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Seal Rock Water District

General Manager's Report:
 Board Meeting April 12, 2018

This report is an executive summary provided with this Board agenda to Commissioners with recommended actions if any. Detailed information, staff reports, and supporting materials are provided within the full agenda packet.

- **PHASE-3 USDA-RD GRANT FUNDED AMI PROJECT:**

District contractors and crews have completed installation of all the residential meters within the system. A small amount, approximately 12-meters primarily commercial meters will need to be replaced or updated with new registers. District staff have received AMI software training and expect to receive a second level of training the first week of May 2018. This project remains on schedule and within budget expectations.

District customers can continue to expect a brief disruption in service to occur as individual meters are replaced, this typically takes 15-minutes or less. Our community's drinking water system will remain safe throughout the project. AMI installation is a \$1.5 million-dollar project, fully funded through a grant provided by the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA-RD) through its Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program.



- **PHASE-4 SOURCE WATER PROJECT:**

LOST CREEK AMI COMMUNICATION TOWER:

District staff and engineer are working cooperatively with representatives from USDA-RD to certify the District's Biological Assessment for the Beaver Creek Source Water project. Environmental consultants provided a draft copy of the Beaver Creek biological assessment to National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) in early March 2018. As a result of preliminary comments provided by NMFS, staff and consultants held several discussions with representatives from USDA-RD to discuss options for responding to NMFS to provide additional requested information.

On March 22nd District staff, along with our consultant team working on the Biological Assessment (BA) for the Beaver Creek Source Water project met with a representative from NMFS to discuss concerns by the department related to stream flow and temperature. Because the issues raised were related to flow and temperature the District asked representatives from GSI Water Solutions and DEQ to join the discussion. Also on the call were representatives from USDA-RD, and our environmental engineers from ch2m.

It was very clear from the beginning of the conversation that NMFS was opposed to signing off on the draft BA without more data (potential impacts to stream flow conditions and temperature monitoring) related to the

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District's removal of water from Beaver Creek. Without NMFS approval before April 9th the District will not qualify for funding before the May Federal USDA pooling cycle. Representatives from USDA-RD made a valiant effort on behalf of the District to support the project, and so did DEQ. We discussed in-depth the environmental advantages of the project as it relates to flows on the Siletz River. However, NMFS was unmovable! In short, the District will be subject to the 135-day statutory formal consultation process. As you may recall from the March Board meeting consultants had hoped to receive conditional approval from NMFS while going through the consultation process, which would allow USDA to obligate the funding before May of this year.

District staff will continue to work with representatives from NMFS to provide additional information in an effort to expedite the review process. Next steps at the tank site include removing a small number of trees to make room for geotechnical investigation.

Phase-4 improvements project continues to move forward with several critical path tasks currently in progress:

- Biologist Assessment is being revised for submittal to NMFS.
- Next steps at the tank site include removing a small number of trees to make room for geotechnical investigation, scheduled for May.
- Easement and access agreement for construction and maintenance have been revised by the District's Legal Counsel. Draft copies of the easement agreements have been provided to the various property owners affected by the project.
- District staff will continue coordinating with USDA-RD funding representatives to provide information and updates related to the project.
- District crews have begun working with consultants to begin the Semiplaning and Analysis Plan (SAP) required as a condition of the District's water right permit for use of water on Beaver Creek.
- Engineer continues to provide water quality and treatability testing in preparation for developing specification for membrane procurement.

- **OTHER NOTABLE ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTHS OF MARCH/APRIL INCLUDE:**

- Attended weekly meetings with engineers and contractor to discuss AMI improvements.
- Coordinated site visits with property owners, engineers, and surveyors to discuss intake and pipeline route for the Beaver Creek Source Water project.
- Facilitated District personnel staff/safety meeting.
- Facilitated discussions with property owners and legal counsel related to easement agreements.
- Supported staff effort to complete the 2018/2019 budget.
- Met with engineer and representatives from USDA-RD to discuss Phase-IV improvements.
- Met with NMFS to discuss Biological Assessment related to the Beaver Creek Source Water project.
- Attended Mid-Coast Integrated Water Resources Coordinating Committee meetings.
- Hosted regional municipal and water district working group meeting.
- District staff, engineer and legal counsel attended annual meeting with the City of Toledo.