

March 2023 Superintendent's Report

Wastewater Treatment Plant:

Operators performed routine repair and maintenance to the WWTP in March of 2023. The winter storms have had a real impact on the District. The office roof has sustained significant damage. Staff have installed a tarp to protect the building and prevent further damage. Staff are working to get an assessment from qualified contractors. Staff are looking into making an insurance claim and/or disaster damage claim with FEMA. The District hosted a meeting with FEMA and Cal OES representatives on 3/22/23 to learn more about the process. In addition to the office roof, and tree damage at the WWTP, winter storm damage includes tree branches down on the District Palette Dr. property, and damage to both the biosolids dryer and bar screen as well as, damage to the influent suction lines. Staff continue to assess and identify storm damage. Some storm related issues have already been addressed and repaired. The sludge belt press also experienced issues with the polymer pump and hydraulic system; it is currently off line until parts arrive. High flow rates on 3/14/23 overwhelmed our in service influent pumps for a time and the overflow pond was used. Designed to hold 3-5 days of flow, the pond was nearly half full after just three hours. Staff did an incredible job to keep the plant functioning during the storms and should be commended. Our regional regulator was up dated, and we never reached a point of violation.

Outfall Update: We are still waiting on Alpha Diving to submit a work plan for 2023. It might be a good idea to have the outfall assessed for any damage associated with the storms. We have reached out to another dive company, Underwater Resources Inc. and received a quote. As union divers they are more expensive. The District will likely be putting out an RFQ for maintenance services and work to obtain additional bids.

Recycled Water:

MCCSD did not transfer any recycled water during the month of March. The District desperately needs upgrades to this system if we are to continue providing recycled water. GHD recently submitted another grant application on behalf of the District to fund some of our recycled water upgrades. The State appears engaged in working with us.

Biosolids Trailer and Transport:

MCCSD did not transport any biosolids in March 2023.

Office Update:

Since the annual reports were submitted on 3/1/23, office time this month has been greatly consumed with Q1 State reporting, assisting operators with plant repairs and operations, helping GHD gather information for grant applications, the GSRMA LEAP program, the annual Audit, annual Budget planning, acquiring bids for the plant repair, interviewing different legal firms to learn more about legal costs and services to help prepare for future requests for qualifications (RFQ's); researching and drafting policy for considerations, researching alternative meeting locations, looking into how other local Special Districts are dealing with the transition back to in person meeting; and public records requests. Related to RFQ research, staff consulted County and District policy, California Special District Association, community members, Fort Bragg city staff, 5th District Supervisor, and legal advisors. Our findings are that existing District policy addresses when to utilize RFQ's. District staff are going work on putting out RFQ's in the near future, to establish a list of qualified professional service providers for future needs.

Grant and Project Updates:

GHD continues to move forward on the Emergency Water Storage Tank Project and is concerned that material costs continue to rise. GHD successfully submitted two more grant applications on behalf of the District. One to the State Revolving Fund for Wastewater infrastructure planning, and a second to the SWRCB Recycled Water program for upgrades to the MCCSD recycled water system. No news or updates on any other District applications.

Safety Meeting and Plant Safety Inspection:

The 30-minute monthly safety meeting was held March 21, 2023. The topic was *Ergonomics*

Sanitary Sewer Collection System:

There were no MCCSD collection system sanitary sewer overflows to report during January 1, 2023 through March 23, 2023.