



STAFF REPORT

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

MEETING DATE: MARCH 16, 2026

FROM: DAN LAFONTAINE, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 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). RH Borden installed flow meters at 6 locations on Feb 17 and 18, 2026. We have noticed around town that water is seeping from the hillsides which tell us that the ground has been saturated and elevated the water table. We hope to have some late storms this season to capture flow data after groundwater saturation. We also have enrolled in a 6-month pilot program with Smart covers and have received 3 flow meters to install on our industrial users. The meters are scheduled to be installed in early March. With all of the flow meters being installed in the collection system, the design team will be able to verify the effectiveness of our I/I projects and get a good handle on when our industrial users discharge to the system.
- 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. The lines were cleaned at the end of January and APS Environmental has been rescheduled for the first week in March to return and finish the camera work. Once the camera footage is received, City staff will finalize the collection system lines for replacement.
- On March 4, 2026 - Campbell construction and Public works replaced the stand pipe in the lift station to the secondary pump and installed the backup pump. The pump station is now fully operational with redundant pumps.

SSMP Activity

Calls for service.

- 2/16 - 460 Hwy 49, Private lateral issue
- 2/27 - 175 Spanish Street, City main plugged, cleared line and returned flow in manhole

Sewer System Cleaning and Maintenance.

- In February 2026 there was 160 Lineal feet of pipe cleaned. The total footage cleaned for the calendar year 2026 is 1,471 ft vs 14,676 feet in 2025.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Status:

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

Table 1. Monthly Status of required reporting constituents.

Constituent	Monthly Results	Monthly Limits
Monthly Influent Flow	14.864 MG 0.531 MGD daily avg	0.48 mgd ¹
Effluent BOD, mg/L	7.2 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	18,558 gallons	
Rain	6.58 in.	23.31 in. YTD -24.15” Last YTD

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

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

Operational Strategy Modifications:

- The rag bin was hauled on February 23, 2026.
- We continued normal sludge wasting in February with 18K 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. Initial conversations pertaining to the placement of the new WWTP have centered around remaining out of the flood plain. Preliminary modeling has shown that the existing location of the WWTP is not a suitable location to build the new plant and higher alternatives are being addressed at this time to avoid the added costs of trying to navigate FEMA.
- 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.
- At the end of February, one week of sampling was performed with automatic 24-hour influent samplers by the wastewater operators. This additional data will be used to determine mass loading parameters for the new WWTP design.

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. The reservoirs are filling up with the late storms and we currently have around 220 acre-feet in the ARSA system. We still have plenty of room in the system and continue to send around 70gallons per minute from Henderson down the system to keep pressure in the water troughs (keeps them from clogging due to low pressure)..
- *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). The City met with Hydrosiences and Stantec (original design engineer) and Campbell construction to discuss options for underdrain cleaning and lining options. The team agreed that no contractors have expressed interest in the project and there are too many risks to proceed with lining the pipe. The City has requested a meeting with DSOD to discuss options for the liner. With the underdrain being completely encased in concrete the City will request alternatives to the lining with DSOD.
- DODS performed the annual inspection at Henderson on Feb 3, 2025 and the new construction and pier was observed by DSOD in action. DSOD had minimal comments and no significant issues with the inspection.
- 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. The City is currently waiting for the flowmeter to be returned with the new spool length.
- The City has requested a meeting with the Regional Water Quality Control Board - Region 5 on March 16, 2026 to discuss our intent to build a new tertiary WWTP. This is the first meeting with the water board and our design team.
- 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 February:

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

- Two were for cemetery issues

Streets and City Right of Way.

- On February 4, 2026, Public works painted stop bars and repainted the STOP on the road at the intersections. Public works painted the intersections of Randolph St. and Broad St. along with Badger St and Allen Ranch Road and Badger St and Karsan Dr. See pictures below:



- The AWA leak repair project has finished with the paving of Hayden Alley. The crews got it paved right before the storms in February. Although the road is paved the City has not accepted the road yet as in the final walkthrough we found issues that must be addressed first. The City has also learned that AWA paused the job to reassess to regroup prior to the next paving. In February work continued on Broadway as a 12-inch storm drain was reinstalled. On March 2, AWA with the City walked Broadway, Borgh Way and Eureka Street. The team discussed the limits of paving and drainage in particular how to keep the water off the road and into the storm drains. AWA will coordinate with the contractor to ensure that the job finishes as soon as possible.



- On February 12, 2026, Konieczka concrete broke out and reinstalled the gutters on David dr. This work was needed as the gutters had lifted and were causing water to run onto the road and wash out the asphalt in front of the residents driveways on David drive. Now that the gutters have been fixed the next step will be to remove the asphalt in front of the residents with a “dip” in front and repave the areas in front of the driveways. The City anticipates that the repaving will occur in the coming months.



- On February 10, 2026, a Cal Fire crew helped to remove a fallen oak tree in the City Cemetery. The tree had damaged a chain link fence and that was repaired after the tree was disposed of.



Before

After

- The City engineer is finishing design work on the Old Sutter Hill Road overlay project. The City has begun to tackle the trees and brush on Old Sutter Hill Rd. A meeting has

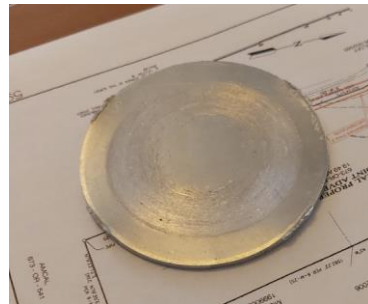
been scheduled with The City staff, Sutter Creek Fire Protection District, CalFire, Motherload Trust, Campbell construction and Amador Fire Safe council to develop a game plan to tackle this project. The intent is to remove any dead, dying or fallen trees and underbrush prior to the Old Sutter Hill overlay road construction.

- Encroachment permits were issued to CIVN on November 18, 2025 for their fiber installation. The City was notified that a job walk for the construction contractors will be held in early March.
- After the last storm a resident notified the City of a potential water leak coming from out of a sewer manhole in Elm street. Upon inspection City staff also noticed that a depression had formed above the sewer manhole indicating that the leak is not sewer (typically water shows downstream not upstream for sewer leaks). City staff tested the water and received positive results for both total and residual chlorine. This indicates that the water is not groundwater or sewer and most likely an AWA issue. AWA was contacted on March 3, 2026 and notified of the issue.



Parks and Facilities

- On a walk through Minnie Provis park, it was noticed that the partition in the men's bathroom had broken (wall brackets broken) and the partition had fallen off the wall and needed to be replaced. Parts have been ordered and part of the partition has been installed as of the end of February but the door was not received yet. Public works plans to install the door in the beginning of Feb
- On Feb 8th, 2026, replacement valves were received for the minnie provis park drinking fountain. The new valves were installed on February 15, 2026, the water was turned back on on and the fountain was returned to normal service,
- On Feb 4th, 2026, Public works was notified that the bottom of the floor well for the volleyball net in the auditorium had failed allowing the pole to slide through to the basement. A temporary solution was implemented for the Thursday practice and after both net wells were removed and inspected. The tack welds on the bottom plate were bad and needed to be replaced. Public works took the wells to Amador steel to have them fully welded. The wells were returned on Monday the following week and were installed before the next volleyball practice.



- On February 12, 2026, Public works (at the request of little league) brought in 5-yards of baseball mix to install in between first and second base. Little League volunteers spread the dirt on Sat, Feb 14, 2026 right before the rain came.



- On February 20, 2026, a large tree fell in the City cemetery. Luckily no headstones were damaged but the tree blocked access to the cemetery road that goes through the cemetery. Calfire crews happened to be back after the storm on Feb 23 and helped buck up the tree and clear the roadway. Big thanks to the crew for being there to assist with the large tree removal.



- Construction on the Bryson Park Bathroom Expansion Project is wrapping up. The City has completed the final walkthrough and created a punchlist of final items for the contractor. The City anticipates that the bathroom ribbon cutting will occur in the middle of March.
- 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.