

January 2024 Superintendent's Report

Wastewater Treatment Plant:

- Operators performed routine repair and maintenance to the WWTP in January of 2024.
- The District Bobcat skid-steer, "tractor" is being repaired in Santa Rosa. The unit is over 20 years old, and finding parts is becoming difficult. We may have to consider buying something newer at some point soon. Prices start around \$30,000 for a used unit and \$65,000 for something new.
- Once the tractor is repaired MCCSD plans to transport two influent pumps down to Novato for a rebuild. One pump is from the Hill Ranch Lift Station and belongs to Hills Ranch.
- Aerzen serviced the primary blower on January 3, 2024.
- Staff prevented another near disaster on Saturday January 13. High flows, heavy rains, and king tides all contributed to the plant being overwhelmed. Rather than settling, heavy flows caused solids to pass over the clarifier weir walls and into the filters, causing the filters to plug. Continued high flows prevented effective backwashing of filters. Operators responds to the alarms, diverted incoming flows to the holding pond, backwashed filters, and allowed the plant to settle. It required many hours late Saturday night and most of Sunday to get back to normal. I am working with staff to be better prepared before future heavy rain events and grateful to the skilled operators that were able to handle the situation

Outfall Update: Alpha Diving was not able to complete their inspection dive in 2023. They reported safety concerns with conditions and the long period swell. Diver safety has to be the top priority. They have not set a dive date as of this time. I informed the State Lands Commission and they are understanding of the situation. This delay does not violate our NPDES permit requirements.

Recycled Water:

MCCSD did not transfer any recycled water during the month of January. We did however get some unfortunate news from the Division of Financial Assistance that the proposed Ca FY24 budget cuts are impacting grant funding, and our recycled water upgrades and expansion application is not likely to be funded. We are exploring options that include loans, breaking the project into phases, or placing the project on inactive status while we wait for more funding. Additional funding is not expected for at least the next few years.

Biosolids Trailer and Transport:

-MCCSD staff transported one load of biosolids to Redwood Landfill in January. With the Bobcat out of service, capturing and loading the dry biosolids has become a challenge for staff.

Grant and Project Updates: New grant funding for MCCSD is not looking promising for the immediate future.

-No updates from FEMA on the January 2023 Storm Damage re-imbusement. We reached out to them most recently on 1-12-24, they are looking into the hold up.

-1-18-24 The MCCSD was informed by DFA that the Draft FY 2024 State Budget has proposed reductions to grant funding program for the coming year and that our Recycled Water grant application as currently submitted doesn't look like it will be funded this year or in the next few years.

-As a reminder staff received news 11/8/23 that the MCCSD wastewater planning grant application to evaluate and design replacement aspects of the WW collections system, treatment process, and outfall, is not

a CWSRF priority project at this time, and our request is not anticipated to be funded this fiscal year. Funding has been prioritized for systems with NPDES violations and connecting previously un-serviced areas.

-ESS grant writing consultant phoned on 1/18/24 and informed staff that with current budget cuts our best option for funding projects in the near future would be to reach out to our political leaders.

-Staff met with members of SAFER on 1/16/23. The state has agreed to fund some technical assistance by GHD. Next is finalization of GHD's agreement with the West Company to assist and begin community engagement.

Safety Meeting and Plant Safety Inspection:

The 30-minute monthly safety meeting was held January 19, 2024. The topic was review of the *Incident Reporting*. No safety incidents were reported for the period.

Sanitary Sewer Collection System:

There were no Sanitary Sewer overflow reports for the period April 12, 2023- January 25, 2024

Other:

Following the MCCSD 2023-24 budget, on January 18, staff transferred \$205,000 from our general checking account to LAIF savings account with the State Treasurer. This is the first time in the past three plus years we have been able to put money into reserves, and it is thanks to the rate increased passed by District property owners that took effect about one year ago. Recent equipment break downs may result in needing to use these reserves sooner than hoped.

Staff completed and submitted the annual State Controllers report on 1-24-24. Thank you for the hard work on this.

The Legal Request for Qualification has gone out. It is also posted on the District Web Site. Thank you to Dan Potash for your assistance in this process. Of the first six firms contacted at least four have expressed interest and requested additional information.

The Superintendent successfully submitted the Q4 2023 self-monitoring report. We had not violations to report for the period. The annual report is the next big administrative task.