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Seal Rock Water District

General Manager's Report:
 Board Meeting May 10, 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 2-days of AMI software training. This project remains on schedule and within budget expectations.



In the spirit of this year's National Drinking Water Week theme, "Protect the Source," I would like to recognize how successful technology and partnerships are conserving water resources to benefit the people throughout the Seal Rock Water District (SRWD) and the landscape that supplies our water.

As part of our ongoing commitment to maintain a high quality of life for our citizens through cost-effective, innovative systems, the District recently completed installation of an advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) system for our water utility system. Advanced metering supports the District's commitment to preserve and protect our environment. The technology not only takes meter readers off the road and reduces carbon emissions; AMI also enhances the District's ability to quickly detect and stop leaks in the transmission system while providing end-user customers with daily information that helps them improve their own water conservation efforts.

The project entails replacing every residential and commercial water meter in the District with new, state-of-the-art technology that wirelessly communicates usage data to the District office. This innovative system replaces monthly manual reads with multiple remote reads per day, allowing for better leak detection, increased billing accuracy, and improved customer service.

The data offers us a better understanding regarding the flow of water through the system which, in turn, will allow the District and our customers to control unaccounted-for water, reduce our demand on the stream, and "protect the source." Reducing the amount of water we remove from coastal streams, many of which are already impaired as a result of over allocated withdrawals, translates to better stream health and a more sustainable water supply for the future.

While the system is still in its infancy, the District has already received an overwhelming positive response from customers who have received notification of high water use generated through the AMI program. The

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District has contacted approximately 30 customers with an alert to the potential of a water leak in their system. With the old system, high usage was detected only through monthly meter readings and generally left the customer with a high volume of water usage to pay for before fixes were made. With 2,525 connections, detecting water leaks early with AMI is already having a positive impact on the District, our customers and, ultimately, the environment.

SRWD is proud of the work we have done on this project, and we recognize that these environmental and rate-payer benefits are also made possible through partnership collaboration with our customers and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development, which financed the system improvements through its Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program.

Protecting the environment is everyone's responsibility, and something the SRWD Board of Commissioners takes seriously. Water is a precious resource, using new technology like AMI allows communities like ours to ensure this precious resource is available for future generations.

PHASE-4 SOURCE WATER PROJECT:

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.

District staff and consultants notified the Wetlands Conservancy that the District is currently in the final planning stages to develop a primary source water intake and treatment facility located near Beaver Creek in Lincoln County. One of the elements of this project is the placement of the raw waterline which runs along Beaver Creek Road and up through private property adjacent to the proposed water treatment facility located above the Makai Community. The District has been working with the property owners for the last year, or so, to develop an approved route through their property which would allow the District to provide raw water to the proposed water treatment plant on District owned property.

We learned recently that a section of the property near the proposed water treatment plant site is also in a conservation easement. Project team is in the process of engaging the Wetlands Conservancy to open the dialog to gauge their interest and opportunity to coordinate with the District to allow us to use a portion of the conservation area for the installation of the raw waterline.

Our 1st-option suggests following the existing legacy road though private property. However, the property owners would prefer that the District follow the route that avoids coming too close to their home site.

Option-2 suggests following a route that splits two open fields on private property to the north, then turning east to eventually connect with the legacy road to connect with the WTP.

A third 3rd-option includes following the access road through private property similar to the first two options, continuing through the open field area then turning west and connecting through the Makai Community to access the proposed District owned WTP site. This option avoids impacts to the conservation easement, but obviously adds additional cost to the overall project.

Project team will look for an opportunity to provide a full presentation to the Wetlands Conservancy and potentially Oregon Water Enhancement Board (OWEB) to provide more information if requested.

The District is working with coastal stewards to include the Mid Coast Watershed Council and the Lincoln County Soil and Water Conservation District on Beaver Creek enhancement projects and I generally believe there are potential collaborative opportunities that might benefit the Conservancy as well.

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 Sampling 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 APRIL/MAY 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 revise the 2018/2019 budget.
- Hosted annual budget committee meeting
- Met with engineer and representatives from USDA-RD to discuss Phase-IV improvements.
- Field crews attended flagger traffic training and received certification.
- Attended Mid-Coast Integrated Water Resources Coordinating Committee meetings.
- Hosted regional municipal and water district working group meeting.
- Hosted AMI project team meeting.
- Met with consultants to install sampling stations located on Beaver Creek.
- District staff attended two day AMI software and system training hosted by sensus analytics.