

MEETING REPORT
DITCH COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2022
9:00 A.M.

Chair: Director Balen
Member: Director Ringen
Observer: Director Murphy

Staff: Don Perkins
Erik Johnson
Eric Hall
Kurt Bayers
Steve Sheffield
Glen Nunnelley
Antonio Ramirez
Abby Parcon
Melissa McMullen

1. Ditch Maintenance Planning

Director Balen presented a PowerPoint presentation on The Legacy of Tuolumne County Ditch System.

To view the presentation please visit the TUD YouTube Channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvIcq7YKTcjHII8A6b759AA>

Director Balen stated that the goal is to identify management objectives and to develop management strategies to meet the objectives. Director Balen stated that she would like to see the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) reviewed for possible update/revision.

Director Ringen stated that he would like to see the environmental issues presented regarding the District's ditch system be documented for future knowledge and information.

Committee Recommendation: This item was for review and information only.

2. Discussion Regarding Upcoming Ditch Maintenance and Projects

Eric Hall and Kurt Bayers presented the following proposals for the Committees review:

-Shaw's Flat Proposal

- Currently there is a 130 gpm leak 500 feet below the Shaw's Flat ditch that is causing flooding at the apartments off Leonard's Addition Road
- Crews have spent roughly 200 hours attempting to stop this leak by installing sidelines at multiple spots, installing 120 feet of 24 inch pipe, and hand patching areas previously working on, but no avail
- Service orders for the past two years for this section of ditch: 01295, 03618, 05531, 06296, 08264, 11154, 14196, and 25567
- Shale rock and mines make this area extremely difficult to find exact leak spot
- TUD crews continue to pinpoint the source of the leak for upcoming maintenance

-San Diego Ditch Proposal

- 135 feet of ditch
- Root ball went through this section of ditch
- Overlay – multiple repairs (hand patch) old shotcrete
- Leak created sink hole in driveway, multiple homes on driveway

-Shotcrete Shaw's Flat (Stagg Ranch)

- 155 feet of ditch
- Erosion of around 4 feet under cutting both sides of the ditch
- Currently just put in 200 gunny sacks to fix leak
- Location of the ditch is the Shaw's Flat ditch at Stagg Ranch
- 30 gpm leak multiple times

- Very substantial to large leak due to bank erosion
- Crews will apply resource protection measures during maintenance

Director Balen suggested that the Committee and staff hold further discussions at a later date regarding developing a group/program of trained volunteers to walk the ditches on a daily or weekly basis to look for any issues that maybe arising and to possible address any small issue that does not require staff. Also, to hold discussions at a future date regarding potential partnerships with the District in the community

Committee Recommendation: This item was for review and information only.

3. Increasing Raw Water Customers – Setting a Goal Per Year

The Committee discussed using raw water instead of treated water for outdoor usage and irrigation for customers who have access to the ditch system.

Director Balen expressed interest in exploring strategies for increasing ditch connections. Steve Sheffield stated that capacity fees and rates should be considered as part of a plan to incentivize connections.

Antonio Ramirez will work with Don Perkins in researching the original connection agreements for past ditch customers that converted to treated water.

Director Ringen stated that he was in favor of setting a goal to increase ditch customers but would like to further review costs.

Committee Recommendation: This item was for review and information only.

4. Protecting Californians from Extreme Heat – A State Action Plan

Director Balen presented information regarding Protecting Californians from Extreme Heat: A State Action Plan to Build Community Resilience and the Committee held discussion.

Committee Recommendation: This item was for review and information only.