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Seal Rock Water District

General Manager's Report:
 Board Meeting June 10, 2021

This report is an executive summary provided with this Board agenda to Commissioners with recommended actions if any. Detailed information, staff reports, and supporting materials are provided within the full agenda packet.

PHASE-IV BEAVER CREEK SOURCE WATER PROJECT:

District staff and engineer along with funding partners from USDA-RD meet bi-weekly with R&G Excavating to discuss project schedule and status. Construction at the WTP site includes continued work on the backwash basin and membrane building. Several concrete pours on the backwash basin and membrane building were completed in late May and June. Concrete masonry subcontractor has mobilized on site and begin to set blocks for the membrane building.

Raw Water Intake Structure:

Cement pad for the pump station building has been completed. Final site grading has been completed in preparation for the subcontractor to begin the block wall construction. Erosion control BMPs continue in place and have been reestablished as some wet weather continues. CPI has completed the power installation to the intake site.



Beaver Creek Intake Pump Station Building and CMU Construction:

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Membrane Water Treatment Plant:

The Contractor focused their efforts on continued rebar and concrete placement for the backwash basin, and the membrane building footings. R&G's CMU subcontractor has begun the work of placing blocks for the construction of the membrane building.



Membrane Building Construction with Clearwell in the background and Backwash Basin to the left:

LINCOLN COUNTY RECORD LOW STREAM FLOW:

As local leaders in Lincoln County working on water issues, I wanted to make everyone aware of the alarming trend we are experiencing this year on the Siletz River, and area streams. According to the states hydrologists, we are experiencing record low streamflows. District staff will be working with members of the Mid-Coast Water Conservation Consortium (MC-WCC) to draft communications regarding the water situation in the region that will go out region-wide. The Siletz and Yachats rivers are likely to have the highest potential for a competition given the number of users relative to available water. To the extent possible, it would be good for the district to begin early and consistent messaging to water users regarding the need to conserve water and the impacts of low streamflow on the environment, the community, and the economy. Staff will be documenting and tracking the impacts of drought so that we can use it for future communications with local and statewide stakeholders to raise awareness and increase support for local efforts to prepare for and mitigate the effects of drought. There is a persistent narrative that the coast does not struggle with water quantity issues, which we all know is simply untrue.

It is likely that the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners will authorize a local drought declaration, following a similar path as 16-other counties in the State. The district is also impacted by drought conditions on Beaver Creek. Last week we received our independent flow measurements from the district's newly constructed source water intake on Beaver Creek. Typical flows on Beaver Creek in May range from 30 to 40CFS (Cubic Feet Per Second). This years flow data recorded on Beaver Creek last month is 18CFS. This is a sharp decline and consistent with what we are experiencing in the mid-coast.

Some ideas being considered by the MC-WCC include:

- Develop a newsletter article, billing insert, and billing message for distribution to customers in June/July (as soon as possible) about the particular importance of water conservation this summer given how weather conditions are affecting water sources, and if a drought is declared, the message could raise awareness about the drought declaration, explain to what extent if any that impacts the water supply source, describe how the water provider is responding, and suggest ways that community members can help reduce demand on water supply.

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- A newsletter article or billing insert could have a portion tailored to the specific situation of the water provider, such as a statement about low flows on the Siletz River for water providers that use the Siletz.
- For establishments serving tourists (e.g., hotels/motels, bed and breakfasts, restaurants): develop a placard encouraging water conservation that includes a brief message about water sources for the area and how weather conditions affect those sources.
- The Regional Water Providers Consortium in the Portland metro area develops billboards and radio messages to communicate to the public, but those forms of communication would require more budget. Perhaps those forms of outreach are something that the consortium would want to consider in the future.
- Consortium members are scheduling a meeting soon to begin developing an outreach campaign.

OTHER NOTABLE ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH INCLUDE:

- Attended on-site Beaver Creek water quality and flow monitoring field data collection.
- Reviewed several Requests for Information (RFI's) for the Beaver Creek Project.
- Attended several meetings related to treatment plant operational software.
- Staff completed a proposed FY 2021 – 2022 budget in preparation for the June 10, 2021, Budget Adoption.
- Attended SDAO Legislative Committee meetings, and SDAO Water Committee meetings.
- Attended the Mid-Coast Water Conservation Consortium Meetings.
- Hosted USDA-RD Beaver Creek Project Site Visit.
- Attended SDAO Board Meeting.
- Attended several video conferences with engineers, contractors, and USDA to discuss submittals and schedule for work on the Beaver Creek Source water project.
- Attended OAWU Building Resilience in a New Environment: Regulations Update.
- Reviewed utility design detail for PacWave Energy Project.
- Attended OWUC/OWRD Drought Report meeting.
- Attended monthly OWUC meeting.
- Hosted SRWD safety/staff meeting.