New water meters in the works for CCWD customers

By Jan Hovey / The Valley Springs News / June 4, 2021

Approximately 13,200 new water meters will be installed by the Calaveras County Water District within a year.

These advanced meters will improve CCWD's meter reading system, as well as send usage data to CCWD through a wireless network, known as Advanced Metering Infrastructure. Meters will be installed in groups by service area and strategically planned around the seasons.

Currently the district utilizes dated manual-read meters. Staff reads the meters every two months. The new system will be able to send data in real time, as needed (usually once per day.) A new software system will keep track of usage and averages for each customer. All data is collected securely and does not contain a customer's personal information.

"At this time only 12 meters have been installed which are part of our pilot project," said Jessica Self, CCWD external affairs manager. "The pilot project is allowing us to conduct preliminary quality control prior to full project implementation."

When will these meters be installed?

"We are working closely with Mueller Systems on a project schedule," added Self. "We are anticipating the project will be completed by Spring 2022. We plan to begin installing meters in July 2021 and will start with the Ebbetts Pass Service Area."

Customers will be notified seven to 10 days before and immediately after the meter is installed via a door tag. There is no need to sign up to receive the meter.

"Customers should expect their water to be shut off for approximately 20 to 30 minutes during meter installation," Self said. "On the day of installation, a field technician will knock on customers' doors to inform them of the installation and the temporary interruption of water. After the installation is complete, we recommend that customers briefly run water throughout their household to flush air out of the line."

CCWD is working on radio and telemetry installation now through September.

"Sites have been identified and the work will begin in July," Self said. "CCWD is working with Calaveras County to place all antennae and data collectors within County Rights of Way and Public Utility Easements."

"We are looking forward to providing an enhanced customer experience once our digital meters are installed," she added. "Specifically, customers will be able to access their water usage data in real time by logging in to their own water usage portal. Customers can set up leak and usage alerts. If our meters record continuous water flow, customers and district staff will receive an alert. This can save money and prevent property damage that often results when leaks run undetected."

The district was formed in 1946 under the laws of the state as a county water district for the purpose of providing water and sewer service to the residents of the Calaveras County. The district is also engaged in the development of hydroelectric power for financial support and development of water supplies. CCWD has operated continuously since 1947.

The district is a political subdivision of the state of California and is not part of, or under the control of, Calaveras County. The district includes all of Calaveras County in the Central Sierra Nevada foothills in the northeastern portion of the state. CCWD boundaries encompass approximately 1,037 square miles of land ranging from the San Joaquin Valley at its western edge to the Sierra Nevada mountains in the east.

CCWD provides water service to about 13,080 municipal, residential and commercial customers in six service areas throughout the county and sewer service to about 4,848 customers in 12 service areas.

Typically, the district's board meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month.

Meetings begin at 1 p.m. and the public is invited and encouraged to attend. The board room is located at district headquarters at 120 Toma Court in San Andreas.

For more information about Calaveras County Water District, visit online at www.ccwd.org or call (209) 754-3543.