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### STAFF REPORT

**TO:** TOM DUBOIS, CITY MANAGER  
**MEETING DATE:** JUNE 16, 2025  
**FROM:** DAN LAFONTAINE, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR  
**SUBJECT:** PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT FOR MAY 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:** May was a month filled with emergencies that came and went. I would like to send a thank you to my staff for dealing with all the starts and stops that we had over the month. When we went into the month of May we had an ARSA system whose disposal was cut off, a pool that was non-operational, and a plan that was coming together for the new WWTP. We ended the month with ARSA disposal to Ione being resumed (along with being ready to irrigate), an operating pool and a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the new WWTP. We also managed to fix two air conditioners, fix a few potholes, clear a problem sewer line twice, attend our annual wastewater training and do our normal operational everyday duties. With a staff of 5.5 people, I believe that we are excelling and want to highlight the hard work everyone has done to make all this possible.

The *Miscellaneous Sewer Main Replacement Project* contract was signed during the first week of June and we anticipate that construction will be occurring around town during July and August. Be on the lookout for notifications of work in your area as the work will occur in various parts of town. We are excited to have Soracco back to perform this work.

The RFP was posted on May 22, 2025, for an energy services company to help with the design and construction of a new WWTP along with other energy efficiency upgrades. Proposals are due at on July 15, 2025 @ 2p.m. We have a few companies that we have been talking with and are setting up confidential meetings with them currently.

**Upcoming:** Now that the ARSA disposal has been continued, we will be pushing as much of the stored treated wastewater to Ione for ultimate disposal. Even though the date slipped a month we are confident that we can get to a good place by the end of Summer to perform the Henderson Underdrain project. In the coming weeks we will be defining the schedule for the *Miscellaneous Sewer Main Replacement Project* projects and hope to have more details to share with everyone. During June we will be holding confidential meetings and further defining the RFP throughout additional addendums. We anticipate that the Board of Supervisors will approve the transfer of money for the Bryson bathroom and will finalize the design.

**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:**

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*CIP work*

- RH Borden presented the results of the collection system flow meters from the sewer manholes in March. Generally, the results show that infiltration is occurring in four of the basins located downtown in varying degrees. The assessment also found some manholes that have signs of degradation (not properly sealed from groundwater). Staff is putting together a targeted list of items to investigate/repair further.
- During the last week of May and the first week of June the contract was signed by Soracco and the City of Sutter Creek for the *Miscellaneous Sewer main Replacement Projects*. A notice to proceed has been issued by the City and a schedule is currently being developed by Soracco. We anticipate that the work will be completed by the end of August.
- The City is working with Campbell construction to develop a plan and cost estimates to dig up Eureka St and replace 120 feet of pipe and install a cleanout half way down Eureka St. Once a cleanout has been installed crews can clear the line better and investigate if any other problems are occurring. We anticipate that this work can be accomplished within a few days in the month of June or July.

*SSMP Activity*

Calls for service.

- 5/15/2025; 60 Broadway. plugged City Main.
- 5/25/2025; 60 Broadway. plugged City Main.

*Sewer System Cleaning and Maintenance.*

- For May 2025, there was 245 feet of sewer line cleaned. The total amount cleaned for the calendar year 2025 is 2,041 ft. The total cleaned for the calendar year 2024 is 19,207 feet.

## Wastewater Treatment Plant Status:

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

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

Constituent	Monthly Results	Monthly Limits
Monthly Influent Flow	11.625 MG 0.375 MGD daily avg	0.48 mgd <sup>1</sup>
Effluent BOD, mg/L	20 mg/L	30 mg/l
Effluent Settleable Matter, mL/L	< 0.1 mL/L	0.5 ml/l
Effluent TSS, mg/L	10 mg/L	30 mg/l
Total Coliform, MPN	< 1.8 MPN	23 MPN
Sludge Wasted	27,125 gallons	
Rain	0.00 in.	24.15 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 April 2025 report was electronically submitted to the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

*Operational Strategy Modifications:*

- The rag bin was hauled on June 3, 2025.
- We continued normal sludge wasting in January with 27K gallons dewatered.
- On May 22, 2025, The City released a request for proposal (RFP) for the *Assessment and Implementation of Comprehensive Wastewater Treatment and Energy Related Capital Improvements*. RFP responses are due on July 15, 2025 @ 2 p.m. Addendum #1 was also released on June 2, 2025 with clarification on dates and times generally.
- Roto strainer #3 is currently being installed. New couplers had to be ordered and were received in February. Operators are currently piecing all parts of the roto strainers back into service.
- The Aerator has broken and was pulled this month to investigate. Field fixes have turned out to be unsuccessful and the unit will be returned to the manufacturer to determine the root cause of the issue.
- The second Chlorine tank has been installed and piping connected in the chlorine building. The chlorine line was clogged causing some restrictions in the line. Upon clearing the line we discovered that the pumps were still running hotter than the old pumps (136° vs 82°). We have relayed this information to the manufacturer to see what our options are.
- The City is obtaining bids to perform a preliminary geotechnical investigation to determine what land around the treatment plant is viable for construction.
- Looking at FEMA maps, portions of the existing WWTP may be in the flood plain and the maps are currently being investigated. HydroSciences is looking into setting up a meeting to discuss.
- On the last week of April three of the wastewater operators went to the CRWA conference to listen to educational sessions and receive refresher training.

## Effluent Disposal

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- Bowers and irrigation was resumed for the irrigation season on May 27, 2025.
- At the end of April, ARSA was notified that Castle Oaks golf course was not allowed to receive water from the Ione tertiary plant due to the Water board waiting for a Title 22 report. In early May meetings were held to discuss the situation with the Water Board. The public works team fearing that ARSA would not be able to dispose of wastewater spend weeks in the fields repairing sprinkler heads and preparing the fields for irrigation. Ione sent in the Title 22 report to the water board in the middle of May and discussions were held with the water board, ARSA, CDCR, and the City of Ione to discuss the ramifications of the lack of proper disposal. ARSA began gravity spray irrigation at Hoskins at the end of May. On June 6, 2025, ARSA received notice that the water board granted interim acceptance of continued operation of the City of Iones Castle Oaks Reclamation facility.
- Ione has started receiving ARSA water on June 6, 2025, for the disposal season.
- All parties associated with ARSA are still waiting for comments from the water board on the revisions to the individual water balances before commencing with the joint water balance.
- The RFP was accepted by the ARSA board on April 17, 2025. Campbell construction was the low bidder with a cost of \$491,000. ARSA engineers are currently working with Campbell construction to get a contract in place before July 1, 2025.
- Installation of the replacement flow meter for Bowers irrigation was started but was determined that the flow meter that was ordered was too long as the manufacturer thought this was a new installation and not a replacement, so the length was never specified. We are currently working with the manufacturer to rectify the situation.
- On May 22, 2025, the Regional water board sent a formal request to perform daily flow level measurements (7 days a week) at all reservoirs until flow meters can be installed. With irrigation beginning ARSA was already switching schedules to daily observations of the system per the waste discharge requirement (WDR). ARSA will need to work install a flow meter at the Preston forebay with remote monitoring. A proposal for that work along with cost estimates will be prepared during the summer 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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- We responded to two service calls related to streets during the month of May. One call was for a sign that was knocked over that we will be reinstalling. The other was for a pothole that was repaired.
- The business wayfinding sign was installed in the planter box at the North end of Mainstreet to help visitors locate businesses see below:



- The City had a meeting with AWA (water agency) and discussed their upcoming projects. The City will coordinate with AWA to ensure that when they replace water lines in our City that sewer lines are repaired also to minimize the destruction of roads.
- The week of May 27<sup>th</sup> another area of the City sidewalks got an assessment for sidewalk shaving. The area covered was the remainder of Spanish street, Sutter Ione Road and the subdivision of Crestview. Over 140 issues were detected and a quote is being made up currently.

## Parks and Buildings

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- As the summer came in at the end of May (over 100°) we discovered that two of our air conditioners (Police and the Community building) were not operational. The Police mini-split had the freon recharged and was fixed in a couple days. The community building had a few issues freon recharging, new capacitor and a squirrel cage that broke apart on itself (see picture below). Spare parts were ordered and installed to make them operational in a week. Moving forward we are looking into a service contract with

A&M Air to identify these problems before they happen. We hope to have that in place in the coming months.



- The 18-acres above the WWTP have a fire break cleared by CalFire (big thanks) and we are working with the Sutter Creek Fire Protection District to bulldoze a firebreak line around the property to increase our fire resiliency.
- In a monumental push to get the pool operational (pulled staff from other weekend duties to make the pool operational) we are happy to announce that the pool began operation on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. The pool has been repaired and new signs posted around the area. The City also held a meeting with the organizers of the Duck race to determine how best to spend the money that was raised from the race. We look forward to seeing what they come up with to beautify the pool area.