

Grizzly Flats Community Services District

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Item 26
15-1408
12/8/15

Grizzly Flats Community Services District Update to the Board of Supervisors December 8, 2015

A. Grizzly Flats Community Services District (GFCSD) System Information

1. GFCSD provides water service to about 1,100 people, with about 600 service connections. We maintain a system of 150 fire hydrants for fire protection.
2. We produce 2-5 million gallons of water per month.
3. Our water supply comes from creeks in the National Forest that are fed by snow melt and natural springs.
4. We've earned several awards for safety and Transparency in Local Government.
5. We have five employees (GM, 1 admin, 2 operators, and 1 maint. tech) and rely on community volunteers for monthly meter reading and preparing bills for mailing. In addition, all five of our Board members and our District Treasurer are volunteers!
6. Grants and opportunities such as cost sharing from the El Dorado County Water Agency are very important to us because of our small customer base and limited income.

B. Water Supply for Grizzly Flats

1. Layered water rights
 - a. Pre-1914 rights dating back to the 1850's.
 - b. Post-1914 rights to store water in our raw water reservoir.
2. Reservoir



- a. 31 acre feet of storage, about a 3 month supply of water if used carefully.

- b. Reservoir was lined in 2012 (using a loan/grant program through USDA – Rural Development) – water used to stop spilling, putting us into Emergency Conservation every summer. Once lined, it spilled thru 2012, 2013 and 2014 summers and finally stopped spilling in August 2015.



Picture from Google Earth - 2012

3. State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Conservation Requirements

- a. Total conservation was 25% when compared to 2013.

	2013	2015	Savings	% Conservation
June	4,001,900	2,773,800	(1,228,100)	-31%
July	5,319,500	3,243,300	(2,076,200)	-39%
Aug	4,215,500	3,442,300	(773,200)	-18%
Sept	4,065,800	3,242,600	(823,200)	-20%
Oct	3,315,500	2,537,700	(777,800)	-23%
Nov	2,313,900	2,222,000	(91,900)	-4%
TOTALS	23,232,100	17,461,700	(5,770,400)	-25%

*all figures are in gallons

- b. Outdoor watering was cut to 2 days per week, but the biggest impact was customers reducing water use inside their homes.
- c. Curtailments issued by the SWRCB this year did affect us by not allowing us to divert water into storage until early November.
4. Additional storage is needed. Another reservoir would be ideal. It's been investigated, but with costs estimated to exceed \$20 million, it just isn't feasible without significant financial assistance.
- a. We will need additional water supply to meet build out. We are about half way there (1227 parcels vs. 600 meters).
- b. Prop 1 funding was looked at, but requires a 50% match.

C. Prop 84 Drought Grant funding – awarded \$492,05 in October 2014 from the Department of Water Resources (DWR)

1. We were able to do the following:
 - a. New backwash tank – 55,000 gallon tank to replace two old tanks that were 40+ years old.



- b. Install Cathodic Protection Systems in three (out of 4) of our water storage tanks. These systems extend the life of steel tanks by slowing down corrosion.
- c. Replacing 300 water meters in our distribution system.
- d. Installing Air Release Valves (ARVs) in Eagle Ditch. The pipeline that brings raw water down from our diversions to our reservoir was put in by volunteers in the late 1980's and early 1990's. The pipe has high spots that trap air and those pockets of air reduce the amount of water that flows through the pipe. By installing ARVs, the hope is to keep the pipe full of water instead of air.
- e. Initiating a Leak Detection Program.

D. Trestle Forest Health Project

1. A US Forest Service project
2. The project would involve forest thinning and fuels reduction activities in the National Forest just outside Grizzly Flats to improve forest health, enhance watershed conditions, and re-establish a sustainable landscape condition. It would help clean up our watershed to keep water flowing naturally in the creeks that feed our diversions and reduce fire risks to the community.
3. Draft Environmental Impact Report was issued in July 2015 and comments in support of the project were submitted by GFCSD, the Grizzly Flats Fire Safe Council and the El Dorado County Water Agency.
4. Hope to see the project done soon!