

COUNTY SUPERVISORS URGE AWA TO BUILD A GRAVITY SUPPLY PIPELINE FOR UPCOUNTRY WATER SUPPLY

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(Sutter Creek) The Amador Water Agency Board of Directors received word at their board meeting Wednesday that the Amador County Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution urging the Amador Water Agency to build the Gravity Supply Line on the upcountry Central Amador Water Project (CAWP) system.

The resolution, presented to the Supervisors at their July 26 meeting by CAWP customer Richard Farrington, listed numerous benefits to fire protection and water supply reliability provided by the proposed raw water pipeline that would run downhill from the Tiger Creek Regulator on the Mokelumne River to the Buckhorn Water Treatment Plant.

A support letter from the Amador County Fire Chief's Association accompanied the resolution. Amador Fire Protection District Battalion Chief David Bellerive also spoke at the Supervisors' meeting in support of the resolution. Supervisors shared the importance of getting information on the gravity pipeline benefits out to the public.

Over \$5 million in federal grant money is available to help pay for the pipeline and AWA Directors approved the Gravity Supply Line in March, 2010. Opponents of the pipeline have blocked construction by opposing any rate increase on the CAWP system, needed to help pay for the pipeline and correct an on-going budget deficit.

Also on Wednesday, AWA Directors approved scoping comments in a letter to East Bay Municipal Utility District that expressed concern about changes to the Pardee Dam that would raise the level of the reservoir and impact the Middle Bar Reach of the Mokelumne River. Discussion by Directors and audience noted that there was little Amador County public support for raising the Pardee Dam as proposed in EBMUD's Water Supply Water Management Program 2040.

In other Agency business:

- The Board approved an agreement with the AWA Confidential Employees Bargaining Unit that will save the Agency an estimated \$36,985 this fiscal year. For 2011/2012, the three employees in this bargaining unit agreed to monthly furlough days, to forfeit cost of living and merit raises, and to eliminate matching contribution to retirement funds, similar to the

concessions already made by the largest Agency employee association. An agreement with the remaining Management Bargaining Unit will be before the Board at their next regular Board meeting.

- The Board also approved a Sanitary Sewer Management Plan required by the State of California for regulating wastewater collection systems. The formal plan for operations, enforcement of standards and emergency response covers sewer systems in Martell, Lake Camanche Village, Eagles Nest, Fairway Pines/Mace Meadows, Gayla Manor, and Pine Grove. Field Services Manager Chris McKeage gave credit to AWA staff for completing the complex, 265-page plan in-house at a significantly lower cost than a consultant would have charged the Agency. The complete document is available at www.amadorwater.org and a hard copy is available for review at the Agency Offices.

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