



# WATER NEWS

## AMADOR WATER AGENCY



Quarter Four  
2006

### Transmission Pipeline: On Schedule and On Budget



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**G**reat News...The Raw Water Transmission Pipeline project is on schedule and on budget. The pipeline project is an 8.8 mile, 30 inch pipeline that is being constructed from Lake Tabeaud to the Agency's Tanner water treatment plant in Sutter Creek..

The project replaces the old Amador canal with a steel pipeline that is expected to last **100** years. The old ditch system needed replacement due to excessive leakage, operational losses, surface run off contamination, and limited capacity to move water down the canal to our treatment plants. The pipeline project will also improve reliability of our water system for our customers.

Recently, the pipeline contractor, Ranger, crossed Highway 88 and installed the pipeline at the Tanner water treatment plant. Ranger is ahead of schedule and is progressing well. Weather permitting, most of the pipe work will be installed this calendar year and we are hopeful that it will be fully operational the second quarter of 2007 . A second smaller pipeline will be installed in the ditch to provide raw water to existing customers during the 2007–2008 year time frame. At that time the old canal will then be abandoned.



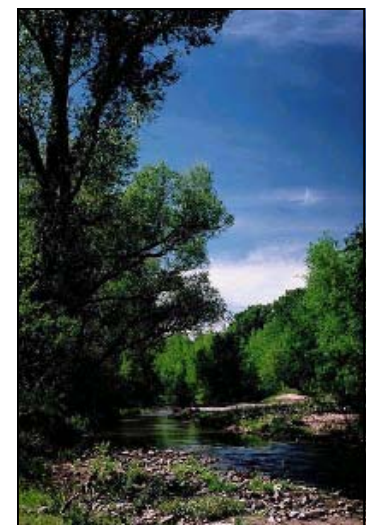
### What is the new Disinfection By-Product Rule?

**C**hlorine is the most widely used water disinfectant due to its effectiveness and cost. Using chlorine as a drinking water disinfectant has prevented millions of waterborne diseases, such as typhoid, cholera, dysentery, and diarrhea. Most states require community water systems to disinfect. However, research shows that chlorine has side effects. It reacts with some types of organic matter present in water and forms a series of compounds that have been linked to cancer in animals. These compounds are called disinfection by-products (DBP's).

#### [Where does this organic matter originate?](#)

All living organisms have carbon as an essential element in their cells. When trees shed their leaves, they start decomposing and are ultimately broken down by bacteria into carbon-containing compounds.

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## Landslide Bypass to be Paid by FEMA and the State OES

As you may recall, part of the old canal system that serves Sutter Creek, Jackson, and Ione was significantly destroyed by a landslide. The landslide was approximately 300 feet wide and 1500 feet long. The Agency implemented our Emergency Response Plan and was able to restore water supply within 24 hours, thanks to the efforts of our employees and the community.



However, this temporary repair and ultimately a permanent repair of the raw water supply would cost the Agency and its customers \$1.4 million. With assistance from the County Office of Emergency services, the Agency applied for and received 100% reimbursement for both the temporary repair and the permanent fix. In addition, the Agency has also been obligated about \$50,000 to repair damaged wastewater facilities in Lake Camanche, Gayla Manor and Pine Grove. This is great news for our customers!



***Did you know that the Amador Water Agency has several convenient ways to pay your bills?***

- ◆ We offer Visa and MasterCard payments that you can make by phone or schedule automatic credit card payments.
- ◆ We also use Check-free service for electronic payments. Go to [Checkfree.com](http://Checkfree.com) for more information.
- ◆ We have a pay station at the Ione Pharmacy for our customers in Ione or Camanche area. We are looking into establishing a pay station Up Country as well.

### **Lost your bill?**

Just call the office and we will be happy to look up your account number for you.



## Service is #1

The mission of the Amador Water Agency is *“To enhance the quality of life in Amador County by producing clean, safe, reliable water and providing sanitary wastewater services. We will accomplish this as a team dedicated to excellent customer service, while at the same time, maintaining appropriate rates and community leadership.”* We at the Amador Water Agency strive to provide excellent customer service to all our customers. Over the past few years, the Agency has sent out random questionnaires to our customers asking what they thought of the Amador Water Agency. Below is a summary of those returned surveys.

- ◇ Over 89% of our customers were satisfied or very satisfied with our service.
- ◇ Over 91% of our customers were satisfied with our phone service.
- ◇ Over 93% of our customers rated our service as average or very good.
- ◇ However, only 58% of our customers rated our rates as reasonable compared to gas or electric service companies.

While the Agency is very pleased with the overall level of satisfied customers, the Agency needs to better articulate the reasons why the water and wastewater rates are where they are and why the rates are needed to provide clean, safe, reliable water and wastewater services. Some reasons why are 1) To comply with the ever changing and restrictive state regulations and 2) Agency's infrastructure needs replacement, for example the new pipeline in the Amador Canal. Frequent communication with our customers will help explain how the Agency is prudently expending rate payer funds.

*Continued from front page*

[What are the types of DBP's?](#)

Chlorine disinfection can produce hundreds of by-products when chlorine reacts with organic matter. Two major classes, trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAA's), make up the bulk of the suspected cancer causing by-products. Temperature, time, and water pH, along with the disinfection process and other source water characteristics, determine what DBPs will form.

[What does the DBP Rule say?](#)

The Disinfection By-Products Rule (DBPR) has two stages. Stage one DBPR applies to community water systems that add disinfectant to the drinking water during any part of the treatment process including those serving fewer than 10,000 customers. For systems that serve fewer than 10,000 customers, the rule took effect on January 1, 2004 and looks at the average values of an annual group of test results. The Stage one DBPR establishes seven new standards and a treatment technique of enhanced coagulation and enhanced softening to further reduce DBP exposure. The standard applies to all systems that add chlorine, chloramines or chlorine dioxide as a disinfectant.

Stage two DBPR will supplement the Stage one rule and will require water systems to meet disinfection MCLs at each monitoring site in the distribution system. The rule also seeks to better identify monitoring sites that include pockets where high concentration of DBP's are suspected.

[What does a violation of the DBP rule mean?](#)

It means that a water system violated a drinking water

standard. Although, not an emergency, the Department of Health Services would require notification of out customers. If a notification was given you would need to use an alternative (e.g. bottled) water supply. This would not be an immediate risk. If it is, you will be notified immediately. However, some people who drink water containing Haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

[What are ways to minimize DBPs?](#)

There are four ways to deal with DBPs; (1) minimize precursors, (2) reduce disinfectant doses and contact time, (3) remove DBPs after they form, and (4) use alternative disinfectants.

[What is the timeline for the Stage Two rule?](#)

EPA conducted its first meeting about the Stage two rule in March 1999. The last public hearing on the Stage two rule was in January 2005 with a final rule expected soon.

[What is the Amador Water Agency doing to comply with these new regulations?](#)

First, currently the only area showing high disinfection by-products levels is the Buckhorn water system. This system serves Pioneer down to Sunset Heights. Second, the Agency is fully complying with the sampling requests in both Stage one and two of the new regulations. Once enough data is gathered, the Agency will prepare a plan to best comply with these new regulations.

Information provided by [What is the Disinfection By-Products Rule?](#) from On Tap , Winter 2006

**Board of Directors**

- Heinz Hamann, District 1
- John Swift, District 2
- Ted Novelli, District 3
- Dan Brown, District 4
- Terry Moore, District 5

**Meetings held on the  
2nd & 4th Thursdays  
9:00 a.m.  
Water Agency Office**

Jim Abercrombie, General Manager

**Did you Know?**

Leaky plumbing is the biggest household water waster. A single drip every minute can send over 167 gallons of water down the drain in 24 hours or a total of 5,000 gallons in just 30 days!



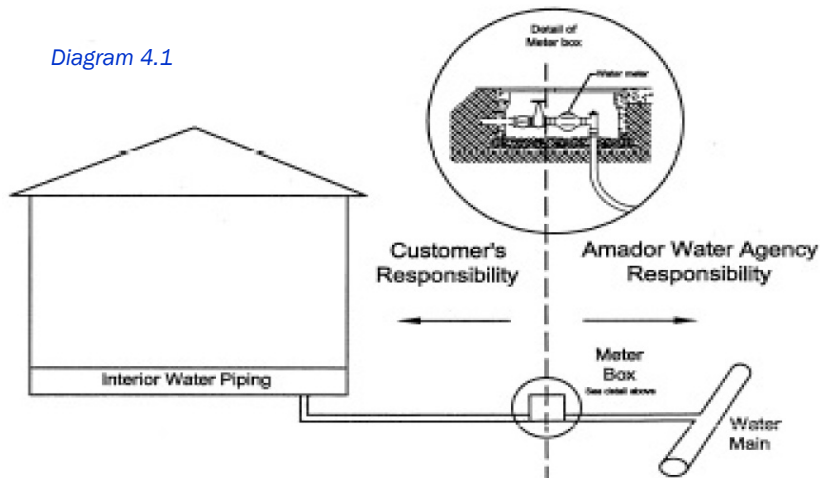
## Are You Ready for Winter?

Winter will be here soon. Are you prepared? Every year people are caught off guard and are inconvenienced by not having water or having to contend with broken water pipes from freezing. The Agency suggests doing the following to avoid problems.

- ◇ Wrap and insulate all water lines that are exposed or subject to freezing. Outside faucets and pipes, including those in unheated garages and crawl spaces, are most vulnerable. Wrap with insulating material and/or electrical heat tape, then cover with plastic and secure with string or wire. Extremely cold weather can freeze even insulated or underground pipes.
- ◇ Drain and winterize your irrigation system.
- ◇ Drain and properly store all your hoses.
- ◇ Don't forget your pets. Make sure their water dish does not freeze—even if it's in the garage.
- ◇ Don't put antifreeze in your toilet if you are going to be away from home for an extended period of time. If you have a septic system, you run the risk of causing groundwater contamination.
- ◇ If your water bill seems unreasonably high, check for a broken service line. If you discover a problem call the Agency Customer Service Department for assistance. If a pipe breaks, you can stop excessive water loss and flooding quickly. Look for the main valve in the basement, garage, or outdoors by the foundation. It may be worthwhile to install a shut-off valve at your meter. (see diagram 4.1 for responsibilities) Remember...the Amador Water Agency is not responsible for water loss or damage caused by water leaks and/or

high pressure.

Diagram 4.1



## Public Information Notice

THE AMADOR WATER AGENCY TRANSMISSION PIPELINE WILL BE UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN THE LAKE TABEAUD RECREATIONAL AREA STARTING OCTOBER 2, 2006 AND CONTINUING THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2006. THERE MAY BE PERIODIC CLOSURES OF ALL OR PART OF THE RECREATIONAL AREA DURING THIS CONSTRUCTION. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS PROCESS, PLEASE CONTACT KEN HUNT, CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT (209) 304-5192

THE AMADOR WATER AGENCY APPRECIATES YOUR PATIENCE DURING THIS CONSTRUCTION PERIOD.

Amador Water Agency  
12800 Ridge Road  
Sutter Creek, CA 95685

Phone: 209-223-3018  
Fax: 209-257-5281

24 Hour Emergency

Serving the Water Needs



of Your Community

Hours of Operation  
Monday—Friday  
8 a.m.—5 p.m.

Visit us on the web  
[www.amadorwa.com](http://www.amadorwa.com)