

WATER NEWS



**Our water.
Our future.**

September 2020

Paradise Irrigation District

Paradise Irrigation District has made significant recovery progress in under two years

As we approach the second anniversary of the 2018 Camp Fire and reflect on the recovery work completed by our local water district, we're reminded of the childhood story about a small engine asked to pull a very long train over a high mountain. The little engine steps up to the task and repeats the mantra, "I think I can, I think I can", and because of its dedication and hard work overcomes a seemingly impossible task.

PID staff personally affected by the 2018 Camp Fire were also faced with the monumental task of repressuring the water distribution system comprised of 173 miles of pipeline, identifying fire-related damage, managing hundreds of leaks, and restoring clean drinking water to customers after water quality was compromised due to the devastation of the 2018 Camp Fire. Additionally, one 3-million gallon in-ground storage tank (B Reservoir) was damaged as well as customer water meters and the infrastructure that supported an automated metering system.

The good news nearly two years later, is that the District with the help of federal, state, and local agencies, and our partners, has accomplished much of this seemingly impossible work; most notably, restoring clean drinking water to residents and businesses and creating solutions to ensure that we're delivering clean water that meets or exceeds regulatory standards to every customer rebuilding in Paradise. A water-quality advisory remains in effect for vacant lots and lots where a final certificate of occupancy has not been issued. Visit <https://pidwater.com/wq-advisory> for more information. *(Continued on back)*

Status Report for all Recovery Projects

Project	Goal	Target Date	Progress
Pressurize & clear mainlines *	Repair, test and restore potable water service to 100% of PID main pipeline system.	Efforts Ongoing	95%
* PID crews are still working to identify & assess water leaks as well as needed repairs to an estimated 100 small dead-end street pipelines.			
Test all standing structures	Test service laterals to ensure water delivered to lots with standing structures meets drinking water standards.	March 30 2020	COMPLETE
Expedite service lateral replacement	Keep up with Paradise's rebuild pace. Contractors are replacing approximately 650 service laterals this year. This project is in addition to service laterals replaced by PID crews.	August 2020	Almost 1,000 Service Laterals have been replaced by contractors and District crews.
Replace B Reservoir	Construct the Reservoir B replacement. The earth embankment reservoir with plastic liner/cover was destroyed in the fire.	To Be Determined	IN PLANNING
Replace meters	Replace fire-damaged meters and return to normal billing.	Planned for 2021	IN PLANNING

Online Updates



pidwater.com
facebook.com/pidwater



6332 Clark
Rd, Paradise



530-877-4971

PID to begin system-wide leak detection project



For PID, proactive leak detection is nothing new. Over the past decade, the District has made a practice of working with leak detection professionals to find undetected leaks and repair them before they surfaced; saving time and money in the long run, and conserving water for PID customers. Prior to the 2018 Camp Fire, the District had become so good at finding and repairing leaks that it reported only a very low 8% unaccounted for water loss. But since the 2018 Camp Fire, PID water crews battle leaks daily and worry about the leaks they cannot see. "We know we have leaks," says the District's Assistant Superintendent Pete Grout, "because we're delivering more water than our now small customer-base could be using." The water treatment plant is producing approximately two-thirds the volume of water it produced pre-fire for an estimated one-third of the population.

Because these new leaks are believed to be caused by the 2018 Camp Fire as a result of depressurization of the water system, the repairs qualify for FEMA funding. However, before the District can ask for FEMA funds, it must prove the leaks exist. To make its case to FEMA the District has hired Utility Services Associates to perform leak detection services on the entire 173 miles of distribution main. The cost of the service is \$389.00 per mile, totaling just over \$67,000.00, a smart investment needed to prove its multi-million dollar FEMA claim. PID crews will work closely with the leak detection firm to survey, pinpoint leaks, then schedule these leaks for future repair. Leak detection will start soon and may continue through the end of the year.

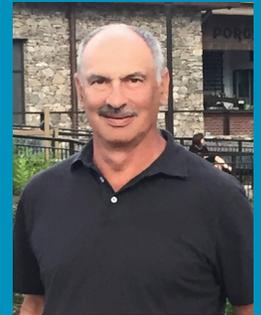
(Continued from front: Recovery progress)

What's next for PID's recovery?

Water Quality Assurance Monitoring: The District has successfully lifted the water quality advisory for all surviving structures and completed rebuilds. A revised advisory was issued in May for vacant lots and lots under construction. We understand how important safe drinking water is for our community. To ensure our customers can trust the quality of water delivered by PID we've developed a monitoring program. The district will continue to test and monitor water quality within its distribution system over the next two years.

Replace fire-damaged meters and return to normal billing: PID's metering system was badly damaged during the fire so the district hasn't had the equipment to measure and charge customers for the water they're using. Currently, customers pay either a ready-to-serve rate of \$21.49 per month or just the active rate (\$42.98 for residential) if the water advisory has been lifted at the property. Once the new meters are installed, customers will be charged \$1.61 per 100 cubic feet of water, plus the active service rate. The new metering system will be hardened to lessen damage should another fire occur on the ridge.

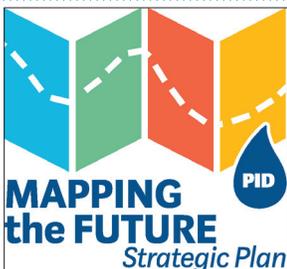
PID Board hires Interim District Manager



We're pleased to welcome Tom Lando to the Paradise Irrigation District. Lando will provide leadership for the District while the Board of Directors searches for a permanent District Manager.

Tom Lando has served in many director positions in Butte County since 1980 including City Manager for The City of Chico for 14 years and Interim City Manager for the City of Oroville since 2018. He has a Doctorate and Master's Degree in Public Administration, and a Master's Degree in City Planning.

"The District's in great shape and well run," notes Lando, "I'm excited to help bridge the gap."



Strategic Planning: Timeline Revision

Because of a director vacancy to be filled in November's election, the Board of Directors will postpone its strategic planning sessions. These public meetings originally scheduled for October will be rescheduled after the Division 2 Board vacancy has been filled.



Online Updates



pidwater.com
facebook.com/pidwater



6332 Clark Rd.
Paradise CA



530-877-4971