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### STAFF REPORT

**TO:** TOM DUBOIS, CITY MANAGER  
**MEETING DATE:** FEBRUARY 18, 2025  
**FROM:** DAN LAFONTAINE, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR  
**SUBJECT:** PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT FOR JANUARY 2025

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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.

**Executive Summary:** We made some major progress at the WWTP as we installed roto-strainer number 4. Now that we have two operational roto strainers, we are more equipped to handle storm flow into the plant. This allows more of the influent to be routed through the normal treatment process and less reliance on the emergency pond. We also received another chemical storage tank to increase our capacity and reduce mobilization costs. On the ARSA pipeline we held a meeting to review draft comments from the water board and feel confident that we can address all issues with the individual water balance. ARSA also sent in our intent to produce a combined water balance with the City of Ione and CDCR to the regional water board. We were lucky to get the CalFire crews in January (just prior to them mobilizing to the LA fires) and had them begin to clear the old mine site. This is a huge effort that will take many months of work that are being done as fire fuel reduction mitigation at all the City properties. We also addressed a concern from the first council meeting of Jan of limited visibility on Badger and Main street by adding a mirror to see further out into Main to increase the vehicle safety around town. Last but not least in addressing the beautification of the City areas, we refurbished some trash cans around town and received them back. The cans were sandblasted and powder coated to give them a fresh look. We also added bark at the gateway park to protect the wildflower seeds and add to the look of the park.

**Upcoming:** In February Public works will be taking advantage of the any storms that come in to check out all our storm water projects and ensure that they are working as designed. We will also continue to take advantage of the nicer weather to fill potholes. If you see a pothole, please notify any City staff so we can jump on them as sometimes they pop up within a few days. We will be working on getting together the list of collection system repairs to go out to bid and working to update our individual water balance to submit to the water board. We anticipate having roto-strainer 3 back in place and operational by the end of February.

**Detailed Summary:** Below is a detailed summary and/or status of the main PW responsibilities; Collection System, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Effluent Disposal, Streets and City Right of Way, Parks and Buildings, and Service Callouts.

### Collection System Status:

#### *CIP work*

- The list of collection system repairs has been completed. Currently we are getting plans and specifications together. We anticipate soliciting bids in February or March.

#### *SSMP Activity*

##### Calls for service

- 1/3/2025; 245 Oak Ct. plugged common lateral.
- 1/10/2025; 59 Bryson Alley, plugged City main
- 1/20/2025; 440 Hwy 49, plugged City main

#### *Sewer System Cleaning and Maintenance.*

- For December 2024, there was 511 feet of sewer line cleaned. The total amount cleaned for the calendar year 2024 is 19,207 feet. The total for calendar year 2023 was 31,023 feet. Although this number looks small it was much more targeted.

### Wastewater Treatment Plant Status:

The WWTP met all the effluent quality discharge requirements for the month of January 2025.

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

Constituent	Monthly Results	Monthly Limits
Monthly Influent Flow	9.468 MG 0.315 MGD daily avg	0.48 mgd <sup>1</sup>
Effluent BOD, mg/L	14 mg/L	30 mg/l
Effluent Settleable Matter, mL/L	< 0.1 ml/L	0.5 ml/l
Effluent TSS, mg/L	15 mg/L	30 mg/l
Total Coliform, MPN	1.8 mpn	23 mpn
Sludge Wasted	37,261 gallons	
Rain	0.90 in.	10.65 in. YTD –27.52” Last YTD

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

*Plant Compliance Issues:* The monthly December 2024 report was electronically submitted to the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

#### *Operational Strategy Modifications:*

- The rag bin was hauled on January 15, 2025.
- We continued normal sludge wasting in January with 37K gallons dewatered.
- Roto strainer #4 was reinstalled on January 28, 2025, and began operation (see photo below). All parts have been ordered to install Roto strainer #3 and will be installed in February 2025. With the addition of Roto strainer # 4, the plant capacity has increased, and we are better equipped to handle storm flows. This

allows us to route stormwater flows directly through the treatment process without the use of the emergency pond.



- The second Chlorine tank that was ordered in 2024 arrived on January 14, 2025. The team will be working to plumb that tank into our treatment train in the coming months. The addition of a second tank will add 1,015 gallons of storage and allow our supplier to deliver more product in a single trip thus reducing mobilization costs to the plant. This tank also adds redundancy to the plant in case the first tank develops a hole or becomes inoperable for any reason.



- The chlorine pumps (lead and lag) have shown signs of failure (motor overheating and constant tripping). New pumps have been ordered, and lead times have been estimated at 3 months. We anticipate to have them in hand around March.
- We continue to meet with firms to discuss the new WWTP. We are hopeful that in the next few months we will issue a request for qualifications (RFQ) to move forward with the WWTP direction and design.

## **Effluent Disposal**

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- Bowers and Hoskins irrigation were discontinued for the season on October 31, 2024.
- Ione has received approximately 250 acre-ft from the ARSA pipeline for the 2024 disposal season.
- On January 27, 2025, ARSA, the City of Ione, and CDCR attended a meeting with the regional water quality control board to discuss the individual water balances and discuss the intent of producing a joint water balance. A timetable of events was produced by the regional water board that included comments back from the individual water balances in early February and a request for the intent of all agencies to work together to produce a joint water balance by Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. The deadline to revise the individual water balances is Feb 24, 2025. ARSA has sent in a letter expressing their intent to continue with a joint water balance on Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.
- The Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) has reviewed the ROV video inspection and concurred with our engineering assessment that the Henderson underdrain pipe has not worsened significantly since last year. The DSOD has also approved a one-year extension until February 2026 or construction to commence on the Henderson underdrain.



- The replacement flow meter for the Bowers irrigation has arrived and will be installed in the coming months.
- Ongoing maintenance of the cattle water troughs along the pipeline. Irrigation sprinklers and valves are being repaired constantly
- 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.

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

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- The Christmas lights across main street were taken down the week of January 13<sup>th</sup>
- The public works team has been at work filling potholes around town in anticipation of more rain to come, hopefully.
- A problem had developed at Oro Madre from the new construction which resulted in debris coming onto the road. It was discovered that a drain was clogged that was vital to allow overflow storm flows to be properly routed. After noticing the issue, Public works uncovered the drain and build a headwall to capture any rouge flow. The pipe, once unclogged with the new headwall has withstood a few storms in early Feb. See pictures below:



- A mirror was installed at the intersection of Badger and Main Street to aid vehicles to be able to see approaching cars in the Main Street Southbound lane. This addition should aid to the safety of drivers in our downtown area. See picture below:



## **Parks and Buildings**

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- The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has determined that our creek cleaning projects require a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (creek cleaning permit) and has sent a draft agreement on Nov 21, 2024. The City responded in December with questions and concerns and is currently awaiting a response from CDFW.
- We received the refurbished trashcans, and they look amazing. The public works team has reinstalled them in the auditorium parking lot and in Minnie Provis Park. In the coming months we will remove a few more trashcans at a time and send them to be

refurbished. If anyone has a specific trash can that you think looks tired and worn out, please let staff know so we can add that to the priority list. See pictures below:



- Bark has been added to the Gateway park to protect the wildflower seeds and add to the beautification of one of the main entrances to Sutter Creek.
- CalFire crews were present the week of June 13<sup>th</sup> and worked on clearing the top of the old min site. We were lucky enough to get a few crews for three days before they were called down to the LA fires. They were able to clear and burn all areas on the top of the mine site. This is a long-term project that public works is prioritizing to increase our fire resiliency. See picture of the results below:



- Electricity has been installed at the Wi-Fi router in the historic grammar school. The IT department is working to set up the connection and should be accessible very shortly. This is a welcome infrastructure improvement to the historic grammar school.

## **Service Requests**

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Responded to three service requests in December.

- Four for street issues
- One was for a facility issue
- One was for a storm drain issue
- Two were for sewer
- One was forwarded to code enforcement