/2 hours while a Public Works crew cleared the obstruction. City staff advised the School District of the incident.

As the wind continued throughout the evening, one more tree fell onto Denfield Way. Maintenance personnel were called by Police/Fire Dispatch to remove the tree from the public right-of-way. Coincidentally, this tree also fell from School District property and the BUSD was again notified of the loss.

In a recent School District newsletter, they advised that they will be working with the Benicia Tree Foundation to select appropriate trees that thrive in Benicia's soil and climate. - *Public Works*

For details and a summary about these changes, please visit SolTrans' [System Restructuring page](#) or check on your route below:

[Route 1](#)

[Route 2](#)

[Route 3](#)

[Route 4](#)

[Route 5](#)

[Route 6/8](#)

[Route 7](#)

[Route 78](#)

[Route 85](#)

- City Manager's Office



## Update from Public Works

Here's a look at what the Public Works Department was up to December. Maybe they were in your neighborhood?

### Maintenance - Streets:

- **Storm Preparation** - Staff cleaned storm drain inlets throughout the City, responded to downed trees blocking the city right-of-way
- **Special Events** - Provided street signage and closures for Open House and Christmas tree lighting, Christmas parade and Holiday Market
- **Trash Removal** - Picked up trash along Lake Herman Road and Reservoir Road

### Maintenance - Sewer:

- **Customer Service Calls** - 100 Dogwood, 900 East 4th Street, 400 Viewmont, 1200 East 3rd Street, 100 East F Street, 300 East I Street, 400 First Street, 300 West M Street, 100 Rankin Way, 100 West G Street, 700 East J Street, 800 East 4th Street, 700 West H Street, Camel Barn Road, 900 West K Street, 500 Sandy Way, 200 Hillcrest Avenue, 200 St. Augustine
- **Closed Circuit Televising** - 400 East O Street Alley, 900 East 4th Street, 400 Viewmont Street, Camel Barn Road, 900 West K Street,

500 Sandy Way, 200 Hillcrest Avenue

- **Repairs** - In the alley south of the 900 Block of West K Street, a sewer conveyance line was replaced due to damage created by garbage truck travel.
- **City Wide Cleanings** - Service Calls 1,790, Scheduled Cleanings 9,330

**Maintenance Water:**

- **Repairs** - Repaired two water main breaks and replaced four water service lines
- **Meter Reading** - Complete

**Wastewater Treatment Plant Projects:**

- In the City's on-going effort to save water, a recycled water pilot project to re-use the Wastewater Treatment Plant's effluent is being tested. In December, staff began testing the filter system used to provide the additional treatment needed to produce recycled water for the Wastewater Plant's pump seals and odor scrubber. Using this recycled water is projected to save at least 25,000 gallons per day of drinking water. This is about how much water is used by 30 homes. It is estimated that the project will pay for itself within 8 years. Once necessary permits are obtained, even more water can be saved by using the recycled water for irrigation of the treatment plant's landscaping.



**Wastewater Treatment Plant Maintenance:**

- Staff performed 61 preventive maintenance tasks, as well as, closing out four corrective maintenance work orders.

### **WWTP Plant performance:**

- The Plant processed 130.1 million gallons of raw wastewater with no Permit exceedances. This is about twice the normal flows to the plant. Staff and the plant performed very well during the stormy weeks in December.
- **Nutrient pollution removal:**
  - Biological Oxygen Demand = 96 %
  - Total Suspended Solids = 98 %

- *Public Works*

## **Contact Info**

Email your questions or comments to City Manager Brad Kilger at [edev@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:edev@ci.benicia.ca.us). For additional information on any of the items in this report, please contact one of the following departments:

[City Manager/Human Resources/I.T./City Clerk](#): 707.746.4200

[City Attorney](#): 707.746.4216

[Community Development](#): 707.746.4280

[Economic Development](#): 707.746.4202

[Finance Department](#): 707.746.4225

[Fire Department](#): 707.746.4275

[Library](#): 707.746.4343

[Parks & Community Services](#): 707.746.4285

[Police Department](#): 707.746.4265

[Public Works](#): 707.746.4240

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