



THE PIPELINE

Fall 2017
Issue 89

Serving this Community
since 1943.

Keeping Lakewood Water District
Customers Informed

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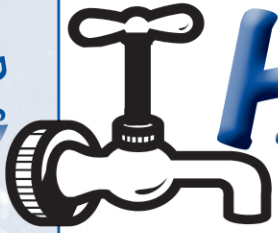
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- President:
Lawrence R. Ghilarducci, Jr.
- Vice President:
John S. Korsmo, Jr.
- Secretary:
Gregory J. Rediske
- General Manager:
Randall M. Black

The Board of Commissioners meets
the 3rd Thursday of each month
at the District
office - 3:30 pm.
Public Welcome



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Commissioner Meeting Highlights

July

- Bond Sale Proceeds Exceed Expectations

August

- Board Conditional Acceptance of Sylvan Park R&R Project Phase 2

- Board Approval of September 1 Property and Liability Insurance at Significant Savings

September

- Board Declaration of Surplus Items
- 2018 Budget Schedule Set

For more information, please visit our website. *

Dear Lakewood Water District Customers,

After a glorious summer, the kids are back in school, the leaves are falling, and football is again gracing our TV screens multiple times a week... so you know what that means. Yep, you guessed it; it's budget time. Yippee.

We typically don't discuss this scintillating subject with you until the winter edition of "The Pipeline," after we've examined our upcoming needs, investigated the best, most cost-effective ways to meet them, and then scrutinized all of the above to produce the best budget plan and forecast we can. This year, however, we wanted to give you a sneak preview of some of the matters that are before us, such as the effects of a robust economy, law changes, and an almost 75-year-old system.

A robust economy means there has been a large spike in development, which means everyone is busy and prices are going up with the supply and demand. Therefore, we are looking to get as many needed projects designed, "spec'ed" (specifications out to potential bidders), and bid as soon as practically possible, to take advantage of pricing before it increases more.

Law changes, such as the new "Call Before You Dig 811" that you may have seen on TV or heard about on the radio, have multiplied District work demands and requirements. For instance, our water mains and facilities must now be located for every for-sale sign posted. An average number of locates for a month used to be 60-70; now it's 250. This now requires the staffing of 1.5 FTE (full-time employee) just to keep up.

While safety is always of the utmost importance for our staff, it may now take a little more time and additional staff. An L&I safety law change now requires three staff members to do what used to be able to be done by two. So, at a time we are endeavoring to maximize our staffing efficiencies (pretty much all the time), these new laws are putting pressure on the matter; not only on the efficiencies, but also on the actual staffing to get the work done. And just to add to the fun (or keep us humble), we have two key positions being vacated by retirements in 2018. So, we have our work cut out for us.

In last year's budget process, we discussed at length a long-term plan to address future refurbishing, rehabilitation, and replacement needs in the areas of our storage facilities (tanks and reservoirs) and sources (wells). We budgeted for a tank analysis in this year's budget (currently underway by RH2 Engineering) to ascertain: 1) a description and assessment of the current condition of the tanks; 2) identify any obvious issues that need immediate attention; 3) provide the District with an estimated remaining life expectancy of each of the tanks; and 4) provide the District with suggested improvements that may extend the life of the tanks along with estimated costs. In the 2018

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Budget, we will include a similar analysis for our wells. This program will be a significant component of consideration in our annual budgets as we move forward. We'll keep you informed.

At the end of this budget process, we may resemble the group, Blood, Sweat, & Tears, but we'll get 'er done, and report to you on the "other side." We thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Your Board of Commissioners

Employee Spotlights

In a year where it's become increasingly difficult to find good, qualified help in our industry (and other industries as well), we were blessed to add two new stars to our all-star team this past January—**Ryan Alvis** and **Fusitele (Tele) Tuitasi**, both in the position of Water Utility Worker I.

Ryan comes to us from right here in Lakewood after serving in the Army for six years, last stationed at Ft. Lewis. He hails from southern Oregon, graduating from South Medford High School and attending Oregon State University for four years. Ryan's past experience includes working in Public Works for the City of Medford, Oregon.

When asked what his current job responsibilities were, Ryan smiled and said, "A little bit of everything!" That would be a common response for most of our staff, for we are somewhat small in number but mighty in stature and teamwork...and multi-talented and, wherever possible, cross-trained. Some of Ryan's primary areas of focus have been working on the Service Crew, meter maintenance, and installing new services. When asked what aspects of his job he enjoys the most, he replied, "The people and getting to do different things every day."

When Ryan is not working, he enjoys hiking, woodworking, and building things. He and his wife, Heather, have a white lab named Macey (yes, white—pure white!) and a Maine Coon cat named Maynard.

Tele comes to us from American Samoa, just recently moving to this area for better healthcare and education for his family. Tele was born and raised in American Samoa and graduated from Leone High School on the west side of the island. In 2001, he went to work as a Water Treatment Plant/Distribution System Operator for American Samoa Power Authority and worked there until he moved to Puyallup with his family last October.

Tele also had the "Little bit of everything!" answer to the "What do you do?" question. Some of his primary areas of focus have been working on the Service Crew, meter box checks, check for leaks, flushing, and valve exercising. He is presently transitioning into the Pumping Department and has been learning chlorination and sampling. When asked what his favorite aspects of his job were, he said, "Working with the crew and working as a team."

When not working, Tele enjoys spending time with his family, fishing, and taking his kids to the park. Tele and his wife, Mele, have three daughters—Popotafea, age 15; Pauline, 14; Noel, 11 (born Christmas day); and two sons—Faámoana, 12; and Pisaina, 1.

So, if you see Ryan out on the Service Crew or Tele out taking water samples, feel free to stop and say hello. After all, they're there to serve you! And in our humble opinion, they're doing a great job.



An Update on Sampling at JBLM

In our Spring edition of *The Pipeline*, we reported to you about the levels of two chemical compounds found in JBLM's wells, PFOS (Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid) and PFOA (Perfluorooctanoic Acid). Following is a brief update on the District's sampling results; for a more complete report, including test results, please consult our website at www.lakewood-water-dist.org and scroll down our home page to "Announcements."

The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) set a Health Advisory (not regulatory) level for these chemicals at 70 parts per trillion or 0.07µg/L. To date, the EPA has not set a regulatory level for these chemicals. For perspective, one part per billion is equivalent to 1 inch in 16,000 miles; one part per trillion is equivalent to 1 inch in 16,000,000 miles or one grain of sugar in an Olympic size swimming pool.

We tested our four source wells and distribution system nearest JBLM. First testing at parts per billion, the chemicals were not detected at any of the sites sampled. To be even more proactive and protective, we re-tested at parts per trillion. The latest test results clearly show the levels do not come close to the 70 parts per trillion Health Advisory limits, so it's not even close to one inch in 16 MILLION miles.

The District will continue to test and monitor its system while working closely with EPA, WSDOH (Washington State Department of Health), and JBLM to guarantee the health, safety, and confidence of all our customers.

