



# WATER SERVICES DIVISION



## WS Monthly Update August 2022

---

### Director

- **WOW awards!**

Congrats to the Water Reclamation Team! They weathered through a challenging month in July. The Wildcat Hill staff devised an interim system when a critical component to the wastewater treatment process went down, that had no redundancy. At the same time, a biological imbalance created by septage disposal upset the plant's function. The Team kept the plant online while maintaining needed reclaimed levels in Buffalo Park tank. Reclamation was then served a force majeure (unforeseeable contract interruption) from a chemical supplier, forcing the Team to switch to different a chemical treatment, requiring a different process. This was managed during a covid outbreak, leaving the skeleton crews at the plants even more short-staffed. The Water Reclamation Team tackled each of these challenges, while holding to quality and environmental standards. Thanks, Team, for a job well done!

- The Division is reviewing the 2025 Strategic Plan, as we reach our half-way mark in this 5-year plan. We will be updating City Council on the revised objectives.

### Water Commission Agenda

The Water Commission heard presentations on:

- Stormwater Rate Adjustment - Notice of Intent
- Fire & Flood - Inner Basin Pipeline status

### Notable Section Updates

#### **Engineering**

- Gary Miller, Engineering Section Director, joined other city and county emergency management staff to provide a tour of the Pipeline Fire flood mitigation needs with Congressman O'Halleran and FEMA officials. While touring sites, the team was detained by road flooding from a recent thunderstorm. I guess that could be called a "bird's eye view" of the situation.

## ***Water – Wastewater – Reclaimed Water – Stormwater***

### **Administration Offices**

2323 N. Walgreens St., Suite 1  
Flagstaff, Arizona 86004

## **SCADA Information Systems**

- The Information Systems (IS) Team initiated the Stormwater service request call center, with direct apps into the work order system to track calls and response. IS also installed additional flow gauges in Spruce Wash and near Frances Short Pond, and installed field cameras for live video footage.
- The Forest Service has contracted for aerial imagery and lidar over the CNF, and specifically, the Pipeline burn scar. Water is interested in having the contractor provide updated imagery for city systems and facilities.

## **Stormwater**

- Park Way Sediment Basins, a County Flood Control Project within City limits is under design and should be completed by fall. This project will benefit Spruce Wash/Museum Fire residents.
- Schultz Creek Sediment and Flood Detention Basins is fully designed and should break ground on Monday August 23
- Design is continuing for Schultz Creek crossing of Highway 180 as well as local drainage issues in Coconino Estates
- Design for the Environmental Infrastructure grant is continuing (Killip School Regional Detention Basin Inlet, as well as Rio de Flag laterals)
- Dortha Ave has been reopened! Thanks to the Community Development Team for this project completion.
- There have been four flood events this season in the Schultz Creek, with a 100-year rain event in the southeast portion of Flagstaff. Response has taken considerable amount of effort; not just for Stormwater, but other Water Services Divisions, Public Works and PROSE. It's a team effort!

## **Water Distribution**

- It's construction season, and Bluestake ticket requests have been averaging about 130 tickets per week. This requires an additional crew for one day each week just to keep up.

## **Water Production**

- Recent drone footage shows extensive damage to the Inner Basin pipeline and Waterline Road, resulting from Pipeline fire and floods. The good news: Previous Schultz Fire gabion mitigation work seems to be holding steady, while log barriers did not survive. Staff will be meeting with engineers to review drone footage and develop a damage assessment for FEMA claims.

## **Water Reclamation Plants**

The sodium bisulfate chemical replacement is working well to dissolve chlorine in the treatment process.

- Water Reclamation has a lot of repair work underway:
  - Digester sludge pump repaired and online
  - Waiting for replacement auger for septage machine
  - Headworks press needs new screens and teeth
  - UV at Rio getting serviced
  - Pond dredging is suspended until rains subside
  - Secondary clarifier pump has a broken shaft; we switched to another clarifier until it can be repaired
  
- There's also a great deal of design work in process:
  - Working on RSOQ for an electrical rehab of Wildcat Hill plant
  - Concept and design work for a possible digester at the Rio plant
  - An RSOQ for a Wastewater Master Plan
  - NORESO submitted their report on projects, with responses due September 7
  - Requesting JOC proposals for new anoxic mixers at Wildcat. The Rio de Flag mixer project has a P.O. in process.

## **Water Resources and Conservation**

- Proposals are under review for the Water, Wastewater, Reclaimed Water Rates & Fees Study