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QUAIL VALLEY WATER DISTRICT NEWS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MONTCLAIRE WELL FAILURE

In September, the District experienced a failure of the pump in the Montclaire well. This was a critical failure since this well is our only water source!

We first noticed an issue on the evening of 9/13 during the daily inspection when it was found that the Montclaire reservoir was nearly empty. We were able to make temporary repairs and get the pump operating again before we ran out of water but we continued to have issues with the pump through the weekend and after discussions with Abundant Water Wells, the contractor drilling our new Montclaire well, it was decided that the most likely cause of our issues was a failing pump motor which Abundant Water Wells replaced on 9/17.

With the new motor installed and the well operational again, we continued to monitor the well daily. On 9/20 we discovered a water leak outside of the well house. After excavating around the leak and repairing the broken fitting, we attempted to restart the well pump and found the breaker tripped. After resetting the breaker and again starting the pump, it was found that the pump was again drawing excessive current and tripping the breaker. Abundant Water Wells was again contacted and a new pump and motor ordered for installation the following day.

Since we likely run out of water by morning, we did additional diagnostics and found the start relay had failed. With a new relay installed, the pump was again operating normally!

Through close monitoring of pump operation, we were able to observe that reservoir level controls were causing the pump to cycle rapidly causing failure of the start relay and capacitors and overheating the motor. We disconnected the reservoir level controls from the pump and manually operated the pump to maintain water levels while replacing the level control and adding a pump saver with a delay function to prevent cycling of the pump.

All of these repairs have been completed and the well is now operating correctly. In addition, we now have a spare pump, motor and control for the existing well so we can better respond to any new failures.

All of this comes at a cost. The first motor, pulling and replacing pump along with the second motor, pump and control panel added up to \$7,945.00! That is about \$128.00 per customer! In addition, District staff spent a very large portion of their time for that 2 week period operating and repairing the well.

Lets hope we don't have any more failures!

RATE INCREASE

At the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors on September 29th, the Board voted to reduce the voluntary rate increase from \$70.00 to \$35.00. They took this action in response to the recent payment from Kern County reimbursing the District for expenses related to water line relocation along Umtali and also the settling of an old debt related to a water service connection. These two payments enabled the District to pay most outstanding bills and will help us to get through the end of the year barring any unforeseen expenses.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS VACANCY

Quail Valley Water District has a vacancy on the Board of Directors.
If interested in serving your community, please contact Richard at 822-1923, Monday through Thursday, 8:30 to 12:30.