



TO: PSWID Board of Directors

DATE: February 28, 2019

FROM: Cato Esquivel
District Manager

RE: **DISTRICT MANAGERS REPORT – AGENDA ITEM 5E**

OPERATIONS

Because of the rain and snow this month it has been challenging to maintain our water distribution system.

Our meter readers had to contend with meter boxes filled with storm water, mud, snow berms and 30-inches of snow. Some meters could not be read this month, and we had to estimate the amount of water used.

Because of the rain during the week of February 11th one of our compressors shorted out at P2 Tank site and started a small fire that burnt the plastic shroud cover and motor. When staff arrived, they went to the main breaker panel and attempted to turn off the designated breaker. The breaker wasn't securely connected to the bus bar and the breaker arc flashed. We have contacted an electrician to assist us in securing the breaker panel.

This last week beginning on Thursday, February 21, because of the impending storm, we had 2-2-man crews on stand-by. They continued to be on stand-by throughout the week and weekend.

Those operators that were on stand-by were provided a District vehicle to take home. These vehicles are 4x4 and equipped with tire chains. SR87 was closed on Thursday and Friday, between Pine and Payson. So, stand-by staff available in Pine were dispatched to address emergency issues.

This past weekend surprised all of us including the State and County. Staff worked 12-hour shifts removing snow from well and tank sites. In the process, other government agencies requested our assistance in removing snow in areas that overwhelmed their staff and equipment. Staff also assisted the Fire District.

During the 14-hour power outage about half of our well and tank sites were out of service or had to be operated manually. Some site telemetry systems could no longer communicate with other sites. For example, MR3 well was offline for a short time and could not send water to 300k tank site. Then 300k could not send water to K2 or to Rimwood. P2 well, Hidden Pines well and BVT tank sites have no back up power in place to operate the pumps, motors or boosters.

Based on the feedback we received from other agencies we rarely have storms that cause this much of an impact. We are reviewing our protocols related to snow, ice and electrical emergency outages. We

are also assessing the need, and cost to acquire additional resources to have on hand for these rare events

WATER RESOURCES/ OPERATIONS CIP

Milk Ranch 2 and Strawberry Hollow 3 Wells

Staff will begin the startup process of these wells next week. As you may recall we have had sanding problems with both of these wells. We will be using the pump curve technical information to determine the lowest flow rate we can operate the well without damaging the pump. Operating these wells in this manner may also lower the risk of disturbing the sand and sediment.

Developing Existing Abandon Wells

We are working with ADEQ in bringing back online two wells that past administration abandoned. One is BVT 3 well. The static well water level is at 40-feet. It appears that this well is in the same alignment and underground layer of water as a similar well the district has online.

Strawberry Hollow Well No. 4

We are still planning on removing and replacing the pump and motor. We are also going to conduct a 24-hour pumping test to understand the potential draw down of the well. We also anticipate using a bailer to remove sand and gravel at the bottom of the well.

Solitude Trails Water District

We have reached out to the Solitude Trails Domestic Water District board chairman and board members to discuss the Water Services Agreement they currently have with PSWID. They have requested that I attend their Board meeting this Saturday, March 2 at 10:00 a.m., to discuss our WSA.

Portal 4

We have reached out to Portal 4 Domestic Water District to discuss a water interconnect that could provide 1 million gallons per month to PSWID. The initial discussions were regarding the rate per 1000 gallons of water. We suggested a tier rate approach that could be beneficial to both districts. Portal 4 Board members are working on possible terms and rate for our review and consideration.

OPERATIONS CIP

Extending 6-inch Main

As part of the Strawberry Ranch 2 project we discovered an existing 6-inch PVC main on Juniper Rd. The 6-inch main extends north about 350-feet along an easement on Tanner Ralls (E. Ralls Grandson) property. The 6-inch main is SCH 40 PVC. We are working with local and JOC contractors on extending the 6-inch main about 200-feet to Fossil Creek, then extend it north approximately 500-feet on Wagon Wheel, then another 1,000-feet west on Fossil Creek from Wagon Wheel.

Tomahawk Trail

As you may recall we have property owners along Tomahawk Trail that are interested in building new homes on their parcels. They have been advised that the District would need to re-test the water main and tank site to ensure its structural integrity and operational capacity.

Staff has begun the process of starting up the tank and booster station site. They have replaced two 6-inch above ground valves, one 2-inch valve and have tested the booster pumps.

They have also pressurized the 6-inch main in Tomahawk Trail and will begin chlorinating the line along with the tank within the next couple of weeks.

PSWID has deed and title to the Tank and Booster station along Tomahawk Trail. This is based on the court Final Judgment of Condemnation, where PSWID was couvade Title and Deed to lot 71, Tomahawk Trail Booster/Tank Site (parcel 301-59-071).

Gila County accepted Tomahawk Trail in June of 2012. Gila County Roads Division also maintains Tomahawk Trail.