



# WATER NEWS

## AMADOR WATER AGENCY

www.amadorwa.com



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### Sutter Creek Fire Flows To Increase 500% In Areas

**The Amador Water Agency has partnered with the City of Sutter to increase fire flows 500% in an area where fire flows were low.** The Agency recently created a Water/Sewer Committee to meet with a similar City formed committee. During one of those meetings, the Sutter Creek Fire Chief informed AWA that the areas of concern for fire flow include Badger and Nickerson areas.

The Agency staff conducted flow tests with some operational site reviews. The flows were improved slightly, however not to a level that was considered satisfactory. The existing fire flows are approximately 200 gallons per minute (GPM) with summertime domestic flows. Fire flows in the range of 1000 GPM is typically the flow required by fire protection agencies for residential areas.

Staff recently completed a computer model of the fire flow system serving Badger and Nickerson Streets and determined that flows could be improved to approximately 1000 GPM– a 500% improvement.

Currently these areas primarily are served by 4 inch pipeline which is restrictive. Agency Staff proposed three improvements which allow for increased fire flows and greater safety. The improvements approved by the Amador Water Agency Board of Directors are as follows:

- The first improvement consists of an intertie that will join the existing system to a larger high pressure transmission main with the use of a pressure reducing valve. The valve is part of the piping which connects an existing high pressure water line to a local neighborhood water distribution line. The valve drops pressure to a safer level for the homes, while providing improved distribution system capacity. The best area for the intertie was determined to be on Nickerson Street west of Main Street.
- The second improvement is a 150 foot pipe extension on Worley Street to complete a loop with the water main located on Dennis Street.



The vault weighs 8,400 lbs. The lid for the vault is equipped with springs and hydraulic lift assistance making it nearly self opening after safety devices are turned to allow the cover to open.

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- The third improvement is the replacement of 650 feet of old 4 inch steel pipe with a 6 inch PVC pipe which is not prone to corrosion and provides improved flows.

The Amador Water Agency analyzed these alternatives as well as combinations of other alternatives and found that these three improvements provide the best benefit for the system at the least cost.

***The Amador Water Agency believes the project is necessary for the safety and protection of the Badger and Nickerson residents. Although the project was not budgeted for this fiscal year the Agency is using funds from a capital reserve to expedite the construction of these improvements.*** Given the importance of fire protection, the Amador Water Agency Board of Directors has agreed to the transfer \$170,000 from capital reserve funds to cover the costs of the project.

In October work on the project began and crews continue to work diligently. In early December crews lowered the vault in place on Nickerson Street. Work on Badger Street will begin as soon as the pressure reducing valve has been installed in the vault and the old steel pipe has been replaced .

## The Plymouth Pipeline Project is Underway

The construction phase of the Plymouth Pipeline Project is about to begin following the recent news of a loan and grant approval from the USDA. The Agency on behalf of the City of Plymouth has been approved for a \$4,250,000 grant and \$5,000,000 loan from the USDA Rural Development-RUS program. The \$9,250,000 total has been obligated under an agreement with the RUS program for the Plymouth Pipeline Project. The agreement is not foreign to Agency staff as it is identical to the process used to finance the Buckhorn Water Treatment Plant which has proven to be an extremely successful project.

The Plymouth Pipeline Project consists of 7.3 miles of new 12 inch pipe uses some existing pipes, and extends from the Tanner Water Treatment site in Sutter Creek to the City's Storage tank located off Fiddletown Road. The project will provide a reliable treated water supply to the City which has been under a water moratorium for approximately 20 years. The project uses some existing Water Agency facilities and provides for improved water service to existing Water Agency customers in the Sutter Creek, Amador City, and Drytown areas.

***"The Agency is very pleased to provide a reliable treated water supply to the City of Plymouth that will benefit the City for many, many years to come."***

***Jim Abercrombie  
AWA General Manager***

***Did you know that the Amador Water Agency has several convenient ways to pay your bills?***



- ◆ Visa and MasterCard payments that can be made by phone
- ◆ Scheduled automatic credit card payments
- ◆ Electronic check payments. Go to [www.checkfree.com](http://www.checkfree.com) for more information
- ◆ Pay station at the Lone Pharmacy for our customers in Lone or Camanche area.

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The entire amount of the project is estimated at approximately \$10.7 million, which includes planning, design, environmental, right of way, construction, inspection and administration. The estimated cost share between the City of Plymouth and AWA is approximately 79% to the City and 21% to Water Agency.

The entire grant funds from the RUS program are utilized for the City's share of the project costs since they qualified for the grant. The Water Agency and the City of Plymouth entered an agreement for construction of the Pipeline and wholesale treated water service to the City on July 13, 2006. The agreement identifies benefits for the City and Water Agency for each segment of the pipeline and assigns cost shares accordingly.

Recently the Amador Water Agency Board of Directors and the Plymouth City Council authorized the Notice of Award to the low bidder, Mountain Cascade, Inc. On December 4, 2008, closing of the loan and grant through RUS occurred. The Water Agency is finalizing the bond and insurance requirements with the contractor and expects to issue a Notice to Proceed with construction by mid December. Construction activities are expected to initiate immediately following the Notice to Proceed and continue for approximately 12 months.

### **Camanche Village Granted \$25,000 Grant For Water Supply Study**

***"The Department... commends the Agency for its commitment to complete the determination of the sustainable, safe yield of the aquifer serving (Camanche Village)."***

**Joseph Spano,  
CDPH Stockton District Engineer**

The Amador Water Agency was recently commended by the California Department of Public Health, CDPH, for their commitment to provide a sustainable, safe yield supply study of the aquifer to the customers of Camanche Village. The Department in turn rewarded the Agency by approving the request for 20 new service connections in Camanche Village in the next year as well as provide a \$250,000 grant to perform the study.

In a letter to the Agency the CDPH explains, ***"... the Department is sensitive to the needs of owners of lots in the Camanche Village community that are now finalizing plans to con-***

***struct new houses in the development in the next year. It is not the intent of the Department to place undue hardships on a few new residents that have just completed or are in the process of completing new houses in the (Camanche Village)."***

There's also the hope for future connections as the Department stated that if the Ground Water Sustainability Study's data within the next year indicates adequate water sources and supply, they will again consider a similar request for a limited expansion of the number of service connections. The Amador Water Agency intends to complete the ground water sustainability study to not only determine the available sustainable and safe yield ground water sources, but also to greatly simplify the process in the future— as well as to assist in creating long term growth objectives. ***"The Department... commends the Agency for its commitment to complete the determination of the sustainable, safe yield of the aquifer serving the ACSA No. 3 water system so that the planning of the water resources necessary to facilitate complete build-out of the community can be defined and secured."***

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The Department also informed the Agency that they have continued to encourage the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) to proceed with its application to construct a new surface water treatment plant at Camanche South Shore and the planned water supply system that will make that treated water available to the Camanche Village customers. The Amador Water Agency will continue to encourage EBMUD to expedite the completion of that project, since it will enhance the reliability and the quality of the water that is provided to the water systems in both Amador and Calaveras Counties.

## AWA To Install Wildlife Hydration Stations

Barry Birge, head of the AWA's construction department, shows off the features of a wildlife hydration station he designed with suggestions from customer Joe Aparicio. The watering stations will be placed at the request of landowners along the lower Ridge Road section of the Amador Canal after the canal is dewatered.

Joe Aparicio, Sutter Creek native and retired science and vocational agriculture professor, offered suggestions for the AWA's watering station concept. ***"The design appears to meet the basic requirements necessary to provide water to wildlife living along the old Amador Canal. I look forward to seeing these hydration stations installed along the old Amador Canal,"*** commented Aparicio after seeing Birge's prototype.

The concrete basin is shallow at one end for birds and small animals, and deeper at the other end for deer and larger animals. A wooden cover protects the float and valves, and offers shade for small fish that may make the stations home. A sample hydration station is installed in the Demonstration Garden at the Amador Water Agency office for those who are interested.



The watering stations will be placed at the request of landowners along the lower Ridge Road section of the Amador Canal after the canal is dewatered.

### Board of Directors

Bill Condrashoff, District 1    Gary Thomas, District 2  
 Don Cooper, District 3        Debbie Dunn, District 4  
 Terry Moore, District 5  
 Jim Abercrombie, General Manager

### Meetings

Held at 9 a.m. on the 2nd and  
 4th Thursdays of the month at  
 the Amador Water Agency Office  
 12800 Ridge Road, Sutter Creek  
 (209) 223-3018