

A MESSAGE FROM THE PHWD BOARD PRESIDENT



As I complete my third term as President of PHWD, I wanted to reflect on our Capital Improvement programs, past and future. When I joined the Board, I encouraged management to look for remote monitoring technologies the District could deploy to better manage the system; two candidates we identified were Smart Meters on the customer side of the meter, and leak sensors on the PHWD distribution system. At a 2011 water technology conference in San Jose, I found a local smart metering company with a new product; they were eager to meet with PHWD as their lead investor was a PHWD customer! After a trial and significant product improvements, PHWD management began deploying the Beacon smart meters in 2013, just as California entered a major drought. Management believed the Smart Meters could be a drought fighting tool, and aggres-

sively converted all of our meters by 2019, becoming one of the first water agencies in the state to upgrade 100% of our customers to Smart Meters. Most agencies have not found the ROI compelling because the water provider does not see a cost savings on the investment. We believe Smart Meters have saved our customers about 10% of their water usage, primarily by identifying leaks rapidly, or identifying excessive watering. The bulk of the savings from Smart Meters accrue to our customers, about \$400,000 per year on a ~\$500,000 investment by PHWD.

As we go forward, PHWD is looking to increase our use of electronic and cellular based monitoring of our system to reduce water loss and predict pipe breaks; ideally, we would prioritize future water main replace-

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Water Conservation Matters

Due to continued drought conditions in the State, PHWD urges customers to take action to conserve water and increase water efficiency.

- Please reduce your irrigation schedules as we are in the cooler months. Let the rain do the watering.
- Make sure not to water after rainfall in compliance with Ordinance 2021-01. Please visit PurissimaWater.org for details.
- Repair or turn off leaky/broken plumbing.
- Sign up for EyeOnWater to monitor your water usage online. Go to PurissimaWater.org/eyeonwater to sign up or sign in.





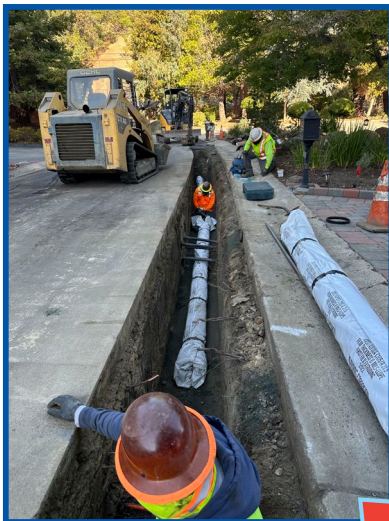
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ment based on which main is most likely to fail next. In 2019, we identified a leak sensor system that would identify incipient leaks in our water mains with installation of acoustic sensors on fire hydrants (which are acoustically well connected to our mains). The benefit of this system is that it is capable of identifying leaks when they are pinholes, generally long before they become main breaks that surface. It has taken us three and one-half years to reach an agreement with LAHCFD (our fire district) to allow us to install the leak sensors on their fire hydrants. We anticipate seeking some grant funding from Santa Clara Valley Water to fund a portion of this system and install the system over the next four years. As an example, San Jose

Water Company, the largest water retailer in Santa Clara County, has deployed this system over the last four years and believes it has helped identify leaks before they surface, saving about 7% of water usage. Our hope is this system will also allow us to repair water mains before the water surfaces and damages the road, allowing us to reduce repair expenses as well as minimize outages for both customers and firefighters.

As most of you know, we are in the third year of a significant drought and PHWD is working on conservation programs and acquiring additional sources of water supply. The Board hopes to update customers with the progress in the near future. – Steve Jordan ■

PHWD Capital Improvement Projects Update



In a prior 2018 newsletter, the District discussed our strategic shift in Capital Projects for PHWD to proactively replace about 20 miles of 1960s vintage pipelines. In the prior four years, PHWD had focused on pipeline and tank seismic improvement projects to increase the storage and flow capacity throughout the district, as well as emergency replacement of leaking pipelines. PHWD borrowed \$8 million at 2.16% interest rate to kick off the Capital Improvement Projects in January of 2020. The District has completed pipeline replacements along Taaffe, Elena, Moody, Concepcion, and Fremont Roads at a cost of approx. \$5.8 million, which were prioritized based on age and leak history. PHWD has started construction to replace water mains on Duval Way, Elena Rd, Padre Ct, Seton Property, and Josefa Ln at a contracted cost of \$1.7 million. These projects were funded 100% with loan proceeds. PHWD has recently started design of a new project on Arastradero Rd, Liddicoat Cir, and Christopher Ln. ■

New 8-inch ductile iron pipe being installed on Padre Ct.



Rate Increase

Just a reminder! There will be a rate increase effective January 1, 2023 as part of the 5-year rate increase approved at the March 2022 Board Meeting.

Get Smart!



Have you considered upgrading your irrigation controller to a smart weather-based irrigation controller? This device helps homeowners maximize watering efficiency and can allow you to control your sprinklers from your mobile device. It can even tell your system not to water when rainfall is expected. You could qualify for a rebate for upgrading! Visit PurissimaWater.org/rebates for more information. ■