



STAFF REPORT

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

MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 17, 2026

FROM: DAN LAFONTAINE, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT FOR JANUARY 2026

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

Collection System Status:

CIP work

- The City and its design consultant Schneider Electric have decided to monitor flow in the collection system in some of our main trunks (larger basins). This data could prove useful to both the design of the new WWTP and to quantify any reductions caused from our two past years of collection system projects. The thinking is that spending money up front could reduce the size of the emergency pond giving the City substantial savings if proven. The City has determined 6 locations to install flow meters to accomplish this validation. The City has contracted with RH Borden to install flow meters at 6 locations in Feb 2026. Once the flow meters have been installed we hope to get some late rain this season to validate the flows.
- Staff have identified several areas of the collection system (based on flow meter data collected in 2024) for I/I projects in 2026. APS Environmental was onsite December 8 through the 10th to perform CCTV work on the suspected mains. APS encountered some areas of the mains that needed additional cleaning. Staff are scheduling a time to clean the lines in question and should have that completed by the end of February. Once the lines have been recleaned, the City will have APS return to the lines to camera them.
- The backup pump for the pump station has arrived and is ready to be installed. Installation will be completed as soon as time permits.

SSMP Activity

Calls for service.

- 1/16 - 440 Hwy 49, City main in backyard plugged and spilled, cleaned line and remediated spill. - private lateral issue
- 1/22 - 440 Hwy 49, City main in backyard plugged and spilled, cleaned line and remediated spill. - private lateral issue

Sewer System Cleaning and Maintenance.

- In January 2026 there were 1,311 Lineal feet of pipe cleaned. The total footage cleaned for the calendar year 2025 is 14,676 feet.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Status:

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

Table 1. Monthly Status of required reporting constituents.

Constituent	Monthly Results	Monthly Limits
Monthly Influent Flow	15.524 MG 0.501 MGD daily avg	0.48 mgd ¹
Effluent BOD, mg/L	13 mg/L	30 mg/l
Effluent Settleable Matter, mL/L	< 0.1 mL/L	0.5 ml/l
Effluent TSS, mg/L	6.9 mg/L	30 mg/l
Total Coliform, MPN	< 1.8 MPN	23 MPN
Sludge Wasted	15,352 gallons	
Rain	4.18 in.	24.15 in. YTD -27.52" Last YTD

¹ The 0.48 MGD is daily dry weather flow (May through October).

Plant Compliance Issues: The monthly December 2025 report was electronically submitted to the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Operational Strategy Modifications:

- The rag bin was hauled on January 6, 2026.
- We continued normal sludge wasting in December with 15K gallons dewatered.
- The new Aerator has been received at the WWTP. The E-pond weeds have mostly died. Operators will schedule a time to try to use a hook to “fish” the weeds to the side so we can remove the weeds.
- WWTP design meetings are being held every other week. The City has uploaded all data (drawings and influent flow parameters) pertaining to the RFI from Schneider. Influent samples are being collected with the 24-hour composite sampler with the addition of TKN and TSS. These constituents were previously only sampled for in the effluent. The City continues to upload weekly influent and monthly effluent samples to the share point with Schneider.
- Schneider visited the WWTP to scout the locations for the new solar panels. Operators discussed installing the panels as soon as possible to increase the ROI.
- Data loggers were installed by RBI in the influent, effluent and the creek on November 17 and 18th. These data loggers will capture the temperature of all streams for permitting the effluent stream for the new WWTP.
- Additional sampling data has been requested by the WWTP design team which includes alkalinity and a 7 (seven) day sampling event of the influent of the WWTP. This additional data will be used to fine tune loading parameters for the new WWTP design. Operators are currently producing a plan to add the constituent and conduct the 7 (seven) day sampling event. We anticipate this sampling event will occur at the end of February.

Effluent Disposal

- Bowers and irrigation resumed for the irrigation season on May 27, 2025. Ione has started receiving ARSA water on June 6, 2025, for the disposal season. On August 26, 2025, Ione stopped receiving water from ARSA. As of August 31, 2025, Ione has received approximately 250 acre-feet of ARSA water. Bowers irrigation was shut down on November 3, 2025.
- *Henderson Underdrain* – Repair work on the waterman valve was completed in December and has allowed much more control of the water leaving Henderson (down to approximately 70 gallons per minute). Monthly meetings are being held to discuss engineering issues prior to the additional cleaning that will be done next summer after the reservoir can be drained again. The contractor has suggested that ARSA look into spray in place pipe lining as an alternative. The team will review if this alternative method of lining will give us a greater chance of success.
- DODS has requested an annual inspection in the beginning of February to check the operation and discuss next steps on the underdrain project.
- On December 30, 2025, the manufacturers representative came and collected the flow meter with the wrong spool lengths for return. We hope to have the right one back in the first half of 2026 to install at Bowers.
- On January 26, 2026, a meeting was held at the regional water board to discuss the joint water balance. All parties were represented and discussed plans for the future in particular with respect to adding additional storage upgrades. The City informed the water board that we have begun with the feasibility phase of building a new tertiary WWTP. Further discussions will be held between each entity and the waterboard in the coming months.
- Ongoing maintenance of the cattle water troughs along the pipeline are occurring during the underdrain project. Irrigation sprinklers and valves were being repaired constantly (only at Bowers irrigation).
- Weed and rodent abatement at the three reservoirs.
- Send weekly updates to the Regional Board on reservoir levels and volumes.
- Daily flow checks and level readings.

Service Requests

Responded to **seventeen (17)** service requests in January:

- Four were for streets issues
- Five were for facilities issues
- Three were for park issues
- Two were for sewer issues
- Two were for storm drain issues
- One was forwarded to Code enforcement

Streets and City Right of Way.

- Work is proceeding with the leak detection and main repairs to the water system around town. AWA is working with Sorraco to fix mains on Old Rte 49, Hayden Alley, Broadway, Borgh and Eureka Street. The City is working with AWA and Sorraco to mitigate many field issues associated with crowded utilities underground (as expected). The City understands that this work is a large inconvenience to our residents but is working with AWA and Sorraco to minimize the duration of the inconveniences. AWA has received an extension and has given the City the following update. The crossings at Hanford (Main St.), Hayden and Broadway have been completed. AWA has finished with the leak work on Broadway, Borgh, Old Rte 49 and is completing the work on Hayden to loop the system. Paving has already been completed on Old Rte 49 and will commence for Hayden in February. Eureka St repairs will begin in February. The City is working with AWA and the contractor to install the storm drain on Broadway and a new concrete sidewalk on Broad and Broadway. Paving will be completed after these repairs on Broadway. At the completion of all the water lines paving will be completed when weather cooperates (above 50°).
- Potholes on Church street were noticed after a recent storm and were filled on January 13 and 14, 2026. These holes were noticed by Public works and by the public due to the size of the holes. Asphalt had been previously used to fill these holes less than one month ago and had been washed away in the most recent storm. This time a more permanent solution was implemented where concrete was filled to within a few inches with asphalt on top.
- The City engineer has begun design work on the Old Sutter Hill Road overlay project. The City had a surveyor locate the property lines between Sutter Hill Road and Campbell construction. Once a map is received staff will mobilize onsite to determine the scope of trees on the Sutter Hill roadside that will need to be mitigated prior to the overlay project. The City will also explore costs to improve drainage and add a walking path or sidewalk to the sides of the road. Once these options have costs associated staff will present these options to the council prior to a request for proposal is issued. We plan to begin construction in late spring early summer of 2026.
- On January 21, 2026, at Hygrade and Lorinda the road sign was found lying on the ground and needed to be replaced. New concrete was poured and the sign was reinstalled on January 23, 2026.
- On January 23, 2026, Sutter Crest Estates had a broken stop sign. On January 28, 2026 public works cut the rotten wood out and reattached the stop sign.
- Encroachment permits were issued to CIVN on November 18, 2025 for their fiber installation. We are still waiting for CIVN to inform the City when construction will begin (a reminder email has been sent at the end of Jan).
- On January 8, 2026 Public works along with the City building inspector determined that the risk of additional slippage was minimal and that the sidewalk could be opened. Sandbags were left on the side of the hill in between the hill and the sidewalk as a precaution. These will remain in place until the school district has an opportunity to further stabilize the hillside. See a pictures below:



Parks and Facilities

- On January 12, 2026, Public works got notice that there was graffiti on a bathroom stall in the Auditorium parking lot bathrooms. Pictures were taken and given to the police to identify any possible gang affiliation (standard procedure). The graffiti was then removed from the stall.



- On January 12, 2026, During a walk around the minnie provis park, Public works noticed that the drinking fountain was not working properly at the Minnie Provis Park. Some basic troubleshooting was done and it was determined that the issue requires replacement parts. The water valve has been shut off and replacement parts are on order. Once the parts are received the drinking fountain will be fixed.
- In January the Public works team took down the lights over Main street ending another wonderful Christmas season. The Christmas tree was taken down a few days later. All items are stored under the community building for next year.
- John Allen construction began construction on the Bryson Park Bathroom Expansion Project on January 15, 2026. Construction is moving along and the walkway and exterior work on the building has been completed. Construction is progressing ahead of schedule but some parts are back ordered. The City anticipates that the construction will be complete on time by March 2, 2026. See pictures of the progressing construction below:





- 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. He said if that does not work that he has leak detection gas that he can bring to identify the leak if the pressure gauges do not work.
- On January 28, 2026 the Public works team took their annual pesticide handling training (spray training) that is required every 12 months in Ione.