

Donner Summit PUD Wastewater Facilities Construction Begins

SODA SPRINGS, Calif. — September 26, 2012 — Construction has begun on the Donner Summit Public Utility District (DSPUD) Wastewater Facilities (DSPUD.com). The wastewater treatment plant is being significantly upgraded to meet requirements of the revised discharge permit issued by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region. The new permit, which goes into effect in April 2014, requires a higher level of treatment before effluent discharge into the Yuba River.

The primary changes to the plant include replacing chlorine gas disinfection with UV (ultraviolet) disinfection and tertiary treatment with membrane bioreactors (MBR). The new process will have a substantial positive effect on the environment by eliminating the presence of chlorine by-products. In addition, 10 acres of land will be added to the existing spray irrigation system to allow for effluent discharge in the spring and summer. Fall and winter discharges go to the Yuba River.

Tertiary MBR or “membrane bioreactors” treatment allows wastewater plants to be configured to maximize nitrate and ammonia removal. During the winter months, new boilers and recirculation pumps will help keep the influent at a constant temperature which supports a healthy population of microbes living in the membrane bioreactors that digest the wastewater. There will also be a 700,000 equalization tank added to existing storage to

help manage influent flow into the plant thus keeping it operating at an optimal level.

Details about all treatment options including MBR, increasing the flow equalization storage, dealing with extreme temperature fluctuations, effluent storage options to mitigate biostimulation and irrigation options are some of the many topics covered in the 414-page Facilities Plan.

Syblon Reid Contractors (srco.com) was awarded the \$18.6 million construction contract scheduled to be completed at the end of 2014. Funding for the upgrades is provided by the Clean Water Revolving Fund and the USDA.

Visit DSPUD.com to download the facilities plan for free or call the office to order a copy on CD for a nominal fee.

About the Donner Summit Public Utility District:

The Donner Summit Public Utility District (DSPUD) provides water and wastewater treatment for the Donner Summit area (Placer and Nevada counties) in the Sierra Nevada Mountains in California. The DSPUD strives to serve and treat water to the benefit of our environment including the human, animal and plant life within our watershed and beyond. For more information, visit www.dspud.com.

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Photographs and captions available upon request. Reporters are also invited to take photographs at the construction site. Please call for an appointment.