



### STAFF REPORT

**TO:** THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL  
TOM DUBOIS, CITY MANAGER

**MEETING DATE:** APRIL 20, 2026

**FROM:** DAN LAFONTAINE, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

**SUBJECT:** DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT - MARCH 2026

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**Objective:** The objective of this staff report is to provide a monthly status update regarding activities within the Public Works Department.

#### Collection System Status:

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##### *CIP work*

- Flow meters have been installed in 9 locations around town in the collection system manholes. RH Borden installed flow meters at 6 locations on February 17 and 18, 2026. Smart cover flow meters were installed at 3 locations on March 9, 2026. One of the RH Borden meters was not operating correctly so the meter had to be reset. After reset the meter is functioning properly. Another meter was placed prior to the WWTP influent meter to verify the flow meter. Upon inspection it was discovered that the flow in that manhole was in a surge condition and could not accurately measure the flow. On March 30 and 31, Public works staff and RH Borden worked to move the flowmeter up one manhole to a non-surging manhole just in time for the next rain event (which had 2.5 inches overnight). The RH Borden meters are installed to verify I/I effectiveness and the Smart cover meters are located to monitor our industrial users in town.
- On March 24, 2026, a team of public works staff and Schneider staff toured the industrial users in town to get a better sense of their operation into the collection system. We thank everyone for their cooperation in allowing us to tour many facilities. This information will help the design team to properly size the wastewater treatment plant.
- Staff have identified several areas of the collection system (based on flow meter data collected in 2024) for I/I projects in 2026. After the initial camera work additional cleaning was required to camera all of the questionable lines. APS returned to perform CCTV work on the remaining lines on March 6, 2026. Staff have reviewed the footage and have found minimal pipes that need to be replaced from the initial list of suspect collection system pipes. This will help to reduce capital costs in 2026. A finalized list is being prepared for presentation and final determination.
- On March 4, 2026 - Campbell construction and public works staff installed a new secondary pump in the Sutter Crest pump station. Along with the new pump a new stainless steel riser pipe was installed for number 2. The pump station is now fully operational with redundant pumps.

*SSMP Activity*

Calls for service.

- 3/11/2026 - 110 Dennis St. City main plugged and spilled, cleared line and remediated spill
- 3/16/2026 - Worley St. and Leiby Ave, City main plugged, cleared line and returned flow in manhole and remediated spill
- 3/25/26 - Foothill Dr. Private lateral issue. Main line cleaned with hydro as precaution.

*Sewer System Cleaning and Maintenance.*

- In March 2026 there were 3,106 Lineal feet of pipe cleaned. The total footage cleaned for the calendar year 2026 is 4,577 ft vs 14,676 feet in 2025.

**Wastewater Treatment Plant Status:**

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The WWTP met all the effluent quality discharge requirements for the month of March 2026.

**Table 1. Monthly Status of required reporting constituents.**

Constituent	Monthly Results	Monthly Limits
Monthly Influent Flow	11.500 MG 0.371 MGD daily avg	0.48 mgd <sup>1</sup>
Effluent BOD, mg/L	16 mg/L	30 mg/l
Effluent Settleable Matter, mL/L	< 0.1 mL/L	0.5 ml/l
Effluent TSS, mg/L	11 mg/L	30 mg/l
Total Coliform, MPN	< 1.8 MPN	23 MPN
Sludge Wasted	8,176 gallons	
Rain	0.05 in.	23.31 in. YTD -24.15” Last YTD

<sup>1</sup> The 0.48 MGD is daily dry weather flow (May through October).

*Plant Compliance Issues:* The monthly February 2026 report was electronically submitted to the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

*Operational Strategy Modifications:*

- We continued normal sludge wasting in March with 8K gallons dewatered.
- The new Aerator has been received at the WWTP. The E-pond weeds have mostly died and are starting to break and sink. Operators will schedule a time to try to use a hook to “fish” the persistent weeds to the side so we can remove them prior to reinstalling the Aerator.
- WWTP design meetings are being held every other week. The main topics of the design meetings in March centered around fully characterizing the plant influent (in terms of mass and hydraulic loading). The flow meters currently installed in the collection system will help characterize the hydraulic loads into the plant. The team is now concentrated on identifying and characterizing the extra mass loading to the plant through our industrial users. The team has toured most industrial users to gain insights into their operation. We want to thank everyone for their cooperation with our investigation.

- On March 16, 2026 the City of Sutter Creek and our design team met with the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 5 to discuss our plan to replace the current secondary treatment wastewater facility. The City informed the board that we intend to design and construct a tertiary wastewater treatment facility with direct discharge to Sutter/Dry Creek. We discussed broad terms of our timelines and solicited feedback from the board. Overall the meeting was very positively received and the board gave some feedback on funding and suggestions on mitigating various issues with obtaining a new surface water discharge permit. The meeting concluded with the City discussing that our next progress meeting would be in late summer early fall.

## **Effluent Disposal**

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- The City began sending wastewater to Ione on April 1, 2026. ARSA will dispose of wastewater for one month and then Ione will switch to CDCR wastewater. Wastewater will be sent from each jurisdiction for a few months to ensure that both parties are able to dispose of all their wastewater. Currently (end of March) the reservoirs have around 270 acre-feet in the ARSA system. We continue to send around 70 gallons per minute from Henderson down the system to Preston and ultimately the Ione golf course. The low flows keep pressure in the water troughs (keeps them from clogging due to low pressure)while holding the majority of the water in Henderson.
- *Henderson Underdrain* – The City and Hydrosiences met with DSOD to discuss the possibility of leaving the underdrain pipe without a new lining. Due to the old lining being so strong, too much risk exists for any contractors to bid on removing the old lining. ARSA is proposing to monitor the lining and attempt cleaning when appropriate (further time will allow the corrosive environment to weaken the old lining). DSOD was open to the possibility of delaying the installation of the new lining due to the fact that there is now a confirmed bottom to the pipe. DSOD requested a technical memo describing the problem, attempts to rectify and a timeframe to complete the lining. Hydrosiences is currently working on getting the tech memo together for submission to DSOD. The City will propose to perform annual ROV inspections until the lining can be replaced.
- On March 27, 2026, the flow meter was returned to the City. With the extra spool length associated with the flow meter we will need to develop a plan to break out some of the manhole and cut the existing pipe underground to fit the spool piece with the flowmeter into bowers irrigation.



- Ongoing maintenance of the cattle water troughs along the pipeline are occurring.
- Daily flow checks and level readings
- Weed and rodent abatement at the three reservoirs.
- Send weekly updates to the Regional Board on reservoir levels and volumes.

## **Service Requests**

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Responded to **twelve (12)** service requests in March:

- Three were for streets issues
- Four were for facilities issues
- Two were for park issues
- Three were for sewer issues

## **Streets and City Right of Way.**

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- On March 12, 2026, Public works took advantage of Amador High School's spring break to paint stop bars and repainted the STOP on the road around Amador high at the intersections of Spanish and Sutter Ione Rd and Spanish Street and Old Rte 49 along with the two STOP markings on Spanish at the school entrance. See pictures below:



- On March 14, 2026, Public works repainted the STOP on the road around Amador high at the intersection of Spanish Street, North Amelia, Mahoney Mill Rd, and Badger Street. See pictures below:



- Although the contractor paved Hayden Alley, problems were noted by AWA that led to a stop work notice. AWA is discussing the issues with the contractor and once those have been resolved, the project will continue on track. The City has been assured by AWA that the scope of the repair (full paving of Hayden alley and Broadway along with patch work on Borgh and Eureka Street) will be completed by the end of the project but the timeframe will be delayed. AWA along with the City are committed to getting a high quality product that will last for decades and hope to resume work as soon as possible.
- The City engineer is 70% complete with the new design work on the Old Sutter Hill Road overlay project. The City began tackling Old Sutter Hill Rd in March with 12 days of Calfire crew work in March. Calfire is working on clearing all small brush and weeds on Sutter Hill Rd and have made it almost  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way up to Bryson Drive to tackle the trees and brush on Old Sutter Hill Rd. Two days in March Sutter Hill Rd was closed so that dead/decaying trees could be fallen. In total 5 large (over 40-foot) dead or decaying trees have been removed from the road making the area safer and more fire resistant for years to come. See pictures below of the tree work:



Work on Sutter Hill Road

- Encroachment permits were issued to CIVN on November 18, 2025 for their fiber installation. The City attended a job walk for the construction on March 4, 2026. No further updates have been received on the construction of the fiber line.
- On March 20, 2026, Public works staff filled potholes on Randolph street. About one-half yard of asphalt patch mix was used to fill in the intersection and potholes.
- Spraying has occurred on the majority of all major roads and the 18-acres of land above the treatment plant.
- On March 3, 2026 AWA was notified of the water issue on Elm Street. To date we have not received any word on the status and will follow up after each storm.

### **Parks and Facilities**

- Construction on the Bryson Park Bathroom Expansion Project was completed with a ribbon cutting on March 19th. The bathroom will be open from sunrise to sunset. We hope that everyone enjoys having facilities at Bryson park. Public works will work on finishing the landscaping around the park in the coming months.
- On March 30 and 31, 2026 the Calfire crew removed vegetation from Sutter Creek in the downtown area in anticipation of the Duck Race happening on April 24, 2026. We hope to see everyone out there for a great time.



- Public works has received all of the parts for the Minnie Provis park mens bathroom partition. The partition was reinstalled in the beginning of March.
- In March the Monteverde store sign (that hung up on Randolph and Main) was sent back to be refurbished. We hope to have the sign finished and rehung by the end of April.
- On January 27, 2026, A-1 leak detection was onsite to help Public works determine the location of the water leak at the Center park. The technician could not find a “smoking gun” during his inspection. He recommended that we install pressure gauges on the line and pressurize segments to see if we can identify the segment of line that has been compromised. The water line has been turned off until Public works can find time to install stub ups and isolate the problem. Public works recently became aware that until this leak can be stopped the drinking fountain at miners bend will be non-operational.
- The City submitted expenses for the 5K from the 2023-2024 beverage recycle grant from Cal Recycle on March 30, 2026.
- Public works staff installed 3 new trees along the parking lot that borders Gopher flat. Although the trees are small now, they will grow over time to add to the shade in town.



- The City purchased a new 6- by 10-foot Dump Trailer with 4-foot sides. This added storage volume has already reduced the time it takes for us to load up brush and deliver to the WWTP or mine head while working with CalFire on the Sutter Hill project. This will also allow us to limit the need for the ailing dump truck.

