



## ***SOUTH FEATHER WATER & POWER AGENCY***

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**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Matt Colwell, Water Division Manager

**DATE:** January 22, 2009

**RE:** General Information (regarding matters not scheduled on agenda)  
1/27/09 Board of Directors Meeting

### **Distribution Operations**

Water Division staff have been accomplishing water system maintenance and normal operations tasks. Ongoing projects include irrigation and domestic distribution system betterments, new service installations, and leak repairs.

### **Woodleaf Creek Siphon Failure**

On Monday, December 22, after a period of very cold low-elevation snowfall, North Yuba Water District ordered water from SF-14 to feed their water treatment plant (WTP) nearly 10 miles away. There was an urgent need for the water based on an estimated 2 day supply at the NYWD WTP. On Tuesday December 23, Rocky Alger (SFWPA ditchtender) started looking for water that hadn't shown up in the system as expected.

At 10:00, Tuesday, the call came across the radio to shut water off to the Forbestown Ditch and that a major pipeline failure had occurred on the Woodleaf Creek siphon. At 13:00 I made the decision that the pipeline would not be repairable in the near term and that NYWD would have to take emergency actions to make two days of water last for an unspecified time. At that time, John Franklin and I began to consider how to develop an emergency supply of water. With a significant amount of snow on the ground and an approaching storm, access for emergency equipment for repairs would be difficult, at best. We acted immediately to implement our best option which was to utilize Young Life's Woodleaf pond to pump water into the ditch down stream of the failed siphon outlet and to restore a temporary water supply. At NYWD headquarters, John and I began calling and tracking down the specialized equipment that would be needed to affect the temporary fix. The equipment rental company, Rain-for-Rent, had the equipment needed and was available to assist.

At 15:30 we met with the Rain-for-Rent representative at the site and developed the project's equipment needs. At that time I discussed with Bill Suppa (NYWD's GM) the level of responsibility that SFWPA would accept in the emergency water supply. With direction from Mike Glaze, I informed Bill that we would perform the required level of emergency repairs, but that NYWD would have to accept financial responsibility for the emergency pumping equipment. We agreed that NYWD, under protest, would accept the financial and operational responsibilities and that the agencies' respective legal counsels could deal with any contract disputes that might arise once the emergency was mitigated

At 07:00, Wednesday December 24<sup>th</sup>, John Franklin, Rocky Alger, Larry Johnston, Dennis Vincelet, Tyler Fuller and I mobilized to modify the existing ditch system and assist Rain-for-Rent and NYWD to establish the emergency water supply.

Currently the majority of Water Division crews have expended considerable priority effort for approximately two weeks to prepare the siphon site for the installation of the repair. I estimate approximately another couple of weeks to complete the repair and restore normal operations to the ditch system. I have prepared a quick visual presentation for your meeting to help explain the problem and the needed repairs, and will gladly discuss the project process and progress in more detail at that time.

I would like to publicly thank the Young Life, Woodleaf camp operations and management staff who have been extraordinarily cooperative throughout this emergency. Their kindness and willingness to accommodate our project access needs has allowed for an expedited resolution.

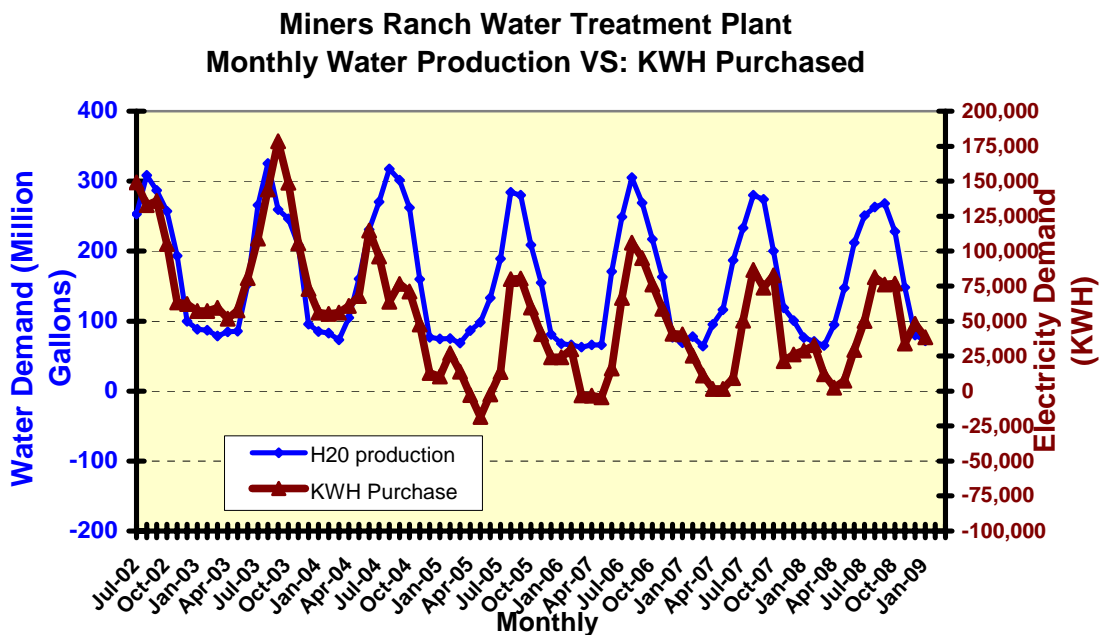
### Water Treatment Operations

The December MRTTP production was slightly above average for the recent five-year period. The MRTTP cumulative water production graph at the end of this report shows the total water production for the 2008 calendar year. The cumulative water production for 2008 is 1.98 billion gallons, which is approximately 8% above average. Most of the demand increase occurred in April and May which were 152% and 130% of average, respectively, and resulted from an extraordinarily dry spring.

Miners Ranch Production		December 2008	
Total		76.4 Million Gallons	
High		2.8 MGD	
Low		2.1 MGD	
Avg.		2.5 MGD	

### Solar Plant Production

At the Board's last meeting, I discussed the theft and resulting damage that crippled approximately one third of the power generation capabilities of the solar array. SPG solar has completed the repairs for a cost of \$10,300 and the system is operating at 100% capacity. The graph below provides a historical perspective of energy consumption compared to water production.



# M RTP Total Annual Water Production

