



AMADOR WATER AGENCY

AmadorWater.org 209.223.3018 12800 Ridge Road, Sutter Creek, CA 95685

FALL 2021



AWA crews on the job repairing holiday pipeline break

On Saturday of Labor Day weekend, AWA was alerted to a potential water line break at Meek's Lumber and Hardware in Martell. Water was pushing up through the asphalt in the lumber yard.

AWA staff found a leak coming from the 16-inch-diameter lone Transmission Line buried seven feet underground. That pipe supplies untreated water from AWA's Sutter Hill headquarters to its lone reservoir, which normally holds about two days' supply for the lone Water Treatment Plant.

"Our construction and distribution crews and office support staff did a great job getting that critical underground pipeline repaired over the holiday weekend – by 2 am Sunday morning it was back in service," said AWA Operations and Engineering Manager Rick Ferriera.

"We also want to thank the folks at Meek's for their patience with the disruption to their parking lot and their assistance to our crews," Ferriera added.



AWA crews worked through the night Labor Day weekend to repair a breach in the major pipeline supplying untreated water to lone.

Stage 1 - Water Alert ... Make Every Drop Count!

In September, AWA Directors declared a Stage 1 - Water Alert in Amador County, asking customers for a 20 percent reduction in water use.

Directors have been closely watching drought conditions and low levels in the region's reservoirs. Due to State curtailment orders to stop water diversions from the Mokelumne River, AWA customers will now be served from water that was previously stored. Reducing use will make stored water last longer.

Among the many Stage 1 conservation requirements:

- Landscape watering is limited to nighttime hours of 7 p.m. to 9 a.m. and only three days per week
- Restaurants to only serve water to customers on request
- No emptying and refilling swimming pools and hot tubs
- No washing sidewalks, patios, and driveways

The complete list of the Stage 1 water conservation requirements can be viewed at www.AmadorWater.org or by calling AWA customer service at 209-223-3018.



Lots more tips for indoor and outdoor water conservation are at the Save Our Water website:

<https://saveourwater.com/>

Free Water Conservation Items

Amador Water Agency is offering free home water conservation kits to AWA customers, including low-flow shower heads and faucet aerators that are easy to install and use. The offer is good for one kit per customer household, while supplies last. Please call or email customerservice@amadorwater.org to arrange pick-up at the AWA office, 12800 Ridge Rd, Sutter Creek. Water-conserving devices are also available at local hardware and home improvement stores.

Stay in touch as AWA moves forward on improvements

Amador Water Agency Directors recently approved new county-wide retail water and wastewater rates through the year 2025, improving the Agency's financial stability and its ability to meet the challenges of maintaining and improving Amador County's aging infrastructure.

AWA staff and Directors appreciate the participation and comments received from ratepayers during the rate adjustment process. AWA customers are encouraged to continue to stay engaged and follow the Agency's efforts to make needed financial and operational changes.

- The Agency website (AmadorWater.org) includes a Transparency page with links to the AWA budget, salary information and other financial documents.
- Any member of the public can receive email notices of upcoming meetings by sending a request to the Clerk of the Board: kgish@AmadorWater.org.
- A public informational open house event is planned for the spring (date and time to be announced in early 2022).
- Detailed information on the county-wide Water Master Plan Study, Agency financial plan and 2021 Rate Study are also available at the Agency website and by calling the AWA office, 209-223-3018.

Visit AmadorWater.org or email kgish@amadorwater.org to receive meeting notices.

Support for proposed Water Rate Assistance Program

AWA Board of Directors strongly support a proposed state Water Rate Assistance Program to provide water affordability assistance for both drinking water and wastewater services to low-income ratepayers. The bill, sponsored by CA Senator William Dodd, made it through legislative committees this year, but was held up over funding options and has been made a two-year bill. AWA will continue to monitor the bill's progress in the next legislative session.

AWA staff is also looking into several new state programs designed to provide financial assistance to eligible customers who have fallen behind on their water and wastewater bills during the COVID-19 pandemic. Watch for announcements as these programs become available locally.

Who 'owns' the water in the Mokelumne River?



A few million Californians depend on the 95 mile-long Mokelumne River for drinking water, agriculture, power generation, recreation and wildlife habitat. The State of California owns the water, while people have rights to use it. The Amador Water Agency has legal rights to withdraw up to 20,000 acre-feet per year, to be used for the efficient and beneficial use of Amador County's citizens.

Besides AWA, the hundreds of other Mokelumne River water rights holders include Jackson Valley Irrigation District, Calaveras County, East Bay Municipal District (EBMUD), Woodbridge Irrigation District (Lodi area), and North San Joaquin Water Conservation District. PG&E also holds rights to manage water to generate electricity on the river.

Each has legal rights to a certain amount of water and, depending on when those rights were established, some water rights have "seniority" over others. EBMUD, for example, can withdraw up to 364,000 acre-feet per year, from the Mokelumne River -- but not at the expense of Amador County's older supply, established through agreements with PG&E to use some of their 1800s-era water rights.

Amador homes and businesses currently don't need all of the county's share of Moke River water over the course of a year, but it's good to know that the water is reserved for when it may be needed in the future.