



March 4, 2019

Oakhurst Water Now Meets State Standards

After 25 years of planning, testing, grant applications, delays, teamwork, frustration, and \$19 million, all water the Hillview Water Company provides to its Oakhurst, Sierra Lakes, and Raymond customers meets or exceeds all state and federal standards.

In 1994 Hillview President Roger Forrester noted that the water from the Sierra Lakes wells contained excessive amounts of uranium and contacted the State Water Resources Control Board (Waterboards). Working closely with Waterboards, Hillview received a SDWBA grant and SRF loan, and later several other Proposition 50 and 84, and Waterboards drought emergency grants to correct the situation. During that process it was discovered that the water was also high in iron, and manganese. In 2006 the Environmental Protection Agency tightened the standard for arsenic by five times. This put Hillview, along with approximately 80% of California water systems, in violation of the new arsenic standard for Oakhurst and Raymond, causing another chain reaction of delays. The grant application was amended to include constructing a water treatment plant that would remove excessive amounts of those contaminants, as well. Tests of the Raymond water showed high amounts of arsenic, nitrate, and uranium. Two additional grants were obtained to

provide the funds necessary to treat that water and complete a new feasibility and planning study for Raymond.

Through the years Hillview has battled the bureaucratic process, changes in drinking water standards, bidding challenges, a state insolvency,

contractor issues, and other quagmires but has persisted. The end result since 1994 for Oakhurst: 25,000 feet of new HDPE water lines, a 1,000 gallon per minute uranium removal system, a 1200 gallon per minute arsenic, iron, and manganese removal system, a 550 gallon per minute iron, manganese, and total dissolved solids in a second Oakhurst water treatment plant, 8 new wells capable of producing 1200 gallons of water per minute, 6 new water tanks totaling 1.3 million gallons of additional finished water storage for Oakhurst and relocation of 2 iron and manganese removal water treatment systems to Goldside and Coarsegold ready to be refurbished. For Raymond these efforts resulted in a 150 gallon per minute uranium removal system, an arsenic and iron removal system and complete nitrate mitigation, 4 new production wells, 240,000 gallons of finished water storage in 2 new water tanks, and 2 new variable frequency drive controlled booster systems, one for each Raymond pressure zone. The new state-of-the-art facilities and equipment bring Oakhurst and Raymond water into full compliance with all state and federal regulations for drinking water.



Waterboards' Associate Sanitary Engineer Bruce Ramsden gives a thumbs up to Hillview Manager James F. Foster after inspecting the new water treatment plants. The plants have received conditional approval and were put on line on March 1, 2019.



The new state-of-the-art Layne AIM treatment plant removes arsenic, iron, and manganese from the water at the rate of 1,200 gallons per minute.

Hillview President Roger Forrester said, "When we began the process of looking for solutions to our water contamination problems and sources of funding, it never entered my mind that it would take twenty-four years before the problems would be 100 percent resolved. We never gave up and continued to pursue every avenue to make sure the problems would be solved. I'm overjoyed that our long journey is now at an end with the completed projects better and larger than when we first began. We are proud of our hardworking Hillview staff; thankful for the outstanding contractors we've had; and grateful to Waterboards for supporting us through thick and thin and to our customers for their patience."

Manager James Foster concurred adding, "This journey has been long, difficult and oftentimes frustrating but every time we ran into a delay, snag, roadblock, or what seemed to be insurmountable obstacles, we just prayed, kept going, and in almost every instance, figured out a way to make the projects better. Even through the drought and during construction, with Waterboards' support and our customer's help in conservation, we maintained adequate supplies for all of our water systems and were able to help many individuals with dry wells and share our water with several other water systems suffering drought shortages and still were able to provide millions of gallons of water for CalFire and the US Forest Service to help fight the Courtney Fire, Junction Fire, and all the major wild fires in this vicinity. It's an amazing blessing to be able to start delivering after all these years. We now have water that is wholesome, potable, in no way unhealthy.

Waterboards Senior Sanitary Engineer Kassy Chauhan agreed stating, "Hillview Water Company has worked long and hard for many years to bring this project to fruition. In partnership with the State Water Board's Division of Financial Assistance and the Division of Drinking Water, the HWC was able to develop innovative ways to best utilize the grant dollars to ensure that the project was completed on time and within the allocated budget. Waterboards has thoroughly inspected all three treatment plants, reviewed and certified their operations plans and, as of March 1, 2019, granted HWC permission to operate all three water treatment plants. HWC now delivers water to their customers that complies with all primary and secondary drinking water standards. HWC has been a regional resource in the area by consolidating private homes as well as other community water systems into the HWC system. We commend them as, now, the region as a whole has access to water that meets all drinking water standards. DDW looks forward to the continued partnership with HWC to supply safe, wholesome and potable water to the entire Oakhurst and Raymond region."

At long last, Oakhurst, Sierra Lakes, and Raymond customers enjoy water that meets all state and federal standards. Drink the water!



The new state-of-the-art WRT treatment plant removes uranium from the water at the rate of 1,000 gallons per minute.



Waterboards' Associate Sanitary Engineer Bruce Ramsden receives a water treatment plant operations manual from Hillview Manager James F. Foster. The plants have received conditional approval and were placed on line on March 1, 2019.