

MEDIA RELEASE
HUMBOLDT BAY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

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Public meetings about water set for this week

Azalea Hall in McKinleyville is the site and water rights and rates are the topics Tuesday night (Oct. 13) as the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District seeks community ideas and solutions for long term challenges facing the district and its 80,000 users.

Tuesday's meeting is the first of three scheduled over the next two weeks. The other two are Wednesday, October 14 at the D Street Neighborhood Center in Arcata and Thursday, October 22 at the Wharfinger Building in Eureka.

Meetings start at 6 p.m.

The agenda includes an overview of the district's history and situation now that the pulp mills are closed and water use is significantly below permitted amounts. With fewer customers to share the cost of bringing water from Ruth Lake, pending infrastructure needs, and state requirements to put water to beneficial use or risk losing it, the district is facing significant challenges to its water rights and rates.

Discussion of community impacts, community values and proposed evaluation criteria for long term solutions will follow.

The meetings are the opening phase of FLOW – Frank Language about Our Water – a year-long effort at community engagement with civic leaders in search of palatable solutions. For more information, go to the district's Web site at www.hbmwd.com or phone 443-5018.