

Subject: Re: Question on release of water
Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at 6:56:55 PM Central Daylight Time
From: Donovan Burton
To: WLM Gary Westbrook
CC: 'Scott Parrish'

Gary,

You have asked about why SAWS did not use the full amount of delivered water starting on the contract operation date of April 15, 2020.

As I mention in my previous email, SAWS has begun a new phase of integration into the distribution system. The steps SAWS has taken to start up this system since April 15 were planned, and we have been moving forward with this plan in the right way to bring on a new water supply project. There is no single reason, but rather several planned reasons why SAWS did not take the full amount of water into the distribution system, including:

- After operations began for the project, SAWS needed to operate the plant in a start-up mode for a period of time, including some operational flushing and hydrostatic testing of the facilities. Water used for that purpose was discharged pursuant to any required permits or appropriate notifications of the various responsible governmental entities.
- As noted before, as well as in communications between EPCOR and you, the project infrastructure is geared toward a minimum flow of approximately 20 mgd. Lesser flow volumes can create infrastructure and water quality risks that are detrimental to the infrastructure and could introduce risks to our customers that we are not willing to take. While receiving 20 mgd, SAWS decided that it was most prudent to send that water to a particular service area, but depending on demand, the unused portion would be discharged into Mud Creek as we further studied the water chemistry and continued construction of a larger pipeline that is best suited to move the additional water into further reaches of our system.
- Fully understanding water quality and chemistry is critical to the start-up of any new water supply project. SAWS is phasing water from this new project into SAWS' many service areas in a methodical manner, taking less than the fully-delivered amount to customers, to avoid any risk of adverse water quality events within the distribution system or to SAWS' customers. As noted before, one only has to look at projects in Flint, Michigan, Arizona and elsewhere to understand why these methodical approaches are critical to start-up. We have used this initial start-up phase of the project to further study the finished water quality to ensure continued careful planning for water integration into all areas of the system.

These reasons necessitated discharge into the adjacent Mud Creek due to their criticality to this new integration effort.

This complex operation remains necessary and transparent, including numerous media stories and public Board presentations detailing various operational activities of the project. That being said, as noted previously, we have begun the process of integrating all water delivered into our distribution

system and we will increase that volume over the next few months as we bring on a larger new pipeline section into our system.

Please be assured that SAWS will not waste water for which SAWS has paid such a substantial amount. Instead, we have taken prudent steps to introduce a new water source to our customers. Thank you again for your understanding concerning the needs of this project and for methodical integration of this new source of water into SAWS' distribution system. I look forward to further communication with you on this, or other matters.

Donovan

From: WLM Gary Westbrook <gwestbrook@posgcd.org>

Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 9:53 AM

To: Donovan Burton

Subject: Question on release of water

WARNING: This is an EXTERNAL email --- DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Donovan,

Thank you for your responses to my inquires, including verification water from Vista Ridge is no longer being released into Mud Creek. Could you please provide an explanation of why it took since April 15 when water was first delivered to SAWS under the contract for SAWS to be able to utilize the full amount of water being delivered?

Sincerely,

Gary Westbrook

General Manager

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