



TO: PSWID Board of Directors

DATE: September 19, 2019

FROM: Cato Esquivel
District Manager

RE: **DISTRICT MANAGERS REPORT**

ADMINISTRATION

ADEQ Inspection

As you may recall, ADEQ advised the District that the water system grade will change from a Distribution Grade 2 to a Distribution Grade 3. The District filed an appeal with ADEQ on August 1, 2019.

A pre-hearing settlement to discuss the issue took place on September 5, 2019, with ADEQ staff, the Assistant Attorney General, Paul Hendricks and myself.

We had an extensive discussion regarding the 9 fire hydrants along Pine Creek Canyon Rd. ADEQ assumed that these fire hydrants are in place for "Fire Protection". We explained that the District's distribution system cannot sustain the required water necessary for fire flow or to be considered as a "Fire Protection System". The District lacks the required water storage and infrastructure to sustain fire flow and pressure. The fire hydrants in Pine-Strawberry are used for maintenance and operation of the distribution system.

ADEQ staff and the Assistant Attorney General agreed with our position.

We also discussed the presence of "Testable Backflow Prevention" devices that was also noted as justification to upgrading the District's certification.

We first explained that Gila County residents who have an irrigation system, horses or a well are required to install a backflow preventer because our water system is at risk of contamination due to backflow.

Second, to assist device owners (residential and commercial), the District issues an Annual Testing Reminder Notice requesting customers to have their backflow device(s) inspected and tested. A second round of reminder notices is issued if the District does not receive a completed form from an independent certified backflow inspector.

ADEQ staff and the Assistant Attorney General agreed with our explanation and position, but further research and review of the backflow prevention statute would be required. It isn't clear in the statute if ownership of the backflow device is required for ADEQ to consider them as part of our distribution system.

ADEQ staff is to contact the District during the week of September 23rd of their findings.

WIFA Board Meeting

We are drafting a letter requesting the WIFA Board to amend loan Resolution No. DW 019-2018 authorization the District to reallocate \$2,560,000 of the original loan to new projects. The additional projects include three new waterline projects and one new replacement residential water meters project.

Projects:

1. Extension of Rim Vista/Pine Haven Waterline – State Route 87-Bradshaw-Milk Ranch Well Site;
2. Extension of Strawberry Ranch 2 Waterline – Juniper Tanner Ralls/Fossil Creek-Wagon Wheel;
3. Extension of Strawberry Knolls Waterline – Strawberry Lane North-Strawberry Drive East-State Route 87-South Fossil Creek; and,
4. Replace existing manual read meters and install 3,240 Radio Read Meters.

After several meetings with WIFA staff we don't anticipate any issues or concerns with our request to the board. We are scheduled to discuss our request during the WIFA Board meeting on October 16, 2019, at 1:30 p.m. at their Phoenix offices.

OPERATIONS

Construction Inspector

Dean Shaffer, the Districts Operator of Record has assumed the construction inspection duties for the District. Mr. Shaffer's primary project will be providing oversight of the Rim Vista/Pine Haven construction project and IMWCC.

White Oaks Glen 2 Water Pressure

As you may recall the District received a letter from the White Oaks Glen 2 community residence complaining about the water pressure.

The White Oaks Glen 2 community is located at the north end of Mistletoe Dr, which begins at the Evergreen Place Rd alignment, extends north to Manzanita Trial then into and around Holly Dr loop.

We have verified, the principal source of water for this community is from Canyon Tanks. The White Oaks Glen distribution system ties into the 8-inch in Pine Creek Canyon Dr at Cedar Meadows through a 6-inch. Then the 6-inch reduces to a 4-inch in Cedar Meadows. The 4-inch continues on to Holly Dr and Manzanita where it reduces down to a 2-inch.

We also verified that the distribution system for this area continued on to Whispering Pines Rd and across SR87. This portion of our distribution system extended services to our customers in Robin Lanes Estates, along Cemetery Rd, all the business south of Pine Creek and the Rim Vista and Pine Haven residential communities.

Last week we installed a PRV at the Milk Ranch complex. This was done so that we could provide water from Milk Ranch wells to the customers in Robin Lane Estates, Rim Vista, Pine Haven and all the businesses south of Pine Creek. We closed a valve at Whispering Pines Rd and SR87 to prevent Canyon Tank water to continue west across SR87. This will provide additional volume of water available to the residence along Holly Dr and Manzanita. This has also allowed the distribution system to sustain a minimum pressure of 30 psi at Holly Dr and Manzanita.

Equipment

We purchased a 2014 Vermeer Vactor trailer for \$39,762.00. Including tax and 120-day warranty the total was about \$44,000.00.

The vacuum trailers will allow us to expose underground utilities, along with the location of a water line break. The ground is jetted with water and air, and the unit vacuums up the slurry. This makes it easy to locate the damaged water lines and to locate the underground utility lines without damaging them.

