

Grizzly Flats CSD Newsletter

February 2012

Water System Improvement Project (WSIP) Update

Spring 2012 Construction Work

We are moving into our 2nd phase of construction work on our Water System Improvement Project (WSIP). The majority of the work tentatively planned this spring is centered on draining the raw water reservoir, re-compacting part of the reservoir's embankment, installing the liner and refilling the reservoir. **While we hope for a quick construction period, this work could take as long as six months to complete depending on weather and unforeseen construction issues.**

The ideal time to do this project is early spring so the liner can be installed and the reservoir can be refilled before flows from our diversions recede in late summer. **We could start the project as early as February 15, 2012 or delay the project until spring 2013.** GFCSD staff and board members have to take many things into consideration, including the strange weather we've been having, costs to delay the project, and the safety of our community. All of these issues will be discussed by the Board of Directors at our next board meeting.

The next board meeting is scheduled for **Monday, February 13, 2012 at 9:00 AM.** Meetings are held at our District office located at **4765 Sciaroni Rd, Grizzly Flats, CA 95636.** We are about ½ mile northeast of the Grizzly Flats Post Office. The public is welcome to attend and offer their comments to the Board.

Why is a reservoir liner being installed?

A significant amount of water is lost from leakage out of the reservoir which limits the ability of GFCSD to meet its customers' water demands. **Multiple studies done for GFCSD over the past twenty years identified the issues related to water supply and the reservoir.** The California Department of Public Health also noted the issue in GFCSD's Compliance Inspection Report in 2008 with the comment *"It is imperative that GFCSD develop a permanent solution to its source capacity problem and implement the solution within a reasonable timeframe."*

The liner will stop the leakages, give us access to more of our stored water and is the most cost efficient solution for this issue. We were able to finance the project with a 60% low interest loan and 40% grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This funding was acquired without any increases to our customers' water rates or Standby charges.

How will the reservoir be drained?

The District will be sending water down the Eagle Ditch drainage that runs near the Grizzly Flats Community Church, behind properties on Old Nail Road, Wooded Glen Drive and Evergreen Drive. Property owners who live along that ditch will see an increase of water flow for a very short period of time while the reservoir is draining. **We don't expect to have any issues with water escaping the ditch, but please notify our office at (530) 622-9626 or our on-call pager (530) 890-0102 as soon as possible if you see any!**

Where will our water come from while the reservoir is empty?

While the reservoir is empty, we will be treating water directly from a pipeline. This presents many challenges to our operators and our community. **We will be dependent on the water flow from the pipeline instead of the reservoir.** Our operators have been hard at work over the last few months preparing our water treatment system for this task. Water will be available to the community, but we will all need to do our part to keep water demand low.

Will the community need to conserve water while the reservoir is empty?

Yes. The community will be asked to conserve water while this work is completed. We will be sending out flyers on how to conserve water in future newsletters and posting ideas and suggestions on our website (www.grizzlyflatscsd.com).

GFCSD has three "Water Emergency Stages" which are declared depending on the level of the raw water

reservoir. We will progress through the stages as the reservoir is drained. We will be posting notices on our website and at the Grizzly Flats Post Office, as well as sending out alerts to our email contact list to keep you informed of the project's progress. Below is a description of when the alert is declared and what is expected from GFCSD customers (from GFCSD Ordinance 88-1):

Water Shortage Emergency Response Stages

STAGE 1 WATER EMERGENCY

(Declared as soon as the reservoir stops spilling)

- a. Customers are expected to conserve at 10% to 20% per average daily use.
- b. The watering of lawns, gardens, landscape, and pasture irrigation shall occur only between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Watering shall not exceed two hours per water period per customer.
- c. Drip irrigation systems are encouraged and are exempt from watering restriction during this stage.
- d. Washing of vehicles shall be done using a hose fitted with an automatic shutoff nozzle.
- e. GFCSD's potable water shall not be used for dust control, earthwork, or road construction.
- f. There shall be no washing of driveways, parking lots, decking, or other paved surfaces with GFCSD water unless for the purpose of renovation, construction or painting.
- g. A water patrol shall be initiated by the District to ensure compliance of emergency measures. It shall operate under the jurisdiction and direction of the Board of Directors and General Manager.

STAGE 2 WATER EMERGENCY

(Declared when the reservoir level drops to 17 acre feet)

- a. All of the above, and
- b. Customers are expected to conserve at 20% to 30% per average daily use.
- c. New construction customers shall be allowed water only for operation of construction requirements. Watering for this use shall not exceed one hour of consecutive use in a twenty-four hour period (i.e., concrete work, etc.).
- d. There shall be no potable GFCSD water used for the planting of new gardens, lawns or landscaping.
- e. Ponds, lakes, fountains, and swimming pools, shall not be filled with potable GFCSD water.
- f. Existing lawns, gardens, and landscaping shall only be watered between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Watering shall not exceed one hour per watering period per customer. Drip systems shall also observe the watering hours.

STAGE 3 CRITICAL WATER EMERGENCY

(Declared when the reservoir level drops to 15 acre feet)

- a. All of the above, and
- b. Customers are expected to conserve 30% to 50% per average daily use.
- c. Water meter applications and water service connections shall be suspended in accordance with governmental regulation.
- d. **There shall be no outside watering.** This includes lawns, gardens, landscaping, or irrigation of pastures and the washing of vehicles with potable water.
- e. Drip irrigation systems are not exempt at this stage.

Our community has been great throughout this project whenever conservation was needed. We don't expect to have issues, however we are authorized to assess fines and/or disconnect water service for customers who fail to comply with water shortage response measures. The procedure shall be as follows:

First offense:	Written warning
Second offense:	\$50.00 fine
Third offense:	\$100.00 fine
Fourth offense:	Termination of Service

We will be required to be in a Stage 3 while the reservoir is empty. Customers will need to conserve 30% - 50% of their average daily usage. Outside watering will not be allowed. We understand this will be tough for some of our customers who enjoy their gardens, but it is necessary for the long term safety and reliability of our water system.

How do I report a possible leak or water waste?

Anyone who sees puddles of water, signs of a possible leak, or home owners who may not be following the "Water Emergency Response Measures" are encouraged to notify GFCSD. You can call the office at (530) 622-9626 during office hours or leave a message on our answering machine after hours. You can also email us at gfwater@sbcglobal.net or drop a note at our office.

All reports will be kept confidential!

What do we do now?

We will need to decide if we will proceed with the project this spring or delay it until 2013. This will be discussed at the February 13th board meeting and the public is welcome to attend! We will keep customers informed of the project's schedule and progress by mailings, emails, postings on our website and at the Grizzly Flats Post Office. **We want to thank everyone in Grizzly Flats for their patience and cooperation throughout this project.**