

Heber Public Utility District

Report to the Board of Directors

Date: September 16, 2021
From: Laura Fischer, General Manager
Subject: General Managers Report to Board of Directors

HPUD ADMINISTRATION

Brown Act and Water Account Shut Off

On March 17, 2020, Governor Newsome signed executive order N-29-20 into effect. This Executive Order superseded Executive Order N-25-20 is attached for your review. Executive Order N-29-20 is scheduled to expire on September 30, 2021, however we can continue to hold remote meetings without requiring in-person public participation. Please see the attached document from CSDA concerning in person meetings and water shut off due to nonpayment.

HPUD will make every effort to contact our customers that are behind in paying their utility bill. If they want to apply for COVID Relief funds through the County of Imperial, we will provide them with that information. If they do not qualify and are having a financial hardship from another non-COVID related issues, we will work with them to make payment arrangements.

Prior to shutting off any customers, we will follow our most recent policies which adhere to SB 998 that extended the notification period to our customers prior to disconnection.

Now Hiring

We are currently reviewing applications for the position of Water and Wastewater Operator in Training. This is a budgeted position in FY 2021-22 and was recently vacant as one of our operators left the district for employment with another water plant.

Back Flow Compliance Efforts

Staff has begun our annual efforts to have all backflows in our District certified by a licensed backflow inspector. This is a big project that is required by the Water Board and includes communicating with our customers to request that they have the backflow device at their property, inspected and repaired if necessary. The inspection documents must be submitted to HPUD annually. Liz German, our water clerk, does a great job of communicating with our customers and coordinating with our Chief Operator, Mr. Francisco Rodriguez, to ensure all backflows are identified, inspected and recorded.

Water and Sewer Master Plan

The Water and Sewer Master Plan was scheduled to be on the agenda in September, however, we have not completed our review of the plan and the consultant did not complete the maps as needed. Juny, Francisco and I have a meeting this week to review some items with the consultant and will bring you more information in October.

Website Project

I have completed my review of the website, and our consultant, Ricardo Hernandez, has made the changes. On Friday, September 17th we are having our final walk through of the website and staff will determine when we will go live with the site. We want to make sure that our customers are not negatively impacted during the transition.

Low Income Water Rates

I have made contact with the State Water Board regarding the Low Income Water Rates. Adriana and I will be having a conference call with Ms. Yang to discuss implementation and funding options. At this time, my best estimate on implementation is by January 2022.

Heber Little League

Little League is back in Heber. Staff has met with the League president, and we will be making some improvements to the field prior to their first practice.

DEVELOPER UPDATE

I was contacted by a new developer interested in the McCabe Ranch property. They hope to get this project moving towards construction within the next couple of years.

I also had a meeting with Mr. Jose Hinajosa regarding a minor subdivision on Heber Avenue across from the Heber School District. Our engineers have reviewed the maps and met with the developer to suggest utility connection points.

I also attended a virtual meeting with the property developers for Dollar General. They are interested in building a Dollar General on the west corner of Highway 86 and Clifford Road. This was a preliminary meeting and we indicated we have the water and wastewater capacity needed for the project.