

## Grizzly Flats CSD Newsletter February 2025



### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

✓\$✓ **DISTRICT TREASURER NEEDED** ✓\$✓

Patti Jobe, has announced that she will be retiring from her position as District Treasurer so we are looking for a replacement volunteer to fill this role. **The District Treasurer position is not compensated and is appointed by the Board of Directors.**

The position of District Treasurer is required by state law (Government Code Section 61050(b)). The Board shall require the District Treasurer, if any, to be bonded. The District shall pay the cost of the bonds (Government Code Section 61050(f)).

The District Treasurer works closely with the General Manager managing the finances of the District. Specific duties and responsibilities include:

- Supervising a system of accounting and auditing that shall completely and always show the District's financial condition and that shall adhere to generally accepted accounting principles;
- Participating in the standing Budget & Finance Committee;
- Following the procedure for drawing and signing checks for payroll and claims against the District; and
- Determining if claims and demands against the District conform to the District's approved budget;

If you are interested, please send in a letter of interest that outlines your experience which qualifies you for this position. Resumes are also acceptable. Please include 3-4 references.

Send letters of interest to:

**GFCSO Board of Directors**  
**P.O. Box 250**  
**Grizzly Flats, CA 95636**  
or  
[gfwater@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gfwater@sbcglobal.net)

The position will be open until it is filled.

### WINTERIZING TIPS

Every winter season, homeowners in mountain communities are at risk of the damage and expense caused by frozen pipes. **Remember, all water charges due to frozen/broken pipes are the homeowner's responsibility. California law prevents us from adjusting these charges.** However, just a few precautions can greatly reduce your risk.

**DISCONNECT AND DRAIN ALL OUTDOOR HOSES** – Detach hoses from outdoor faucets and drain outdoor systems.

**INSULATE PIPES OR FAUCETS IN UNHEATED AREAS** – If you have pipelines in an unheated garage or cold crawl space under the house, wrap the water pipes.

**SEAL OFF ACCESS DOORS, AIR VENTS AND CRACKS** – Winter winds whistling through overlooked openings can quickly freeze exposed water pipes. Just don't block air vents used by your furnace or water heater.

**FIND THE MASTER SHUTOFF** – In case of a leak, **everyone** in the household needs to know where it is and what it does. It's usually where the water line comes into your house from the street, or you can use the "gate valve" in your water meter box.

### \*WINTERIZE A VACANT HOME\*

Before vacating your home for the winter, be sure to shut off your water. Most homes in Grizzly Flats have two shut off valves; one on the customer's side of the meter box and one at the home. **If you are going to be away from your home for more than a day or two, both valves should be turned off.**

- First, start at your meter box, usually located near the street at one of your property corners. Turn off the gate valve on your side of the meter.
- Second, open your indoor and outdoor faucets until all the water drains out of the pipes. Don't forget to flush your toilets!
- Close the faucets and shut off the valve at the residence. This valve is usually located where the water line enters

the home. It's best to leave both the meter gate valve and the home shut off valve turned off.

Once all the lines have been drained, it is important to close all household and irrigation lines so when the water is restored, you don't have water pouring out of every faucet or hose! **Also, check with the manufacturer of your hot water heater to see if they have any recommendations for maintaining the equipment while the water service is turned off.**

Some people use antifreeze to help prevent freezing. **Do not use antifreeze made for vehicles; it is extremely toxic!** If you choose to do so, pour **non-toxic RV antifreeze** into all traps and drains, including the dishwasher and showers. Use 2 cups in toilet bowls and tanks, and about 1 cup in other drains.

### \*WHAT IF IT'S TOO LATE AND YOU WAKE UP TO FIND YOUR PIPES ARE FROZEN? \*

We recommend that you keep a local plumber's contact information handy in case of an emergency. We also recommend that you have a friend or neighbor check your home if you are not in the area. Keep in mind that maintaining low heat in your home does not ensure that your pipes will not freeze.

If you think you know where the freeze-up occurred and want to try thawing it yourself, **do not under any circumstances use a torch with an open flame!** The whole house could catch fire. Also, overheating a single spot can burst the pipe. Heating a soldered joint could allow it to leak or come apart.

The easiest tool is a hair dryer with a low heat setting. Wave the warm air back and forth along the pipe, not just on one spot. If you don't have a hair dryer, you can wrap the frozen section with rags and pour hot water over them. It's messy, but it works. Be careful because the pipe may already be broken. It's not leaking because the water is frozen. When you thaw it out, water could come gushing out. Be ready to run for the master shutoff valve if necessary!

## GRANT PROJECT UPDATES

### AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) GRANT

#### • CLEARWELL AND WATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (\$2,530,000)

Clearwell Background: *The District's Tyler and Winding Way tanks were destroyed in the Caldor fire, and the last remaining tank (Clearwell) has been on the brink of failure for several years due to extensive corrosion.*

We are happy to announce that construction of our new 200,000-gallon welded steel Clearwell Tank is complete! Operations staff are working to get the

required water quality sampling completed so that the new tank can be put into use in February 2025.

Water Treatment Plant Background: *The District utilizes two water treatment plants to filter and treat raw water so that it is safe for customer consumption. The current equipment is close to 40 years old and lost automation (alarms and automatic chemical feed) during a weather-related electrical brownout in December 2022.*

Two new Water Treatment Modules are under construction and scheduled to be delivered by June 2025. The units will be installed separately so that one remains online to treat water while the other is replaced. The new modules will return automation to the water treatment process and allow staff to monitor the equipment remotely so that they do not need to be onsite 7 days per week.

#### • RESERVOIR LINING REHABILITATION PROJECT (\$150,000)

Reservoir Liner Background: *The District has a 31-acre-foot raw water storage reservoir that was lined with HDPE in 2012. The liner has not been cleaned since installation.*

A crew performed a debris inspection of the reservoir to document the underwater conditions and prepared a Debris Survey Report in May 2024. That document was used to solicit bids for debris removal work. A contractor was identified, and reservoir cleaning work is scheduled to commence in early August 2025 after one of the new Water Treatment Modules has been installed to address any potential water quality issues.

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

#### • TREE FELLING GRANT (\$998,250)

In 2022, the District was awarded a grant to remove burned trees along the District's raw water diversion line known as Eagle Ditch, so that staff could safely perform repairs and maintenance work as needed.

The hazardous trees were marked, dropped, and moved away from our infrastructure. Once the trees were on the ground, a crew was contracted to repair project related damage along our pipeline and to install access ports so that staff can inspect it with a push camera. This work is scheduled to begin next week and will allow us to identify problem areas such as root intrusion or leaks that may not be visible.

In Spring 2025, mastication and herbicidal treatment will be performed along our easement to eradicate the remaining brush and allow full access to our diversions.

