

MAIN *the* HVLCSD line

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NEED HELP WITH UNPAID RENT OR UTILITIES?

The CA COVID-19 Rent Relief program helps income-eligible households with rent and utilities, both for past due and future payments. Eligible renters may also receive assistance for past due utility payments. Past due utilities accumulated from April 1, 2020, will be compensated in full up to a total of 12 months. In Lake County, a two-person home qualifies with an annual income of less than \$44,600. Each additional family member raises the income qualifier by about \$5,000.

<https://housing.ca.gov/tenant/eligibilityquiz.html>

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THE MISSION OF THE HIDDEN VALLEY LAKE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT IS TO PROVIDE, MAINTAIN AND PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY'S WATER.
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VISION STATEMENT
HIDDEN VALLEY LAKE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT IS WIDELY RECOGNIZED AS A LEADING RURAL WATER PURVEYOR AND INNOVATIVE WATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY.
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HIDDEN VALLEY LAKE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
19400 HARTMANN ROAD
HIDDEN VALLEY LAKE, CA 95467
P: 707.987.9201
F: 707.987.3237
www.hvllcsd.org

WELCOME!

There's been a tremendous amount of activity going on at your Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District and we think you should know about it on a consistent basis. Every month, we will give you a concise report of the important news and events and how they affect your water and wastewater systems. If you have questions about items in this newsletter, please email them to Penny Cuadras, Administrative Services Manager, at pcuadras@hvllcsd.org. We will respond to your inquiries as soon as we possibly can. In the meantime, we urge you to familiarize yourself with our website, hvllcsd.org. It contains a lot of information including, probably, most of the answers to your questions.

DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS

FINANCIALS

We are excited to report that the District's audit results came back with a positive review. The independent review from Smith & Newell CPAs found complete and accurate financial statements. The District's audit is important because it provides an opportunity for accountability in our internal accounting procedure. As the results came back positive, this indicates that our accounting methods and processes are delivering complete and transparent reports. Please check out the District's website to read the audit report.

DROUGHT

We remain mindful that California continues to be in a historic drought. As good stewards of this natural resource in our sphere of influence, the District will continue to ensure that water is being used in the most efficient way possible. To this end, the Board receives a monthly report on the health of the District's water wells. In our most recent report, the data on the District's water wells indicates that recent rainfall has greatly recharged our water levels. This report shows that water levels are higher after the heavy rains of late October, but recharge rate remains the same at approximately 100% both before and after these rains. We will continue to update you on the District's wells recharge rate in the coming months.

STAFFING

The District's Employee Policy Manual (EPM) was approved by the Board of Directors at the November meeting. Aside from extensive revisions to format, the District has added a few policies aimed at improving employee moral and respect for a healthy work-life balance.

We are pleased to report the District's participation in the CivicSpark fellowship program again this year. This marks the fourth year the District has offered training and experience opportunities to young professionals interested in the water industry. This year's fellow will be extensively involved in both the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project, and the Firemain Linked Auxiliary Supply Hydraulic Energy Storage (FLASHES) project. Thomas Brown will be presenting project updates at upcoming board meetings. You can find our Board meeting schedule on our website at hvllcsd.org/meetings.

PROJECTS & FUNDING

The District's six key projects (I&I, AMI, SCADA, Unit 9 Tank, Water Mains, and FLASHES) are all still underway, and in various stages of development. This month,

we will provide a snapshot of the reasons why the District has prioritized these particular activities.

ACTIVE PROJECTS

I & I

- Infiltration and Inflow (I & I) puts undue stress on the wastewater treatment process. This project involves sealing the leaks and cracks that allow ground water into a wastewater system and thus prevents threats to public safety. In early 2017, extreme rainstorms inundated the District's wastewater collection and treatment system, causing millions of dollars in damage. The I & I project was begun with the goal of counteracting the effects of these climactic events. Seen as a continuous improvement process, the District has been sealing leaks and cracks for the last four years in earnest. These efforts are tested every rainy season and we continue to see improvement every year.

AMI

- Water is a precious resource not only during times of drought, but always. We don't want to waste one drop. Drinking water that leaks before it reaches its destination has to be re-treated, and re-distributed, increasing the cost of service. This conservation effort of installing new water meters equipped with the latest technology is the District's contribution to the preservation of this natural resource. Leak detection in these meters occurs on both sides of the meter: the ratepayer's, and the District's side. That way, the power of conservation is in both of our hands. Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) delivers water usage data and information to the homeowner through an online web-portal and an app available on your mobile devices.

SCADA

- The treatment and delivery of water and wastewater is a very important responsibility, yet it is inherently complex. It is the District's mission to "provide, maintain and protect" this process by utilizing the tools that the Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA) offers to achieve this mission. In the Hidden Valley Lake Community, drinking water needs to be pumped across miles of terrain, often at significant elevation. The automation of treating, pumping, and maintaining pressure in water lines modernizes a water purveyor and provides scalability. The same is also true for wastewater collection and treatment. The SCADA project allows the District to keep up with the community's water demands while also

taking advantage of technological improvements like cyber security. We look forward to reporting more information about the SCADA project with the arrival of the project's Master Plan in Spring of '22.

UNDER DEVELOPMENT

UNIT 9 TANK

- In recent years, this community has come to learn the devastating effects of wildfire. In fire-fighting parlance, wildland-urban interface (WUI) is a term used to describe the juxtaposition of a densely settled community with undeveloped land, such as Hidden Valley Lake. Moreover, CalFire considers Hidden Valley Lake Community to be in a high fire threat zone. The water storage tank located north of Spruce Grove Road is in need of replacement as it does not meet the infrastructural needs of the Community, nor does it meet the demand for water in the event of a threatening wildfire.

WATER MAINS

- Similar to the discussion around Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), water conservation is a way of life, not just measures taken during times of drought. Water that leaks through pressurized water lines must be re-treated and re-distributed which increases the cost of service for the District. Therefore, the Water Mains project aims to offset the increases in cost of service by replacing this damaged infrastructure. Much like the Infiltration and Inflow (I & I) project, this is considered a continuous improvement process. Thus, we will have updates on these improvements in the coming months.

FLASHES

- The Firemain Linked Auxiliary Supply Hydraulic Energy Storages (FLASHES) project is a renewable energy opportunity designed to protect our community against wildfires and Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS). The District is partnering with Trane Technologies to develop and ultimately build the FLASHES Project. Together, we are applying to state and federal grants to build this project at no cost to our residents. Importantly, this project has the potential to decrease homeowners' insurance rates and increase the number of insurers in the area. And, FLASHES will increase and improve the capacity of our water infrastructure, thus improving the protection and ultimately the value of homes within our Community. More information on FLASHES can be found on our website at hvlcsd.org.

spotlight

FASTER REPAIRS

Our very own Utility Supervisor, Barry Silva, jumped in the driver's seat of the District's newest fleet member, a Kubota mini excavator. Not very long ago, water leaks and sewer repairs were being hand-dug by staff (like, two years ago!)

As you might imagine, field operators digging trenches as deep as eight feet, sometimes in the middle of the night, was not a long-term solution as seen by the District, and action has been taken to improve work conditions while shortening the time to resolution exponentially. Silva is seen here improving the culverts on District property to prepare for our rainy season.

