

FROM THE WELL

PSWID Newsletter - March 2012

Pine-Strawberry Water Improvement District
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Greetings Valued Customer,

I am excited to be writing to you about activities occurring with your water district. First, let me introduce myself. My name is Brad Cole and I am District Manager for the Pine-Strawberry Water Improvement District. Myself, along with my colleagues, work for CH2M HILL. We provide operations, maintenance and management services to the Pine-Strawberry Water Improvement District (PSWID). Collectively, we have combined decades of water utility experience.

The purpose of this newsletter is provide you with information regarding your local water district and highlights the exciting improvements made to your water system since the PSWID purchased the water system from the previous owner. I think you will find these improvements exciting and I also hope you will realize that there is a big difference between yesterday and today.

PSWID Accomplishments

We have a lot to be proud of. The purchase of the water system from the previous owner can be viewed as the single greatest accomplishment this District has made and what a difference between yesterday and today. Today, there is no more hauling of water and the meter set moratorium has been lifted. The Board hired CH2M HILL to provide operations, maintenance and management services for the district. The Board has invested in projects that improve system reliability, operational efficiency, and new water supplies.

The two Milk Ranch wells, and a proposed third one, along with the Strawberry Hollow well are in a deep water aquifer. This deep water aquifer is suspected of being more drought resistant and is less susceptible to ground water fluctuations found in other local

shallow water wells. Combined, these deep water aquifer wells are capable of producing enough water to meet our average daily water needs. Combine that with our more than 1.2 million gallons of storage, we are in a tremendous position to weather the peak demands on the major summer holidays.

The District has installed 13 generators at key facilities to keep our customers in water during inclement weather and other power supply shortages. We have also made improvements to booster stations to increase efficiency, reliability and redundancy.

PSWID Proposed Budget

We are about to introduce our most progressive budget yet. Please join us on Saturday, April 14, 2012 at the Pine Cultural Center at 10:00 a.m. to see what is being proposed. A public hearing will be held on that day and discussions held on projects that are designed to reduce expenses, enhance revenues and provide for employee and public safety.

For the first time in the District's history, we are proposing a Water Master Plan. A professional engineering firm will analyze the District's water system and develop an infrastructure plan for PSWID's future. Also being proposed is a third Milk Ranch well along Pine Creek. This proposed third well is capable of producing more than 85 gallons per minute and combined with the other two wells in the area will be capable of producing more than 250 gallons per minute.

We are also proposing an accelerated meter replacement program. Many of our meters are 20, 30 and 40 years old. This project will generate revenue from current water use by accelerating our meter replacement program to a two year program producing possible total new revenues of \$200K to \$300K with a

goal of generating \$100K to \$150K per year.

Another significant project includes the hiring of a professional leak detection company using sound correlation equipment to locate presently unknown water leaks. This project has the potential to reduce expenses and is estimated to save the District between \$50-60K per year

PSWID Website

Visit our website at www.pswid.org. New information is being added all the time. You can find updates from the Chairman, the District Manager, the CH2M HILL annual report, board meeting calendar, current rate schedule, explanation of the new water conservation stages, System Water Plan Five Year Update 2012, Consumer Confidence Reports, Board meeting minutes, and financial information, among others.

Did you know that you can receive your water bill by email or pay your bill online? Go to our homepage to register. Once you have registered, you will begin receiving your water bill via email and can pay your water bill online. You can also opt out to stop receiving paper copies of your water bill.

As we look to improve our communication with you, new messages and documents will be added when appropriate.

Your E-mail Address

Provide us your email so we can send future electronic versions of this newsletter to you, communicate during emergencies or send general information about events occurring in our water system. Visit our website to join our email list or call us at (928) 476-4222.