

The Pipeline

March/April 2006

8000 NE 52 Court
PO Box 8979
Vancouver, WA 98668

Phone: 360-750-5876
Fax: 360-750-7570

Hours of Operation:
Monday-Friday
8:00 am—5:00 pm
Closed Sat, Sun, &
Holidays

Emergency? Call us
@ 360-750-5876
24 hours per day/
7 days per week

Commissioners:
Neil Kimsey
Denny Kiggins
Norm Harker

Manager:
Bob Bandarra

CRWWD Stats... (Jan. '05 – Jan. '06)

- Processed 83,962 calls
- Connected approximately 5 homes to sewer per day
- 387 injury-free days in the field
- 39 new subdivisions
- 16 new commercial projects
- 2 new apartment complexes

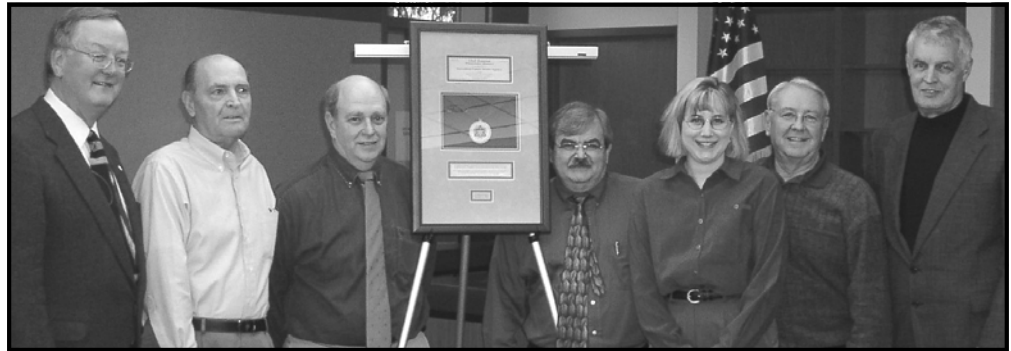


APWA Presents CRWWD Accreditation Plaque

Last August, the American Public Works Association (APWA) sent four volunteers to evaluate CRWWD operations on District processes from strategic planning to wastewater collection. Finding CRWWD fully compliant with 270 practices and substantially compliant with the other four, it awarded the District full accreditation, making it the first and

only special purpose district in North America to receive accreditation.

On January 10, Jack Pittis, Washington State APWA president, presented the accreditation plaque to the District in a ceremony attended by local officials and CRWWD staff members at the District offices.



L to R: Jack Pittis, Neil Kimsey, Chuck McDonald, Bob Bandarra, Kim Thur, Denny Kiggins & Norm Harker

Senior Citizen Rates Approved

On January 17, the CRWWD Board approved reducing rates for low-income senior citizens 65 and older. The Board based the rate on an income of \$16,037, the federal poverty income guideline. District citizens with incomes at that level or below will pay \$25 a month. The current monthly rate of \$34 will drop to \$30 for seniors with incomes between \$16,037 and \$25,000.

The rate change took effect February 1. Seniors are asked to bring IRS 1040 forms and a driver's license or other official documents to the office to qualify.

To find out more, contact the District office at 750-5876.

Plugging Into Olympia

CRWWD officials invited legislators from Southwest Washington's 17th, 18th and 49th legislative districts to talk about this year's legislative session. On January 11, they met with five of the nine State legislators from the legislative districts to discuss upcoming issues.

Representatives Richard Curtis and Ed Orcutt from the 18th district and Senator Craig Pridemore and Representatives Bill Fromhold and Jim Moeller from the 49th listened to CRWWD perspectives on several issues, as well as shared their own. Representative from the 19th district Dean Takko also attended.

Topics included the right for a citizen vote before a city annexation and assumption of CRWWD's assets, last year's diversion of public trust fund loans and house bill 2006 (HB 2006), legislation presented last year by Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts.

District Manager Bob Bandarra said, "the District supports a citizen's vote on annexation because it is no different from any other referendum that significantly affects their lives."

The diversion of public works trust fund loans by the state last year affected all sewer districts' capacity to get low interest loans for projects. "Last year by using the public works trust fund loan, the District was able to obtain \$12 million at only half a percent interest. In contrast, this year, since we were unable to obtain a loan from the public works trust fund because of the diversion, the District's interest rate is 4.47%. This is a big difference in savings," explained Bandarra.

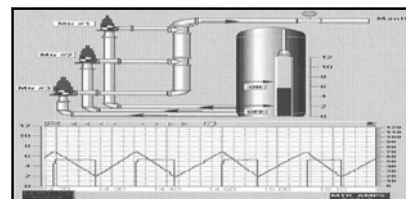
The state association introduced HB 2006 last year. It's a response to an existing law that defines where sewer districts can serve from sewage lines within an urban growth boundary. Currently lines are placed in roadways at the perimeter of a new growth management area. Only half of the houses on the same street can hook up to the sewer as only sewer lines inside the urban area can be connected. The District and the Association believe that to defray costs there ought to be connections allowed on both sides of the road.

Two association lobbyists are working with state representatives on this bill. It is in committee and may be voted on before the end of this 60-day session.

Remote Monitoring Saves Money

"District Maintenance employees on call during holidays and weekends have cut their time to explore pump station problems," said Tony Bisson, District Maintenance Supervisor. The District's new Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system allows both on-call and District Maintenance staff to remotely oversee 51 pumping stations. Previously the pump stations were monitored by Sonitrol building alarm services with limited information being given without a site visit to the station. The SCADA system implemented in 2004 now pages District Maintenance employees when there's a problem. Once paged, a Maintenance worker views the SCADA computer screens to evaluate the problem before driving to the pump station. SCADA allows us to gather information about the problem remotely.

SCADA displays a pumping diagram showing individual pump performance on a computer screen at either the District office or on the On-Call worker's home computer. The SCADA screens show the wastewater flow through the pump, the power it uses and the pumping cycle times. Changes in these conditions signal that a pump may need attention.



Sample screen of SCADA software

"Remote monitoring lessens the time to monitor pump station inspections from four hours for physical site visits to one hour on a "virtual" pump station inspection. This reduction is saving the District 400 hours of time a year. It also helps the Maintenance crew find and repair problems before they become a component failure," said Rick Nelson, District Maintenance Manager.

The District will recoup its SCADA investment in five years based on savings from the elimination of phone lines, reductions in overtime and the cancellation of contracted monitoring.

"The District physically checks pump stations twice a week now instead of daily to evaluate the equipment. Limited site visit inspections are still being conducted to observe fluid levels in pump station holding tanks, perform landscape work and to evaluate site security and mechanical problems that SCADA cannot detect," said Bisson.