

May 2023 Superintendent's Report

Wastewater Treatment Plant:

Operators performed routine repair and maintenance to the WWTP in May of 2023. The best news to report is that the Biosolids dryer machine is back in service. It has been in and out of service since the January storms. Staff are working hard to catch up on drying. The jetter machine used for sewer main cleaning received a fresh coat of paint. We are getting ready to start this year's annual sewer main cleaning. Currently the top operations concern is the condition of the air supply line. GHD had an engineer on site 5-18-23 to help evaluate options. GHD is working to prepare a technical memo and recommendation.

Outfall Update: Alpha Diving reached out and is working on multiple job proposals and bids. One job is the annual outfall survey required by the Ca State Lands Commission. Another job is a biological study and report to meet NPDES permit requirements. The third job would be any recommended maintenance work. We are still in communication with the Noyo Center about use of their ROV to inspect or film the outfall. We have received one other estimate for future dive inspections. The District was recently sent some qualification from Alpha, but continues refine an RFQ letter for outfall services.

Recycled Water:

MCCSD did not transfer any recycled water during the month of May. MUSD did inquire about the possibility of receiving recycled water this year earlier than usual. The District desperately needs upgrades to this system if we are to continue providing recycled water. GHD continues to work on our grant application to fund recycled water upgrades. The latest report from the State Division of Finance is that due to median house hold income levels in Mendocino, at best we only qualify for 35% grant funding. On a \$4 million dollar project that means \$2.6 million in additional loans. Staff are working with two additional grant writing firms to explore options.

Biosolids Trailer and Transport:

MCCSD transported one load of biosolids in May of 2023. Our agreement with Waste Management for continued disposal at Redwood Landfill expired May 12, 2023. We have twice requested an extension and we are waiting on additional lab analysis for possible renewal.

Office Update:

Due to illness, vacations, and child care issues we have been short staffed most of the month. GSRMA insurance notified the District on 5/17 that due to our good safety record and successful completion of the LEEP program, we are getting an award of to **\$5,116.70**. The new District web page is up and running. We have received a number of complements. We are still working out some bugs and continuing to add more information. We recommend you check it out when you can. Katie put a lot of energy into this and should be recognized.

Grant and Project Updates:

Mendocino Unified School District has submitted the notice of intention to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration following the CEQA process for the Water Supply and Storage Improvements project. The public comment period is open May 11- June 9, 2023. MCCSD is not the lead agency but in an effort to promote public awareness posted this notice on the District web page on May 11, 2023, and emailed it to interested parties. On 5/22/23 MCCSD received the first payment installment from the UMBDR grant, of around \$109,000. We have issued payment to GHD.

On 5/25 staff was made aware of a letter sent out on 5/19 by the State Water Resources Control Board Northern Engagement Unit of SAFER. MCCSD staff were surprised by this letter. To be clear, SWRCB does not speak for MCCSD. At this time there is no project being initiated by MCCSD to secure funding for a public water system. MCCSD applied to SAFER for technical assistance to conduct a feasibility study and help with community engagement. Staff called our point of contact at SAFER and they were unaware of this letter, and surprised by the wording. There are many questions to be answered and conversations to be had before MCCSD goes down the path of a community water system, and we look forward to having those conversations.

Safety Meeting and Plant Safety Inspection:

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The 30-minute monthly safety meeting was held May 23, 2023. The topic was *Slips, Trips, and Falls*.

Sanitary Sewer Collection System:

There were no Sanitary Sewer overflow reports for the period April 12, 2023- May 19, 2023