

STAFF REPORT

TO: TOM DUBOIS, CITY MANAGER

MEETING DATE: JULY 21, 2025

FROM: DAN LAFONTAINE, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

SUBJECT PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT FOR JUNE 2025

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

Executive Summary: June ended with the same intensity as the end of May with two spills (one in the creek and one on the ARSA line) and an emergency road repair on gopher flat. I am happy to report that both spills have been mitigated, and thanks to our amazing response times of our operators (less than an hour after notice the spills) these emergencies were less than they could have been. The spill in the creek resulted in some swimming warnings, downstream of where everyone plays in the creek, but all warnings have been removed, and the creek is safe to use again. The ARSA spill only resulted in minimal downtime to the Ione plant and flows were quickly resumed. We also received some good news concerning our roads in town. Amador Water Agency is performing leak detection work in town, and we have successfully worked out a deal to have Hayden Alley and Broadway repaved thus saving the City money. We are working together with the Water Agency to fix anything underground (sewer and storm drains) prior to the water line repairs and repaving. This work will be completed by the end of 2025.

The Miscellaneous Sewer Main Replacement Project – Work has begun on the 2025 collection system projects as of June 30, 2025. Road closures will be in effect at various times on Old 49 from Rayland to Miners Bend. Public Works will post notices in advance and work to minimize the interruption. All road closures will begin after 9am to help alleviate traffic.

Wastewater Treatment Request for Proposals – One addendum was produced on May 30th which updated the schedule. Confidential meetings were held the week of June 16th. The deadline for questions/clarifications has passed and no significant questions were received. The City is looking forward to receiving proposals on July 15 @2:00 PM.

Upcoming: In July, the *Miscellaneous Sewer Main Replacement project* collection system work will be continuing with minor traffic delays. Detours will be posted around town to ease the flow of traffic. The City will be submitting its list of mitigation projects to the Counties' updated Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. The plan is updated every 5 years and all projects that are submitted to the plan will be eligible for FEMA funding. We will be receiving proposals for the new WWTP on July 15th and will be announcing the award at the end of July.

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 June 18, 2025, it was brought to the Cities attention that the collection system had become blocked and was discharging sewer into the creek downstream of the main street bridge. Once the location of the spill was discovered, a crew was dispatched, and the blockage was cleared in under one hour. Although the creek cleared up in a few days, per County Environmental Health Department, signs were posted to avoid swimming in the creek downstream of the main street bridge. The City also took a sample of the creek water as a precaution and the results came back within background levels. We are happy to report that as of June 30, the warning signs have been removed, fish were noticed swimming in the spill area of the creek, and no further swimming restrictions are in place. A large thank you goes out to all of those who called and posted on Facebook about the issue.





Warning Sign posted at Main Street Bridge Sewer plug cleared creek returned to normal

One positive thing that happened as a result of the sewer blockage is that we identified inflow to the collection system pipes in the creek. Typically, sewer pipes are not under pressure, so the creek water flows into the collection system but during the blockage sewer pressure increased allowing us to see the inflow. Further investigation will be required but this will be added to a future collection system project as this would be a major source of I/I.

- Miscellaneous Sewer main Replacement Projects. Work has begun on the collection system around town on June 30, 2025. The first two projects are the installation of a manhole behind Napa Auto parts and pipe bursting the sewer main down Greenstone terrace. We know that these repairs have caused some traffic headaches and ask that you bear with us as we fix our critical infrastructure around town. We are trying to give as much advanced notice as possible for road closures. The work is on schedule.
- 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.
- In light of the budget constraints, The City will be working on excavating Eureka St with the help from Campell construction to replace 120 feet of pipe and install a cleanout halfway 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 July.

SSMP Activity

Calls for service.

• 6/18/2025; 29 Badger Rd. plugged City Main, resulting in creek spill. State OES and Amador County Environmental Health were notified.

Sewer System Cleaning and Maintenance.

• For July 2025, there was 1,776 feet of sewer line cleaned. The total amount cleaned for the calendar year 2025 is 3,837 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 June 2025.

Table 1. Monthly Status of required reporting constituents.

Constituent	Monthly Results	Monthly Limits
Monthly Influent Flow	8.674 MG 0.289 MGD daily avg	0.48 mgd^1
Effluent BOD, mg/L	28 mg/L	30 mg/l
Effluent Settleable Matter, mL/L	< 0.1 ml/L	0.5 ml/l
Effluent TSS, mg/L	8.8 mg/L	30 mg/l
Total Coliform, MPN	< 1.8 MPN	23 MPN
Sludge Wasted	34,037 gallons	
Rain	0.00 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 May 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 June with 34K gallons dewatered.
- Wastewater RFP updates Confidential meetings were held the week of June 16th. The deadline for questions/clarifications has passed and no significant questions were received. The City is looking forward to receiving proposals on July 15 @ 2:00 PM.
- 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.
- A contract has been signed to receive a new power section for the Aerator. The Aerator diffusor head will be shipped back to the manufacturer for rebuild.

- 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 are waiting for correspondence back form the manufacturer.
- The contract has been signed for the Geotechnical work at the WWTP. A flyover has been scheduled for July 8th and boring will be initiated in the last half of July.
- 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.

Effluent Disposal

- Bowers and irrigation was resumed for the irrigation season on May 27, 2025. Ione has started receiving ARSA water on June 6, 2025, for the disposal season. As of June 30, Ione has received approximately 90 acre-feet of ARSA water.
- On June 27, 2025, CalFire contractors working at the Ione CalFire Academy facility drilled through a 24-inch ARSA wastewater line. Emergency crews were dispatched to the facility to shut down the flow of water out of Preston to empty the line. Upon investigation, the driller bored directly into the top of the pipeline. ARSA had a saddle on hand that was used to cover the hole by the end of the day. Water to Ione was interrupted from June 27 through June 30th when the line was returned to operation. Thanks to the quick response time only 600 gallons of wastewater was released during the spill.
- Henderson Underdrain Current reservoir levels indicate that ARSA will have Henderson drained to deadpan by early August. The project is set to begin on August 4, 2025. The Henderson underdrain project has received approval from all state agencies, and the project contract was sent to Campbell construction on July 1(must be accepted by July 10th). The spring in the dam face (that was to be plugged in the original scope of work) has been accepted by DSOD to be taken out of the scope of work due to water rights being presented to DSOD by the property owner. This will save ARSA and the City considerable money and one of the more questionable items in the scope of work.
- The manufacturer of the flow meter for Bowers has proposed a shorter spool length with a restocking cost of 2K. City staff are currently investigating if the flow meter can be used in another place to save the restocking fee.
- The Water Board has sent a meeting invite for August 6th to discuss the joint water balance with all parties associated with the Mule Creek watershed. We are still waiting for comments from the water board on the revisions to the individual water balances before commencing with the joint water balance.
- 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.

On June 26, 2025, one of the Public Works team noticed a hole in Gopher Flat Rd. around Cole Street. Upon further investigation we determined that the storm drain collapsed under the road creating an emergency. On June 27th Public works and Campbell construction installed two trench plates in the East bound lane. With the installation of the trench plates over the road we now have time to investigate the extent of the damage and determine the best solution to fix the storm drain and the road on top. On July 8 staff looked at the interior of the pipe and it is in satisfactory condition. The next step is to open up the old pavement, backfill the hole and repair the pavement. This repair will most likely include the closure of one lane of Gopher Flat Rd. for a short period of time. Stay tuned for more information on the repair.



Storm drain under Gopher Flat Rd. the top of the pipe is intact.

- The City has received preliminary plans from Amador Water Agency (AWA) to do some leak repair work under grant at Eureka St., Borgh Way, Broadway, and Hayden. In the plans the City has asked for AWA to repave the entirety of Broadway and Hayden. In addition to the repaving, AWA has indicated that they will replace the hydrant on Broadway and fix the sidewalk around the existing hydrant. Once the City approves the plans AWA will go out to bid. Per the grant, all work must be completed by the end of the calendar year.
- The City is getting bids to repair the gutter along David Dr. and replace asphalt in front of the effected homes.

• We got lucky in June and received a few days of CalFire crews to help clear some of the City easements and clear some growth in the creek. Crews worked on June 26 to clear the easements on Gopher flat (see below). On July 1, crews were in the creek above City hall to do some vegetation management in the creek (see below).



CalFire crew on Gopher Flat



CalFire crew cleared the creek around the Auditorium parking lot and swimming area

- Bryson Bathroom On June 10th the Board of Supervisors approved the transfer of TOT funds to the City of Sutter Creek to install a bathroom at Bryson park. Designs are currently underway, and we hope to have them finalized by the end of July. After that we will be going out to bid and with any luck, we will have a functioning bathroom at Bryson park by Fall of 2025.
- The 18-acres above the WWTP had CalFire limb up and pile some trees on the property. The Sutter Creek Fire Protection District brought their chipper and chipped up the piles. Next is to bulldoze a firebreak line around the property and possibly burn the property to further reduce vegetation on City owned properties. We continue to work on the mine head site to reduce vegetation.