

Ram Spring Improvement Project ~ State Revolving Fund (SRF) Project
Report for ACWD BOD Meeting Date: 2/9/2021 Prepared by GM Rae Bell

This project is related to the planning project approved for funding in 2015 and completed in 2020. The planning documents (plans and estimates) are approximately 90% complete. The remaining planning work will be the first phase of this project after the application process is completed.

There are five application packets that must be completed to apply for funding: General, Legal, Financial, Technical and Environmental.

- The General application packet with all attachments was submitted on 4/25/2020
- The Financial application packet with all attachments was submitted on 5/5/2020
- The Technical Packet is on hold while the TMF (Technical Managerial and Financial) analysis and a new rate analysis are done with the help of RCAC (Rural Community Assistance Corporation).
- The Environmental packet will be completed with the assistance of RCAC.
- The legal packet has not been started.

Technical, Managerial and Financial (TMF) Analysis & Tune-up

- The Emergency Response Plan was finished as approved by the ACWD board in November. The binder is at the pumphouse.
- The job descriptions were tabled in January to be discussed further this month.
- The Operations and Maintenance (O&M) manual is slowly coming together.
- Rate Analysis: Will not be started until after the O&M manual is done. Note: the state requires a rate analysis that is less than 5 years old as part of the Technical Packet. Having a rate analysis done does not necessarily mean that the rates will have to be changed. There are affordability guidelines that also must be followed when setting water rates.

Environmental Documents The issue of the planned tree removal came up in January via the CEQA consultant. Because some of the tree removal includes space for new construction (the small building) a whole different set of rules kicks in where CDF is concerned.

On January 20th I met with ACWD engineer Kip and CDF Forester Alex Stone to discuss what the options are to get a permit to remove the trees. The most straightforward approach is to apply for what is called a “3 acre conversion”. Areas of 3 acres or less can be converted to non-timberland via a simple application that has to be completed by a registered forester. The forester would be paid via the State funded project. Once the conversion is approved the tree removal must occur within one year, so timing will be important. The Sixteen to One Mine, as the actual landowner has been kept abreast of the situation and will be providing a letter stating that they are willing to sign-off on the 3 acre conversion. This will be reviewed as part of the legal packet too.

On January 26th there was a conference call with all involved parties on the environmental work to try to more clearly define the scope of the work so that Enplan can provide a proposal to fulfill the technical assistance request that is being done via RCAC.

Disclaimer “Funding for these projects has been provided in full or in part through an agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the foregoing, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.”