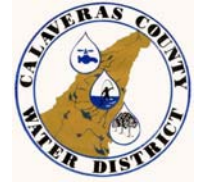


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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CALAVERAS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SECURES \$562,000 FEDERAL GRANT TO CONSTRUCT FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECT AT ITS JENNY LIND WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Calaveras County Water District, Rancho Calaveras/Valley Springs Area, CA – January 22, 2008. In early April 2006 the Jenny Lind water treatment plant, owned and operated by the Calaveras County Water District, experienced flooding as a result of prolonged precipitation in the Sierra-Nevada foothill region of Central California. The District narrowly averted major damage at its facility by reacting timely in working with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in operating New Hogan Reservoir. The Presidential Disaster Declaration as a result of the flooding enabled the CCWD to submit a Hazard Mitigation Grant to mitigate future flood risk at the Jenny Lind Water Treatment Plan (WTP).

The WTP sits at the confluence of Cosgrove Creek and the lower Calaveras River located approximately one-mile below New Hogan Dam and Reservoir as shown in the attached vicinity map. Flooding occurred as a result of multiple, coincidental factors: (1) Sustained high precipitation in the Valley Springs area; (2) large uncontrolled runoff in Cosgrove Creek; and (3) large reservoir inflows that forced near-maximum controlled reservoir releases into the lower Calaveras River. As a result, New Hogan Reservoir crested at a record-breaking 311,442 acre-feet of storage on April 5, 2006, exceeding the reservoir's 100-year event (New Hogan Flood Control Manual, June 1983) – Maximum Reservoir Storage is 317,100 acre-feet.

Flooding of the JLWTP property highlighted the potential risk of loss of service to the facility that serves as the exclusive potable water supply to over 10,000 people in the Rancho Calaveras/Valley Springs area. A last minute break in precipitation served as a lifesaver that limited catastrophic flooding of the facility to the base of sensitive equipment located along an access road that borders the Calaveras River. Flood damage analysis shows the raw water pump station, electrical controls and pump motors, and the liquid oxygen tank would have been inundated had planned reservoir releases been increased to 12,500 cubic feet per second. Inundation of this sensitive equipment would have disabled the WTP for approximately two- to three-weeks while emergency repairs were made. With no back-up water supply source for CCWD water customers, water storage tank volumes in the area would disappear within a day leaving no potable water in the system to meet even a basic level of service. Long-term repairs to the WTP would take approximately two-months.

The federal flood mitigation grant will finance \$562,000 of the \$750,000 flood mitigation project with approximately \$187,000 coming from CCWD funds. General Manager Dave Andres commended Water Resources Manager Mr. Edwin Pattison for putting together a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan in a short time frame that enabled the District to secure federal funding to mitigate potential future flooding at the WTP under the Presidential Disaster Declaration. Mr. Andres stated that "Ed Pattison did great job bringing federal funding to the community in this highly competitive grant program." Flooding along Cosgrove Creek is also being coordinated between the County and CCWD staff under an upcoming feasibility study with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This project has the potential to further reduce the threat of flooding along Cosgrove Creek.

If you would like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview with Mr. Edwin Pattison, please call 209/754.3543 Extension 29.