CALAVERAS PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

SPRING 2019 NEWSLETTER

WWW.CPUD.ORG

Continuing to Provide High Quality Services

CPUD recognizes the importance of providing high-quality, affordable, and reliable water service to its customers, and that requires regular inspection, maintenance, and at times,

replacement of its infrastructure. CPUD also has an obligation to meet state and federal regulations. This requires annual state inspections with the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Safety of Dams, and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to ensure infrastructure meets or exceeds regulatory standards.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS INCLUDE:

Waterline Replacement on Pixley Avenue

After many years of repairing an antiquated leaking two-inch steel waterline, CPUD replaced the outdated waterline with 970 feet of new six-inch waterline. An old section on Winkler Court was replaced as an extension of the Pixley Avenue work. CPUD also updated customer meter service connections. Work was completed in late 2018 with a total cost of \$217,068.



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Chlorine Gas Conversion Project

In 2018, CPUD completed the work to switch from chlorine gas treatment to an on-site generation system at the Jeff Davis Water Treatment Plant. This capital project conversion provides the District a safer method of treatment and less regulatory requirements by State and local agencies. The project was completed in June 2018 and the District is currently constructing a new salt storage building to store the salt used for the new treatment method. Total capital cost - \$266,034.

Fill Stations

Five fill stations were added at various locations within the CPUD system. This project was needed to protect the water system from improper bulk use, ensure reliability and prevent theft from fire hydrants. Each fill station cost approximately \$25,000 to build and install. The new system has resulted in less theft and more accurate accountability of bulk use and sales. Since installation, the five stations have generated over \$29,000 of income, which is on target for the five-year projected payback.



Waterline Replacement on Sunset Street

CPUD replaced over 1,700 feet of six-inch waterline on Sunset Street from Mariposa to Russell Road that were originally installed in the 1950's. Work also included replacing four (4) aging fire hydrants, adding isolation valves and upgrading 36 customer services with SMART meter technology meters. Total capital cost - \$395,131.



Schaads Spillway Project

This project was necessary after years of drought, followed by heavy rains in 2016/17, caused an accumulation of debris in the spillway. The Division of Safety of Dams and FERC deemed the situation as hazardous and required removal of debris to prevent damage to the spillway. Clean-up was completed in fall 2018 in time for the current rainfall season.

A MESSAGE TO OUR CUSTOMERS

Last year, the District proposed its first rate increases since 2016. At a public hearing in August of 2018, a number of customers raised objections to the size of the proposed increase and the speed at which it would be phased in. In response to these concerns, the District Board rejected the proposed increase and directed that staff, with input from two Board Members, develop a new proposal.

As part of the effort to develop new rates, the District has taken a hard look at its capital improvement program and reserve requirements, while continuing its effort to obtain external funding that will minimize the burden on ratepayers.

The District's water system is aging. System costs increase each year, not only due to the effects of inflation, but also due to the additional expenses associated with maintaining an aging system; modernizing system components; and meeting federal and state mandates for water quality testing and treatment. If the District is to meet its goal of providing a safe and reliable source of water, now and in the future, it is not possible to keep rates at their current level forever.

At its meeting on April 16th, the Board of Directors will consider whether to initiate a forty-five day notice and comment period, including community forums, for a new rate proceeding. Should the Board elect to proceed with the notice and comment period, the District will hold two public outreach and information meetings (time/place TBD) to receive customer's input prior to the final rate hearing at the end of the forty-five day period. Updates will be provided on the CPUD website at www.cpud.org.

DID YOU KNOW?

CPUD employs 10 staff members who work together to provide the quality of water CPUD strives to serve its customers. CPUD is also responsible for the operations and maintenance of the following infrastructure:

- Pump station on the South Fork of the Mokelumne River with two 400 horsepower pumps and two miles of 20-inch pipeline to allow water into the Jeff Davis Reservoir.
- Owns and operates three reservoirs and system dams (Jeff Davis, Schaads, Red Hawk), which are regulated by state and federal agencies.
- Six water storage tanks located in Mokelumne Hill, San Andreas, Paloma, Rail Road Flat, Jeff Davis Water Treatment Plant (Clearwell), and Golden Hills subdivision.
- Over 18 miles of transmission pipeline from 16 to 27 inches.
- Maintenance of a complex distribution system consisting of pipeline sized from 2 to 12 inches, about 2,000 customer meters, fire hydrants, valves, pumps and pressure systems.

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO!

Calaveras Public Utility District (CPUD) provides water services to just under 2,000 water connections, which serves approximately 4,500 residential and commercial customers throughout the San Andreas and

Mokelumne Hill communities, and surrounding areas including Paloma, Railroad Flat and Glencoe. CPUD pumps water from the confluences of the Mokelumne River to the Jeff Davis Reservoir and treats and delivers an average of 400 million gallons of water per year to service its customers.

The Jeff Davis Water
Treatment Plant filters and
chlorinates water pumped
from the Mokelumne River.
The water is then gravity fed
to customers in the San
Andreas, Mokelumne Hill,
Glencoe, Paloma and
Railroad Flat areas.

