



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

cc: Department Heads  
Timothy Hayes

FROM: Steven Jepsen, City Manager

DATE: November 21, 2008

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

### **Utilities Department**

**Hillcrest Groundwater System:** Region 2/3 plant number 2 has 2 wells that provide water for filtration. One well is typically used and the other is a standby well. The larger of the two wells failed this week. It appears to have collapsed and can no longer provide water. The backup well is currently on line. The backup well is also showing signs of collapse and could fail in the near future. If the backup well fails the remaining wells can not meet the demands of the current customers.

**Wastewater Facility Permit:** The wastewater facility permit adopted in October 2007 by the Regional Water Quality Control Board was appealed by the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance to the State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB) for reconsideration. This week SWRCB held a hearing and provided their staff direction on the appeal. The board dismissed most of the appealed issues without comment. The SWRCB directed the Regional Water Quality Control Board to make clarifications and modifications to four provisions of the permit. Yuba City concurred with the directions provided and at this time do not foresee any significant changes due to the proposed changes. It is anticipated that the Regional Board will take final action within the next six to nine months.

**Wastewater Facility Fines:** The Regional Water Quality Control Board issued a letter assessing mandatory minimum penalty for effluent violations totaling \$99,000. The violations span a period of over 8 years. Staff agrees that \$84,000 is the appropriate fine and will be discussing with the Regional Board the remaining violations.

The Wastewater Facility was in compliance with 99.96 percent of the limits during the last eight years. The vast majority of discharge exceedences during the last eight years fall into two categories – bacteria and settleable solids. There has not been a bacteria exceedence in the last three years. Staff has made improvements to reduce the likelihood of these types of events. The settleable solids events have continued to occur as recently as September 2007. A project scheduled to start next month may reduce these types of exceedences.

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A number of other California communities from Lodi to Williams have been fined from \$21,000 to \$2.1 million.