



SOUTH FEATHER WATER & POWER AGENCY

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Arthur V. Martinez, Manager of Information Systems

DATE: April 20, 2010

RE: General Information (regarding matters not scheduled on the agenda)
04/27/10 Board of Directors Meeting

While I do not normally prepare a report for the board, our General Manager felt we had a number of significant projects on the horizon which should be brought to your attention. These projects are either part of our new contract requirement with PG&E or attempts to improve our existing infrastructure for our new contract. I will attempt to keep the "techno-babble" to a minimum.

Telephone Systems

The new PG&E contract requires that any phone contact made between the Agency and PG&E must be recorded. Since this requirement will affect a number of people in both water and power divisions, as well as administration, the plan is to make the change agency-wide. The Agency's current phone system has reached its end of life and the preference is to not spend a significant amount of money on an antiquated phone system to accommodate the contract requirements. With input from Communications Technician Brian Howerton, the decision has been made to implement a Voice-over IP phone system which will meet the current and future needs of the Agency, including on-demand call recording. This phone system will have the ability to record calls as well as provide the redundancy not available with the current phone system. The plans to upgrade the current microwave system will tie in nicely with the capabilities of the new phone system, allowing the phone system to be extended, giving off-site locations full access to it.

GOES Satellite System:

As Matt Colwell previously reported, a project has been implemented to install a better water-flow monitoring system. The new system will use satellite communication equipment that will allow remote location flow data to be beamed directly to the Agency's office, as well as to the USGS office. This data will be collected by the Agency to provide the annual data required by the USGS. This year the contract with Surface Water Data ends and the collection and processing of this data will hereafter be done in house. One of the important outcomes is that the collected data will be more accurate and closer to real-time. The Agency's consultant, Innovative Hydrology, Inc., has already begun purchasing the equipment needed to start the upgrades. Their office is working closely with Eddie Paul (newly appointed Agency hydrographer) and Brian Howerton, as well as managers Kathy Zancanella, Matt Colwell, and me. Installation of the new equipment is anticipated to start as early as June 2010.

Butte County Special Districts Association:

On May 6, 2010 at the Western Pacific Restaurant, the Butte County Special Districts Association is hosting its General Membership dinner meeting. Director Jim Edwards and I would like to extend an invitation to all directors to attend. Doug LaMalfa, 4th District Senate Candidate, will be the evening's speaker, and will be available for a short question and answer session.