

January 2023 Superintendent's Report

Wastewater Treatment Plant:

Operators performed routine repair and maintenance to the WWTP in January of 2023. The early January storms brought not only rain, but a number of power surges and outages which impacted plant equipment and operations. The plant experienced a few days of high flows and over a dozen alarm call outs. Thankfully most equipment continued to operate as designed. A power module on the biosolids dryer burned up and put the dryer out of service for almost 2 weeks. A replacement part was ordered and with the help of Fort Bragg electric the dryer is now back in service. We also experienced a power related issue with the bar screen. It is currently out of service we have ordered a new motor and gear box. A tree branch fell and broke a section of fence. We have worked with the neighbor and shared the responsibility of cleaning up the branch and repairing the fence. The storms also managed to remove another dozen or so roofing shingles from the office building. Replacement may be needed sooner than expected.

Outfall Update: Alpha Diving conducted a final survey dive in December and submitted a report showing all four diffusers functioning as designed. Alpha is also currently working on an action plan and estimates to make repairs to joint 43 which is the only location with observed seepage.

Recycled Water:

MCCSD did not transfer any recycled water during the month of January. We continue to apply for funding and upgrades to the WWTP to remain compliant with the title-22 discharge requirements. Recycled water remains a high priority.

-Staff successfully submitted the Annual GEO Tracker recycled water volumetric reporting. Last year the District provided 738,807 gallons of recycled water to the Mendocino Unified School District.

Biosolids Trailer and Transport:

MCCSD transported one trailer load of biosolids in January 2023.

Office Update:

Staff met with County Counsel Cristian Curtis as directed, to inquire about future representation. County Counsel cannot represent MCCSD in any situation where there might be a conflict between the County and the District. General Counsel services could be provided for about five hrs. per month, but time for current or future litigation is not likely available.

-Staff participated in Brown Act and Ethics training provided by the County on 1/15/23

-Staff successfully completed 4th quarter self-monitoring report in compliance with our NPDES discharge permit.

Grant and Project Updates:

GHD continues to move forward on the Emergency Water Storage Tank Project. They have been requested of to provide a Board update at the February 27, 2023 meeting. On January 25, 2023 GHD provided MCCSD a draft hydrological report for public comment. Submitted to the MCCSD web site.

-The Federal Bureau of Reclamation made announcements for their SMART Water grant application. MCCSD was not selected. We did participate with GHD in a debrief of the application and we're encouraged to reapply in a future round, maybe this March.

-GHD is in the process of submitting another grant application on behalf of MCCSD to the Urban Community Drought Relief Program, with two proposed projects; 1) upgrades to the recycled water system; 2) a current feasibility study on a community water system .

-We continue to work with GHD on Ca State Revolving Fund planning grant application to evaluate and assess wastewater infrastructure and other projects.

-The California SAFER program (Safer and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience) continues to work with the District on community engagement, water resiliency discussions, and technical assistance. SAFER is in the process of scheduling a March 23, 2023 community meeting.

-With only the recycled water upgrades as a near shovel ready project it is great that GHD is helping MCCSD to pursue planning grants.

Safety Meeting and Plant Safety Inspection:

The District is still following County, State, Federal, and CDC guidelines regarding COVID-19 safety precautions. The 30-minute monthly safety meeting was held January 18, 2022. The topic was *Bugs and Critters*.

Sanitary Sewer Collection System:

There were no MCCSD collection system sanitary sewer overflows to report during January 1, 2020 to January 20, 2023.