

MAMMOTH COMMUNITY WATER DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



PO Box 597 | 1315 Meridian Blvd.
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
Tel. 760.934.2596
www.mcwd.dst.ca.us

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

MARK BUSBY
General Manager

As General Manager, it continues to be my privilege to serve the community and to work with a very collaborative and team-oriented staff in support of their many achievements accomplished over the past year. Mammoth Community Water District's past fiscal year, April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024, was filled with many new challenges related to the 2023-2024 historic winter snowfall as well as many achievements. Within this report, you'll learn about long-term strategic planning, community support and partnerships, award-winning staff and facilities, community development activities, improvements made to our water and wastewater systems, as well as conservation efforts on many fronts. All these accomplishments were made possible by the support of our Board of Directors, ratepayers, and a very talented District team. I look forward to continuing to build on the positive relationships with staff and our community, and working towards common goals. Looking to the future, we will continue to innovate and improve the District's water and wastewater systems while maintaining strategic planning efforts and initiatives that reflect our commitment to delivering the highest quality water and reliable services to our customers for the present and future.

MCWD AT A GLANCE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TOM
CAGE

DENNIS
DOMAILLE

ELIZABETH
HYLTON

TOM
SMITH

GARY
THOMPSON

Mission statement:

The Mammoth Community Water District is committed to carefully and effectively managing and maintaining our local water resources. The District provides water and wastewater services to meet the health and safety needs of the community. All work is conducted in a safe, financially sound, and high quality manner. We are committed to our customers and the environment in which we live.

The Mammoth Community Water District (MCWD) was founded in 1957 and has consistently provided reliable water and wastewater services to the community of Mammoth Lakes, California. All of MCWD's water resources are located in the Mammoth Basin, no water is imported to the service area. Sources of water include surface water, groundwater, and recycled water. Surface water from Lake Mary, and groundwater from nine production wells, is treated by the District and distributed to customers using over 80 miles of water lines, eight storage reservoirs, and three treatment plants. Water is transported within an elevation range between 7,520 and 8,620 feet.

Strategic Planning:

At the beginning of each year, District staff engage the Board of Directors in a thorough review of the District's Strategic Plan for the purpose of developing long-term strategic operational goals and capital improvement planning. Review and discussion of the Plan is conducted via a public workshop, where members of the public are welcome to attend and comment. The Plan is a living document and helps staff align the District's strategic goals with its day-to-day activities, mission statement, core values, and overall operations plan. The plan integrates directly with the annual budgeting process. In FY24, two metrics were added to the Plan, "Water Resource and Wastewater Management & Planning" and "Operations & Maintenance".

UPGRADES AND MAINTENANCE

The District is constantly enhancing and preserving its assets to meet demands and adhere to regulations. Each project is a chance to introduce creative solutions, enhance efficiency, and enhance the system for the advantage of our customers and the environment.

LAKE MARY
ELEV. 8910
INYO National Forest

Twin Falls Lift Station Electrical Motor Control

The large winter of 2022-2023 caused the facility to lose power for over 40 days. Heavy snowfall and limited ability to move equipment and snow around at this location resulted in the site freezing and flooding, permanently damaging the electrical and mechanical equipment. The facility was not supported by a temporary generator due to its remote location and limited space surrounding it. Staff were able to access the site in late spring and assess the damage. Then, the entire electrical motor control system was replaced, and vulnerable equipment was relocated to a location less susceptible to flooding. This site was returned to normal operations in late fall and is now hardened from future long term power outages.

Sewer Collection System Upgrades

This year the District contracted with three different contractors for specialized repair services to our wastewater collection system. Staff identified eleven locations of heavy ground water infiltration into the system and used a high-pressure grout injection system provided by one of the contractors to fix four line segments and seven manholes. Staff also installed eleven top hat repairs at service lateral entry points, rechanneled six manhole bases, replaced six manhole frames and covers, and preformed four sewer spot repairs. These repairs prevent water and root intrusions from happening. Lastly, the District had 6,497 feet of Cure In Place Pipe Lining (CIPP) installed. This is a tried-and-true method of restoring the integrity of older collection systems. This builds the District's inventory of lined pipe to over 78,500 feet or 19% of the total system.

Lake Mary Treatment Plant Clearwell Generator

The long-term power outages of the 2022-2023 winter brought to light the need for a power solution at this location. Uninterruptible Power Source (UPS) devices have been used in the past, however they only provide a short term, 4-6 hour, solution. To provide power for a longer duration, the District purchased a small generator and installed controls that monitor the batteries of the UPSs. Now the generator will be used to charge the system, preventing interruption. This allows for efficient use of the limited fuel supply of the generator and assures that, when running, all of the generator's power is being used.

ENGINEERING

The District has a talented in-house staff able to complete many technical projects. This saves the District money over hiring outside contractors and allows work to be completed on a time frame that works best for overall operations. This year, the Engineering Department designed several projects for staff to complete, leaving only the need for specialized tasks to be done by contractors .



Equalization Building Roof Replacement

The historic snows of the 2022-2023 winter combined with the springtime rain event resulted in many building structural failures around town. One of these structures was the roof of the MCWD Equalization Basin Pump Building (EQ Building). This building houses the essential pumping equipment for the operation of the MCWD Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The EQ Building was originally constructed in 1980 and has been repaired over the years. The record snowfall combined with the spring rain event resulted in significant loading which caused the truss tails along the southwest corner of the building to fail. After the failure of the roof, District staff mobilized to remove snow from the building to prevent the damage from worsening. District staff took the opportunity to revise the design of the roof in order to resolve minor operational deficiencies. The center crown of the previous design resulted in drainage and ice issues on the front side of the building, the revised design was a mono slope design that drains entirely to the backside of the building. Additionally, rather than follow minimum current loading standards, District staff proactively used the upcoming ASCE 7-22 snow load standards, resulting in a far greater design load. The waterproofing roof membrane was installed by a reputable company which provides a 20-year guarantee on their product. This project was identified as a critical emergency project, and the roof was replaced during the 2023 construction season after the damage was incurred. The exterior work was completed prior to any significant precipitation events and interior work has since been completed.

ENGINEERING

Hwy 203 Sanitary Sewer Line Upgrade Project

The Engineering and Maintenance Departments collaborated to design 130 feet of new sanitary sewer line from Center Street into Hwy 203, installed by the MCWD construction crew. The project was necessary to increase sewer capacity, accommodating for future growth, and to provide operational redundancy. A larger diameter line was installed, which ties into the Main Street trunk line approximately 30 feet downstream of the existing Center Street tie-in, parallel with the original line left in-service. This approach allowed the new line to be constructed with no diversion, reducing cost and risk of a sanitary sewer spill. Additionally, the parallel lines allow for easy diversion during future maintenance work. The MCWD successfully completed the project during September and October 2023. Traffic Management Inc. was hired to perform traffic control throughout the project, including during the final paving process which was completed by Black Gold asphalt of Mammoth Lakes.



ENGINEERING

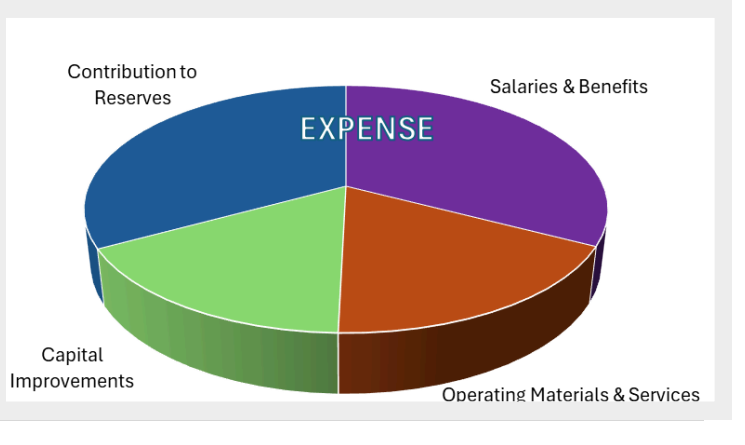
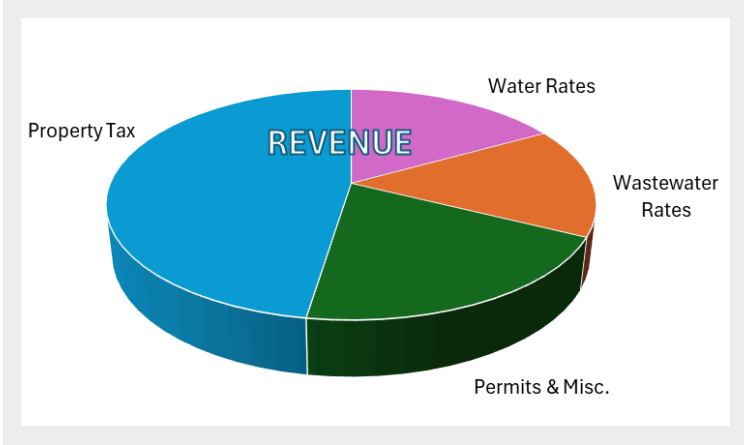
Tank T-8 Replacement

Tank T-8 (Forest Trail Tank) is a potable water reservoir located on USFS land above Forest Trail, and is the only tank connected directly to the most populated pressure zone (Zone 4) in the Mammoth water distribution system. This tank is crucial for absorbing pressure changes in Zone 4 and operating Well 1. T-8 was originally constructed as a 1,000,000-gallon bolted steel tank in 1995 but had only been operating at half capacity for the last 15 years due to leaking issues. The tank partially failed in April 2023 under large snow loads, rendering the tank unusable. It was determined that a welded steel tank was more appropriate for the size and climatic conditions of the tank, and a design-build RFP was put out in June 2023. Staff obtained all necessary permits to complete the work, and the demolition began in August 2023. The entire tank and the foundation were demolished except for the footings, which were re-used. The new tank is approximately nine-feet taller to prevent accidental discharge resulting from potential earthquakes and has a significantly higher snow load capacity than the previous tank. Work was completed in November 2023, and the tank is now operable for the foreseeable future.

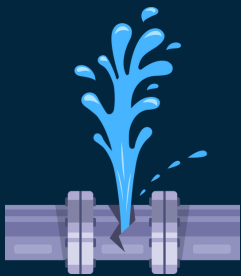


DISTRICT FINANCES

The District receives sufficient revenue to provide water and wastewater services and to maintain reserve funds for financial resilience and required infrastructure projects.



CONSERVATION



Leaks

Utilizing the Automated Metering Infrastructure hourly water use data, staff are able to identify leaks and notify customers before they receive a high bill or experience property damage. Customers are also now able to enroll in automated notifications from our leak detection system. In 2023, 336 customers were notified of leaks.

Indoor Rebate Programs

The District continues to incentivize water conservation by providing customers with rebates when upgrading to new dishwashers, toilets, and/or clothes washers. This year, \$33,388 were provided to customers for rebates, and the estimated total water savings resulting from these upgrades is 608,004 gallons!



22 Dishwasher rebates



12 High-efficiency toilet rebates



18 Clothes Washer rebates

PARTNERSHIPS IN THE COMMUNITY

Eastern Sierra Climate and Communities Resilience Project (ESCCRP)

The District continued to support the ESCCRP in their efforts to complete fuels reduction within and surrounding the Town of Mammoth Lakes. District staff supported the closeout of Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Grant 1094, a grant received by the Mammoth Lakes Fire Safe Council in 2018 for fuels reduction in the Lakes Basin, the headwaters of Mammoth Creek. The District is part of the ESCCRP Financial Advisory Team which meets monthly. This year, the ESCCRP focused on CEQA/NEPA analysis of 10,000 acres surrounding the Town and completing fuels reduction at three Town-owned parcels. A Statement of Purpose was finalized for the Financial Advisory Team to further define the role of the group, including the goal to reduce the funding gap for forest treatments. Additionally, the Statement of Purpose agrees to partner with Blue Forest, a non-profit conservation finance organization that leverages Forest Resilience Bonds to make restoration projects happen. Through this partnership, the ESCCRP will have greater opportunities to fund forest treatment projects in and surrounding the District's service area.

In addition to MCWD's participation with the ESCCRP and assistance on the SNC Grant, RSD staff provided signage in the Lakes Basin during fuel reduction treatment in October and November. The signage provided information to the public about the need for the project, the goals, and the local agencies supporting the project.



Community Support

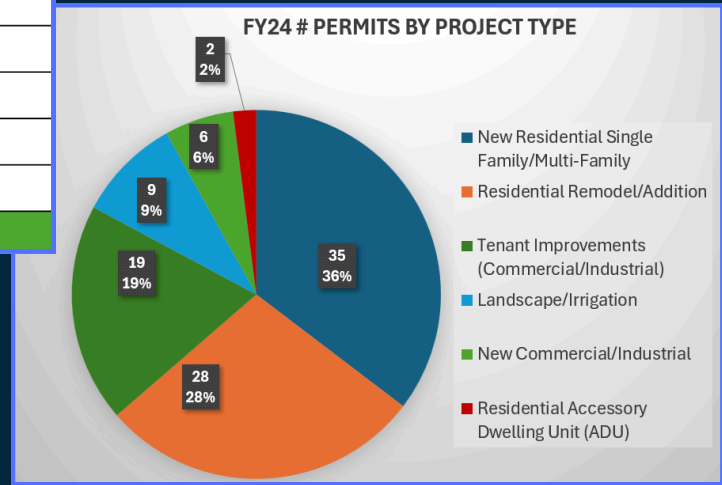
The District continues to be an integral part of the Mammoth community by providing support where opportunities exist. The District's Water Bar has continued to provide refreshing drinking water at events free of charge. The Water Bar was set up at the Mammoth Lakes' 4th of July parade outside of Footloose Sports, at the Bluesapalooza beer and music festival, and at the Mammoth Shakespeare Festival. The second Water Bar, stationed at The Village, continued to be utilized for the numerous events held there, including the Jazz Fest, Reggae Festival, Wine Weekend, and Mammoth Rocks festival.

The District also purchased a hockey rink board-banner in support of the Mammoth Lakes Community Recreation Center (CRC). The hockey rink board-banner displays the District logo and slogan, "Clean and refreshing mountain water straight to your tap!" The CRC had its grand opening on January 27. MCWD staff attended the event and set up a booth to provide free conservation items, District swag, and general information about the District's operations and conservation efforts.

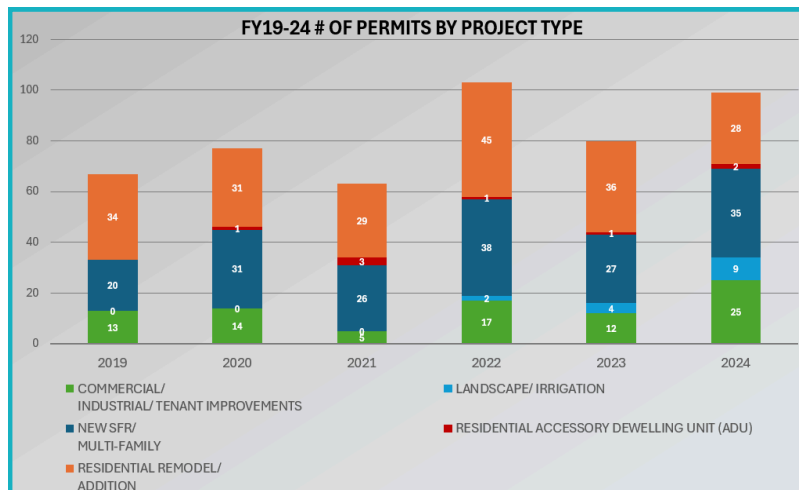
The Regulatory Services Division continued to attend public events where we had the opportunity to disseminate information to customers related to conservation and general operations. In 2022-2023, RSD staff set up a booth at the Mammoth Lakes Sustainability Fair and the Trails Neighborhood Block Party. Both events were well attended and provided staff the opportunity to give away water conservation tools and discuss current water-use prohibitions and the goals of the District.

MCWD PERMITTING IN THE COMMUNITY

FY2023-2024	PROJECTS
New Residential Single Family/Multi-Family	35
Residential Remodel/Addition	28
Tenant Improvements (Commercial/Industrial)	19
Landscape/Irrigation	9
New Commercial/Industrial	6
Residential Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU)	2
Grand Total	99



FY	COMMERCIAL/ INDUSTRIAL/ TENANT IMPROVEMENTS	LANDSCAPE/ IRRIGATION	NEW SFR/ MULTI-FAMILY	RESIDENTIAL ACCESSORY DEWELLING UNIT	RESIDENTIAL REMODEL/ ADDITION	YEAR TOTALS
2019	13	-	20		34	67
2020	14	-	31	1	31	77
2021	5	-	26	3	29	63
2022	17	2	38	1	45	103
2023	12	4	27	1	36	80
2024	25	9	35	2	28	99
Totals	86	15	177	8	203	489



AWARDS

The Mammoth Community Water District and Laboratory Supervisor, Bruce Medhurst, were recognized by the California Water Environment Associate (CWEA), Sierra Section for 2023 awards. The District was named the Sierra Section's Collection System of the Year in the small plant category (5 MGD), and Mr. Medhurst received the Sierra Section's Laboratory Person of the Year award. The Collection System of the Year award is given in recognition of outstanding maintenance programs, regulatory compliance, and safety and training procedures, and is awarded in three categories, small, medium and large. The Laboratory Person of the Year award recognizes involvement in projects that advance the science of laboratory technology and an individual's contributions to CWEA. The award was presented at the CWEA Sierra Section Awards Banquet on March 23, at the Atlantis Casino Resort in Reno, NV.



Bruce Medhurst accepting the Laboratory Person of the Year award from Kaylen Prior, CWEA Sierra Section President.

MCWD Staff accepting the Collection System of the Year award from Kaylen Prior, CWEA Sierra Section President. From left to right: Bobby Larson, Jessy Ruiz, Aaron DeRue, Trevor English, Robert Gonzalez, and Tim Brooks.

