



*"One voice for the people of Homestead Valley"*

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Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency Board of Directors  
622 S. Jemez Trail  
Yucca Valley, CA 92284

September 22, 2009

Dear BDVWA Board of Directors,

On September 9, 2009, the FPREP committee moved to recommend to the full board that the agency's observance of Veteran's Day be "shifted" from the Nationally recognized date of **November 11, 2009**, to **November 13, 2009**. On September 16, 2009, the full board held a special meeting, and this recommendation was agendized under the Consent Calendar, indicating it was deemed routine and non-controversial. Directors Terry Burkhart, Judy Corl-Lorono, Warren Strodel, and Michael McBride all voted to approve the consent calendar, and consequently the FPREP committee recommendation to change the observance of this Federal holiday. Director and veteran Duane Lisiewski was the sole vote of opposition.

The Homestead Valley Community Council held its monthly Council meeting yesterday, September 21, 2009. We heard from many American Veterans prior to and during our meeting, all expressing their outrage over this extremely unusual action taken by the BDVWA board. Some called it "a slap in the faces of all veterans". The Council itself has three delegates who are veterans. After discussing these matters, HVCC voted unanimously to send this letter condemning the decision of the four BDVWA directors .

Veteran's Day is a federal holiday, established through an act of Congress. It is to be observed on November 11 of each year, to ensure veterans know that we deeply appreciate the sacrifices they have made in their lives to keep our country free. The Veterans we heard from felt that the board action of "shifting" the BDVWA day of closing from November 11 to November 13 was essentially changing the observance of this important and well deserved federal holiday simply to arrange for a three day weekend. The Homestead Valley Community Council stands with our veterans and strongly urges the legislative body of the Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency to reverse this misguided decision that has become so controversial.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Munson  
Secretary, Homestead Valley Community Council