



SOUTH FEATHER WATER & POWER

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Matt Colwell, Water Division Manager

DATE: February 28, 2006

RE: General Information (regarding matters not scheduled on agenda)

Distribution Operations

Water Division staff have been accomplishing water distribution system maintenance and betterment projects including new office construction, service installations, leak repairs, and irrigation and domestic distribution system betterments.

Staff continues to assist Power Division on a couple of jobs along the Miners Ranch Canal. Most of the work consists of excavation and rock-fill for sites that had received erosion damage related to excessive winter runoff.

Irrigation crews are repairing a section of the **Forbestown Canal** that has recently failed due to bank saturation. The photo at right indicates the extent of the failed section.

On January 26th, I participated in a mock **Emergency Operations Exercise** coordinated by Butte County. The interactive emergency exercise consisted of intentional water system contamination at four locations throughout the County; Chico, Paradise, Kelly Ridge, and Oroville. The exercise provided an excellent opportunity for the water community to experience the County's emergency operations center and interact with local emergency officials.

We are actively converting our **Automatic Meter Reading (AMR)** system to a new and exciting upgraded system. As you may recall the old system was no longer actively supported by the industry and the Agency chose to upgrade the system to newer technology. This effort includes new meter transponders, handhelds, and billing software. Office staff and field staff, shown below, are receiving



training on all aspects of the AMR system including automatic and manual meter reading. The picture at

bottom shows the new ITRON handheld downloading a program to the transponder. The handhelds are basically miniature computers (wireless pocket PC) with vast functionality that will allow for future growth and automation as the need presents itself.



On February 6th California Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) inspected **Lake Wyandotte** outlet tunnel operations. Annual maintenance of the dam facilities includes exercising the low-level outlet. DSOD was invited to observe the program and inspect the 110-foot long tunnel. The

gate functioned well throughout the operation and the inspection went smoothly.

(He moved before opening the gate)



Water Treatment Operations

SFWPA has been asked by Yuba County Water District to assist with their treatment plant operations during a period of staff shortage. The request is to supply one MRTTP operator about every third week for weekend operations and standby duty. The MRTTP operators plan to spend a day reviewing and familiarizing themselves with the YCWD operations prior to any scheduled duty. YCWD will reimburse the Agency for staff time expended in this effort.

Water Plant Production: the MRTTP production (system demand) for January is 87 percent of average for the recent 5-year period (81 MG) and is the lowest January production in more than 20 years. Cooler temperatures, moist conditions, and improved operational efficiency are likely contributors to the reduced demand.

Bacteriological requirements were met for the Miners Ranch Treatment Plant and Bangor Treatment Plant.

Miners Ranch January 2006	
Total	70.0 Million Gallons
High	2.5 MGD
Low	2.0 MGD
Avg.	2.3 MGD
Bangor	
Total	0.19 Million Gallons
High	0.03 MGD
Low	0.00 MGD
Avg.	0.02 MGD

Solar Plant Production: The high winds and low humidity last month created some problems for our photovoltaic system. A panel blew loose and local atmospheric static electricity caused the small inverter to shutdown. Everything was back online within 48 hours.

The graph below provides a perspective of historical energy consumption compared to water production.

