



## UP THE CREEK

February 1, 2012

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If you want to receive your water bill via email, send a short email message to [billing@uscdwua.com](mailto:billing@uscdwua.com). Be sure to send it from the address at which you expect to receive the bill. It's helpful if you include the phrase "E-billing" or similar language in the subject line of your email. We really prefer that you not make this request over the telephone or in a handwritten note. Some email addresses are so baroque that there is little hope of transcribing them accurately. And, by the way, puh-leez put your account number in there somewhere.

Please understand that USCDWUA is not offering electronic means of payment. We do not accept credit cards or debit cards. We do not allow direct deposit into our bank account. You may find that your bank has a program whereby you can instruct the bank to send us a check. That service is usually known as online bill pay, or internet bill pay. Many banks do this at no charge. Otherwise, your payment options are check or money order mailed to our PO box, or delivered to our Cedar Mesa office at 17257 Meadow Drive, where cash is also accepted. There is an outside drop box at our office for after-hours payments. If you choose to send cash through the mail and it does not arrive at our office, may God help you, for we cannot.

On to more important matters – groundhog day. The reigning authority on this subject is Julia Spencer, PhD. "The Groundhog Lady," as she acknowledges on her wonderful website [www.groundhogs.com](http://www.groundhogs.com). She explains the origin of groundhog day this way:

Groundhog Day grew out of a mainly German superstition that if a hibernating animal casts a shadow February 2 (the Christian holiday of Candlemas), winter will last another six weeks. If no shadow is seen, legend says spring will be early.

But another internet source blames the English for this belief, offering this olde song:

If Candlemas be fair and bright,  
Come winter, have another flight;  
If Candlemas bring clouds and rain,  
Go winter, and come not again.

On Dr. Julia Spencer's website may be found the complete record of the predictions of Punxsutawney Phil, the official National Groundhog. Since 1887 when the tradition began, there have been 29 leap years in which a prediction was recorded. In 28 of those leap years, Phil saw his shadow. The single exception was 1988, which, in Delta County, marked the beginning of three years of drought. This leap year's groundhog day, based on past statistics, should make 28-to-1 odds of being bright and sunny, meaning mucho snow yet to come. We are rooting for that outcome, as the snowfall thus far has been surpassing light, so,

Come winter, have another flight.