



**City of Yuba City
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TO: Mayor & City Council

cc: Department Heads
Timothy Hayes

FROM: Steven Jepsen, City Manager

DATE: January 4, 2007

SUBJ: **City Manager's Weekly Report**

Wastewater Facility:

- December 31 the solar plant was energized and starting providing electricity to the wastewater treatment facility. The solar arrays are constructed on piers in a City owned storm water detention basin. On sunny summer days the wastewater treatment facility will meet all of its electrical needs with solar or existing biogas fueled micro-turbines. It is estimated that during the first 30 years of operation the facility will eliminate the emissions from solar facility will air emissions equivalent to automobiles driving 23 million miles. It is anticipated that the solar facility will produce 1.3 million kWh per year, equivalent to the demand of 750 homes during the daylight hours.

Utilities Storm Update:

- As of noon Friday the surface water treatment plant and wastewater treatment facilities are operating on generator power. Two surface water storage tanks are without power, but are not needed at this time and can be operated on portable generator power if needed. There is approximately 2 days supply of treated surface water in storage. South Walton area groundwater treatment plant is/was operating on generator power Friday afternoon. Groundwater system on east side of Highway 99 (Region 1) is still on PG&E power, but will automatically switch to generator in the event of a power failure.

Storm water pump stations are all operating normally – West Onstott detention pond is without power and levels are being monitored. The West Onstott station is designed to operate for 24 hours without any power. Several wastewater pumping stations are without power – team members are operating the wastewater pump stations with portable generators on a rotating basis.

Hillcrest Water System South Walton Area Meetings:

- The Ad-hoc Council Committee met on Thursday January 3 to finalized agendaed issue. The next two meetings are reserved for follow up issues. Although many issues have been discussed, the position of the advisory group remains consistent; the City of Yuba City is

responsible for the Hillcrest water system and should provide the necessary improvements to fix the region 2 and 3 arsenic and nitrate problems, and this should be at no additional cost to the residents of this area. The viable options for repairing the ground water system are to convert to city surface water or rebuild the existing well system, both are costly options. The alternative to provide minimum repairs to the current well system still exists but is not a long term solution. The option to blend surface and well water has been rejected by the city's consulting engineers as not viable. Preliminary cost estimate for the upgraded systems approach \$20 million. This would be an estimated cost of \$5,800 per household if extended to only to the effected residents, or \$1000 per household if extended to all residents of Yuba City. It is questionable whether the latter position could be supported given the lack of city wide benefit to justify all city water customers paying for the Walton area ground water solution.