

## **Report of Attendance at Regional Meetings – October-December 2018**

### **Monterey One Water**

On November 26 I chaired my last Board of Director meeting for Monterey One Water (M1W). At this point my Vice Chair – Ron Stefani – will finish out my term until February. Meanwhile, we set up the process to form the Nomination Committee to select a Chair and Vice Chair starting in March of 2019 to February of 2020.

M1W will also contact the member agencies to remind them to assign new representatives due to electoral changes.

### **Wastewater Treatment Plant**

The Waste Treatment plant is operating at optimal levels and changes have been made to address potential operational issues. The Agency has also put together a needs and cost assessment of what it will take to bring the plant to a higher operational level, and will soon start that work.

### **Focused Wastewater and Monterey One Water Service Area Extension studies.**

Earlier this year the M1W Board of Directors approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the County of Monterey for reimbursement of expenses related to a Focused Wastewater Service Area Study. This agreement has now been amended to add the communities of Chualar and Gonzales into the study area.

In general LAFCO regulates boundary changes of special districts when such changes occur. LAFCO does not, however, regulate services provided by JPA's and the Agency's JPA agreement does not appear to require that M1W obtain LAFCO annexation approval of boundary changes for each individual area where only the extension of service is added. As a result it appears that the M1W board has discretion to authorize extending its services to any areas within the County, without going through the LAFCO process.

### **Cal Am and Monterey One Water**

Cal Am continues to pay for sending additional water volume through the Agency's Brine Outfall. They will pay to line the outfall to deal with more abrasive brine discharge for a desal plant.

### **Pure Water Monterey**

The **Advanced Water Purification Facility (AWPF)** project is also moving along well, and first water should be delivered in June of 2019.

In July of 2017 the M1W Board awarded the contract for construction of Pure Water Monterey – Advanced Water Purification Facility and Product Water Pump Station to Anderson Pacific Engineering at a bid amount of \$47,932,005 with a \$1,000,000 contingency.

Construction is ongoing and is currently at 70% completion, though there have been some additional costs. As a result the Agency approved another \$1,000,000 contingency for the AWPf construction project.

Pipe relocation to allow installation of the source water manholes is under way. The decarbonator tanks have been delivered and the metal Chemical Building erection continues. The decking is installed on the frame for the Product Water Pump Station top slab, and the sixth and final section of the Membrane Building floor slab will be poured by the end of December.

In addition, the final exterior coating of the two 130,000-gallon welded steel Feed and Filtrate tanks has been completed.

The **Blanco Drain Pump Station** is progressing quickly. The structural foundation is complete and work on the electrical transformer pad has started. The flowmeter vault and mechanical installation is scheduled for this month, and PG&E is set to connect power during the first week of December.

### **Water Delivery Pipeline**

All water pipelines for the **Water Conveyance Pipeline & Reservoir** (aka Marina Coast Water District's RUWAP) have been completed and this project is now **100% complete**. All related pavement restoration is now also complete. In addition the Black Horse reservoir is complete, with painting and final disinfection of the reservoir and pipeline to be completed by mid-December. With the completion of this and Cal Am's pipeline project all infrastructure to move water from the Pure Water Monterey plant to water users is now in place.

### **Cost of Water**

Monterey One Water is continuously looking for grants and other funding opportunities. The reason is that any grants that we can apply to the Pure Water Monterey project will help to lower the eventual cost of water to ratepayers.

The Agency was successful in recent submissions with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). The concept behind this project is to be able to make smaller quantities of recycled water during the winter months. If constructed, this project can help provide additional recycled water for CSIP in the winter and reduce pumping of the over-drafted and seawater-intruded Salinas Valley groundwater basin.

This project will also reduce the amount of winter wastewater being sent to the ocean - which is one of the Board's main goals: to reduce discharge to the ocean. After a recent phone conversation with a staff member of the State Water Board Division of Financial Assistance, we were encouraged to submit a general loan package for the winter wastewater treatment plant modifications project.

## Homelessness in Monterey County

A few weekends ago councilman Peake and I attended the Breakfast of Champions to support the work of One Starfish. The Program Director - Michael Fechter – told me my personal contribution is their third largest individual donor for this year.

One Starfish operates under the Pass the Word Ministry – One Starfish. Several years ago Councilman Cuneo and I brought forth an action to fund several homeless organizations under our Pacific Grove Homeless Challenge. Four cities joined in this effort over a period of several years, and Seaside undertook a similar effort of their own.

### **Following is a breakdown of the results to date for One Starfish:**

They are always near 100% capacity in the two programs - One Starfish (25 vehicles) and the County Safe Parking Program/Marina (15 vehicles).

This year they helped 29 people get back into housing, and 31 women into greater employment and better physical and mental health care.

**NOTE:** Even for those who do not meet the requirements of the program, One Starfish still works with them and refers them to other services around the county that may help. The agency also spends money on vehicle repairs for homeless women, short-term motel stays after surgery or illness, gas cards, and even money so that clients can join family who live in less expensive parts of the country.

- Working through the Food Bank, they also make sure that food needs are met for individuals, couples and families in their program.
- In their County program almost 80% of the people they help are working full time (Sometimes, 2 people in the same vehicle both working). However, because of the local cost of housing they are still living out of their vehicles. (Though sometimes also due to medical expenses or educational debt.)
- Over the course of the year, One Starfish cared for approximately 100 people during the day and through the night.
- They have professional counselors who do an excellent job in steering clients back into housing and toward greater financial security.

In 2018 the founder, Tia Sukin, won the Jefferson Award for this work, and went to Washington DC for meetings with California Senators' staff. Because of county payment reductions, I recommended that Tia and Michael speak to the Pacific Grove and other councils to once again seek some collaboration among the cities of the peninsula. Monterey has undertaken an effort to resurrect the Homeless Challenge Grant Program and I hope other cities will participate.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Rudy Fischer*

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Councilman Rudy Fischer