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## Seal Rock Water District

General Manager's Report:  
 Board Meeting September 12, 2019

*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-4 SOURCE WATER PROJECT:

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

- Staff continues working with representatives from USDA-RD, the District's finance consultant, and Bond Counsel in preparation for Phase-4 interim financing.
- Final design is also in statutory review by the State of Oregon, Health Authority (OHA) Department.
- Lincoln County Conditional Use Permit process has been completed.
- Project review and approval by Oregon Health Authority has been received.
- District counsel and staff are working with property owner to address concerns related to easement access at the intake site.
- Bond Documents have been completed and are in review by USDA-RD General Counsel.

### STAGE-2 REGIONAL COMMUNITY WATER CURTAILMENT NOTIFICATION:

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Low streamflow is currently forecasted to continue for the Siletz River, a water source relied upon by the communities of Newport, Toledo, Siletz and Seal Rock. In addition to impacting drinking water supplies, low streamflow can have significant impacts on farm, forest, recreation, and natural resources sectors.

Preparation and timely response to low streamflow conditions are vital to the health and safety of our communities. As a proactive measure the City of Newport voluntarily suspended pumping water from its intake on the Siletz River on July 29th. In the past, the City did not initiate pumping from the Siletz until the reservoir levels reached low level thresholds. As a result, this timing corresponded with lower flows on the Siletz. This year's effort was initiated to draw water from the Siletz when flows were greater utilizing the capacity of the City's reservoirs to store water during low flow periods.

The City's reservoirs have now reached a critical stage, and pumping will have to resume from the Siletz Intake. As of September 4th, the Siletz River is at 64 Cubic Feet Per Second (CFS) and the City's Big Creek Reservoirs have dropped below 50% capacity. The City of Newport is suspending all non-critical water use, including all irrigation, effective immediately, and encourages water customers to limit the use of water for non-critical purposes until conditions improve.

The City of Newport, City of Toledo, City of Siletz and Seal Rock Water District are asking our customers to please continue to conserve water to reduce our demand on the Siletz River water. Specifically, we are asking customers to voluntarily:

- Minimize outdoor irrigation. If irrigation is necessary, please do so during the hours of 10:00 pm and 8:00 am.
- Refrain from washing cars (except at commercial establishments that recycle or reuse water in the cleaning process), equipment, and impervious surfaces, such as pavement.
- Refrain from filling pools and ponds.
- Avoid nonessential uses of water for such activities as recreation, remodeling, construction, and cleaning, unless absolutely necessary for public health or safety.

Water suppliers in the region appreciate the support and cooperation of the community as we respond to low streamflow conditions. Reducing the amount of water, we remove from coastal streams, many of which are already impaired as a result of drought conditions, translates to better stream health and a more sustainable water supply for the future. Taking action to reduce our demand on the Siletz River now also makes it less likely that we will need a greater level of water conservation later this summer.

Water suppliers continue to monitor conditions daily, along with the state's natural resource and public safety agencies (including the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) and the Oregon Office of Emergency Management) and will provide updates to the region as needed.

#### **MID-COAST WATER PLANNING PARTNERSHIP – BEAVER CREEK FIELD TOUR:**



We had a great turnout for the Beaver Creek Field Tour on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. A big shout out to District staff for supporting this effort, along with our friends from the Seal Rock Garden Club who hosted the wrap-up conversation at the Garden Club Building. We had several folks representing various government and non-government agencies provide in-depth information regarding management efforts currently underway to protect the Beaver Creek watershed. We learned a lot and the District had the opportunity to provide details regarding the District's Beaver Creek source water project to a crowd of about 35 participants. If you were on the tour and want to relive it, or if you missed it and want to see what you missed out on, you can watch videos of each of the stops by checking out the website: <http://midcoastwaterpartners.com/field-tours/>. While you're at it, you can watch videos from some of our past field tours.

**OTHER NOTABLE ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH INCLUDE:**

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- Attended Mid-Coast WPP Beaver Creek Field Tour August 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Attended LC-MJHMP Update meeting August 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Met with Representatives from USDA-RD to discuss Phase-3 project wrap-up August 15<sup>th</sup>
- Reviewed Easement and access agreements related to Phase-4 improvements.
- Met with property owners involved in the District's source water project.
- Coordinated replacement of water mainline on Cunard Street in the Bayshore Community.
- Attended Oregon Water Utility Council Meeting August 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Attended on site Beaver Creek water quality field data collection meeting with consultants.
- Provided opening remarks at the Annual Oregon Coastal Caucus Economic Summit in Florence, August 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Attended the Siletz Tribal Council meeting with OWRD and members of the MC-WPP to provide an update to the Council on August 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Hosted the Mid-Coast Water Conservation Consortium meeting September 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Met with engineers and consultants to review Phase-4 improvements schedule.
- Worked with Water Conservation Consortium members to develop Stage-2 water curtailment notification.
- Met with consultants from DigDeep to discuss schedule for strategic planning meeting.
- Met with Arborist and Surveyor at Beaver Creek intake site to discuss project impacts.
- Attended Northwest Climate Toolbox presentation hosted by Oregon State.