

MEETING REPORT  
REGIONAL SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2011  
9:00 A.M.

A meeting of the Regional Sewer Advisory Committee was held at the office of Twain Harte Community Services District, 22933 Twain Harte Drive, Twain Harte, California, at 9:00 a.m. The following were in attendance:

Judy Selby	Jamestown Sanitary District
Todd Ingalls	Jamestown Sanitary District
Stacy Billings	Jamestown Sanitary District
Steve Willey	Jamestown Sanitary District
Scot Moody	Twain Harte Community Services District
Robb Perry	Twain Harte Community Services District
Packy Maxwell	Twain Harte Community Services District
E. Wes Jordan	Twain Harte Community Services District
Bob Behee	Tuolumne Utilities District
Delbert Rotelli	Tuolumne Utilities District
Pete Kampa	Tuolumne Utilities District
Tom Scesa	Tuolumne Utilities District
Melissa McMullen	Tuolumne Utilities District

Self introductions started the meeting.

**Tuolumne Utilities District Update of Activities**

a. Operations Report

Tom Scesa stated that Quartz Reservoir is approximately 15-20 feet higher than what it is normally this time of the year. Sonora received 51 inches of rain this year, normal is about 32 inches. The flow coming from Quartz is a couple of hundred gallons per minute, which is much slower than previous years. TUD is currently building two irrigation systems around Quartz; one is along the dam itself which is a fogger system. Mr. Scesa stated that TUD is also installing 9000 lineal feet (lf) of piping for fogging to get rid of more water in a lower area of property by Quartz.

Tom Scesa reported that during this last fiscal year TUD either lined or replaced a mile of sewer line, showing a great improvement in Inflow and Infiltration (I&I).

Tom Scesa stated that TUD had been having problems with the Columbia Interceptor. The field crew did an inspection and found that their flushing nozzle was cutting the pipe in half. The crew replaced approximately 3000 lineal feet of pipe.

b. Potential Consolidation of Tuolumne City Sanitary District and TUD

Pete Kampa reported that TUD did an analysis of the Tuolumne City Sanitary District (TCSD) system to see if acquiring the TCSD system would impact TUD rate payers. Mr. Kampa reported that TCSD has implemented a rate increase to \$52.75 per month, effective July 1, 2011. This increase will help in covering TCSD financial obligations, so that if TUD is to acquire TCSD system TUD rate payers would not be adversely affected. Mr. Kampa also stated that TUD is participating in the state meetings with TCSD and under state law TCSD must submit a resolution for dissolution to LAFCO, with TUD being the successor entity.

Mr. Kampa stated that if TUD and TCSD merge, TCSD customers will contribute approximately 18% of TUD administrative cost.

Tom Scesa stated what has been discussed with TCSD is TCSD will stay an isolated, separate entity for both income and expense. Mr. Scesa stated that TCSD has acquired a loan that will cover their legal and previous financial obligations and will be receiving a USDA loan to finish their treatment plant and cover the first one, so from a financial point of view the rates that TCSD has adopted and have been put in place are suppose to cover all of the mentioned expenses. Mr. Scesa stated that TUD staff is still reviewing TCSD financial obligations and rates to make sure that both Districts are in agreement on TCSD financial obligations and revenue to cover to them.

c. Expiration of NPDES Permit and Related Issues

Tom Scesa stated that this is TUD's last year to be able to release water under the NPDES permit. Last year TUD spent almost \$60,000 on lab testing alone to use the NPDES permit, TUD will spend almost the same amount this year. The state will not let TUD out of this permit unless TUD can show it has adequate storage and disposal system.

d. Proposed Independent Regional Sewer Study

Tom Scesa stated at the last meeting it was discussed about doing a regional study and that there were some elements to that proposal that Judy Selby stated she wanted to discuss with the Jamestown Sanitary Districts (JSD) Board. Mr. Scesa inquired if the JSD Board had come to a decision. Judy Selby stated that the JSD Board has not come to a decision, but is waiting until after the upcoming TUD presentation. Ms. Selby stated that JSD is going through its budget and are dealing with cost increases and will have to wait and see if JSD can afford to participate.

Pete Kampa stated that the goal of the study was to do an impartial, third party, independent engineering evaluation study to see what is the best way for the Districts to proceed.

Tom Scesa stated that the cost of the study is approximately twenty-five to thirty thousand split 50/50 between JSD and TUD.

Judy Selby inquired as to why Twain Harte Community Services District (THCSD) is not sharing the cost of the study. Tom Scesa stated that the reason THCSD was not included in the share of cost for the study is because THCSD does not have a plant and is a subscriber to TUD.

Judy Selby stated that studies have already been done and does not see why there is a need for another study. Ms. Selby stated that she feels that JSD has its direction for its short and long term goals; also JSD does not have the revenue at this time for another study.

Tom Scesa stated that JSD has two conflicting studies and is asking that JSD choose which direction JSD plans on going in the future so that TUD may plan its direction in such a way that both Districts are working together and not adversely affecting one another.

Stacy Billings stated that she felt communication between JSD and TUD has gotten much better than in past years, but each District needs to educate the other on their future plans so that one plan can be developed that would benefit both Districts.

Stacy Billings stated that JSD has land by Quartz reservoir that is not in use and that JSD and TUD should meet to discuss how to utilize this land that would benefit both Districts.

Stephen Willey stated that he would like to take the issue concerning the study and a future plan back to the JSD Board for further discussion and present to his Board the idea of setting up a meeting with the TUD staff and Board for further discussion.

### **Jamestown Sanitary District Update of Activities**

Stacy Billings reported that JSD recently received notice that JSD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) was increased from \$365,000 to \$800,000. Ms. Billings stated that JSD has been working on collections and plant improvements. Also, one of JSD summer projects is working with TUD on the lift station.

### **Twain Harte Community Services District Update of Activities**

Robb Perry reported that Twain Harte Community Services District (THCSD) is currently working on installing slip lining in the sewer line by Twain Harte Lake. Mr. Perry reported that THCSD is currently doing a mass meter change to radio read meters, also the final lift station at Shady Brook should be installed in the next few months. Then all three of THCSD lift stations will have been replaced.

Robb Perry reported that a camera trailer is up for approval at the next THCSD Board meeting. If approved then THCSD will be able to use the camera for its sewer lines instead of having it contracted out, this will coordinate with the sewer jetting. Also, with this THCSD will be starting a Root Extermination Program.

Scot Moody stated that for first time THCSD has spent everything that was budgeted for projects, meaning more projects have been completed than in years past.

### **Open Discussion on Other Regional Issues**

Robb Perry inquired from Pete Kampa when TUD would be announcing if TUD is going to have a rate increase in either water or sewer. Pete Kampa stated that TUD is not proposing a sewer rate increase however TUD is currently conducting a water rate study and discussing what the increase will be for the base and consumption rates in water. Mr. Kampa stated the TUD is proposing the rate increase become effective January 1, 2012, with a possible combined rate increase of twenty-five to thirty percent the first year and then according to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), approximately two percent, for the years following. Mr. Kampa stated that actual water rates vs. adjusted rates using the CCPI-W Index clearly demonstrate that the water rates weren't increased to inflation from 1984 to 2009, which caused an \$8.5 million loss.

### **Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, November 17, 2011 at Tuolumne Utilities District.