

October 2022 Superintendent's Report

Wastewater Treatment Plant:

Operators performed routine repair and maintenance to the WWTP in October of 2022. Operators are working to complete the other ½ of the annual sewer main cleaning.

Outfall Update: Alpha Diving returned the week of 10/3/22 to conduct the scheduled outfall maintenance and the annual survey. Ocean conditions and boat problems continued to impact operations. The team left on Sunday 10/9/22, stating that most of the material required for the annual survey had been successfully obtained, and three (3) new hold down brackets had been successfully installed. Another dive is planned within the next month at no charge to collect additional data.

Recycled Water:

MCCSD is now operating under the new Discharge Permit. In order to maintain compliance, MCCSD has stopped transferring recycled water to MUSD. Upgrades to the recycled water system are required to continue transferring water.

Biosolids Trailer and Transport:

MCCSD transported one load of biosolids in October 2022.

Drought Update:

The District continues to focus on water conservation and we continue to see higher than expected groundwater levels. We haven't seen any recent water trucks in town, and still have not received any official reports of dry wells. The 3.4" of recorded rainfall on 9/18/22 came at a much appreciated time.

In this third year of drought District admin continue to spend 80-90% of staff time on issues related to groundwater and groundwater management.

The California SAFER program (Safer and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience) hosted a community meeting on October 18, 2022. 18 people attended, and they started a dialogue about what they do and some of the water related challenges facing Mendocino. They have sent out an online survey to property owners.

Grant and Construction Updates:

GHD continues to move forward on environmental and hydrological work for the Emergency Water Storage Tank Project. MCCSD has not received any updates on other recent grant applications. MCCSD did write a letter of support for a proposed Fort Bragg desalination project. The District investigated the possibility of grant funding for a battery backup system similar to what the Willits and Humboldt Bay wastewater Districts have. Unfortunately property owners of this District are not financially disadvantaged enough to qualify for the program. The Superintendent has come up with a list of items to purchase with the remaining PSPS grant funds. This list meets all the program criteria and has been approved by the program staff. Tonight we are seeking Board approval for the purchases.

Office Update:

The 3rd Qrt self-monitoring report was successfully submitted to the State on time. That was the last report under the old discharge permit. On Friday, October 7, 2022. MCCSD successfully mailed over 400+ notices of Public Hearing and ballots to property owners. On that same day MCCSD also publically posted the notice of public hearing four places around town, on the MCCSD web page, and sent notice to the Mendocino Beacon for two weeks of publication. All of this more than 45 days before the scheduled November 28, 2022 Public Hearing in compliance with prop 218. A Director contacted the office after receiving their notice of public hearing of a misprint on the sewer service ballot. District staff received two legal opinions and review by members of the Rate Study Committee. The misprint has been corrected and a corrected ballot and erratum letter was mailed to property owners on Friday 10/21/22.

Scheduled time off, illness, and Covid, have all plagued MCCSD this past month and we have been severely short staffed.

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 October 19, 2022. The topic was *Electrical Safety*.

Sanitary Sewer Collection System:

There were no MCCSD collection system sanitary sewer overflows to report during January 1, 2020 to October 20, 2022. Operators hope to complete sewer main cleaning this month.