

AWA REPORTS VANDALISM, SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY ON AMADOR CANAL

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PHOTOS ATTACHED

LEFT: AWA crews discovered Thursday that vandals attempted to dam the Amador Canal with logs and rocks at a spot near New York Ranch Road north of the Jackson Rancheria Casino Resort.

RIGHT: The Amador Canal that carries raw water from Lake Tabeaud to Lower Ridge Road, shown here with an excavator required for constant repairs in the earth berms that form the canal walls.

(Sutter Creek) The Amador County Sheriff's office is investigating vandalism on the Amador Canal, the open ditch that provides water to about 100 Amador Water Agency raw water customers.

AWA crews discovered Thursday that vandals removed recent leak repairs and attempted to dam the canal at a spot near New York Ranch Road north of the Jackson Rancheria Casino Resort.

The canal that carries raw water from Lake Tabeaud to Lower Ridge Road requires constant repairs to the earthen berms that form the canal walls. AWA Operations Manager Damon Wyckoff said his crews noticed the canal water rising in the upper reach of the canal and, upon investigation, found a makeshift dam of logs and rocks partially blocking the water flow.

Nearby, vandals had removed or demolished two concrete plugs recently placed in the canal wall to stop leakage from the canal. Wyckoff said it appears that the dam was built and the leak repairs removed in an effort to divert water.

Wyckoff said the damage to the canal slowed flows to downstream customers but did not create an outage.

Tampering with a public water supply is an act of terrorism, Wyckoff said. Anyone with information about the incident or who has seen suspicious activity in the area is encouraged to call the Amador County Sheriff's office at 209-223-6500 or Amador Secret Witness at 209-223-4900.

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