

M E M O

TO: District Manager

FROM: Director of Operations

SUBJECT: Volunteer Labor for Goat Care, Bear Creek Wastewater

DATE: January 26, 2006

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the District Manager review this memo and request the Board of Directors adopt the attached resolution declaring that volunteers deemed to be employees of the District for the purpose of providing worker's compensation coverage for said volunteers, work study, and interns while performing their services and direct the District Manager to enter into a volunteers goat care agreement with Lorraine L. Palmer of Boulder Creek for goat care at the Districts Bear Creek Estates Wastewater Facility..

BACKGROUND:

For many years the District has had either goats or sheep maintaining residency at the District's Bear Creek Estates Wastewater Leach field facility. These animals provided for vegetation management of the facilities three acre leach field area. The State of California Regional Water Quality Control Board requires the vegetation to be controlled to allow for close inspection of the leach fields to ensure of "no surfacing effluent". At the time of construction many options were considered to maintain vegetation growth. This included ongoing mowing of grass, planting of low growing grasses or animal grazing. Because of expensive equipment and staff time, animal grazing was selected and has proven to be ideal for many years. At first the District owned its own sheep, however staff had problems with husbandry, as staff pointed out, they are not sheep herders. On a test basis, which went on for many years, a neighbor was allowed to place a small number of goats on the property for which they assumed full care of the goats. The neighbor recently relocated out of the area and left the goats in the full care of the District.

On January 19, 2006, the Board of Directors received a proposal from Lorraine L. Palmer of Boulder Creek, requesting to provide goat care on a volunteer basic. In consulting with the Districts Risk Management provider (SDRMA) they informed staff that a resolution should be adopted outlining Section 3363.5 of the California Labor Code which provides that a person who performs voluntary service without pay for a public agency as designated and authorized by the governing body of the agency or its designee, shall, upon adoption of a resolution by the governing body of the agency so declaring, be deemed to be an employee of the agency for the purpose of Division 4 of said Labor Code while performing such services. In addition Section 3363.5 of the Labor Code defines "voluntary service without pay" to include those services performed by any person who receives no remuneration other than meals, transportation, lodging, or reimbursement for incidental expenses and the Board of Directors should extend

Workers' Compensation coverage as provided by State law to those persons providing voluntary services without pay, work-study and intern services to the District.

Staffs has discussed this proposal in depth with Ms. Palmer and is recommending the District Board of Directors adopt the attached resolution extending workers compensation coverage to volunteers and direct the District Manager to enter into an agreement with Lorraine Palmer to provide goat care for the District on a volunteer basis.

Attachments
RR/leb

Rick Rogers
Director of Operations

SAN LORENZO VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

RESOLUTION No. _____ (05-06)

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF
THE SAN LORENZO VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
DECLARING THAT VOLUNTEERS, WORK-STUDY, AND
INTERNS SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE EMPLOYEES OF THE
DISTRICT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING WORKERS'
COMPENSATION COVERAGE FOR SAID VOLUNTEERS, WORK-
STUDY, AND INTERNS WHILE PROVIDING THEIR SERVICES.**

WHEREAS, the San Lorenzo Valley Water District utilizes the services of unpaid volunteers, work-study, and interns in positions within a number of its departments; and

WHEREAS, Section 3363.5 of the California Labor Code provides that a person who performs voluntary service without pay for a public agency as designated and authorized by the governing body of the agency or its designee, shall, upon adoption of a resolution by the governing body of the agency so declaring, be deemed to be an employee of the agency for the purpose of Division 4 of said Labor Code while performing such services; and

WHEREAS, Section 3363.5 of the Labor Code defines “voluntary service without pay” to include those services performed by any person who receives no remuneration other than meals, transportation, lodging, or reimbursement for incidental expenses; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors wish to extend Workers’ Compensation coverage as provided by State law to those persons providing voluntary services without pay, work-study, and intern services to the District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that persons who perform voluntary service without pay, work-study, and interns be deemed to be employees of the San Lorenzo Valley Water District for the purpose of Workers’ Compensation coverage as provided in Division 4 of the Labor Code while performing such service. However, said volunteer, work-study, or intern will not be considered an employee of the District for any purpose other than for such Workers’ Compensation coverage, nor grant nor enlarge upon any other right, duty, or responsibility of a volunteer, work-study, and intern, nor allow said volunteer, work-study or intern to claim any other benefits or rights given to paid employees of the District.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the San Lorenzo Valley Water district, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, on the 2nd day of February, by the following vote of the members thereof:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

District Secretary
San Lorenzo Valley Water District

January 17, 2006

Board of Directors
San Lorenzo Valley Water District
13060 Highway 9
Boulder Creek, CA 95006

Re: Proposal to Provide Care for Goat Herd on a Volunteer Basis

On many occasions, I have driven by the SLV Water District property on Bear Creek Road and have been delighted by the sight of the goats seeking shelter from the sun under the solar panels. My first thought has always been one of admiration for the District's progressive environmental policy. However, it has recently come to my attention that the owner of the goats has abandoned them at their present location and that the herd is without a caretaker. While these goats are providing a valuable service by managing the growth of the grasses, they require some care.

The minimum level of care for goats prescribed by the Santa Cruz County Animal Services includes fresh water, adequate food and shelter, and periodic veterinary check-ups to include trimming of their hooves and annual vaccinations. I have attached an annual cost estimate for veterinary care.

I am proposing to care for the goats on a volunteer basis. I will arrange for their veterinary care and check on them regularly. As the goats are a bit wild at the moment every effort will be made to tame them and make them more manageable. Should the need arise for someone to attend to them in an emergency or at night, I would be available on an on call basis.

I have been a goat owner for sixteen years and could provide a letter of reference from Adobe Animal Hospital if required. I am willing to sign whatever waiver the District may require to allow me the necessary access to the herd. I welcome this unique opportunity for volunteer community service and hope that you will give my offer every consideration.

Sincerely,



Lorraine L. Palmer
PO Box 135
Boulder Creek, CA 95006
(831) 236-9860
lorrainepalmer@yahoo.com

Cost Estimate for Goat Veterinary Care	Cost	Quantity	Frequency/ Year	Total
Veterinary Field Visit	\$69	1	2	\$138
Hoof Trimming	\$20	4	2	\$160
Vaccinations	\$9	4	1	\$36
Worming	\$8	4	2	\$64
Total Annual Cost				\$398

Cost information provided by Adobe Animal Hospital, Santa Cruz, CA.