



SOUTH FEATHER WATER & POWER

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Michael Glaze, General Manager

DATE: March 17, 2005

**RE: General Information (regarding matters not scheduled on agenda)
3/22/05 Board of Directors Meeting**

New Clerk/Receptionist

Long-time local resident, Cheri Ruloph will begin work on Monday, March 21 in the position of Clerk/Receptionist. Since 2002 she has worked for the Salvation Army in Chico as its Head Bookkeeper doing accounts receivable and payable, payroll and records management. Previously, she was the office manager for AA Business Systems in Oroville. She is a graduate of Las Plumas High School.

In addition to her knowledge, skills and abilities that are nicely matched to our needs, Cheri is a very friendly and outgoing young lady who, I predict, will prove to be a valuable public relations resource. Eventually, after she has become well acquainted with our operations and staff, she will become an ombudsman for customers and developers, assisting in providing them with a "one-stop shop" to answer their questions, resolve their issues, and assist in compiling all the necessary water-service information that they need to further develop their property.

Methodist Church Water Service

Gladina LaBuff, representing the Methodist Church on Acacia Avenue, was at your last meeting. She explained that the church's water service from CalWater was leaking and that the cost for its repair was such that they preferred switching to South Feather Water and Power. She correctly explained that we have an existing main in the street right of way in front of the church, and that a connection to our system would be relatively easy. She asked the Board to provide financial assistance for the church, either by waiving fees or allowing them to finance a larger portion of the total cost than I had specified.

I had estimated the cost for providing a 5/8" service to the church at \$8,334, including outside costs for an annexation plat and description. The initial deposit I had specified to be paid prior to commencement of construction – \$4,242 – was for other-agency fees and the cost of material only.

Although the Board asked that this be an item on the forthcoming agenda, the church decided to pay the deposit, and installation of the service will have been completed by the Board meeting date.

Assistance to California Rural Water Association

Two weeks ago I spent three days in Washington, D.C., as part of a California Rural Water Association (CRWA) delegation, seeking congressional support for continued funding of programs administered by the Association. Since at least 1996, both the EPA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture have included approximately \$12 million (combined) in their budgets to provide technical assistance and training for small water systems (less than 10,000 population) throughout the nation.

Although SFWPA is not a small water system, we are members of CRWA and have benefited by its services. In fact, last year we utilized a program developed by the National Rural Water Association to develop the mandated vulnerability assessment for our treatment plant. Had it not been for this tool, the assessment would have cost us between \$15,000 and \$20,000 for consultant services. We have also sent treatment plant and distribution operators to classes provided by CRWA.

I was asked to be a part of the delegation because we are in Congressman John Doolittle's district (he is an influential member in the appropriations process). Over the course of the two days I spent on the hill (primarily in the Rayburn Building), I had appointments with the staff of 14 California congressmen and women, and the staff of both Senators Feinstein and Boxer.

Presentation at Solar Energy Conference

I was asked to be on a panel at a conference last week in Chico sponsored by North State Renewable Energy, a group that promotes renewable energy and conservation practices. I made a presentation on our MRTP solar project alongside panelists representing SC-OR, Butte County and the City of Chico. SFWPA continues to be seen as the spearhead for incorporating solar energy in conjunction with drinking-water treatment facilities in California.

NCWA Workshop

Vivian Meyer, Matt Colwell and I met earlier this week with NCWA Executive Director David Guy to discuss South Feather's ongoing relationship with that association. It was agreed that our entire Board would benefit by an overview of issues NCWA is presently working on, how they have developed, and why they are important to SFWPA. For that purpose, Mr. Guy will be present at your meeting in April to present that information and answer your questions.

This workshop, together with a presentation by our FERC consultants, may cause that meeting to go longer than usual, so plan accordingly.

Annual Facilities Tour

It may only be March, but we are beginning already to plan for our annual facilities tour. I would like to propose the date of Thursday, June 30. To facilitate efficient planning, please begin preparing your invitation list and submit it to Patty Douglass at the Board meeting in April (4/26/05).