

November and December 2023 Superintendent's Report

Wastewater Treatment Plant:

- Operators performed routine repair and maintenance to the WWTP in November and early December of 2023. Which included valve exercising.
- Staff have found a new service provider from the bay area for the effluent pumps and we are working to schedule an appointment.
- The District Bobcat skid-steer, "tractor" has been having hydraulic issues for the past month, and is currently not reliable. We had a service inspection on 11/16. He advised replacing a number of parts for routine maintenance. We can expect a bill in this \$6-8,000 range after parts and labor. Staff are working to schedule a return visit.
- 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 belong to Hills Ranch.
- Staff updated the District Emergency Response/Contingency Plan, and passed a hazardous materials inspection with County Environmental Health regulators.
- Hach service technician Clint arrived on 12/6 to service both the turbidity and dissolved oxygen sensors. A programing update has help stabilize blower function.
- Aerzen service on the primary blower is now scheduled for January 3, 2024.
- Redwood Roofers started and completed the new office roof project. They were professional, clean, and efficient. The new office roof is complete and looks great.
- Staff have received multiple after hour alarm call outs in the past few weeks primarily related to power surges.

Staff and the community really came together to save the town in the face of a major failure at the WWTP just before Thanksgiving. I would like to thank our hard working operators, Fort Bragg Plumbing and Electric, David Puder's Tractor Service, Ryan Cronin's Welding Service, Fort Bragg Septic, Thompson's Septic, A-1 Septic, staff at the City of Fort Bragg WWTP, Pace Supply, Aerzen Emergency Service, United Rentals, GHD, our neighbors, and our RWQCB Regulator. The town and the District owe you a great debt. Thank you for coming to our aid on such short notice and working tirelessly to get the MCCSD wastewater system back on line. It should be noted that having 5 septage trucks on site costs about \$2,500 per hour, and in the future if something fails we are looking a \$25,000-\$30,000 per day to move raw influent to Fort Bragg.

Outfall Update: Alpha Diving reports they are "locked and loaded" but continue to have concerns with the long period swell. Diver safety has to be the top priority. They have not confirmed a dive date as of this time, but they have never let us down. GHD submitted the effluent dilution evaluation.

Recycled Water:

MCCSD did not transfer any recycled water during the month of November or December

Biosolids Trailer and Transport:

- MCCSD staff transported one load of biosolids to Redwood Landfill in November.
- The biosolids dryer stopped working mid-November. We ordered and installed replacement sensor and the dryer is back in service for the moment. We are also working to schedule a site visit with the service tech out of Texas.

Grant and Project Updates:

-No updates from FEMA on the January Storm Damage re-imbursement.

-11/8/23 staff received news that the MCCSD 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.

-The MCCSD Recycled Water grant application remains under state review. Estimated time of review is 9-12 months.

-We continue to wait on DFA approval for the SAFER technical assistance funding proposal by GHD. DFA requested another meeting on 12/18. There have been a lot of meetings, but SAFER has not awarded any funding.

-ESS grant writing consultants, submitted a draft funding proposal for comment. It was not the document we were expecting. It does not appear ESS will be of much service to the District at this time.

-EKI grant writing consultants cc'd MCCSD multiple request for updates from the State, related to the recycled water pre-application. Both requests appear to have gone unanswered by the State.

-MUSD continues to negotiate with the contractor on their bid for the emergency water storage and supply project. It appears both parties are near agreement. MUSD may have to request some additional state funding.

Safety Meeting and Plant Safety Inspection:

The 30-minute monthly safety meeting was held November 14, 2023. The topic was review of the *District Emergency Response/Contingency Plan*. Staff also reviewed evacuation routes and locations of safety equipment. No safety incidents were reported.

Sanitary Sewer Collection System:

There were no Sanitary Sewer overflow reports for the period April 12, 2023- December 13, 2023

-Work continues at the Heeser St. lift station, FBE has installed a new transducer, and we also have a backup unit on the shelf.

-Replacement valves and fittings have arrived for the Heeser Lift Station. Fort Bragg Plumbing helped establish a phased work plan. On 12/7 Fort Bragg Septic was on site with two pumper trucks to assist with Phase one which included pumping down the wet well, draining ¼ miles of discharge line, pumping out additional influent and replacement of two isolation gate valves. FBP plans to return 12/14 to install a replacement check valve. Once the valves are in we can begin work on the pump.

Other:

Staff and President Murphy met with Community Center staff and a local business owner for initial brainstorming around pros and cons of possible District expansion. The goals are to find ways that improve the District's ability to qualify for grant funding, and explore funding ideas for the Community Center.