



July 17, 2024

**TO:** Los Osos Utilities Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Ron Munds, General Manager

**SUBJECT:** **Agenda Item 6 – 07/17/2024 Utilities Advisory Committee**  
Utilities Department Updates

## Utilities Department Updates

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### 2023-24 CIP

#### **Program C Well Equipping Phase**

Project on hold pending issuance of building permit from the County. The District did receive comments back regarding the plans. A resubmittal of the plans to address the comments are in the works at the time of the writing of this update.

#### **Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Implementation**

Staff is working with the County to identify projects that will fall under the HCP. Details of what type of projects that will need HCP coverage are being worked out. Any ground disturbance is the major criteria that will be applied with the exception of areas previously disturbed, like roadways. It is still unclear what extent of the requirements will impact the District's capital projects at this time.

### **Other Updates**

#### **PFAS Detection**

After receiving further guidance from State's Division of Drinking Water (DDW) regarding the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) for PFAS, it was determined that the South Bay Upper and Lower wells have levels above the MCL of 4 parts per trillion. The following are the levels found in the South Bay wells:

South Bay Upper – 8.3 (PFOA)

South Bay Lower – 4.5 (PFOA)

The current EPA regulation for monitoring is bi-annually; DDW is now requiring the District to provide quarterly monitoring results. The EPA compliance deadline to make the necessary capital improvements to meet the MCL is April 26, 2029.

The South Bay upper well is a low water production well and is minimally operated because of the cost to treat for nitrates and disposal of the brine. South Bay lower is a key well in District's water supply portfolio so it will be important to keep it online. Staff will be making decisions on whether to keep the upper well operational or turn it off in the near future. There are options to keep the lower well operational. The options include installing activated carbon treatment or blending with the almost completed Bay Oaks well to bring the PFAS levels below the MCL. Staff will keep the UAC informed regarding the decisions made to address the PFAS issues.

#### **FEMA Re-submittal of Public Assistance Applications**

It appears that all the information required for the District's resubmittal of information is complete. Review of the information is underway by FEMA staff so it will now be a matter of time until a decision is made on reimbursement.

Staff has also been working with Cal OES on submitting an application for 404 mitigation funds to help offset the cost of the final repair project. FEMA will only reimburse for a small portion of the final repair cost so additional funding is being sought from other sources including Cal OES and federal sources.

**FY 2024-25 Budget Approved**

The Board approved the FY 2024-25 budget at their June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Thank you for your hard work and input into water and drainage fund budgets, now the work begins!