

# Diamond A Mutual Water Company Newsletter



Winter 2016

## Report on Our Water Company

### Operations

#### Water System status

Wildwood Lane pipe break repair was extensive, and Zone 2 Tank cleaning and leak repair was done.

Well monitoring levels are within an acceptable range.

Water production for the first 3 quarters was 25.5 million gallons (about 2 million lower than last year for the same period).

There have been about 15 maintenance events year-to-date requiring use of contract technical support.

Preliminary engineering for Zone 2 Tank at Well 4 is underway. The 40% plans are about completed. No retaining wall will be required (which is a huge savings).

Zone 3N Tank piping modifications are complete.

The wood tank at Viewcrest is leaking. This will be repaired on December 18th using divers. This will cost about \$2600.

#### SCADA Update

SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition). It is a remote means of managing a system.

Ron Matteson has come up with a low tech. solution to SCADA that would use cell phones to help Well 1 & 2 to do off-peak pumping (savings in electrical rates). The Board discussed and approved further research into improving control and monitoring of the water system. For example, after reviewing recent PG&E bills, it was clear that there could be a savings if pumping activity is limited to off peak hours by installing mostly off-the-shelf technology to control the pump run periods and electronically monitor the water level in the tanks.

### Finances

Our year-to-date (YTD) revenue is \$4,000 below budget due to conservation and a wet winter.

Expenses are near budget levels with the exception of repair and maintenance costs.

Based on current trends, these costs are projected to be \$5k below budget.

Capital expenditures have also been well under budget YTD, with a YTD spend of \$33k vs a full year budget of \$60k. These costs are expected to end up \$15-\$20k below budget

Consequently, ending cash for 2016 should be near budgeted levels. Dee Young has done an outstanding job with collections and our total accounts receivable are under \$1000.

The Water Company's insurance policy was renewed effective 9/1. The Company purchased \$5mm of Excess Liability coverage to better insure us against potential risks.

Bill Angeloni has been working on comparing our rates with other local companies to see how our rates stack up with other local water providers. For the most part, we are in the middle.

At the December meeting the Board approved the 2017 Budget. It is \$134,530. This will be published on the website.

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## Governance

The Board approved providing water service to the Diamond A Fire Station (Station 4). The water company will contribute \$2,500 to the cost of the installation in the interest of the benefits the fire station brings to the community. The fire district has agreed to provide \$3,700 toward the installation, which covers the materials and about half of the installation cost. The fire district will be billed for water use and maintenance fees.

The Nominating Committee is proposing the 3 board members whose terms will be up to run for these positions. If any of the membership wishes to write in a candidate they will have that option on the ballot.

The Board has established a concurrent Annual/First Quarterly Board meeting. It is planned for Sunday March 26, 2017 at 4:00 PM at the Rec. Center.

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## Conservation & Comm.

Joe Lieber has been designated by Dick Bryan to head up the risk assessment and emergency response plan because of his association with the Sonoma Valley Fire and Rescue and the DANA Emergency Committee.

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The Board discussed a number of emergency concerns such as perhaps lining the mainline pipes to improve their resistance to breakage in a major earthquake and a large mobile emergency generator (which has its issues regarding keeping it reliable but is nevertheless worth investigating). Regarding lining the pipes, we need to get a solid estimate of the cost so we can pursue a FEMA grant.

Patrick Treacy suggested a low tech. (but reliable) solution of being able to use taps at each tank to fill members own containers with household water in a major disaster (should the pumps and/or the mains become inoperative). This appealed to many at the meeting and Bill Angeloni informed us that each tank has this feature as the taps are used for testing the water quality.

An operations manual is being developed that will clearly describe in simple terms the operation of the overall system and what actions will be needed to fix faults. Training will be conducted for several members of the Board to create some redundancy to react to emergency conditions.