

West Point, Wilseyville, Bummerville Water System -- Background

Calaveras County Water District

Calaveras County is located in the Sierra Nevada foothills of central California. Calaveras County Water District (CCWD) owns and operates a domestic water system in the rural communities of West Point, Wilseyville and Bummerville. Population growth in the service area has generally averaged less than one percent per year.

Over the last 150 years, the communities of West Point and Wilseyville began initially as mining camps, and later developed into logging communities. Originally, all three areas were served with water routed through a series of mining ditches, which were owned or operated in conjunction with these activities. The decline of these industries, critical to the area economy, brought about CCWD purchase of the water and conveyance systems.

The West Point water system was purchased in 1954 by CCWD from the West Point Ditch Company. The predecessor to Sierra Pacific Logging Company owned and built the Wilseyville System and sold it to CCWD in 1964. The Bummerville system was connected to the West Point System in 1959. The existing water system serves 490 customers, including a local Native American Reservation. The current facilities include: two raw water reservoirs, Wilson Lake and Regulating Reservoir; two raw water diversion facilities, Bear Creek (gravity) and Middle Fork Mokelumne (pumped); one water treatment plant, West Point; two treated water pump stations, Bummerville and Upper Wilseyville; and the associated distribution and storage system, raw pump station, Mokelumne River intake, and the raw booster pump station near Bummerville. The Mokelumne River intake pump station is for emergency or backup use should the Bear Creek diversion fail or provide insufficient flow.

Most of the facilities were constructed before 1960, and many system components are either inadequate or in need of replacement. Several changes have been made to the systems, including: abandoning the Wilseyville treatment plant, upgrading the West Point Sewer Treatment plant, installing an intertie between West Point and Wilseyville and upgrading pump stations.

Several deficiencies are evident when evaluated against current water industry standards for publicly owned and operated systems. A 1996 Master Plan was completed to address these deficiencies. Specific recommendations were presented for the purpose of bringing the system into compliance with current and anticipated water industry standards. In 1998, a Master Plan Supplement provided additional analysis for improvements to the West Point, Wilseyville, and Bummerville systems.

CCWD recently started the modifications to upgrade the West Point, Wilseyville and Bummerville Water Supply System. Construction has been started on the Water Treatment Plant upgrades. The funding for modification plan is as follows:

- \$1 million grant from DHS SRF (Dept Health Svcs, State Revolving Fund)
- \$300K grant/\$100K low interest loan from USDA RD (Rural Development)
- CCWD Capital Improvement Funds to complete the project

Construction began in October, 2000

New capacity: 1 million GPD = ±900 single family services

Construction Cost: \$1.332 million, \$1.8 million total project cost (includes design)

Contractor: HPS Plumbing Service, Inc. – Bakersfield, CA
Engineer: SPH Associates, Consulting Engineers, Folsom, CA
Type of Treatment: Multi Barrier, Chemical Coagulation, Contact Clarification, Multimedia
Filtration, Disinfection
Expected completion: Sept 2001

CCWD also recently secured a \$500,000 grant from the California Department of Water Resources to evaluate the feasibility of various alternatives, plans and means for increasing the water supply, and improving the water storage and distribution systems for the three communities of West Point, Wilseyville, and Bummerville.