



Johnsville Public Utility District

2022 Newsletter

The Board of Directors and General Manager of the Johnsville Public Utility District (JPUD) present the District's activities of 2021/2022.

2021 was a year that the Board primarily focused on the engineering and funding of our much needed water tank replacement and facility improvement(s). It has been a lot of work, in addition to running the day to day operations of our District, which we can only do with your input and support. The following is a brief overview of our efforts and progress. More updates and comprehensive details can be found on our website www.JohnsvillePUD.org or by attending any of our upcoming scheduled meetings. The year also came with long time JPUD Director Norm Hattich retiring from his many dedicated years of service on the JPUD Board of Directors. Norm has been missed. Please join us in thanking him for dedicating so much time and effort into keeping our water flowing! We are pleased to announce that Don Fregulia has been appointed to complete Director Hattich's remaining term on the board, and while Don has big shoes to fill, he has already hit the ground running. We are fortunate to have Don and welcome the experience and knowledge that he brings to the District.

A brief run down:

"The Good"; While spending considerable time and effort on required water tank replacement, engineering and permits, the board concurrently focused on several funding options. Initially a packaged USDA **loan** was obtained (40 year term/1.5 percent interest) in the amount of \$483,000. with an accompanying **grant** in the amount of \$352,000. for our tank replacement project with an early estimated cost to construct of \$833,200.00 in 2020. In late 2021, we applied for funding through a grant program through the State of California (Department of Water Resources) in an effort to keep our financial options open. **On April 29, 2022 we were notified that we were awarded a "Grant" in the amount of \$1,466,200.00.** We are of course very excited about this successful effort.

"The Bad"; The project so far has been in development since 2016. Although it is technically a Tank "Replacement" Project, multiple federal, state and local permits needed to be acquired, which took months to years for final approval. Engineering and legal oversight added to an already sluggish, bureaucratic process. Changing regulations and required upgrades have added additional layers, ultimately drawing out the time line and costs.

"The Ugly"; The Economy. While the project is now getting close to bid and construction, we see that costs with both labor and materials continue to rise, and delays in large scale projects are extremely common. While all of this is outside of our direct control, the Board and General Manager continue to work in a direction to best manage this very complex and necessary project to completion. Likely this will take using a combination of our acquired "Grant" and possible use of our acquired "Loan" dependent on ultimate total project costs.

“Putting it all Together”; Now that we have assembled all of the necessary regulatory permits, and have the funding in place, the next step is to go out to bid and ultimately schedule the construction of the project. Seasonal construction...As most would imagine, the construction phase will likely occur during the spring/summer months of 2023 if things go as planned. The Board of Directors and General Manager will make sure that project communications are clear and accessible as we move forward. The Board of Directors has authorized a “no cost” survey of our water system to detect any unknown leaks. We ask that all homeowners take the time to visually check interior and exterior water lines and appliances (leaky faucets, dripping valves and running toilets) for any obvious water leaks and make necessary repairs.

As we approach the final leg of this multi-year tank replacement project, we are reminded that during the hot summer months our water use increases into heavy use. We ask that everyone do their part in using the available water that we have responsibly. Our tanks store our water so that we have an ample supply. However on certain heavy use days that water can be drawn down dangerously low, leaving us with almost nothing in reserve. Increasingly around the 4th of July, and during fire season, we experience heavy demand and low water levels due to warm temperatures, over watering and an increased population in our community. We ask that you be mindful, especially with outdoor watering. **It’s important to keep our community green and fire safe, and we can do this without unnecessarily or unknowingly wasting water.**

The JPUD strongly suggests digital or mechanical watering timers on all outside sprinklers and hoses. Leaving a sprinkler unattended or left to run for hours, puts an unnecessary demand on our limited water supply.

Limiting outside watering areas to 20 minutes or less per area is optimal. The soil in and around Johnsville is very granular (rocky/sandy) and therefore extended watering isn’t necessary or beneficial. Watering in the early morning or late evening, rather than the heat of the day is a good practice and limits evaporation.

By taking a few simple steps towards conservation we can save hundreds if not thousands of gallons of water, necessary to keep the water flowing and available for our fire hydrants. Johnsville and the JPUD Water District is ours to take care of, and we can only do this together.

The JPUD Board encourages you to visit our website www.JohnsvillePUD.org , stay informed and attend our public meetings.

Sincerely,

David Piepho, Chairman
John LaTourrette, Director
Don Fregulia, Director
Melissa Sheets, General Manager