



Spring 2024

From The General Manager

It has been a little over one year since I became General Manager for the Kinneloa Irrigation District (KID). As we strive to communicate quarterly with our customers, it makes sense to bring everyone up to date on what we have done this past year and where we are looking to go in 2024.

As with any change in organizational management, fresh eyes and a new perspective allow the taking stock of the KID for what is working, what is not, what needs immediate attention and what can be safely delayed. The good news is that the KID remains in a fairly strong position from a supply and demand standpoint. However, long deferred operations and maintenance (O+M) projects, coupled with increased regulatory requirements faced by all water utilities, regardless of size, continue to put upward pressure on costs. The KID was able to complete 2023 activities within budget and start to execute those needed in 2024 through a combination of disciplined spending and a reasonable rate increase. Even with this rate increase, the KID remains competitive with all neighboring water utilities and municipalities.

Smart management of any business, especially a water utility, requires comprehensive and realistic long-term planning and forecasting. To that end, the KID has commenced a long-range (read: ten-year lookout) Water Master Planning project that will involve a conditions assessment of our system (pipelines, water storage, pumps, testing and treatment activities,

buildings, valves and hydrants, meters, and service lines), fire flow needs, business continuity and succession planning, security (cyber as well as physical property), and system-wide communications (SCADA). Completing this Plan (expected 3Q 2024) will allow us to prioritize and plan for O+M projects, capacity infrastructure, and major capital expenditures on a more coordinated and cost-effective basis. Concurrent with this 10-year Water Master Plan will be a rate survey analysis conducted by a third-party consultant who will advise on revenues needed to address this prioritized planning as overseen by our Board of Directors. All of this will be done in a transparent manner and certainly shared with you.

This brings me to a final point– our customers – each of you. My family has lived within the KID for four generations now, and many, if not most, of you also have long-established footprints here. Many of your neighbors have invested their time in helping manage the KID through their volunteer work on our Board of Directors. One of them, for example, Gerri Kilburn, will be leaving the Board after ably serving in a variety of roles since 2006. The reason for mentioning this is that the KID is an inter-generational and enduring entity that survives (and thrives) through our collective investment of time and money. To replace the KID with another water supplier would forego tens of millions of dollars of valued assets. The KID is certainly not going anywhere, but it needs and welcomes your ongoing involvement and investment. Yes, the KID must operate as a water utility business but doing so does not allow us to overlook the fact that collectively we serve (and are dependent on) an extremely unique community here.



Tom Majich
General Manager



Your Water Operators at Work

District Operations staff has been very busy with the annual maintenance activities that occur during the first quarter of each year. That includes annual preventative maintenance service on our pumps, generators, steel tanks and a variety of other system components that need to be serviced to maintain system reliability. Unfortunately, emergency situations occasionally occur, such as a watermain break on Pasadena Glen Road in mid-March.

Around 9:50 a.m., KID staff was notified via multiple calls to the office, noting a loss of water service and a large amount of water coming up from the street and washing down the road. Within 20 minutes of being notified of the leak, KID staff arrived onsite and isolated the broken main. This left about a dozen customers without water and two fire hydrants out of service. Repairs of this magnitude rarely happen, and the District does not maintain equipment on hand to perform a repair of this size. Fortunately, one of the contractors we have an emergency response agreement with was able to respond promptly. They had a repair crew underway a little after noon, with water service restored to impacted customers by 4:25 pm and the road re-opened by 6:00 pm. We appreciate the cooperation of the community during the road closure and water interruption.



Maintain Vibrant Landscaping All Summer Long

Summer is here, and with the blistering sun beating down, it's tempting to water more to preserve precious landscaping. Kinneloa Irrigation District advises residents to water their lawns no more than three times per week. By spacing out watering sessions, the soil can dry slightly between each watering, encouraging roots to delve deeper in search of moisture and resulting in a robust root system that can better withstand the summer heat.

For those looking to grow a little deeper in conservation, choosing drought-tolerant plants and implementing efficient irrigation systems further enhances water efficiency. To assist residents in transitioning to water-efficient landscaping, KID has partnered with the Foothill Family of Water Agencies to create a dedicated landscaping website. This resource offers valuable information and guidance on planning and designing landscapes tailored to Foothill's Mediterranean climate. Learn more [here](#).

We can all help conserve water resources while maintaining vibrant outdoor spaces that thrive even in the hottest summer months.



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