

# Water Customers Number Tops 11,000, City Water Department Report Shows

## Department Revenue \$352,000; Pumped 1.5 Billion Gallons

Water Superintendent Weston L. Webber submitted his annual water department report last night to show the activities of the municipal utility, and what was done with the \$352,117 earned by the department during the past fiscal year.

Webber stated in its letter of transmittal that the department sold 1.5 billion gallons of water to an average number of 11,003 customers during the period. Of the total revenue, \$101,247 was used for operating expenses exclusive of depreciating expense.

Of every dollar earned by the department, 81 cents stemmed from domestic water sales, five cents from irrigation sales, nine cents from industrial water sales, three cents from commercial water sales, 3/8 cents from public and private fire protection, the same amount from the Pasatiempo golf course, 1/4 cent flat rates, and 1 cent miscellaneous income.

Expenditures per dollar are broken down as follows: 20 cents for production, storage, purification, and distribution of water; four cents for customer service billing, and collecting; four cents for administration, 26 cents invested to rehabilitate, extend and improve the water system; 21 cents for depreciation; four cents bond interest, four cents transfer to general fund, 11 cents bonds retired during the year, and six cents to increase the water fund.

Activities of the department during the fiscal year also were highlighted by the report.

During the year the cross-city line was completed and placed in full operation. The final construction cost was \$186,776.17.

Plans and specifications were completed for the coast transmission line, but right of way acquisition difficulties held up the project. The department installed approximately 3800 feet of 16-inch pipe of the new coast line at the location of the Laguna creek state highway project. The relocation of the highway would involve removing of certain sections of the present 14-inch line. It was therefore necessary to install the new pipe line before highway construction began.

A new coordinated unit substation was installed to replace the switchboard originally installed at the time the treatment plant was constructed at the San Lorenzo river. The new installation provides the plant with modern equipment of the latest design. Two new low lift pumps and one high lift pump were installed to replace units fully depreciated. The installation of modern efficient pumping units has proven to be justified in that the plant is now capable of producing 16 per cent more water than with the old units.

During the year, the engineering firm of Brown and Caldwell, San Francisco, was retained for the purpose of making a study of the water treatment plant relative to its modernization. The temporary operating permit granted to the city by the state department of public health specified that steps be taken to improve the processes of water treatment at the plant. The problem given to Brown and Caldwell was to prepare a report showing how to make the necessary improvements together with cost estimates of doing the work. The re-

visions, 15th avenue and Majors street. Only two short main extensions were made during the year, New street and Mountain way.

The installation of new pumps at the Pasatiempo booster pumping station was completed during the month of January. On February 23, a high wind hit northern California with disastrous results for the Pasatiempo booster station. A large triple pine tree was blown over, falling on the pumphouse and completely demolishing it. Fortunately, the pumps were not harmed and water service was restored by late afternoon of the next day. A new pumphouse had to be constructed at a cost of \$1070.

There was no change in the water treatment processes. The water from the coast supplies receives simple chlorination and the San Lorenzo river water is pre-chlorinated, filtered, and post-chlorinated.

About 20 to 30 samples are collected each month and sent to a private firm in San Francisco for bacteriological analysis. The samples include raw water from the San Lorenzo river and partially treated water at the San Lorenzo river plant and from Bay street reservoir. Samples are also taken from various points in the distribution system as treated water samples.

The report also includes the activities of the city water commission during the fiscal year. Fred J. Morris was chairman of the group, and other members includ-

ed Edwin Pagenhart, Milo Cain, Bert Snyder Jr., Wallace Richey, Laurence Canfield, and Weston L. Webber.

The Water commission, in conjunction with the city manager, attempted to reach an agreement with Pasatiempo, Inc., regarding the separation of the domestic and golf courses systems. Several meetings were held of all parties concerned. A proposed agreement was drawn up by the city attorney and presented for discussion at a meeting of the water commission, city manager, and Pasatiempo, Inc. Several points of disagreement arose which were not settled at the end of the year.

The Water commission recommended to the city council that water rates on Branciforte drive be increased to amortize the cost of the new pipe line. A recommendation was also made to define the service area limits on Branciforte drive. The city council accepted the recommendations and resolutions were passed accordingly. The service area was restricted to that area now served by the existing system.

Commissioners approved the inclusion of funds in the budget for the acquisition of watershed land

on the coastal streams now used by the city.

Numerous discussions were held concerning the forthcoming report of the state division of water resources. Preliminary information obtained from the state was presented to the commission members to keep them informed of the progress and contents of the report. Wallace Richey was elected chairman for the next year.

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