



Mineral County Water District

An Equal Opportunity Provider

May 2020

Online at: <https://mineralwater.specialdistrict.org/>

District ownership and Cost of operation

Everyone who owns a home in Meadowview, Alpine Village, and Cool Air plays an important role in the Mineral County Water District (MCWD). Because we are a special district that is public, we are owned and operated collectively. In addition to basic operating costs for our general manager and district secretary, and building, we have expenses for electricity, chemicals, heating, laboratory testing and extensive reporting to state regulatory agencies.

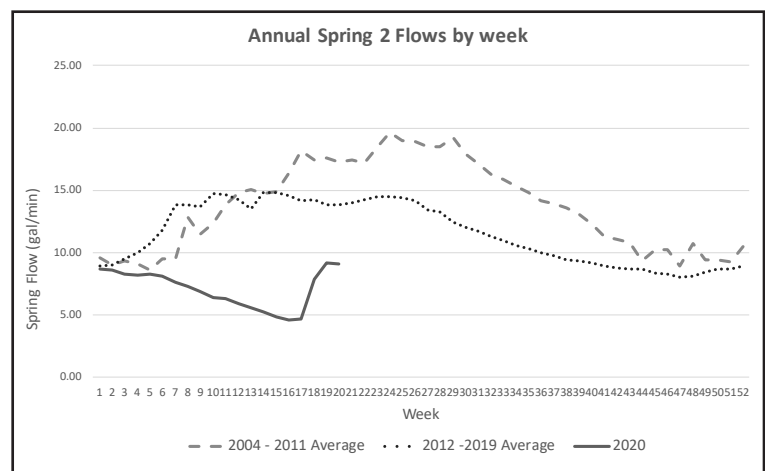
In addition, the District's large storage tank must be continuously maintained to ensure a long life for that investment. We do annual testing, inspection, and repair work on the tank, all of which are expensive. In the next 3-4 years the tank will need to be drained, the paint lining removed, and any tank wall corrosion repaired, before it is relined with new epoxy. This procedure alone costs more than \$150,000. This was the motivation for the board to spread those costs over many years by entering a long term maintenance contract with Superior Tank Solutions. With careful maintenance the tank can have a long, indefinite lifespan, though not infinite. These are just some of the costs that come with running one of the highest quality water systems in the state of California.

Spring 2 Production Declines

The district's central water source, Spring 2, continues to decline. It could be that this is a signature of the extended drought California has been experiencing. MCWD

may require water use restrictions in the 2020 summer season per our Water Shortage/ Drought Contingency Plan, revised in 2018. Notice will be mailed to all customers in this event.

Spring 2 is the source of our cleanest water, which generally requires no filtration and only chlorination prior to use. The flow has been reduced from the usual 12-14 gpm (gallons per minute) to just under 4 gpm, now up to a slightly better 8 gpm; we continue to monitor the situation. When the District has to use more surface water, which must be filtered, it raises our overall costs during the time of highest annual demand.



Negotiations with BCMR

The District is in the early stage of negotiation with Battle Creek Meadows Ranch for them to pay for the ability to build a new steel tank where the largest redwood tank now sits. The ranch has been using these tanks for decades, through previous agreements between the district and the ranch. When complete, our tentative agreement means the district will be

able to utilize additional tankage while our tank is drained during required maintenance operations. Additional piping will also be installed so that in the event of a major community wildfire incident, stored water from either system can be used where most needed.

New position

The district now has a board Secretary, taking over most of the administrative responsibility from John Frehse. Please welcome Cathie Gasper! John will be reducing hours commensurate to Cathie's workload increases to keep costs in line.

Buckley Leaving Board

Steve Buckley is leaving the board after more than 2 years of service. He has made important contributions to the operation of our water district as well as keeping us informed on Park and general local conservation issues. Thanks Steve, and sorry to see you go!

Generator for plant backup

The district has purchased a large generator to maintain consistent water delivery during power shutoffs. This will allow MCWD to maintain our high quality water production, although thanks to our gravity-fed system, we'll only be supplementing power to operate our filtration systems.

Used Snowmobiles acquired

The district acquired used snowmobiles for winter maintenance. It is sometimes necessary to do onsite work at the diversion dam, which is about 1 mile back in the forest, even in winter. The vehicles were sold to the district, with a trailer, for a very low cost.

CPI Increase

Customers will see a slight change in their July billing due to the release of the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) this month. MCWD billing will reflect a 0.3% increase as allowed in the recent general rate increase approved by residents last year.

No. of Meters / Meter Type & Size / New Rates Increase Meter

181	/ Residential 3/4 X 5/8" meters	/ \$52.91
3	/ Residential Fire Flow meters	/ \$58.37
1	/ Commercial 3/4 X 5/8" meter	/ \$60.07
1	/ Commercial 1" meter	/ \$124.85
3	/ Commercial 1.5" meters	/ \$219.68

Common Questions

One of the most common questions/complaints we hear is, "why do I have to pay for water when I only use it during the summer?" We are a year-round water system and we all pay equally to maintain our uniquely superior water quality. It is important to understand that as a county entity, we are required to operate year round. Year-round maintenance and operation provides all homeowners access to water as needed. Also, to assure operations, it's essential to maintain the physical plant and retain capable staff, particularly with the unique challenges of our location.

Board Vacancy

We now have a vacancy on the MCWD board. Please contact Cathie Gasper at the District office at 530-595-3479 or email Mineral.96063@gmail.com if you are interested in applying. Notices are posted at the Post Office, Mineral Store, and outside our office also. You must have a local address and be registered to vote here to be eligible.