



Plumas Eureka Community Services District

Plumas Pipelines



Spring/Summer Issue

May 2020

*“Plumas Eureka Community Services District
Proudly Providing Services to Plumas Eureka since July 1993”*

Message from the General Manager, John Rowden

The District continues to have its challenges in ensuring you safe water, reliable sewer service, and responsible emergency services. COVID 19 has further complicated our lives.

With all that’s been going on, we felt it was important to send out a Spring/Summer edition of the Pipeline. This issue will include information about the water situation, next year’s budget and fees, the impact of COVID 19 on the District’s operation, an update on personnel changes, and the EPA required Consumer Confidence Report related to water quality.

I hope that this finds you, your family and friends safe and healthy.



Water System: Iron and Manganese Survey Coming

The District is faced with a new challenge regarding the levels of Iron and Manganese found in our water. You, the PECSD customer will be asked to help.

Soon after the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) notified the District that it complied with the standard (Maximum Contamination Limit or MCL) for Arsenic and rescinded the Compliance Order, the SWRCB conducted an inspection of our system and notified the District that its water does not meet the Secondary Standards for Iron and Manganese. The SWRCB required the District to either submit a three-year plan to comply with the standards or request a waiver from the standards. *Continued on Page 2*

Inside this Issue

Message from the General Manager	P. 1
Water System: Iron and Manganese.....	P. 1
Budget and Fees for FY 20-21.....	P. 3
COVID-19.....	P. 3
Billing System Improvements.....	P. 5
Water Conservation.....	P. 5
New Fire Chief Steve Munsen.....	P. 6
New Employee Anthony Campbell.....	P. 6
Chief John Sea Resigns.....	P. 7
Changes to the Board of Directors.....	P. 7
Message from Firewise.....	P. 7
Consumer Confidence Report.....	P. 8

Contact Us:

Toll Free: (877) 377-1953
CSD Phone: (530) 836-1953 or (530) 836-1908
Fire Dept. Business Phone: (530) 836-0523
Fax: (530) 836-2963
Email: jillian.pecsd@gmail.com
Website: www.pecsd.org
Address: 200 Lundy Lane
 Blairsden, CA 96103
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday

“This institution is an equal opportunity provider”

WATER SYSTEM, from page 1

Though iron and manganese do not pose health-risks they can affect taste, odor, or appearance. Water high in iron and manganese can appear reddish, brown, or even black, and can be noticed on laundry, in porcelain, or glassware. The tastes can be described sometimes as metallic, soapy, or earthy.

To remove the elements the District must treat the water; thus, build a water treatment plant. However, state regulations allow the District to receive a waiver from meeting the standards if the iron and manganese levels are less than three times the standard. The standard for Iron is .30 mg/liter; the standard for manganese is .05 mg/liter measured quarterly. The District's water meets the requirement.

To apply for a waiver of a secondary MCL, the District must conduct and submit a study to the State Board within one year of violating the MCL that includes the following:

- (1) The water system complaint log maintained pursuant to section 64470(a), along with any other evidence of customer dissatisfaction, such as a log of calls to the county health department.
- (2) An engineering report, prepared by an engineer registered in California with experience in drinking water treatment, that evaluates all reasonable alternatives and costs for bringing the water system into MCL compliance and includes a recommendation for the most cost-effective and feasible approach.
- (3) The results of a customer survey distributed to all the water system's billed customers that has first been approved by the State Board based on whether it includes:
 - (A) Estimated costs to individual customers of the most cost-effective alternatives presented in the engineering report that are acceptable to the State Board based on its review of their effectiveness and feasibility.
 - (B) The query: "Are you willing to pay for (*identify constituent*) reduction treatment?"
 - (C) The query: "Do you prefer to avoid the cost of treatment and live with the current water quality situation?"
 - (D) The statement: "If you do not respond to this survey, (*insert system name*) will assume that you are in support of the reduction treatment recommended by the engineering report."
- (4) A brief report (agenda, list of attendees, and transcript) of a public meeting held by the District at which both the results of the customer survey and the engineering report were presented.

If more than 50% of the customers affirm that they would prefer to not pay for reducing the Iron and Manganese in the water and live with the current water quality, the District will be eligible for a waiver. If the majority of the customers are willing to pay for treatment and not live with the current water quality, the District must build a treatment plant. **Non-responses are counted as supporting paying for treatment by regulation.**

The District will be sending the survey to each customer by certified mail. Future information about the water system and the upcoming survey, can be found on the PECSD web site www.pecsd.org.

Budget and Fees for FY 20-21

The Board of Directors will be adopting its annual budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 at its Regular June 10 Meeting. The Budget is an estimate of the financial activity for the coming year. It includes estimates of revenues, expenses, and reserves. One of the most important decisions will be what will be charged for water services. The future of the water system remains unknown. The District will be surveying you, the customer, in the coming month. Results from that survey will help determine if the District will be required to follow through with building a water treatment plant. The current fee structure anticipates having to pay for the financing of the construction and operation of the plant. The results of the survey may dictate what the District will do to address levels of arsenic, iron, and manganese in the short term and long term.

Also of concern is the budget to address the repair and replacement of the forty-year old Wastewater Treatment Plant 6 on West Ponderosa. Fortunately, the District paid off its debt related to improvements at the Dynamite Hill Leachfield. The annual revenue of approximately \$50,000 will be available for replacing the District's aging wastewater infrastructure.

Finally, the budget for the Fire Department is a challenge. Expenses for insurance, fuel, and vehicle maintenance have continued to rise. Though the District was able to purchase a used fire engine last year with the tremendous help from the Plumas Eureka Fire Department Auxiliary, the other vehicles are over twenty years old and difficult and expensive to maintain. Since revenues for the Department come from taxes, it is difficult to increase revenues to match expenses.

COVID-19

PECSD Operations



Like virtually all other public agencies, the PECSD has established emergency operations that reduce exposure to our customers and our workers. The following actions have been taken.

1. The Office is closed to the public. To reach us please call (530) 836-2876 or email us jillian.pecsd@gmail.com. You may not reach someone immediately, but your call will be returned within twenty-four (24) hours.
2. Board meetings will be held electronically. Public access will be made available with the use of me applications designed for remote participation.
3. Operational staff are on special schedules for system inspection and maintenance, and will be available for customer requests as before.
4. The Volunteer Fire Department will be following guidance established by the Nor Cal EMT Association and protocol established by Chief Munsen.
5. The Interim General Manager works from home, but can be reached by cell phone at (530) 927-8179
6. Provision has been made to allow customers to pay electronically.

We will continue to provide service mindful of the importance of keeping us all healthy.

Continued on Page 4

COVID-19, from Page 3

Drinking Water and Wastewater Safety

(The following is from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention)

Drinking Water, Recreational Water and Wastewater: What You Need to Know

Can the COVID-19 virus spread through drinking water?

The COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking water. Conventional water treatment methods that use filtration and disinfection, such as those in most municipal drinking water systems, should remove or inactivate the virus that causes COVID-19.

Is the COVID-19 virus found in feces?

The virus that causes COVID-19 has been detected in the feces of some patients diagnosed with COVID-19. The amount of virus released from the body (shed) in stool, how long the virus is shed, and whether the virus in stool is infectious are not known.

The risk of transmission of COVID-19 from the feces of an infected person is also unknown. However, the risk is expected to be low based on data from previous outbreaks of related coronaviruses, such as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS). There have been no reports of fecal-oral transmission of COVID-19 to date.

Can the COVID-19 virus spread through pools and hot tubs?

There is no evidence that COVID-19 can be spread to humans through the use of pools and hot tubs. Proper operation, maintenance, and disinfection (e.g., with chlorine and bromine) of pools and hot tubs should remove or inactivate the virus that causes COVID-19.

Can the COVID-19 virus spread through sewerage systems?

CDC is reviewing all data on COVID-19 transmission as information becomes available. At this time, the risk of transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19 through sewerage systems is thought to be low. Although transmission of COVID-19 through sewage may be possible, there is no evidence to date that this has occurred. This guidance will be updated as necessary as new evidence is assessed.

SARS, a similar coronavirus, has been detected in untreated sewage for up to 2 to 14 days. In the 2003 SARS outbreak, there was documented transmission associated with sewage aerosols. Data suggest that standard municipal wastewater system chlorination practices may be sufficient to inactivate coronaviruses, as long as utilities monitor free available chlorine during treatment to ensure it has not been depleted.

Wastewater and sewage workers should use standard practices, practice basic hygiene precautions, and wear personal protective equipment (PPE) as prescribed for current work tasks.

Should wastewater workers take extra precautions to protect themselves from the COVID-19 virus?

Wastewater treatment plant operations should ensure workers follow routine practices to prevent exposure to wastewater. These include using engineering and administrative controls, safe work practices, and PPE normally required for work tasks when handling untreated wastewater. No additional COVID-19-specific protections are recommended for employees involved in wastewater management operations, including those at wastewater treatment facilities.

Billing System Improvements

PECSD is please to announce the activation of its new billing system: UB Max. This new platform offers many exciting features including the ability to access your contact information, billing and payment records online 24/7, as well as the option of pay online via echeck, credit, or debit card for an additional fee.

The fee associated with the online payment system is charged directly to the consumer by the third-party payment processor – the CSD does not collect or hold any of these funds. This was the most cost-effective way for the CSD to offer our residents the convenience of credit card and electronic payment.

Another feature of the UB Max platform is a simplified 3-digit account number, replacing the old 00LASTNAME00 format. Be on the lookout for upcoming communications from the CSD with your updated account information and further information about online and automatic payments.

Finally, as the District's Administrative Manager, I would like to thank you for your time and patience during this transition. I am happy to assist with any questions or concerns that may arise. Please contact me at the office: (530) 836-1953 to leave a message, or directly: (530) 927-9534. I can also be reached anytime via email at jillian.pecsd@gmail.com

Jillian Cole

Water Conservation

Water conservation during the warmer months is always important. In addition to the obvious benefits of having sufficient water to cope with the dry season, conservation helps the District meet water quality standards. During the off-season months, the water needs of the community are met by our primary source well, Well 1B. The well produces water that reliably meets the standards for arsenic. During the warmer months when the population increases and the irrigation starts, the water demand increases by more than 10 times. To meet the demand, we have to increase the output of Well 1B and use our backup Well 2. Running the Well1B more aggressively and using Well 2 increase the arsenic levels in the water.



The District has a water conservation ordinance that describes conservation practices and various stages of criticality. Below are the practices for the first two stages. Currently, Stage 1 is in effect and will be enforced. However, we ask that you follow Stage 2 practices in June, July, August, and September to help with water quality.

Stage 1 – Normal Conservation

- 1) Only water between 6:00 PM and 10:00 AM.
- 2) Only water once per day.
- 3) Hand watering is allowed to sustain landscaping.
- 4) Do not allow irrigation water to flow down streets or drainages.

Continued on Page 6

*STAGE 2 WATER CONSERVATION, from Page 5***Stage 2 – Water Conservation Alert**

- 1) All of Stage 1 efforts.
- 2) Do not wash down driveways, parking lots or other similar areas using PECSD potable water.
- 3) Lawn and landscape watering is allowed 8:00PM and 8:00AM.
- 4) Residences, businesses and properties with addresses ending in odd numbers shall water only on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.
- 5) Residences, businesses and properties with addresses ending in even numbers shall water only on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.
- 6) No watering shall occur on Sunday.
- 7) PECSD potable water shall not be used for dust control.
- 8) No filling of swimming pools, ponds or reservoirs over 200 cubic feet (1500 gallons) with PECSD potable water except by written permission from PECSD.
- 9) Infrequent hand watering will be allowed to sustain landscaping.

Violations of Stage I watering practices can result in fines from \$50 to \$500. If you have a contractor manage irrigation on your property, be sure to have them schedule watering according to the appropriate conservation stage. Remember, you, as the property owner, are responsible.

New Fire Chief Steve Munsen

Steve Munsen was appointed Fire Chief in February following Chief Sea's resignation. Steve brings a strong background in management and will focus on the continued improvement of the Department and sustaining the number and training of Volunteers. Steve is retired from a long career in the semiconductor industry in Silicon Valley. He worked for Tencor and Cymer and moved to Plumas Eureka full-time in 2008 after retiring. He joined the fire department in 2009, and especially enjoys "...helping people when they are vulnerable and in their time of need..." Two of his more memorable incidents were participating in a rescue and helicopter hoist for an injured man at the swimming hole below Johnsville on Jamison Creek, and being "first in" on a structure fire in Plumas Eureka the winter of 2015. "I could not believe the CHP pilot did not hit a tree while hoisting the man out on the narrow canyon...", said Steve, and "...saving over half of a home that was well involved in the garage on arrival was very rewarding." Steve has been married to his wife Sharon for 43 years, and they have a son Jeff and daughter Rachel Cooper. Rachel has two children, Ian & Zoe.

New Employee Anthony Campbell

In December, Anthony Campbell joined the District staff as a laborer and an Operator in Training. Anthony brings a variety of skills, a strong work ethic, and a demonstrable motivation to be a water and wastewater system operator. Anthony grew up in Eagle, Idaho. After graduating from high school, he served in the Navy as a Master at Arms with multiple deployments in over thirty countries. After the Navy, Anthony moved to Plumas County and worked for Sierra Pacific Industries in Quincy for eight years as a relief operator. He is married to his wife, Mykel, a teacher at C Roy Carmichael Elementary School, and has two children, Jayden age 10 and Emilee age 5.

Chief Joh Sea Resigns

In February, John Sea resigned as the Fire Chief for personal reasons. John served from July 18, 2018. Though his tenure was short, he made significant contributions including the purchase of the newest addition to the engine fleet. He served in two mutual aid deployments, the Minerva Fire near Quincy and the Camp Fire that destroyed the City of Paradise. John also completed a rigorous training program and became a certified EMT. The Board passed a resolution in February commending John's achievements.

Changes on the Board of Directors

The last five months brought a number of changes to the Board of Directors. Long-time member and Chairman, Frank Shepard resigned and moved out of state. Dan Bastian decided not to run for reelection in last November's election. Board member Sherry Panick was appointed by the Board to fill Mr. Shepard's position. Scott Hall ran unopposed and won, the position held by Mr. Bastian. Unfortunately, Mr. Hall had to resign in April. As of this writing, that position is vacant.

Message from FIREWISE

Part of being a recognized Firewise USA® community is reporting the ongoing work residents complete each year to reduce their wildfire risks, while addressing the areas identified in their community's wildfire assessment. Every year participating sites must submit an annual renewal to maintain their "in good standing" status. If you have completed work, including clearing pines needles from your property, and wish to record with the District, you can obtain a Property Owner's Time and Expense Sheet at the CSD Office or download a copy from our website at www.pecsd.org/firewise-community. Once completed, return the sheet to outside mailbox at the CSD office, 200 Lundy Lane Blairsden, CA 96103.



Tips from the Firewise Community Committee: Many homes located in wildfire-prone areas have attached decks, which can potentially help spread fire to the house when ignited during a wildfire. A burning deck can ignite siding or break the glass in doors or windows. Consequently, making decks less vulnerable to wildfire also makes your house less vulnerable. Reducing the deck's vulnerability requires an approach that focuses on the materials and design features used to build the deck, and on the practices that create a noncombustible zone around and under the deck.

The following tips will make your deck and your home safer:

1. Combustible materials should not be stored beneath decks. This will effectively create a noncombustible zone under the entire footprint of the deck.
2. Routinely remove debris that accumulates in between deck board gaps and debris that can accumulate at the intersection between the deck and house.
3. If the deck is a nonfire retardant treated softwood deck, consider removing and replacing deck boards within a few feet of the house. Be careful to match the deck board thickness.
4. When building new decks, select deck boards that comply with the California Building Code requirements. If using wood joists, cover the top and part of the sides with a foil-faced bitumen tape product.

The Firewise Committee encourages you to protect your home and our community by participating in Firewise. For information about Firewise, please call the CSD office at (530) 836-1953.

Consumer Confidence Report

The Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) is included with this 2020 Spring/Summer Pipeline. The CCR is an annual water quality report mandated by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The report must be made available to customers by July 1 of every year. The purpose of the CCR is to raise customers’ awareness of the quality of their drinking water, where their drinking water comes from, what it takes to deliver water to their homes, and the importance of protecting drinking water sources. This report has been included with your copy of the Pipeline. The format of the report is required by the State Water Resources Control Board.

In summary, the report identifies that the water system is provided by two groundwater wells located on the Plumas Pines Golf Course. Well 1B is located on the 16th Fairway and Well 2 is located between the 13th and 17th Fairway.

The system is owned and managed by the Plumas Eureka Community Services District with an office at 200 Lundy Lane. The District Board of Directors holds regular meetings every month at 9:00 AM every second Wednesday at the office location. The contact for the District is John Rowden, the Interim General Manager.

The system experiences the detection of Arsenic, Iron, and Manganese that exceed the Maximum Contamination Limits (MCLs). No contamination from lead, copper, coliform, ecoli, and fecal matter. The following are from the report.

TABLE 4 – DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD						
Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
Compliance Point Arsenic Ug/l	7/11/19	11	3-17 UG/L	10	0.004	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronic production wastes.
	8/6/19	13		10		
	9/5/19	13		10		
TABLE 5 – DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD						
Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Iron	1-3 4-1 10-10	<u>Well 1B</u>	<u>Well 1B</u> 150-1140	300		Leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes.
		440				
		620				
	1-3 4-1 10-10	<u>Well 2</u>	83.6-160			
		290				
		860				
	1-3 4-1 10-10					
		480				
		1720				
Manganese	1-3 4-1 10-10	<u>Well 1B</u>	<u>Well 1B</u> 96.5-112	50		Leaching from natural deposits.
		106				
		116				
	1-3 4-1 10-10	<u>Well 2</u>	83.6-160			
		90				
		69.7				
	1-3 4-1 10-10					
		102				
		152				

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT, from Page 8

**Summary Information for Violation of a MCL, MRDL, AL, TT,
or Monitoring and Reporting Requirement**

VIOLATION OF A MCL, MRDL, AL, TT, OR MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENT				
Violation	Explanation	Duration	Actions Taken to Correct the Violation	Health Effects Language
Arsenic	Naturally Occurring	3 months over MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level)	Continued management of groundwater wells	Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years may experience skin damage or circulatory system problems and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

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**200 Lundy Lane, Blairsden, CA 96103
(530) 836-1953
Email: jillian.pecsd@gmail.com
www.pecsd.org**