

## NEWSLETTER

March 31, 2024

Update your contact information at [ovmwc.com/contact-us](http://ovmwc.com/contact-us)

Make sure emails from [president@olympicvalleymutualwater.com](mailto:president@olympicvalleymutualwater.com) do not go to spam

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

### **BUDGET FOR 2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR STARTING JULY 1<sup>ST</sup>**

At its next meeting on June 14, the Board will discuss and approve the annual budget for our 2024-2025 fiscal year starting July 1. Your semiannual bills are driven by the budget. Meeting time and place details at [ovmwc.com/about](http://ovmwc.com/about).

### **OTS - OUR OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE (O&M) CONTRACTOR**

The staffing situation after the resignation of John O'Neal at the end of 2023 has stabilized and we have two operators from OTS who perform the O&M functions, under the supervision of a Class 4 operator. The two operators are more limited in what they can do than John was, but on the other hand, one of them lives in Truckee while working for us, and is coming up to speed on the variety of tasks to be done. The Board carefully monitors OTS to ensure we don't get billed for unnecessary activity.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE ENHANCEMENTS**

- 1. Replacement of water pipes.** The replacement of all water pipes that started in 2010 was successfully completed on budget in October. In February we finalized the USDA paperwork for the ~\$5M 40-year 3.5% loan that paid for the 2021-2023 portion of the project. Loan repayment starts in August 2024. The only unreplaced pipe runs from the wellhouse under Wa-She-Shu Creek to Christy Hill Road (by the post office) and it is not of the same material as the rest of the system was.
- 2. SCADA.** Our SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition system) was completely replaced during the week of March 18<sup>th</sup>. OTS has been testing it since then and is very, very satisfied. A few minor final adjustments are scheduled to start April 19<sup>th</sup>. *See the email you received on January 11 that explains why we replaced the SCADA and how we paid for it.*
- 3. Cellular water meters.** So far we have upgraded one meter to test continuous cellular reading and 24/7 monitoring of leaks, and it has been working extremely well. We will upgrade 30 more meters as soon as the snow melts.
- 4. Water tanks.** We will recoat the interior of the lower (smaller) water tank in the fall 2024. We are preparing a final bid package. The original estimate was \$200,000. After reviewing the video of the upper tank with several experts, we can postpone its recoating for a few years.
- 5. Emergency intertie with the OVPSD.** A contractor has been chosen and an agreement has been reached between us and OVPSD. The project's net cost after subtracting the ~\$400,000 grant obtained by OVPSD will be a bit over \$400,000. We will pay 25% of this. We already have

reserves to pay \$50,000 this year; we will pay the balance under a generous 5-year, interest-free loan extended to us by OVPSD. The project now depends on completing an easement agreement with Alterra.

**6. 10-YEAR PLAN.** A priority for us in the next fiscal year is to have a 10-year capital maintenance and improvement plan. Our engineering consulting firm will be preparing it.

### **BACKFLOW PROGRAM**

The State Water Resource Board requires that every year all backflow (prevention) devices be checked where system cross connections occur. What and where are cross connections? They occur wherever our potable water supply system is connected to something that could introduce contamination. The most common are connections to irrigation systems and fire sprinklers; but it could also be connections to hydronic heating systems or hot tubs. Each of these connections requires a backflow device that must be inspected and certified annually.

You will soon receive a notice alerting you about the 2024 requirement for certifying backflow devices, and you will receive notice of the backflow devices you tested last year - but please be aware there may be cross connections that you did not test. Your inspection must be complete. If unsure, please use a plumbing contractor. We will also send notices to those residences that claimed they had no cross connections to attest to that again.

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 by California law to bring in a contractor to do the work. We have also been alerted to a stiffening of the State's requirements to be published in June. We will summarize and report on these changes (to be in effect by June 2025) when we are notified.

### **OVPSD NEWS**

Mike Geary has resigned as general manager of the OVPSD effective March 31, 2024. A new GM has been hired: Charley Miller, the current District Engineer for the Tahoe City Public Utilities District.

### **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 June 14, 2PM. 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)