CELEBRATING 60 YEARS of Serving Amador County!

JULY, 1959... The “Amador County Water Agency” was formed by the California Legislature as a special district for the purpose of providing water, wastewater and storm drain services to Amador County.

IN THE 1960s ... By a vote of 1,421 to 102, Amador County voters ratified the formation of the Agency. Founding Directors were Louis A. Spinetti, Sr., John B. Allen, William T. Andersen, Thomas Powelson, and Richard Searcy. For the first two decades, the Agency had no systems to operate and was mainly charged with studying Amador County’s future needs.

IN THE 1970s ... UPCOUNTRY’S CENTRAL AMADOR WATER PROJECT
When many wells stopped producing during a drought in the late 1970s, the Central Amador Water Project and Buckhorn Water Treatment Plant were constructed to provide treated water to hundreds of Upcountry customers.

IN THE 1980s ... EXPANDING TO COUNTY-WIDE SERVICE  PG&E sold the Amador Water System to the Amador County Water Agency. Included were the Amador and Ione Canals, Tanner and Ione Water Treatment Plants, retail water service to Sutter Creek, Amador City and Ione, and wholesale water to Drytown and Jackson.
• AWA built the Ione Pipeline and expanded the Ione Water Treatment Plant and storage tanks, serving Ione and Mule Creek State Prison with more than 3 million gallons of water/day.
• Agency offices moved from Jackson to a new office on Ridge Rd.

IN THE 1990s ... MEETING STATE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS
Increasing state drinking water requirements prompted renovation of the Amador Water System’s main water treatment plant. AWA engineers and technical staff purchased a second-hand plant in Southern California and re-designed it to serve Amador County, at great savings to AWA ratepayers.
• Throughout Amador County, small community wastewater and water systems joined the Agency as homeowner associations found it challenging to meet state drinking water regulations.
• Treated water pipelines were built along Lower Ridge and Sutter Creek-Volcano Roads, bringing drinking water service to many homes that previously had only untreated water from the Amador Canal.

CONTINUED....
• The City of Jackson switched from purchasing AWA raw water to purchasing treated water for the City’s customers.
• The Agency changed its name to the Amador Water Agency, to more clearly demonstrate that it operates independently from Amador County government.

IN THE 2000s ... REPLACING AGING INFRASTRUCTURE  The County of Amador transferred ownership of the Martell wastewater system, two Upcountry water systems (CSA 1 & 2) and Lake Camanche Village water and wastewater systems to AWA.
• A new Well 14 was built at Lake Camanche Village to boost water delivery capacity by 40%.
• To meet new, more stringent water quality standards, the old Buckhorn Water Treatment Plant was replaced.
• The 9-mile Amador Transmission Pipeline came online, replacing a 23-mile section of the open Amador Canal, greatly improving the quality of water arriving at the Tanner Water Treatment Plant and conserving enough water to serve a town the size of Jackson every year.
• AWA constructed a new well, storage tank and distribution system, greatly improving reliability and fire protection for La Mel Heights, one of only two communities AWA serves by groundwater wells (along with Lake Camanche Village).

IN THE 2010s ... GOING GREEN  Focus on obtaining millions of dollars of state and federal grant funds allowed the Agency to make major infrastructure improvements and replacements, at little or no cost to Amador County ratepayers.
• The Gravity Supply Line began carrying raw water by gravity flow from Tiger Creek Reservoir to Buckhorn Water Treatment Plant, without costly pumping.
• The Plymouth Pipeline was completed, improving service in Amador City and Drytown and supplying Plymouth with treated AWA water, ending a 20-year moratorium on new hook-ups in Plymouth.
• Tanner Hydroelectric Generation Plant on the Amador Transmission Pipeline was completed, capturing wasted energy for a reliable, renewable source of electricity.
• Three Backwash Recycling Plants were built at the Ione, Buckhorn and the Tanner Water Treatment Plants, recycling water used in cleaning filters and conserving 120 million gallons of water every year.
• Lake Camanche Village deteriorating service lines replaced and new 500,000 gal tank constructed to improve water quality and fire protection.
• To assure future water supplies, AWA is joining with regional organizations taking an active role in forest management to protect the Mokelumne Watershed and reduce fire risk.

EVERY YEAR ... AWA provides technical and field staff support to independent water and wastewater districts throughout Amador County, and works with cities and the County of Amador to meet the needs of all our communities.