As we enter a new decade, or finish out the last – there is some controversy about which is correct - we tend to reflect on the past and look ahead to new and exciting prospects for the future. Here at the Redway Community Services District we’re looking forward to several improvements to the District’s infrastructure, efficiency, and safety which will be implemented in 2020 and further into the future.

Staff

Before jumping ahead to what is to come, let’s have a look back at last year and our new employees. In 2019 the District hired additional field staff. Andrew Sawboh was added to the team in January, 2019 and was profiled in our last newsletter. Then, in July, Eric Moore also joined the field staff. Eric is a longtime community member who was raised in Southern Humboldt and knows his way around. He also has a lot of very useful experience operating heavy equipment. We appreciate Eric’s relevant knowledge and down-home sense of humor.
Water Distribution

Much of the Redway CSD treatment and distribution system is more than 30 years old. To help with distribution, last fall we purchased 42 hydrants to replace the old, failing hydrants. We were able to do this with the help of the Redway Fire Protection District, who shared the cost. The hydrants will be replaced over the course of the next few years. In December, the 2-inch main which serviced McKenzie was replaced by a new 6-inch main. There were several leaks at this site. The pipe replacement has already significantly decreased system water loss.

Wastewater

We have been awarded funding for a Wastewater Improvements Planning Project by the State Water Resources Control Board in the amount of $496,500.00. The award is the culmination of many months of work. The funding is for a planning project to design system upgrades and improvements to the wastewater collection and treatment system. The planning project is to be completed by December 31, 2022. A construction project will follow to implement the upgrades.

FEMA and CalOES Funds

The big storms that hit the area late last February and early March did severe damage to the wastewater plant access road as well as to the wastewater plant generator. Due to the power outages, the generator had to work overtime and would not have continued to function without constant human surveillance and intervention. And, as we have all more recently been made aware by PG&E, frequent power outages may become the new norm. However, there is some good news for the district: FEMA and CalOES have approved our request for Community Assistance Funding to repair the access road and replace the
generator. Both of these projects should be completed in the coming months. In addition to the assistance grant, CalOES informed us that we are also eligible for mitigation projects funding.

**Fire Safety**

Last year, General Manager, TK Williams became a member of the Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council (SHFSC). As a result, the Redway CSD partnered with the SHFSC and the Humboldt County Prescribed Burn Association in an effort to try to get funding for a Redway Fuel Reduction Project. The proposed project will take place on both private and State property inside of and directly adjacent to the District boundary, with the permission of the property owners. Hazardous fuel reduction generally requires the reduction of surface and ladder fuels, by various methods including fire, biological and mechanical treatments. Thinning trees, removing underbrush, and limbing trees is done either by hand crews or machines. With the ever-present threat of wildfires, it’s time that such a project, which will help mitigate or reduce impacts to Redway, be implemented.

**New Connection Process**

Many people are interested in developing vacant properties or expanding existing facilities within the District boundaries. The District has a limited number of water and wastewater connections available to accommodate new development. The process for connecting to the District facilities or expanding existing facilities within the District begins with a “Service Request Application.” Application fees apply.

The District currently has five new connections available for allocation. The reason for the limited number is directly related to the District’s current capacity to process drinking water and wastewater. If the District doesn't have sufficient capacity at the time of the application, the applicant will be placed on a waiting list.

The District is currently working on several projects to develop additional drinking water and wastewater capacity. As capacity becomes available, District staff will contact individuals from the waiting list. Applicants will be contacted on a first come, first served basis. Please call us with your questions, or stop by the office to pick up an application.

**New Business in Redway**

We’d like to welcome The Country Club, located at 3525 Redwood Drive, to Redway. The Country Club is a fine cannabis retailer that opened its doors on May 13, 2019.
Be a Good Neighbor: Please think before you flush!

RCSD collection system only treats limited types of waste:

Pee, Poo and Paper – the three P’s.

RCSD’s sewer collection system is NOT designed to accept any of the following elements:

1) Hazardous waste of any kind: paints, oils, cleaning agents, etc.
2) “Flushable” wipes or diapers.
3) Fabrics of any kind.
4) Plastic bags or food wrappers.
5) Cannabis oils, cleaning agents, solvents or plant residues.
6) Fats, oils or grease.

Disposal of any these elements into RCSD’s collection system can result in significant additional expenses for the district—costs which will necessarily be passed on to you and your neighbors in increased rates—and is in violation of RCSD ordinances.