



STAFF REPORT

TO: TOM DUBOIS, CITY MANAGER
MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 21, 2026
FROM: DAN LAFONTAINE, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT FOR AUGUST 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

- RH Borden presented their findings of the second year of the flow meters installation in regards to determining the main trunks of Infiltration and Inflow (I&I). RH Borden found a pipe stubbed into the manhole on Dennis street (MH-180) that leaks groundwater into the pipe when the groundwater is saturated. The manhole is under warranty and will be repaired before the rainy season. The study also gave the City a target area to continue the investigation further upstream. We are receiving a quote for further exploration and will discuss with the ESCO design team if this work is cost effective to justify further I&I reduction.
- The City has purchased one of the Smart covers that is currently monitoring Rammco. The unit can be placed anywhere in the system to monitor flows. This sensor will be moved to the pump station to alert operators of any potential failures with remote alarms to any phone number. This will act as a secondary backup to the onsite alarms to notify the crew and reduce the likelihood of any spills at the pump station, when moved.
- The replacement of wastewater piping in the creek project has run into permitting issues. Upon talking with consultants, due to the majority of the piping being replaced being under the high water mark, the City is being told that additional permits will be required to perform the work. The additional permits will take up to one year to obtain effectively pushing the project to next summer/fall. This project will most likely be pushed to the next fiscal year. Engineering is proceeding with the surveying and will produce plans and specs in September as those will be required to obtain the additional permits. Public works explored the option of declaring an emergency but the justification for the emergency declaration did not exist as the spill we were using for justification occurred over 6-months ago. Upon further discussions with consultants it was discovered that declaring an emergency does not typically save the applicant any money and can complicate the permitting. The City will forgo the emergency declaration and pursue the additional Army Corps and Waterboard permitting.

SSMP Activity

Calls for service.

- 8/3/2026 - 80 Hayden Alley, sewer backup in main, cleared City portion
- 8/5/2026 - 10 Connie Lane, while performing SSMP found a plug that was cleared out
- 8/5/2026 - Lorinda and Hwy 49, while performing SSMP found a plug that was cleared out
- 8/19/2026 - 81 Spanish, Sewer backed up half way into manhole, line was cleared before it spilled over on 8/20.
- 8/26/2026 - 54 Broadway, Sewer backed up into a cleanout in the garage, line was cleared.

Sewer System Cleaning and Maintenance.

- In August of 2026 there were 6,387ft Lineal feet of pipe cleaned. The total footage cleaned for the calendar year 2026 is 14,227 ft vs 14,676 feet in 2025.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Status:

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

Table 1. Monthly Status of required reporting constituents.

Constituent	Monthly Results	Monthly Limits
Monthly Influent Flow	9.743 MG 0.314 MGD daily avg	0.48 mgd ¹
Effluent BOD, mg/L	25 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	23,562 gallons	
Rain	0.0 in.	32.80 in. YTD -24.15" Last YTD

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

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

Operational Strategy Modifications:

- The rag bin was hauled on September 1, 2026
- We continued normal sludge wasting in May with 23K gallons dewatered.
- Rotostrainer #4 drum was removed and cleaned on July 22, 2026. The manufacturer was contacted and they will mobilize to retrieve the broken parts for Rotostrainer #2 and #4 in the first week of August. As you can see in the picture below the metal plate that attaches to the center rod broke free causing the shaft to spin without rotating the drum. The manufacturer will either replace the end plate or procure another plate based on their investigation of the failure.
- The Aerator was installed into the E-pond on July 21, 2026. A variable frequency drive (VFD) was installed in between the Aerator and the motor starter to allow for better operator control. The Aerator was installed in August and turned on during the day to remove the vegetation in the pond and reduce sludge.

- One of the stipulations for Univar to begin delivering sodium hypochlorite (hypo) to the WWTP was that a digital level sensor be installed in one of the hypo tanks. A sonic level sensor has been ordered and received. The CPO installed signage and level sensors in both tanks (one digital and the other a manual bob type along with vents in the hypo tanks. Proof of the upgrades were sent to Univar on August 26, 2026. Univar is currently reviewing the improvements. We anticipate having the switch over done in September and utilizing our new vendor.
- Martel sampling was conducted on August 5, 2026 at the first spot where all of Martel combines in our collection system. Results of the laboratory testing indicated that the BOD and TSS were reported at 400 and 280 micrograms per liter (mg/L), respectively. City of Sutter Creek ordinance 14.08.0303 indicates that pretreatment of waste is to be performed to obtain BOD and TSS sample laboratory results of less than 300 and 350 mg/L, respectively. Although the BOD results came back slightly higher than allowed this is an order of magnitude less than samples for other industrial users. These results indicate that the Martel wastewater is NOT majorly contributing to the high WWTP influent sample results.
- The WWTP design is coming along at 5 to 10%. During the weekly meetings the focus has been on value engineering and grant funding as we move the design forward. We have a second water board meeting in September to discuss permitting timing and to give them an update to our progress and our anticipated milestones.

Effluent Disposal

- Wastewater will be sent from each jurisdiction for a few months to ensure that both parties are able to dispose of all their wastewater. Currently (as of Aug 31) the reservoirs have a combined 146 acre-feet in the ARSA system, approximately. Ione switched back to CDCR wastewater for the month of August on August 3, 2026. Flows were decreased during Aug to send approximately 150 to 200 gallons per minute to Preston until Ione switched back over to ARSA water on September 3, 2026.
- *Henderson Underdrain* – On May 8, 2026, the City submitted a technical memo to address DSOD concerns about the underdrain project. In the letter ARSA asked for the project to be closed without completing the liner and one follow up ROV monitor. If DSOD accepts this tech memo, Hydrosiences will prepare a final design request for the modifications. We are currently scheduling the ROV inspection for October and have not heard back from DSOD.
- Hydrosiences mobilized to Preston forebay to discuss engineering solutions to the Preston forebay outlet valve. The valve cannot be fully opened or closed (per request of DSOD) and a solution needs to be identified to fix. Upon inspection the Preston Forebay pier is unstable and not safe to walk upon. The City is currently looking for drawings to come up with a solution to the valve replacement.
- Ongoing maintenance of the cattle water troughs along the pipeline are occurring.
- Daily flow checks and level readings
- Weed and rodent abatement at the three reservoirs.

- Send weekly updates to the Regional Board on reservoir levels and volumes.

Service Requests

Responded to thirteen (13) service requests in August:

- Four were for streets issues;
- Two were for a facility issues;
- Two were for park issues;
- Five were for sewer issues;

Streets and City Right of Way.

- The Sutter Hill Road overlay construction began on August 3, 2026. Campbell performed the base bid and the additive alternative. Paving was completed on August 19 and stripping was completed one week later. The City performed a walkthrough on August 26th and gave the contractor the punch list. Old Sutter Hill Rd was opened on Thursday August 27th in the afternoon after the stripping could dry.

Red no parking was installed on Friday, August 28, 2026 around the condominiums located on Sutter Hill Rd. The following red parking curbs have been installed to improve line of sight and restrict parking in areas that a vehicle will not fit.

Intersection	Length (feet)	Parking Designation
Bryson and Sutter Hill Rd	16	No Parking
Sutter Hill Rd and Driveway (above Condos)	15	No Parking
Sutter Hill Rd and Driveway (below Condos)	300	No Parking

Sutter Hill Rd has been placed on the moratorium list as of September 1, 2026 for 5 years. See pictures below of the completed roadway with Red curbs below:



- Amador Water Agency (AWA) and their subcontractor Doug Veerkamp General Engineering ground Hayden down and resurfaced on August 5, 2026. An overlay of asphalt was installed on Broadway on August 6, 2026 due to the plant closing down in the afternoon of August 5, 2026. We have received very positive feedback from the community. On August 18, 2026, AWA and the City created a punch list of very minor items for the contractor. Hayden and Broadway will be placed on the moratorium list as of September 1, 2026 for 5 years. See pictures of the completed roadways below:



Broadway - Overlay



Hayden Alley - Reconstruction

- During April, confirmation samples were taken from Elm Street and tested positive for free and total chlorine. Discussions between AWA and the City are being conducted to get a field visit to determine the best course of action. No update has been received on a possible field visit date.
- On August 12, 2026, Centerline Stripping installed a new thermo centerline on Gopher Flat from City limits to Main Street. The old line was almost completely faded and was a safety risk.



- On August 5, 2026, A tree was cut back to improve visibility coming out of Lorinda Dr. looking up the hill of Old 49. This trimming improves visibility when turning onto Old 49.



- Prior to the new 2026/2027 school year at Amador High, Sutter Ione Rd received a new coat of paint on the faded pavement markings. See before and after pictures below:



Pavement Marking "AHEAD" before and after

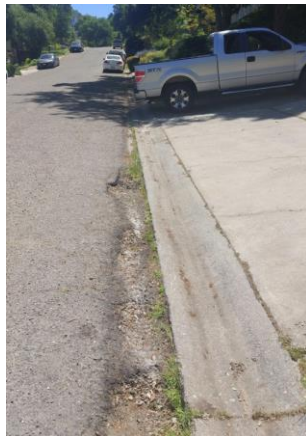


Pavement Marking "STOP" before and after



Finished Pavement Markings around Amador High School

- On August 21, 2026, Campbell construction with Public works saw cut approximately 3-feet by 180-linear feet of asphalt on the East side of David drive and installed fresh asphalt. This completes the project where the gutter of the road was fixed back in February of 2026 to divert water down into the gutters and not onto the road surface. As seen below are the before and after pictures.



- Dannco began construction on the low-income housing project on July 2, 2026. Temporary fencing has been established and earth work is occurring. The project was paused due to issues with the retaining wall subcontractor. As soon as those issues are worked out construction will resume.
- Speed cushions were ordered for Gopher Flat Rd. Speed cushions have a smaller width (6-feet) to allow emergency vehicles to pass over them without slowing or stopping and makes all other vehicles slow down to 10-25 miles per hour (mph). Once the cushions are received Public works will schedule a time to install the units.

- The pool closed on August 9, 2026. We thank everyone for coming out to the pool this season and appreciate any feedback on the season for how we can improve the facility for next summer. The new three-way valve for the pool was ordered and arrived. This will be installed prior to the next pool season.
- On August 26, 2026, Public works received a notice from the Water polo coach that there was a chlorine leak in the pool supply building. Upon investigation it turned out that the main pool pump burned up at the electrical terminal head on the pump. Upon further inspection the impeller had severe corrosion of the impeller veins causing the wet end of the pump to become dry and overload the circuits causing a fire. A new impeller has been ordered and once received will be installed along with new wiring all the way back to the motor starter.
- During the past year the City has been working with a private donor to remove the Minnie Provis Playground bark and install a rubberized surface. As the first phase of this project the private donor wanted to replace parts of the playground. Public works worked with the donor and the manufacturer of the playground to identify the parts that need to be replaced. The City continues to wait for the parts to be received. Replacement of the playground parts will occur after labor day (children back in school) to minimize disruptions to play at the park.
- Replacement swamp coolers were installed on August 3 through 5th, 2026, just in time for the Ragtime Music Festival. Upon installation of the units and running them overnight the temperature in the Auditorium seems much cooler. The City also procured A/C rentals (2 of the 6-ton units and a generator) to determine if additional cooling was necessary during the festival. The units were direct ducted into the heating ducting. The ducting will be modified so that additional A/C units can be installed down the road if necessary.



- CalFire informed ARSA that they are beginning a new Master plan of the CalFire training facility. CalFire consulting engineers informed ARSA that the entire site would undergo complete demolition and rebuild with expansion in mind. ARSA informed CalFire management and the consulting engineers of our ARSA line location and how the system operates. They will reach back out when additional information is needed or the Master plan is complete.
- On July 31, 2026, Public works installed a new downspout on the minnie provis snack shack building as shown below:



- Work is progressing on the pump track at Bryson park. The team has begun to install dirt in the pump track area and is currently sifting through to find unwanted rocks. Once the dirt has been prepped the berms will be formed and the stabilizer can be added to secure the track in place. A local fabricator has agreed to build a bike station tool stand and will be ready by the time the pump track opens.
- 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. Public works recently became aware that until this leak can be stopped the drinking fountain at miners bend will be non-operational. Public works installed stub-ups and gauges and tried to locate the source of the leak. Due to the leak being bigger than expected, the gauges that were bought were not sensitive enough to determine the location of the leak. Smaller gauges (0-10 psi) have been procured and another attempt to locate the leak will be initiated. The investigation will continue when time permits.
- Miners Bend - Weeds have been pulled and information signs have been washed down to aid in the educational aspect of the park. Discussions have been had with a resident to provide further updates like ordering new crushed brick for the ground cover. We anticipate this work being completed in September or October (when weather cools off)..
- Calfire was able to break away for a few days at the end of August to clear roadside easements and they were able to clear the small ditch on the side of gopher flat while they were onsite.

