

NEWSLETTER

April XX, 2022

Going forward, this newsletter and other communication will be distributed by email. Do we have your preferred email address? Update now by using our website <http://squawvalleymutualwater.com/contact-us>.

Payment delinquencies are at an all-time high. We remind you of the considerable consequences of non-payment, including property liens and water shut-offs. You may pay online at squawvalleymutualwater.com.

This newsletter will cover two topics - the situation with our Operations & Maintenance contract with the Olympic Valley Public Service District (PSD), and our plans for the 2022 construction season.

Operations & Maintenance contract

As many of you may be aware, for the past 7 years the Operation & Maintenance (O&M) of our water system has been performed under contract with the PSD. What is entailed in O&M? O&M includes the daily monitoring of the chemicals being added to the water to adjust pH and Chlorine levels, controlling the levels in our tanks, scheduling the operation of our two wells, monitoring all the mechanical and electrical components of our system, reading our meters, fixing pumps et al when they break, and a bunch more. And being on-site when big breaks happen (luckily, rarely now with new pipes). The State Water Resources Control Board monitors us (and all water districts) very carefully.

On March 3rd, we received formal notice from PSD that it would not be renewing our contract as of July 1, 2022 (although we had been alerted to this a month or so earlier). The reason given was the lack of staff due to significant turnover at PSD.

This set off a serious search for a replacement O&M contract operator. We focused on a "contract operator" as the need is not full time and the labor supply is very thin. We approached our neighboring water systems, we explored putting together a group of individuals that could be structured as a reliable team, and we sought out companies within California and Nevada that do contract O&M as a business. The first two options were ruled out very quickly. In the end, we were given proposals from two contract O&M companies. We performed reference checks on both companies. In the end, we selected Operational Technical Services (<https://www.getots.com/>) and as of last week, we have a signed contract with them. OTS will be on board starting May 1 to learn the system operation from PSD. On July 1 OTS will be in control.

We have had a significant advantage with PSD in that their operators were in the Valley, and servicing our system became part of their daily routine. This will no longer be the case, as the contract operators from OTS will be traveling 1-2 hours per day to come to Olympic Valley. As a consequence of this, our costs for O&M will rise significantly starting with the next fiscal year. This cost increase will be reflected in your next billing, which will be July 1. While it is hard to have an exact amount (their charges will be hourly) we expect the additional cost will run about \$150 on each 6-month billing.

2022 Construction Projects

We were not able to complete our main pipe replacement project on Sandy last year due to a shortage of material and the early winter storms. So, as soon as the weather will allow, Rapid Construction will be back in Olympic Valley to complete the main pipe replacement along Sandy and resurface the road. You might see crews by early May doing "potholing" to confirm the location of all underground utilities (eg sewer).

Once Sandy is completed, we will commence with our planned 2022 projects, which aim to replace the old pipes on 4 spur roads that did not get done within the big project 10 years ago: Paiute, Christy, Washoe, and Navajo. In order not to have the same material issues, the pipe for these projects has already been purchased. We will probably begin with Paiute and proceed, in all likelihood, doing one road at a time. With an early start and a reasonable summer, we should be able to complete the projects by next winter.

The map on the next page shows the piping of our system. The lines in RED are the pipes that have been or are to be replaced in this round of USDA loan funded projects. If all goes according to plan, by the end of this season there will just be two more major pipes to replace - one pipe from our parking lot wells under Squaw Creek, and the other pipe bringing water to the lower tank above Summer Place. One of these will be a 2023 project.

Next Board Meeting

The next board meeting of SVMWC will be June 3rd at 4PM via Zoom. The two subjects brought up in this newsletter will be on the agenda, so it will be a good opportunity to ask questions.

Reminder there will be a General Membership meeting in September as well as election for two board seats.

Olympic Valley Town Meeting

In the PSD conference room at 2PM on Saturday May 28 there will be an Olympic Valley "Town Meeting". Supervisor Cindy Gustafson, representatives from Placer County, Alterra, Palisades at Tahoe, OV Fire Department, OV PSD, Mountaineer, and others will talk about what has been going on in Olympic Valley and take your questions. Should be interesting and educational.

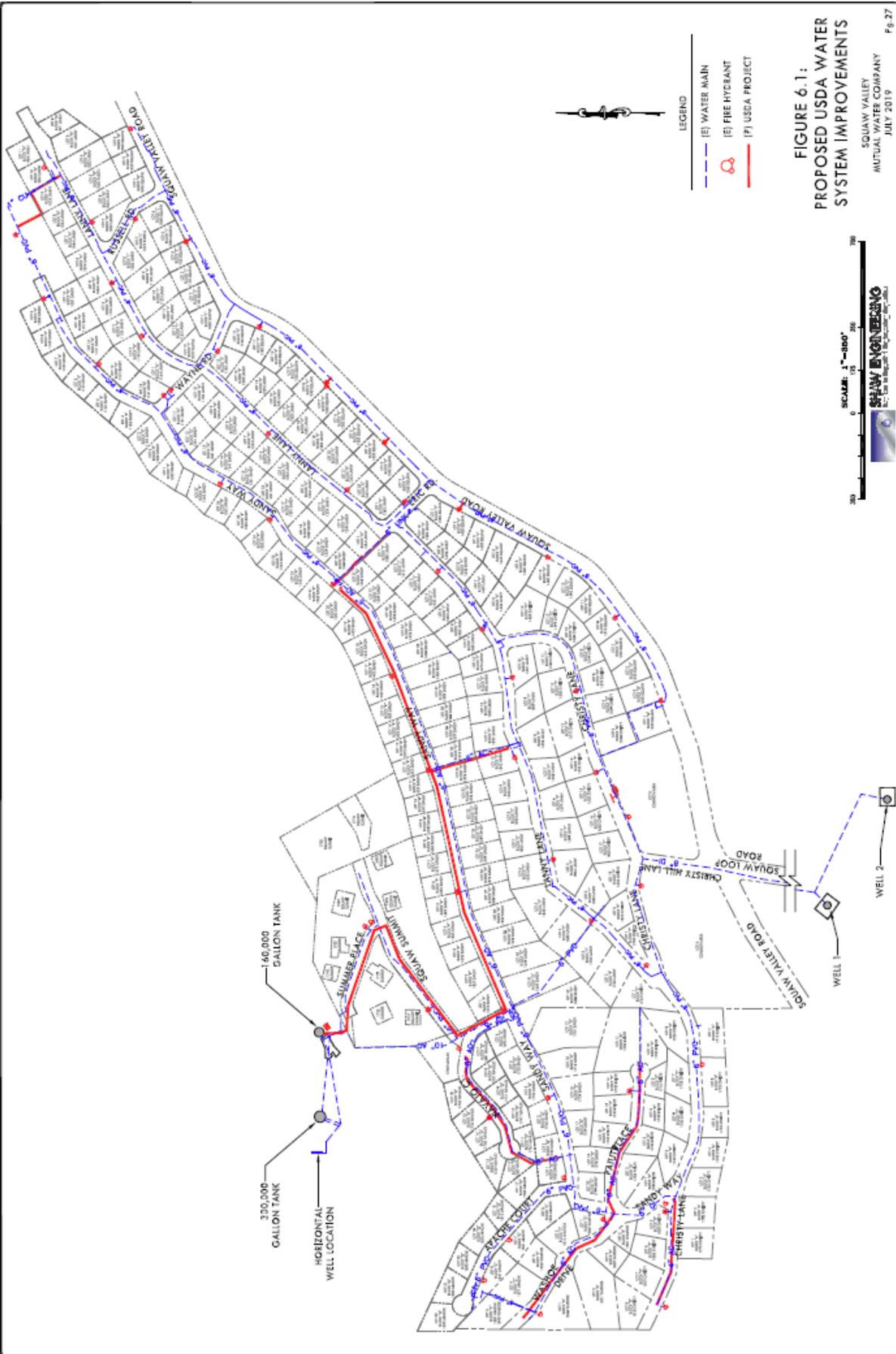


FIGURE 6.1:
PROPOSED USDA WATER
SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

SQUAW VALLEY
 MUTUAL WATER COMPANY
 JULY 2019