



Annual
Accomplishments
2014 - 2015

66575 SECOND STREET
DESERT HOT SPRINGS, CA
92240



Memo

To: Board of Directors
From: Arden Wallum, General Manager
Date: May 2015
Subject: District Accomplishments – April 2014 to present

Introduction

MSWD is still feeling the effects of the 2008-2009 Great Recession. Although statistics show the economy is rebounding, it is normal for the positive effects to be delayed at government agencies. The District does not rely on tax revenue which always has a lag in rebound, but is significantly affected by development, which has been slow to regenerate. On the positive side, the District is seeing development reawaken, and expects to soon be busy once again in the Engineering Department.

In the meantime, the District continues to monitor costs and strive for efficiency. However, just as the economy is starting to look positive, the State of California has mandated water conservation measures which will significantly impact the District's revenue. Staff will monitor these effects and respond accordingly as the effects become clear. What other industry is tasked with educating their customers NOT to use their product?

The anticipated drop in revenue due to conservation comes at the same time the District is performing a rate study. The consultant will take into consideration the new costs of Chromium 6 treatment, along with anticipated revenue loss. The District is legally bound to charge its customers based on the cost of providing the service, and those costs are rising, mostly due to forces beyond the control of the District. Brace yourselves.

The Board weathered the resignation of longtime director John Brown and was fortunate to appoint an outstanding candidate, Mr. Randy Duncan. The prior Board experience of Mr. Duncan allowed him to step in seamlessly, and immediately participate meaningfully in important decisions. Staff successfully processed the appointment without a hitch and on-boarded Director Duncan quickly.



Administration

Meetings and District Business

From April 2014 through March 2015, during a total of more than 38 regular meetings, study sessions, workshops and public hearings, the Board of Directors heard and took action on more than 80 items, all requiring significant staff time for preparation, research, analysis and presentation. It was an exceptionally busy year for the Board with respect to business items. The Executive Assistant created and posted agendas, prepared information and presentations for meetings, sent public notices to the local newspaper and generated a multitude of staff reports.

Administrative staff provided support for numerous meetings and district projects. Policies were revised, travel was organized, issues were researched, background information was compiled, logistics were arranged, and reports were produced. In addition, staff responded to six separate Public Records Act requests.

Administrative staff was stretched thin but maintained the Board's desired pace for regular Workshops on topics such as a turf rebate program, AQMD solar project, drought regulations from the State Water Resources Control Board, and owner-only policy. (Strategic Plan Target 4, Goal 4)

Strategic Planning for 2014-2016

The Strategic Planning process for the District's 2014-2015 year was completed in May. The Board provided a priority list of goals and tasks to guide the staff in its accomplishments while working with a skeleton crew and fewer resources. A six month update was given to the Board in January, and a full presentation on the year's progress will be on the agenda for June or July.

Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

The District successfully settled a lawsuit brought by the Sierra Club as a result of joining the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan. With the settlement comes the finalization of the Plan and inclusion of MSWD, which will serve to streamline any environmental considerations related to District projects such as the solar power field, or expansion of the Horton Wastewater Treatment Plant.

ACWA/JPIA Commitment to Excellence program

The Board adopted the Commitment to Excellence on July 21, 2014 and the guidelines were distributed to all managers for implementation of best practices as time and procedures allow.



Staff Training and Development

(Strategic Plan Target 4, Goal 3)

A new focus on staff development prioritized training. Administrative staff has completed training in Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act privacy regulations, ergonomics, Chromium 6, and in-house policies and disaster plan. In addition, managers and supervisors have attended an in-depth Leadership program from January to June and have benefitted from the insight and skills taught by Sophia Brooks of Global Learning Partners. Customer Service Personnel are also in the process of completing an in-depth training program to freshen skills.

Spa City Toastmasters Club chartered

MSWD proudly sponsored the creation of a new community chapter of Toastmasters International in order to offer an option for leadership development and speaking skills training to employees. The Club is open for membership to all in the community, and has 11 MSWD employees as members.

Electronic Filing

The District has made positive strides toward efficiency with the implementation of an electronic filing strategy. A consultant was hired and completed an analysis of District's files, and recommended a logical and useful folder tree for use on the District's computer system. Staff has been working slowly toward completing the transition to a more electronically-based environment. As part of this effort, four desktop scanners were purchased for scanning directly to the Laserfishe filing system.

Legal

- Resolution of the Sierra Club v CVCC, MSWD, DHS litigation
- Assist staff with implementation of SWRCB Emergency Water Conservation Regulations
- Assist District with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and questions related to Mission Creek/Garnet Hill Water Management Plan
- Completion of Skyborne Improvement Agreement Amendment and issuance of new performance bonds
- Assist with SNMP anti degradation analysis
- Assist with labor and employment matters
- Presentation at the Urban Water Institute regarding MSWD v Verjil
- Assist as needed with IRWMP issues



- Advise District in connection with fee adjustments and prop 218 analysis related thereto
- Updating District policies to comply with changes in the law

Operations and Maintenance

Construction & Maintenance Department

- Construction & Maintenance Department employees have completed the following trainings from Target Solutions: Preventing Discrimination in the Workplace, Confined-Space Entry, Water Industry Asbestos Awareness, Water Industry Combustible & Flammable Liquids, Water Industry Hazmat Spill Prevention & Control, Advanced Construction Safety MOD 1 and 2, Customer Service and Working in Extreme Temperatures.
- Construction & Maintenance Department started Valve Maintenance Program and have accomplished all valve maintenance exercises in West Palm Springs Village and Palm Springs Crest.
- Construction & Maintenance has done 269 service line replacements.
- Construction & Maintenance Department installed approximately 3,000 Radio Read registers.

Production Department

- Tri-annual Title 22 samples were pulled at the 14 district wells.
- Tri-annual Lead and Copper samples were pulled in all three systems.
- Staff worked with the State Water Resources Control Board to complete the Sanitary Survey.
- The Ionex SG LLC Chromium VI pilot study at well 29 was completed.
- Installation of the new switch gear at Gateway Hydro Tank was completed.
- Aquatic Inspections completed the annual cleaning and inspections and repairs on district reservoirs.
- The SCE test block was replaced and a new motor was installed at Well 26.
- A new AC unit was installed to replace an obsolete, failing unit at Well 34 for the VFD.
- The motor at well 37 was pulled and rebuilt by BWP under a warranty repair.
- The pump and motor repairs at Well 34 were completed.



- The Worsley Reservoir was equipped with a new solar powered security camera and motion sensor.
- Staff worked with AES Water to install a new seismic earthquake valve at High Northridge reservoir.
- A new 600hp motor was installed at Well 24.

Waste Water Treatment Plant

- CCTV Operations: Inspected 16.1 miles of main line pipe. 315 inspections completed.
- Sewer Mainline Jetting and Cleaning: 15 miles completed.
- Two employees, Lee Boyer and Shane Wienecke became NASSCO certified - CCTV Operations National standards training.
- The Horton Plant was again awarded the 2014 C.W.E.A. Local Section C.O.R.B.S. Plant of the Year 5.0 MGD or Less. #12.
- An update to the HAZMAT Business Plan, HAZMAT Communications & Training Plan and MSDS Binders was completed.

Public Information

MSWD 2.0

The MSWD 2.0 program included formation of a Citizens Advisory Committee. Numerous participants of the committee have changed due to many factors including: deaths, moves from area and those who are no longer interested. The CAC has been reformed to participate in the FY 2016 rate study. There are 20 members.

DHS/CCAC Annual Holiday Parade

MSWD was again a major sponsor of the annual holiday parade. MSWD provided both financial and human resources that contributed to the success of the event. In fact, without MSWD's participation, the event would not have occurred.

Desert Hot Springs Chamber Participation

For the 2015 membership year a MSWD representative was voted into the Chairman's seat by the Board of Directors. The Chamber is moving forward with numerous initiatives including: "Desert Hot Springs Possible." This program created a focus on economic development activities on behalf of the community. It is also one of the drivers of the newly established Desert Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce Foundation (a CA 501(c)(3)) and the Desert Lightning business incubator. These and other initiatives continue to bring greater relevance and elevate the influence of the chamber. This is a measurable benefit to MSWD through its affiliation. The District was also able to provide its 2015 annual report at the Leadership breakfast earlier in the year. The Chamber hosts multiple "mixers"



throughout the year that provide opportunity for MSWD to build good will among community leaders and business interests.

I-10/Indian Waste Water Program

The Pub Info Office successfully identified a per-acre price point that a super majority (roughly two-thirds) of property owners in the I-10/Indian Wastewater Project Area would agree to. The public outreach portion of the project is on hold until financial elements are secured.

Conservation/Education

In 2015 MSWD again reached hundreds of students with its Living Wise program. Living Wise promotes water conservation and education about water waste in the home utilizing curriculum and retrofit fixtures for individual homes. In 2014-15, MSWD reached over 450 students.

MSWD continues to run its “Mission” ad campaign through various publications throughout the year. The ads run for three week per month through the local Desert Star Weekly. MSWD has participated in ad sponsorships for many local organizations and service groups.

MSWD has added significant information to its www.mswd.org/conservation page related to drought, regulations, and tools.

Integrated Regional Water Management

MSWD continues to participate in the CVRWGM program. The program includes regular meetings of both the business group as well as the regional conservation group. Staff attended IRWM-related meetings a minimum of 30 times over the past 12 months. MSWD was again a recipient of grant funds through the IRWM process. Funding included over \$900k from a cancelled project in the valley and \$500k in turf rebate funding. The regional conservation program, dubbed CVWaterCounts, continues to educate the region’s water users about conservation. The program includes a website, multiple tools and resources, referrals to the various agencies, contests for water efficient yards, and regular social media campaigns. The program is paid for through a Prop 84 grant and benefits MSWD as part of fulfilling its UWMP requirements.

Legislative Affairs

Staff continued to monitor and comment on numerous pieces of state and federal water-related legislation. MSWD was awarded \$500k in USACE funding for wastewater facilities under the Groundwater Protection Program. This marked the first allocation of funding under the USACE Construction Authorization.

Media



MSWD participated in numerous news stories in 2014-15. Stories included water quality, supply, conservation, Chromium 6, water system integrity, and IRWM related and professional sourcing for numerous writers. Staff appeared on camera approximately 5 times in the past 12 months.

Rate Study

MSWD public information staff has participated in the planning and kick off of the Wildan Rate study. Support roles include input on potential revenue and expense areas, production of materials, development of the CAC, and facilitation of meetings.

General Programs

- The Public Info office facilitated two REAL Academy candidate tours of the operations sector of MSWD. There were a total of about 60 students from two schools hosted.
- Public Info staff continues to interact with the DVBA Legislative forum. The forum meets monthly and discusses legislation and development issues of interest to both government jurisdictions and private business.
- Pub Info office prepared items for board agendas throughout the year, both for regular and special meetings such as workshops.
- The Pub Info office continued to provide articles for the MLCC Times newsletter for about 9 out of the past 12 months.
- Staff participated in numerous City Council meetings over the past 12 months related to MSWD, DHS Chamber and DHS FRC issues.
- Pub Info staff participated on the Desert Hot Springs Family Resource Center board to facilitate the mission of the FRC pertaining to providing referrals for needed resources to needy families. Staff also played a central role in facilitating the annual "Build-A-Bike" program again in 2014. A record number of bikes were distributed. Staff also participated in the annual FRC Resource Fair.
- Pub Info Staff served on the COD Alumni Association Board over the past 12 months as Chairman. The CODAA manages the Street Fair and provides nearly \$1 mil per year in grants, scholarships and support for valley students and COD teachers. A number of scholarships go to DHSHS students transferring to COD each year.
- Staff participated on the Board of the Palm Springs Unified School District Foundation in 2014. The Foundation provides multiple grants for school programs throughout the School District, including Desert Hot Springs area schools, related to health and wellness and classroom grants.
- Staff presented "The Water Cycle" to multiple kindergarten and elementary school classes, and the Boys and Girls Club throughout the year.



- Staff played a support role in AD-12 projects including the public hearing regarding assessment adjustments.
- Staff facilitated development and reporting on a survey to determine interest in wastewater facilities for the MLCC.
- Staff assisted in the development of drought regulations, public information and board actions related to the mandates of the SWRCB over the past 12 months.
- Staff assisted in negotiations related to the Salt and Nutrient Management plan and re-distributing the funding allocated for that purpose to various regional projects.
- Staff provided a support role in the development of the Owner Only policy and facilitation of the public hearing in that regard.
- Staff participated in numerous after-hours and weekend events related to MSWD and the CVRWMG.
- Pub Info staff participated in multiple *Strategic Planning* exercises and follow up meetings for MSWD.
- Pub Info Staff spoke to the PS Realtors Association regarding CV Water Issues.
- Staff prepared dozens of power point presentations for various applications including board meetings, public speaking, director presentations and information for general public access.
- Staff attended the community meeting of the DHS ministerial association approximately six times in the past 12 months.
- Staff participated in multiple meetings related to the organizational assessment and related training.
- Staff participated in JPIA training sessions.
- Staff assisted in the spa tour for 2015
- Staff collaborated on multiple promotional/education pieces with the consulting graphic arts team.

Human Resources

- Conducted General Manager's Salary & Benefit survey, and prepared contract proposal summary for the Ad Hoc Committee
- Prepared Employee Handbook recommendations; researched various policy issues and provided policy interpretation.



- Developed and delivered Performance Evaluation Training to supervisors, managers, and department heads.
- Issued all Performance Evaluations due, and tracked completion.
- Conducted recruitment/selection process for an internal promotional opportunity.
- Coordinated the selection of a trainer, and facilitated Sexual Harassment Prevention training for all employees.
- Provided over-sight, monitoring and internal coordination related to numerous workers' compensation cases; facilitated and documented interactive processes.
- Conducted an Organizational Assessment at the request of the Board of Directors; presented findings and recommendations; prepared update memos related to progress.
- Coordinated the selection of a trainer for supervisory/leadership and customer service training programs.
- Organized all Human Resources related electronic files.
- Handled numerous sensitive and confidential personnel matters; provided coaching and mentoring.
- Facilitated hiring process and on-boarding of a part-time employee.
- Completed a comprehensive Classification/Compensation Study for all District employees and job classes, including updated job descriptions. (Strategic Plan Target 4, Goal 2)

In addition, the Executive Assistant received a prestigious Oasis Award from the Greater Palm Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau for Back-of-House Service Excellence. The Administrative Officer was nominated for an Oasis Award for Sustainability.

Finance

Cross-training throughout the finance department continues

As personnel resources have shrunk in the past couple of years it has become ever more important to continue to cross train. This continues to be very helpful in high traffic times, when an employee is unexpectedly absent as well as any future transitions. Also finance has taken on some HR related duties to help in the transition to using a HR consultant on a regular basis.

Cost of Service/Rate Study



Willdan Financial Services was contracted to perform an integrated rate and fee study during 2015. This study is currently in progress and will should be completed and implemented in the coming fiscal year.

Messaging on delinquent bills now in 6 different languages

Due to recent changes in State law, all delinquent bills now have delinquency language in 6 different languages. Also new delinquent/shut-off door hangers have these same 6 languages.

Internal analyses of current systems and procedures

Finance staff continually analyzes our current systems and procedures for possible improvement in efficiency, cost savings and consistent customer service. In conjunction with the implementation of the financial master plan, the customer service department and processes are being closely analyzed. This involves dissecting procedures and practices in all aspects of the service and billing cycles from the reading of meters to depositing customer payments in to District accounts and the related rules, regulations and policies.

Additional financing and grant sources

The District is continually looking into possible leads toward additional grant funds or financing sources that may be available for funding District capital projects. There are a few sizeable grants and loans on the horizon and contacts are maintained at several sources to be able to react to the District's needs as they arise. These involve entities such as cities, counties, Federal, State and local development agencies, banks, financial consultants, attorneys and engineers.

Improvements to District accounting system and database

Improved capabilities such as reporting and user interfaces are being implemented currently and will be rolled out over the next few months. The current system performs very well and dependably, but modern interfaces will make the system more user friendly and increase the ease of access. Reporting capabilities are also being improved that will give management more information, faster.

Financial Assistance Program

With recent sewer system construction and many new connections, the District continues to help its customers to abate septic systems with the help of low interest loans.

New financing for infrastructure



During 2014 a new financing was completed for \$2.7 million, that financed the assessment portion of Areas D-2 and J-1 of Assessment District #12. This loan process draws sizeable time resources from the Finance department and were completed seamlessly.

I-10 & Indian / Regional Treatment Plant

Sizeable resources from the finance department have been utilized in 2014 to assess the feasibility of a regional treatment plan as well as a possible financing district in the I-10 & Indian area. As many parties are involved and many issues need to be assessed, it has been a lengthy process but we have made major progress. Various financing sources, public-private partnerships, assessment districts, grants, community facilities districts and other possible tools have all been discussed and research continues. A financial consultant has proposed to take the project to the next progress point. Discussions with interested parties are now under way.

Register change out program

During the latter part of 2013 it was discovered by District staff that there was a trending problem with the radio read registers used in the district. After research at the District involving the manufacturer of these registers it was determined that there was a manufacturing issue with the lots that were installed several years ago. Staff then negotiated with the manufacturer to replace all registers district wide with new, digital registers. This program is now virtually complete. This was at no cost to the District.

CSDA Finance Corporation

The Finance Director was appointed to serve on the CSDA Finance Corporation board of directors. See www.csdafinance.net for more information.

Operational highlights

During 2014 the finance department processed the following (approximate):

149,000	Customer bills	350	Liens
9,600	Work orders	225	Lien releases
4,500	Purchase requisitions	22,500	customer walk-ins
20,000	incoming telephone calls	3,200	Radio contacts
1,700	outgoing phone calls		

These are some of the highlights of what goes on in the finance department but this list is nowhere near all-inclusive of the tasks that are completed each year.

Engineering



Notice to Connect “Make the Connection” Program

Following the completion of AD-12 Sub-Area F, M-1 and D-1, Notice to Connect letters were sent on April 23, 2014 to the property owners of 1,068 improved parcels within the three sub-areas, giving property owners until July 22, 2014 to have their septic systems abated and their properties connected. Property owners taking advantage of the 60-day extension were given until September 20, 2014 to meet this requirement. Additionally, there have been just over 70 property owners that took advantage of the District’s Financial Assistance Program helping them abate their septic systems with the aid of low interest loans.

Below are the sewer connection statistics as of May 2015:

- Area F: 726 connections out of 821
- Area M-1: 192 connections out of 215
- Area D-1: 161 connections out of 179
- Area F-1: 64 connections out of 69
- Area L: 437 connections out of 443

Grants – In process (the following seem likely and very promising of proceeding to construction)

- Funding Under the 2007 WRDA, Section 219 Authorization – The District was notified that \$500K in funds have been approved for the GWPP AD-12 Area J-1-1 Sewer Construction Project.

Grants – Awarded

- CVRWGMG DWR/Prop 84 Round 1 Funding – The District was awarded \$960,000 in redistributed grant funds for the construction of AD-12 Area J-1 Sewer Construction Project.
- CVRWGMG DWR/Prop 84 Round 2 Funding – The District was awarded \$1,845,000 in grant funds for the construction of AD-12 Area D-2 Sewer Construction Project.

AQMD Solar Project

The District received \$3.3 million in grant funding (AQMD CPV Sentinel Energy Project (AB1318 Mitigation Fees) for a solar project. RFQ was sent out December 12, 2014 with response from 3 solar companies. District staff and TKE conducted interviews with the 3 companies. The Board of Directors awarded the project contract to SunPower at the February 3, 2015 Workshop. Construction is estimated to begin January 1, 2016.

Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Program



This program continues to run smoothly. Since the program was implemented in 2010, 67 facilities have been either permitted or waived. On a regular basis, time is spent tracking compliance, assuring permit renewals are sent, doing routine site inspections, and monitoring pumping events. Staff diligently helps FOG program participants maintain compliance with the District’s ordinance. In addition to field inspections at each facility, staff has helped many customers understand and fill out the application forms, and provided guidance to them as part of this ongoing program. To date, our continuing compliance success rate is 100 percent.

Operational highlights

During 2014 the Engineering Department processed the following (approximate):

426	Incoming and outgoing transmittals for development and CIP project plan checks, material submittals, project deliverables, etc.	82	Received and reviewed applications for Financial Assistance
46	Incoming and outgoing transmittals for landscape plan checks.	25	Received, reviewed and processed Requests for Information
72	Prepared, processed, notarized and recorded Non-Transferable Lien Agreements for Financing Sewer Connection Costs (Financial Assistance)	212	FOG Program correspondences, including: -Annual Maintenance Reports -Annual Fee Renewal -Annual Fee Renewal Receipts
15	Received, reviewed and processed Fire Flow test requests	9	Conditions of Approval
21	Requests for Agency Comment	29	Processed new water services
1,049	Processed sewer connections	7	Will Serve Letters
380	Average department telephone calls or other Engineering inquiries per month.		

Developer Contractor/Handbook Update

The Developer/Contractor Handbook & Guidelines for Design and Construction of Water and Sewer Facilities (Development Handbook) was first approved in January 2008. Staff continues to diligently make corrections and edits keeping up with changing standards and



further improving upon and revising where needed. These updates are very important in helping staff to continue to fairly analyze water use, assign current standards, develop agreements, and approve project drawings and specifications for current and future planned residential, multifamily, and commercial developments. Our Standard Drawings and Approved Materials list have also been updated to assure accuracy and consistency for new installations for water and sewer facilities and will be brought to the Board for review and approval June 2015.

Completion of the AD-12 Area F and M-1 Sewer Construction Project

Although construction was 100% complete in November 2013, work on the project still continued until late September 2014 when the 50% connection requirement outlined in the SRF agreement was met. SRF completed their final inspection of the project area with great remarks. All reporting has been completed and submitted.

Completion of the AD-12 Area D-1 Sewer Construction Project

This project was completed in March 2014. Quarterly status reporting to DWR was required until December 2014 when the project closed out. The first of ten annual Project Performance Reports was sent to DWR April 2015.

AD-12 Area J-1(south) Sewer Construction Project

The District was awarded \$960,000 of Round 1 CVRWGMG DWR/Prop 84 Funding. Staff has coordinated the budgets for this project to take full advantage of the available funds. URS Corporation completed the repackaging of the plans and specifications. Staff is also working with USACE for an additional \$500,000 in grant funding for this project area. This project is expected to advertise for bid in July 2015 as part of AD-12 prior to the assessment sunset date.

AD-12 Area D-2 Sewer Construction Project

The District was awarded \$1,845,000 of Round 2 CVRWGMG DWR/Prop 84 Funding. URS Corporation completed the repackaging of the plans and specifications. Although this project is ready to advertise, it has been determined to be more beneficial from an economy of scale perspective to advertise this project with Area J-1, which is anticipated for July 2015.

Aerial Mural

A 6ft. x 10ft. color aerial mural was completed and installed in the Boardroom.

Horton Plant Expansion 5

Due to the success of our Groundwater Quality Protection Project and pressure of expanding our sewer collections system, flows and loading have increased from the new sewer hookups. Currently the HWWTP has experienced daily flows in excess of the 80%



design limit triggering the decision to move forward with the Expansion No. 5 project. Design for Expansion 5 was originally completed back in June of 2008 by AECOM. The main purpose of Expansion No. 5 is to increase the firm treatment capacity of the HWWTP from 2.0 MGD up to 3.0 MGD.

Some of the improvements identified in the 2008 Expansion No. 5 design have been completed and will reduce the original scope of work and estimated construction costs. In order to update design and construction costs, staff engaged AECOM to review the plans and specifications and prepare a Technical Memorandum (TM) updating the project requirements.

The TM addresses the following: conduct a site visit to observe recent improvements (since the original design in 2008) and confirm physical condition of existing items planned to be reused, provide a summary of current plant conditions including revised flows and loadings, updates to 2008 Expansion No. 5 Plans and Specifications, redesign cost estimate, redesign schedule, construction cost estimate update, and construction schedule update.

The preliminary schedule calls for redesign completing in September 2015, advertising for bids November 2015, and notice to proceed with construction late March 2016.

Chromium 6

For many years chromium 6 has been regulated in California under the 50 ppb primary drinking water standard for total chromium which was established in 1977. The US EPA adopted the same 50 ppb standard for total chromium, but in 1991 raised the federal MCL to 100 ppb. California did not follow US EPA's change and stayed with its 50 ppb standard. The Department of Public Health proposed an MCL for chromium 6 in August 2013 of 10 ppb. That proposal became effective on July 1, 2014, creating new challenges for the District in finding the most effective treatment options for chromium 6.

Since July 2014 staff has continued to work with TKE Engineering reviewing the treatment options available. Staff has had presentations by four different treatment vendors, each showcasing their different technologies. There are three practical treatment processes available for treating Cr-6, SBA – Strong Base Anion, WBA – Weak Base Anion and RCF – Reduction Coagulation Filtration. Some processes create no byproduct; however, additional constituents in the water can impact the treatment efficiency. While other processes are not impacted significantly with other specific constituents; however, produce a byproduct (brine). A fourth treatment process is RO – Reverse Osmosis, but is a much more expensive treatment.

CVWD has been conducting a pilot study for over a year on multiple wells and the report is due in June 2015. Staff has also conducted pilot studies with two vendors. TKE submitted



a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund grant application for \$500,000 to cover the costs of preliminary engineering report which will analyze the best solution for treatment of the 5 wells at risk of being out of compliance with California's new chromium 6 regulations.

Well 27 and Well 29, which are the assumed priority, currently have the highest concentrations of chromium 6 and are also some of the highest producing wells within the District. A preliminary engineering report will identify which wells are of the highest priority and in the most need of treatment by investigating the optimal solution for chromium 6 that will achieve compliance. Upon completion of the investigation an engineering report will be prepared stating the findings along with, recommendations, and preliminary cost estimates. Following the report chromium 6 treatment systems would be designed along with the preparation of engineering drawings, specifications, and detailed cost estimates, which would have MSWD ready to advertise for construction bids. The engineering report is scheduled to be complete in December 2015.

Pending and Approved Development Projects

Staff has been very busy handling inquiries for many development projects during the year. This gives us hope for additional growth within the District. The following projects are currently in various stages ranging from plan check to beginning construction to completion:

- Wenzlaff Elementary School Fire Improvements
- YK Spa Resort on Hacienda Drive
- Two Springs RV Resort
- PSUSD Schools #5 & #18
- Pierson Plaza (between Via Loreto and Cholla Drive)
- K-Mart / Rio Ranch Market
- N. Indian Canyon Widening Project
- Sunset Springs CVHC (32 homes, 3 phases)
- Oasis Plaza (east side of Palm Drive between 2nd and 3rd Street)
- Devers Sub-Station – New Office Building (15000 Diablo Road)
- FedEx Ground Facility (411 W. Garnet Avenue)
- Vista Palms Development
- Desert Rocks Climbing Gym (19160 McClane Street)
- AT&T Cell Tower at MSWD Administration Building
- Ranch Recovery Center New Kitchen Addition – fire protection system completed.
- Skyborne Development 2nd Amendment



These are some of the highpoints of what the Engineering Department is working on, but this list is nowhere near all-inclusive of the tasks that are completed each year.

Summary

MSWD has adjusted to the “new normal” but must remain vigilant. The District is still running with minimal staff and looks forward to the time when operations can return to a full staffing level. The District continues to adjust and review as appropriate.

Appreciation goes to the current strong and capable Board for the understanding and flexibility to allow the paring back to focus solely on the basics, while at the same time promising support for needed resources. Staff is forward thinking to ensure the District is structurally sound and will present findings and recommendations to the Board in the next few months to further that goal. Strong action will be necessary given the current pressures, but it is imperative this District continue to represent the best interests of this disadvantaged community.

As before, the focus must remain entirely on the mission of the District: To provide, protect, preserve the most valuable resource . . . water.