



STAFF REPORT

TO: TOM DUBOIS, CITY MANAGER
MEETING DATE: JANUARY 21, 2024
FROM: DAN LAFONTAINE, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2024

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 holiday season is ending and a new year starts, we are back in full swing and looking ahead. We are working to get better estimates on the cost and scope of a new WWTP by inviting firms to tour our plant. We have received a lot of feedback and are confident that this prework will turn into many qualified firms applying when we issue our request for qualifications. We are also taking a look at our facilities and parks and rec to see what grants we can apply for to get the most pressing needs assessed. I am pleased to inform the council that we received a \$10,000 grant from the Amador Air district from their Small Lawn Equipment Rebate Program for new electric tools. A special thanks goes out to the Amador Air Quality staff for their expert guidance in getting this grant executed. As far as storms went, we have had a minimal amount of rain so far this year (becoming the new normal for early winter, November and December) and our infrastructure has been holding firm. We are taking advantage of this time to fix some smaller issues (Karsan railing) along with some fire resiliency work (CalFire has begun to clear the top of the mine site on Eureka Rd). We are also making good progress on getting a list of collection system piping that we will be sending out to bid for replacement to minimize our Infiltration and Inflow (I/I). We anticipate this going out for bid in February of 2025.

At the WWTP, we are focused on the installation of all of our new equipment. We installed the new Aerator and are performing some safety upgrades to the grates around the plant. We anticipate having roto-strainers 3 and 4 back in place and operational by the end of January.

Upcoming: In January, we will be saying goodbye to the holiday season and with the help of the Jackson boom truck we will be removing all of the Christmas decorations mid-January. A special thanks to the City of Jackson for allowing us to use their equipment year after year. Public works will continue to maintain the storm drains by collecting and disposing of leaves around town in preparation for the upcoming rainy season (we hope). We will continue working to install the new pieces of equipment at the plant.

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

- The list of collection system repairs has been completed. Currently we are getting plans and specifications together. We anticipate soliciting for bids in February.

SSMP Activity

Calls for service

- 11/23/2024; 140 Eureka St. plugged City Main.

Sewer System Cleaning and Maintenance.

- For November 2024, there was 1,130 feet of sewer line cleaned. The total amount cleaned for the calendar year 2024 is 18,696 feet. The total for calendar year 2023 was 31,023 feet.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Status:

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

Table 1. Monthly Status of required reporting constituents.

Constituent	Monthly Results	Monthly Limits
Monthly Influent Flow	13.826 MG 0.45 MGD daily avg	0.48mgd ¹
Effluent BOD, mg/L	14 mg/L	30 mg/l
Effluent Settleable Matter, mL/L	< 0.1 ml/L	0.5 ml/l
Effluent TSS, mg/L	5.8 mg/L	30 mg/l
Total Coliform, MPN	< 1.8 mpn	23 mpn
Sludge Wasted	61,935 gallons	
Rain	6.85 in.	9.75 in. YTD –27.52” Last YTD

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

Plant Compliance Issues: The monthly November 2024 report was electronically submitted to the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Operational Strategy Modifications:

- The rag bin was hauled on December 19, 2024.
- Since the conveyor has been fixed, we were able to resume normal sludge wasting in November with 62K gallons dewatered.
- A mini-excavator was rented in December and both Roto strainers number 3 and 4 were set in their respective bays. Plans are underway to mechanically reinstall the couplers to make both Roto strainers operational in January. Roto Strainer number 2 was removed and disassembled to remove the broken shaft end. This piece can be sent to a machine shop to get repaired.

- The Aerator was installed in the emergency pond and began full-time operation in December. The Aerator will operate constantly and impart dissolved oxygen (DO) into the emergency pond to help reduce any fugitive odors and improve the effluentwater quality.
- We ordered and received a new plug valve for roto strainer number 1. Once roto strainers number 3 and 4 are installed we will work on changing out the butterfly valve on Roto strainer number 1 with the plug valve (to reduce blockages).
- 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.
- 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

- 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 December 13, HydroScience submitted a draft water balance for the ARSA disposal system. The water board has requested a meeting with all parties to review the water balances on January 27, 2024.
- 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.

- The Christmas lights across main street will be taken down the week of January 13th along with all the other miscellaneous decorations. As mentioned in the last City Council meeting, Sutter Creek was named the most Christmasy Town in Northern California and we are very proud to receive recognition for all the decorations that we hang each year. I would like to publicly acknowledge all the public works employees that work hard to make Christmas come together, we couldn't do it without you.
- On December 16, 2024, Karsan tributary railing (that was broken in a few places, yielding it unsafe) was replaced. The contractor worked hard to get this installed in one very long day and the City appreciates the hard work. This was a long-term safety concern for the Public works department, and we are happy to report a successful project completion. See picture of the new railing below:



Parks and Buildings

- The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has determined that our creek cleaning projects require a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (creek cleaning permit) and has sent a draft agreement on Nov 21, 2024. The City responded in December with questions and concerns and is currently awaiting a response from CDFW.

- As you may have noticed, a few of the trash receptacles around town have been missing. The City has removed a few receptacles (strategically to minimize interruptions to trash disposal) over the holidays to get sand blasted and repainted. Our plan is to remove a few at a time throughout the year and get them all refurbished. Please be on the lookout for the refurbished receptacles in the new year.
- The weather has cooperated, and the wildflower seeds have been spread around the front of gateway park. These seeds will bloom in early spring and should give some color to our entrance park.
- The historic grammar school is getting Wi-Fi very soon. The connection has been dropped to the building and public works is installing electrical to the Wi-Fi router. Once the electricity has been installed, the router will be setup and broadcasted throughout the building. Look forward to this upgrade the next time you are at a function in the historic building.
- The City of Sutter Creek has received a \$10,000 grant from the Amador Air Districts Small Lawn Equipment Rebate Program to replace some of our old small engine equipment. The City retired some of our old engine equipment and purchased the following electric tools: blower, mower, pole pruner, chainsaw, a battery generator and various batteries and chargers. These tools were received on December 4, 2024 and are both quieter and lighter. This grant will allow the Public works department to test out the new electric equipment to see what works best for our applications.

Service Requests

Responded to three service requests in December.

- One for street issues.
- One was for a sidewalk issue
- One was for sewer.