

**OLYMPIC VALLEY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT
WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE MEETING
DATE: APRIL 14, 2023**

Directors Present: Director Cox,* Director Smolen

*Participated via noticed teleconference.

Staff Present: Thomas Archer, District Counsel; Jessica Asher, Board Secretary; Brandon Burks, Operations Manager; Mike Geary, General Manager; Dave Hunt, District Engineer.

Others Present: Chris Boyle, Tracy Hansen, Noah Santoro.

A Call to order: 10:00 A.M.

B Public comment: None.

C Granite Chief “A” Line Sewer Replacement: The committee reviewed the item, accepted public comment, and voiced support for Staff’s action to date including the mailing of a compliance letter sent to the Granite Chief Estates Property Owners Association (CGEPOA) and the property owners connected to the “A” Line Sewer on April 13th, 2023.

Staff and Director Cox presented a brief background of the project and explained the need for replacement of the Granite Chief “A” Line Sewer. Currently, this sewer line is out of compliance with the District’s Sewer Technical Specifications.

To address the issue, staff issued a letter to the CGEPOA on April 13, 2023, regarding the abandonment of the private “A” Line Sewer Pipeline that services eight (8) properties along lower Granite Chief Road. The letter stated that failure to comply with the stipulations outlined in the letter by November 30, 2023, would constitute a violation justifying disconnection of the private sewer line and individual property sewer service laterals.

Staff reviewed four planning level design alternatives developed by Auerbach Engineering in 2015 to rectify the issue. These options include repairing the sewer line, replacing the line in the same location, constructing a new sewer facility with proper easements and dedicating the line to the District, or installing individual sewer ejector pump systems. All options are feasible, and homeowners have the choice of how to bring the system into compliance. The CGEPOA has pursued a District-owned system, but negotiations to date have failed due to inability to secure the necessary easements for the project.

Director Cox emphasized the need for a solution to be developed despite the generous timeline provided to bring the line into compliance. He recommended a gravity-fed sewer system compared to an ejector system, highlighting the maintenance challenges associated with the latter. Director Smolen discussed the permitting requirements that may be needed and emphasized the importance of the homeowners initiating the process and showing due diligence in a timely manner.

Mr. Archer acknowledged the District's responsibility to ensure homeowners have sewer collection. However, he noted that the GCEPOA and the eight (8) property owners connected to the line bear the

responsibility for operation, maintenance, repair and replacement of the sewer pipeline and the risks associated with pipeline failure. He provided details on the deadline sequence initiated by the compliance letter. Unless there are substantial steps taken to bring the line into compliance, the District would deliver a notice of sewer disconnection on November 30, 2023. This would result in disconnection of water service, and Placer County would not allow occupation of the building until the connections have been restored. Mr. Hunt suggested that substantial progress could include securing easement commitments, completing project design, permitting, and bidding, and finalizing the construction schedule.

During the meeting, there was a brief discussion about eminent domain and steps that could be taken to force compliance. However, staff noted that significant expenses and challenges are associated with that process, and it is an issue for private counsel.

Finally, staff provided direction to the present homeowners regarding requests for public records.

D Adjourn: No further business coming before the Water and Sewer Committee, the meeting was adjourned.

By, JA/DH/MG