

The Fall River Valley CSD has been working with State funding agencies and consultants for several years to make improvements to its water system. In March 2024, the District received a \$2.016M grant from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to perform planning, environmental, and design services toward implementation of a large water improvement project. The proposed project elements include the following:

- New water supply well near existing McArthur Well No. 1
- New 250,000-Gallon elevated storage tank in McArthur
- Replacement of 5,000 linear feet of water mains in Fall River Mills
- Improvements to the Country Club Booster Pump Station
- Site piping improvements at the existing storage tank site
- New advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) water meters throughout the District
- New Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system

The proposed improvements will create a more reliable water supply for the entirety of the District, create more stable and consistent water pressures in McArthur, increase fire protection volume and flows in McArthur, replace aged infrastructure in Fall River Mills, and increase overall water system efficiency and reliability for years to come.

The planning and design effort is expected to be complete by late 2025 at which time an application will be filed with SWRCB seeking funding to construct the proposed improvements. It is the District's intention to seek 100% grant funding to construct the improvements; however, it is uncertain whether the entirety of the project will be grant funded.

The District will be hosting a Town Hall meeting at the Lions Hall in McArthur, on Wednesday, July 24, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. to present more details pertaining to the project. Representatives from the District's Engineer, PACE Engineering, Inc., will be in attendance to offer more details and answer questions.

Of particular interest to the community will be the construction of the new 150 foot tall, elevated water storage tank in McArthur. Renderings of two potential tank configurations will be presented. The District desires community feedback on which tank configuration will be most aesthetically pleasing within the community of McArthur.

In addition to this planning project the District has completed or continues to plan and improve the District-wide water and wastewater infrastructure for the community. Those projects are:

- Over one year ago a lease/purchase 66 KW Solar Array was installed at the McArthur Well #1 to offset power usage at that location. According to an analysis after one year of operation saving on power costs is far exceeding lease payments. In ten years, the District will own the array with at least an additional 20 year life.
- McArthur Well #1 renewal and upgrade of the 40+ year-old pump, drive motor and electrical controls with the installation of a new diesel backup generator via a grants from the State Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control

Board SAFER Drinking Water Program. The \$824,493.00 contract to MDS Engineering and Construction to perform this work was signed last month.

- Six years ago, the District received \$400K+ grant funding from the State Water Resources Control Board SAFER Drinking Water Program to plan, locate, design, and drill well(s) in the Fall River Mills area of the District. Although Fall River Mills is surrounded by water, finding ground water that meets State Drinking Water Standards has proven to be time consuming and technically challenging. Fortunately, available grant funding for this effort has increased to just under \$900K. One well has been completed and the drilling contractor Enloe Well Drilling & Pump is scheduled to complete the second well in late Summer 2024. To provide design and infrastructure installation from one of these wells to community distribution system the District received a \$1,140,200.00 grant from the Small Community Drought Relief Program – California Department of Water Resources in November 2022. Immediately upon completion of the second well this infrastructure design will begin.
- Since the mid 1990's shallow private drinking water wells East of McArthur along Hwy299E have been documented with water quality issues. With support from Shasta County Environmental Health and 2021 funding from the State Water Resources Control Board SAFER Drinking Water Program utilizing the facilitator and managerial support of University Enterprises Inc. (Sacramento State University) a planning and design project in conjunction with the District has been proceeding to define if it is feasible for the District to provide safe drinking water to the area with substantial support from potential customers. Additional construction grant funding will be required to be financially viable.
- “Septic to Sewer Project” – The design and construction State grant funding application for this project is completed. It is in the queue to be funded in this 2024-2025 fiscal year depending upon the final State budget. The “Substantial” positive support the District received from the community for this project was a major element within this application. From recent indications regarding potential policy changes from that State full grant funding this project will present challenges to your District staff and consultants. Regardless, solution efforts will continue to fund and build this major sewer infrastructure improvement project for both communities.