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### STAFF REPORT

**TO:** TOM DUBOIS, CITY MANAGER  
**MEETING DATE:** MARCH 17, 2025  
**FROM:** DAN LAFONTAINE, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR  
**SUBJECT:** PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 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:** As the majority of winter passes (with the exception of a few atmospheric rivers) we turn to spring and a time of growth. In public works, the nicer weather means that we have growth of landscaping that we planted in late summer (gateway park) and nice enough weather to finish some long outstanding projects (cemetery road paving) while also the growth of all types of unsightly weeds that require spraying around town. During the past month we have made substantial progress with fuel fire mitigation by removing debris and brush from the Minehead site. We also managed to close one lane of Gopher Flat Rd. and removed all the bush that had been encroaching onto our road. We will continue to tackle the biggest areas of fuel mitigation while also working to spray and reduce the growth of new fuel.

In terms of sustainability, the public works team has prepared a list of collection system work that we are bringing to the council. The list includes seven projects that have been on our problem list for infiltration and/or repeat clogs. We also had the flow meters pulled as the consultant believes that enough data has been collected. We will be receiving a briefing in the next few weeks. We also submitted our individual water balance and are collaborating with our regional partners to produce a joint water balance, which will be vital information as we move forward with our WWTP project.

**Upcoming:** We will also be sitting down with our flow meter consultant to review data and discuss our targeted approach to repairs that will maximize every dollar that we spend. Working with our local regulators, the water board has requested a site visit of ARSA to develop a better understanding of our waste disposal system. We will also be collaborating with our regional partners to produce a joint water balance. We will begin preparing the RFQ for the new WWTP and hope to have that out to bid in April. We will also be working with the ARSA engineer to fully define and scope our Henderson underdrain project. Minie Provis park will also be getting an upgrade between the community building and the playground as we look to upgrade the park and improve the accessibility to everyone.

**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*

- On February 25 and 26, 2025, RH Borden removed the collection system flow meters from the sewer manholes. During the removal all manholes were scanned for leaks (an additional service being given to the City). The data is currently being compiled, and we will be getting the next steps and recommendations in March. If the data the flow meters have collected is not adequate (not enough storms), the consultant will redeploy the flowmeters at no cost to the City.
- The list of collection system repairs has been completed and finalized. Plans and specifications are currently being developed. The list of collection system projects identified this year are the following:
  - Replace Main from Rayland Drive to Highland Drive
  - Install Manhole at rear of NAPA Auto Parts
  - Replace Main on Dennis Street
  - Replace Main from Sutter Hotel to Creek
  - Replace Main at Highway 49 from Highland Drive to Old Sutter Hill Road
  - Replace Main at Greenstone Terrace
  - Replace Main at rear of Duplexes at 50 Eureka Street

#### *SSMP Activity*

Calls for service.

- 2/11/2025; 175 Spanish St. plugged City Main.
- 2/27/2025; 140 Eureka St. plugged City main. This City owned main is only three inches in diameter and is made of vitrified clay. The sewer line was installed in the 1948 sewer collection system upgrade. This line is in need of being replaced.

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

- For January 2025, there was 510 feet of sewer line cleaned. The total amount cleaned for the calendar year 2025 is 1,021 ft. The total cleaned for the calendar year 2024 is 19,207 feet.

### 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	12.194 MG 0.642 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	16 mg/L	30 mg/l
Total Coliform, MPN	< 1.8 mpn	23 mpn
Sludge Wasted	18,632 gallons	
Rain	7.93 in.	18.58 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 January 2025 report was electronically submitted to the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

*Operational Strategy Modifications:*

- The rag bin was hauled on February 21, 2025.
- We continued normal sludge wasting in January with 18K gallons dewatered.
- 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.
- One of the two E-pumps showed signs of failing (low amperages while running at full capacity) and was replaced with a new pump.
- The second Chlorine tank has been moved into the chlorine building to be plumbed into the process train.
- 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. The old pumps continue to operate until we can get the new ones delivered and in hand. In February the pumps operated and did not have to be rebuilt.
- 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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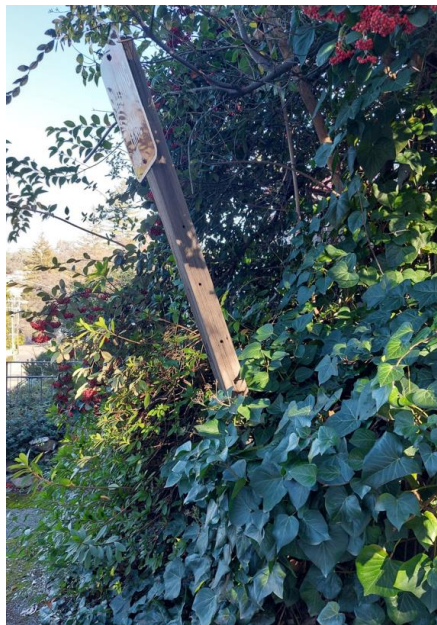
- Bowers and Hoskins irrigation were discontinued for the season on October 31, 2024.
- Ione has received approximately 250 acre-ft from the ARSA pipeline for the 2024 disposal season.
- On February 24, 2025, ARSA submitted a revised water balance to the regional water board that included. The results of the ARSA water balance indicated that the ARSA system in combination with the Castle Oaks Water Reclamation Facility and Castle Oaks Gold Course can adequately contain and dispose of all Sutter Creek WWTP effluent, precipitation, and runoff for the RP100WY without violation of storage capacity or agronomic application rates. These calculations result in only 12.5 to 13.0 acre-feet of surplus disposal capacity in the disposal system. Capacity for additional flows from other dischargers appears to be limited. Both Mule Creek State Prison and the City of Ione submitted their individual water balances. All parties are currently waiting for comments from the water board before commencing with the joint water balance.
- The City has retained HydroScience to assist with the project management of the Henderson underdrain repair in late summer early fall of this calendar year. HydroScience toured the Henderson reservoir on February 12, 2025, to review the plans and specifications (produced by Stantec in Jan 2023). We anticipate having a request for proposal ready for the ARSA Board to review in March. Construction of the underdrain is anticipated to begin in July 2025.

- 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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- On February 19, 2025, public works workers received non-DOT flagger training in the Cities commitment to ensure the safety of every City employee while working in the public roadways.
- The Public works team and City engineer toured the walking path to see what can be done about erosion of the path and mud being washed into the driveway. During the tour, the homeowner pointed out that the walking trail sign was beginning to fail and needed assistance. Public works fixed the post by adding some new concrete. See below:

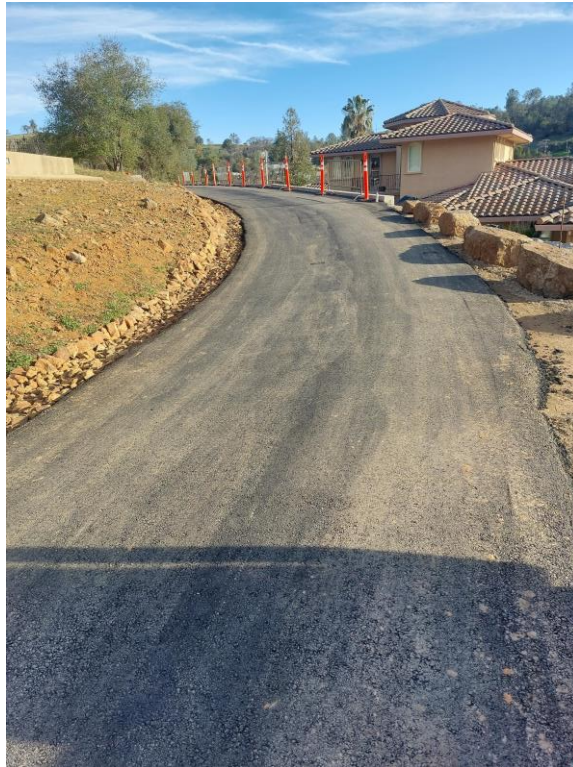


Walking Sign Before



Walking Sign after fixing

- The cemetery road has been repaved, and the City cemetery loop is back open. See picture below:



- Another round of sidewalk shaving has been performed in the downtown area. This time Precision Concrete shaved all remaining trip hazards on Main street from Eureka to Gopher Flat.
- The public works team has been at work filling potholes around town in anticipation of more rain to come, hopefully.

### **Parks and Buildings**

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- On March 5, 2025, The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) issued a second version of the draft agreement to address the Cities concerns. The City is currently reviewing the changes to the agreement and will respond in 30 days.
- Public works has begun to spray for weeds. In an effort to promote our fire fuel mitigation efforts around the City we began with spraying the triangle lot located between Ridge Road and Prospect Drive across from the bowling alley at the end of February.
- While driving around I noticed that the flowers had begun to grow at the Gateway park. We feel that the new bark and the flowers look great and provide a beautiful entrance to the City. See below:





- CalFire crews were present for a few weeks during February and have cleared a lot of debris off the shoulders of roads. Working with CalFire, Public works managed to clear both Gopher flat road just past Werner Road on February 26<sup>th</sup>. The crews were also able to spend a few days at the bottom of Sutter Hill Rd and cleared Old Hwy 49 from the fork to Sutter Hill Rd. See pictures below of the completed work at both locations below:



Gopher Flat Crew and Public Works clearing





Gopher Flat hedge before and after clearing.



Old Hwy 49 clearing between the Book and Old Sutter Hill Rd

## Service Requests

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Responded to seven service requests in February.

- Two were for street issues.
- Two were for facility issues.
- One was for a storm drain issue.
- Three were for sewer issues.