

**SQUAW VALLEY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT  
WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE MEETING  
DATE: FEBRUARY 21, 2020**

- A. Call to order at 2:30 P.M.
- B. Public comment – none

**Directors Present:** Directors Dale Cox (participated via teleconference) and Bill Hudson

**Attendees:** Thomas Archer, District Counsel (participated via teleconference); Jessica Asher, Board Secretary; Brandon Burks, Operations Supervisor; Mike Geary, General Manager; Danielle Grindle, Finance and Administration Manager; Dave Hunt, District Engineer; Tyler Trojan, Junior Engineer.

C. Proposed Sewer Ordinance Updates:

Mr. Geary reviewed the District Administrative Code structure and provided a history of changes. The revisions proposed at this time address testing requirements for private sanitary sewer facilities, including building sewer laterals, and provide clarifications on sewer connection fee charges (Mr. Geary explained that no fee changes are proposed.)

Mr. Geary reviewed the proposed revisions to the Definitions section and explained that the Water Code Definitions were updated in 2018 to comply with changes in state law. The District is now proposing to make the Sewer Code consistent with the Water Code and ensure the Code reflects current District practice.

Mr. Geary reviewed the proposed code changes for sewer lateral pressure testing. The proposed Ordinance 2020-02 would expand the District's ability to require property owners test for leaks or cracks in their private sewer lateral at the property owners' expense. The testing and associated repairs would decrease infiltration and inflow (I&I) into the sewer system which results in higher sewer treatment flows and costs and can overwhelm the collection system in rain events. Private sewer laterals are the section of pipe from the foundation of the house to the property line or easement and are maintained by the property owner. The District maintains service laterals (from the property line to the sewer main) and all mains. In order to perform the test, a cleanout is required five feet from the private building and another at the property line. As cleanouts are required to perform the pressure test, it is likely that some homeowners would need to install them in order to complete the tests.

SVPSD is the only Tahoe-Truckee Sanitation Agency (T-TSA) member agency that does not require sewer lateral pressure testing upon the transfer of ownership; however, the District has historically required pressure testing for remodels and new construction projects.

Section 10.02 defines the conditions under which private sanitary sewer facilities would be tested. Specifically, item 7 requires that testing is performed prior to a change in ownership, with some exceptions. Item 9 allows the District to require that building laterals be tested every 10 years.

While most Districts do not perform testing every 10 years, they have required testing at the change of ownership for a long time. As such, the District's testing is behind schedule compared with neighboring districts. While independent third parties would perform the testing, staff would witness the test (which takes approximately 10 minutes) and the Operations and Engineering Departments may spend considerable time helping homeowners locate laterals and cleanouts.

The Directors supported sewer lateral pressure testing at change of ownership but need more information to determine if a program that allows for testing every 10 years is appropriate. Staff recommended that the motion to approve the Sewer Code Ordinance (2020-02) could approve the ordinance with the condition that the program only be implemented at changes of ownership and further testing requires a Board-approved implementation Plan. Mr. Archer added that if the implementation plan includes periodic testing it should be done by zone or classification of house-type to ensure it is objective.

The Directors asked staff to determine the cost to install cleanouts, the cost range to perform a sewer lateral pressure test, the average cost to repair and replace sewer lines, the rate of home ownership turnover, and to approximate the time period to test the majority of homes in the Valley if only done at a change of ownership.

Staff said that there is a need for community education and that staff plans to visit directly with local title companies and the Board of Realtors to discuss these Code updates.

D. Granite Chief "A" Line Sewer Replacement:

Mike Geary discussed the Granite Chief Sewer Replacement Project location and background. The District has been working with the Granite Chief property owner's association for several years in order to secure the easements required to replace a failing private sewer main and has been unsuccessful securing all easements. The District is trying to work with a homeowner to secure the final easement required. If this is unsuccessful the sewer line would be abandoned, and all homeowners would be required to install a sewer ejector pump system to allow discharge to the existing District owned sewer main (not the private sewer lateral). Staff's best guess is that this system would cost approximately \$20,000 per property. Staff would send letters to each affected property owner that they are connected to a failed system that cannot be replaced and as such, an ejector system must be installed by a specified date.

No further business coming before the Water and Sewer Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 P.M.

By, JA