

MUD 18 Newsletter
October - November 2015
www.mcmud18.com

Catahoula Well Repair Update: As reported in our E-Blast on Oct 30, routine maintenance on our Catahoula well identified a bearing failure and issues with the main shaft of the pump. Weisinger Water Well, Inc. was called out to remove the pump and identify the root cause. The cause has been identified as a failure in the lubrication system. Repairs are underway. We expect the well will be out of service for another 3 to 4 weeks. Meanwhile, all of our water production will be coming from our Jasper wells. As customers, you may notice the following changes in your water:

1. Your water will be harder than what you have been receiving. The hardness of Jasper water is 166 mg/L (9.7 grains/gallon) compared to the Catahoula water which is 3.4 mg/L (0.2 grains/gallon). If you are currently using a water softener, you may want to increase the setting for the 9.7 grains/gallon.
2. There is the possibility of slightly lower water pressure. We encourage all residents to adjust their irrigation system for the cooler fall months to help keep peak demand manageable.
3. Some areas in Bentwater may experience some water discoloration due to sediment in the water lines being "stirred up" by the change in direction of the water source. While this may be a nuisance, it does not impact the safety of the water. If you experience water discoloration, call **Hays Utility Service @ 936-588-1166 or email them at customerservice@hayswater.com**. If the problem is not reported, we cannot resolve it. If residents report the problem, Hays can track the calls to get more information for better problem solving. Hays will respond. They have someone in Bentwater every day, seven days a week. They can and will respond 24 hours a day. Their general office hours are from 8:00AM to 4:30PM Monday through Friday.
4. The temperature of the water delivered to your home will be cooler since the warmer Catahoula water will not be part of the mix.



We will keep you informed of progress and changes to the repair schedule. We appreciate your patience and understanding while these necessary repairs are made.

Catahoula Well #2 Update: Our August/September Newsletter provided a summary of the District's project to provide a second Catahoula well and associated upgrades to Water Plant # 1. The new well is located at the existing District Water Plant #1 (near the POA Office). Test drilling is currently underway and all work should be completed by September 30, 2016. Once the new well is on-line, the District's water well and plant capacity will exceed minimum requirements for all of Bentwater's future water needs. It is being fully funded through selling some of our Early Conversion Credits and a portion of the Jasper permit allocation owned by the District. No bonds were sold to fund this project.



Five Year Plan: As part of the District's financial strategy and management, the District's engineer and operator work together to create and implement a Five Year Plan consisting of maintenance and improvement projects. Some completed projects for the fiscal year (October 1, 2014 thru September 30, 2015) include:

- Servicing and painting fire hydrants
- Drainage improvements in various locations
- Security lighting and cameras at Water Plant #2
- Repair/replace storm water inlet boxes and tops
- Emergency generator at the sanitary lift station on West Shore Ln
- Drainage ditch de-silting and other maintenance



The 2015-16 Fiscal Year started on October 1, and the current year Five Year Plan has been adopted and its projects will be completed throughout the year. This year's projects include:

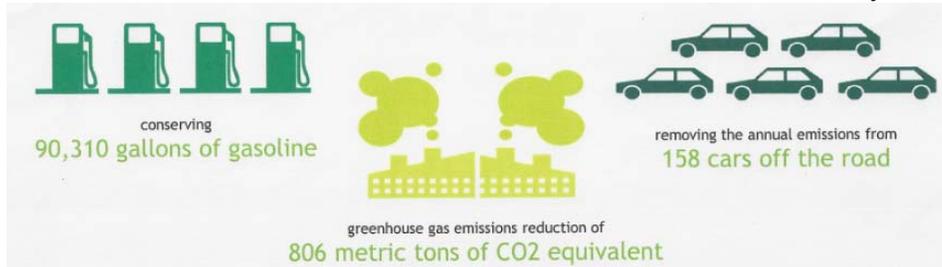
- Pressure sensing devices on select lift stations.
- Access driveways for maintenance at select lift stations.
- Rehabilitation of the two cooling towers at the Catahoula Water Plant.
- Water system pressure model for pressure differentials throughout Bentwater
- Waste water treatment plant lift station rehabilitation.



Facilities Inventory Update: The District was created to serve the utility needs (water, sanitary sewer, drainage) for the Bentwater subdivision. This includes all residential lots and all commercial and recreational amenities within the boundary of the District. A Facilities Inventory of the District's facilities is updated periodically as both an inventory of existing infrastructure and equipment, along with a planning tool for future expansions and upgrades.

The Board recently authorized the District's engineer to update the Facilities Inventory. As part of the update, a capacity analysis will be completed for the water plants and the sewage treatment plant. All of the equipment will be inventoried (wells, plants, lift stations, pumps, motors, generators, etc.) and an updated replacement cost analysis will be included (primarily for planning and insurance purposes). The District owns equipment currently valued at \$16,000,000, and owns a total of 15.0654 acres of property on which this equipment is located. The updated Facilities Inventory is another tool that the Board will use for the future management of the District.

Recycling Trend is Up: In 2008, MUD 18 and Waste Management introduced recycling services in Bentwater. Our diversion rate has gradually increased over the last several years as residents developed awareness of the benefits and modified their waste disposal practices. Last fall our average diversion rate for 2014 was 25%. While our average diversion rate for 2015 remains at 25%, we had a recent month with a diversion rate of 31%! For the year, we have diverted over 300



tons from the Waste Management landfill. This is equivalent to these positive environmental contributions:

member Rex Cambern at 936-449-5761 and he will be happy to arrange delivery.

**Think twice as you toss items into a garbage can.
Make the choice to recycle rather than add to a landfill.
Think green. Recycle Often. Recycle Right.**

Trash Pickup Schedule on Holidays. When a holiday falls on a Monday or Friday, do you ever wonder if we will have trash pick-up on the normally scheduled day?



- The only holidays that Waste Management discontinues scheduled pick-up is on Christmas and New Year's.
- If you forget these holiday exceptions, you can always go to our web site www.mcmud18 and find the holiday pick-up schedule.

Sign-up for E-Blasts: If you are not receiving our E-Blasts, you are missing out on timely information. Go to our website at www.mcmud18.com and give us your email address. Your address will not be shared with anyone. You can unsubscribe at any time.

Meetings Open to the Public:

Our regularly scheduled monthly meetings are the **2nd Tuesdays at 2:30PM** in the Country Club Board Room. Meetings are open to the public. The agenda is posted on our web site and the message board in the breezeway entrance to the Country Club Grill near the Golf Pro-shop.

Sincerely,

Your MUD Board:

Lou Tichacek	President	597-7010
Linda Pierce	Vice President	597-5463
Susan McFarland	Treasurer	597-7503
Rex Cambern	Secretary	449-5761
Gary Montgomery	Assistant Secretary	597-9256

Please recycle this newsletter.