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Hello Olympic Valley Mutual Water Company (aka Squaw Valley MWC) members.

## **BILLING**

Thanks to everyone who paid their water bills promptly. It saves us a lot of time, energy, and anxiety. Much appreciated.

There still seems to be some misunderstanding on what our billing policy is, specifically that we bill twice per year with the water fee based on usage for the trailing 12 months. Please read [ovmwc.com/pay-your-bill](http://ovmwc.com/pay-your-bill) to review the mechanics. The page links to the usage reports posted to the website every month.

## **OTS - OUR OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE CONTRACTOR**

The week before Christmas our lead operator submitted his two-week resignation, choosing to take a supervisory, full-time position at a utility not far from his Reno home. Luckily our OTS Operations Supervisor had a friend who had just recently received his entry level certification. The immediate priority is to get him trained on our system. He will be living in Truckee the days that he works for us.

Meanwhile, we have been working on a staffing plan with OTS with the intent to get more controls in place on the number of hours OTS charges us every month. Our plan firmly remains (more on this later) to get to the point where on-site attendance is not routinely required. Given our small size and remote location, this is the only way to reduce operations cost while ensuring reliable service even in the event of emergencies.

## **CONSTRUCTION**

Our infrastructure replacement projects are complete. We are waiting for the USDA to complete their legal review so we can pay off our interim construction loan with CoBank, and begin repaying to the USDA the 40-year loan. The legal review should happen in the next 30-45 days, and the USDA loan repayment starts six months later.

## **SCADA**

As you read in the recent billing notice, we will replace our existing supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system with one that is more reliable, more cost-effective, and non-proprietary. The existing system has been in place for 10+ years, and has never been any of these things. This is a NECESSARY step towards our goal of remote monitoring, and less on-site visits by operators. The cost for this change was included as a one-time assessment in your most recent bill. The replacement should be done by the end of March.

## **CELLULAR ENDPOINT PROGRAM**

We installed one cellular endpoint as a test case, which has been working extremely well providing real-time water usage and user-determined alarms. Unfortunately, with delays in parts delivery and with the upset in our available manpower, the exchange program will be delayed until the Spring. We will keep you notified.

## **BACKFLOW PROGRAM**

Notices will be sent out soon alerting you about the requirement for certifying backflow devices in the Spring. The Board is reviewing a policy that calls for financial penalties if certifications are not received by a certain point in time, since we will be required to bring in a contractor to do the work. We have also been alerted to a stiffening of the CA State Backflow requirements to be published in June.

## **WATER TANKS**

We are moving ahead with our plans to recoat the interior of the lower (smaller) water tank in the fall 2024.

## **EMERGENCY INTERTIE WITH THE OVPSD**

We are moving ahead with discussions with OVPSD to install an emergency intertie between the two systems.

## **OVPSD NEWS**

Mike Geary has resigned as general manager of the OVPSD effective March 31, 2024. A search is still underway for a replacement. If no one is found, an interim GM will be appointed.

## **Adopt a Hydrant**

Another good use of your Snowblower. After cleaning your residence, it is a breeze to clean your neighborhood fire hydrant.



## **NEXT BOARD MEETING -**

The next board meeting will be March 28, 4PM. Information for these meetings can be found at [ovmwc.com/about](http://ovmwc.com/about).

Thanks

David Stepner, President

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**Accounting Support**

You can reach our accounting firm at [manager@squawvalleymutualwater.com](mailto:manager@squawvalleymutualwater.com).  
or everyone in our financial team at [accounting@squawvalleymutualwater.com](mailto:accounting@squawvalleymutualwater.com) .

**Emergency Service**

Please use our emergency number (442-888-5036) only for true water emergencies.  
For other notifications, please use the email [service@squawvalleymutualwater.com](mailto:service@squawvalleymutualwater.com)