

ACWD General Manager (GM) Report February 2021

AGENDA ITEMS

Agenda Item 5. a) As reported last month, we have been searching for a camera to purchase that could be used to verify if tree roots are what is causing the decrease in the water flow of the driven pipes at the Ram Spring. We have been in communication with our State inspector about this and the City of Portola water operator because Portola also has a spring fed system (although they have horizontal channels made out of hollow bricks not pipes). Portola snakes out their pipes every year and according to them they get a lot of tree roots and their flow increases dramatically each time they do it. They helped me locate a motorized snake with blades that should do the job.

The quote for the snake is \$1,579.14. It is a motorized snake with blades that will fit inside a 2 ½ inch pipe and it has an 80-foot-long cable. The quote includes freight. There is a 20% (\$316) restocking fee if we decide that we don't need it and want to return it. Currently there is enough \$ in the budget to purchase it, but I am not sure if our cash-flow is going to be sufficient to cover this AND our insurance premium which comes up next month. We may have to borrow some \$ from the contingency fund in March but we can cross that bridge when we get to it.

Cameras: I spent OVER 5 hours online searching for an endoscopic camera that we could use to check-out the inside of the pipes before spending money on the snake since we are not 100% sure if tree roots are the problem.

Our Division of Drinking water inspector had suggested looking on Amazon and they do have LOTS of camera but most of the cables are too short. I found one with a 50-foot cable but it was flimsy material that would not stand up against a water current. I did others with long enough cables but they cost more than the restocking fee for the snake and the cable looks questionable as far being stiff enough to go up-current. I searched industrial type endoscopic cameras and was surprised to find that they are more expensive than the snake quoted above AND they still don't have long enough cables. (\$3,550 for an industrial endoscopic camera with a 20-foot cable from Grainger)

The driven pipes all have 20 feet of solid pipe on the outside before you even get to the perforated pipe. The deepest pipe has an additional 35 feet of perforated pipe for a total depth of 55 feet.

My recommendation is that we purchase the snake. Technically, per district policy, since there is enough \$ in the budget, board approval is not required for this purchase, but I feel better getting it. This can be done by consensus rather than a motion. There is \$4,000 in the budget for system repairs and maintenance and as of 2/8/2021 \$1,436 has been spent.

Agenda Item 5. b) Job descriptions. At last month's meeting a recommendation was made to have the labor compliance attorney review the job descriptions for potential problems. It was decided to get a cost estimate before proceeding. I heard back from the attorney on Jan. 13th and she said \$700 to \$1,000 to look at all of them and they could cap it at \$1,000. She said that just in glancing at the descriptions she saw a few red flags. The HR person with RCAC also noted some concerns but did not want to provide legal advice.