



DECEMBER 2023

## DIAMOND A MUTUAL WATER CO.

# NEWSLETTER

### After a Long Abscense

It has been a number of years since the last newsletter so this is long over-due. A lot has happened since then,

### General Update

**A** lot has changed since the last newsletter.

We have installed 3 new steel water tanks; provided automation of our pumps; set up our system to accommodate back-up generators.

Additionally, much of the day-to-day operation of our system is now handled by JDY out of Petaluma. They operate many similar mutual water companies so they have a wealth of expertise.

Last, but not least, about a year ago we obtained a grant from the State of California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in the amount of \$2 million to upgrade some of our aging water mains and to improve the efficiency of the system.

### Upgrading Water Tanks

**A**s most members know, your Board has been on a program to aggressively replace and upgrade our 4 large water storage tanks. On three sites, new tanks have been constructed within the past 6 years. On the fourth site, repairs have been made to prolong the life of the tank for another 10-15 years. The sum of these efforts has increased our water storage capacity to approximately 400,000 gallons.

Each new steel tank has cost in excess of \$300,000 and this has been reflected in your rate increases.

This storage reserve is critical in the event of a large fire incident within Diamond A. The pumps from our 4 wells would not be able to keep pace with the water demand placed on our system during a major fire event. Collectively, our wells could theoretically provide 300 gallons per minute of water. However, this potential vol-

ume would be reduced by the normal water usage of the 200 homes in our neighborhood. Further, in the event of a power outage, our pumps would be inoperable (we are working on providing a backup generator to power at least one pump in the event of an outage).

### Dept. of Water Resources (DWR) Grant

**O**n May 16, 2023, we signed an agreement with DWR that will fund replacement of approximately one mile of mainline along with other components needed to improve the reliability and efficiency of our system.

The original grant application was to replace the entire mainlines in the amount of \$6.5 million. The competition was stiff so we are quite fortunate to have obtained the \$2 million.

Next year construction will begin and we will do our best to keep you informed.