SWEETWATER SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT

TO: Board of Directors **AGENDA NO. VI**

FROM: Ed Fortner, General Manager

Meeting Date: November 5, 2020

Subject: GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Receive report from the General Manager.

FISCAL IMPACT: None

DISCUSSION:

1. **Laboratory Testing:** Water quality tests confirm that all SSWD water meets all known State and Federal water quality standards. The monthly State water production and sales report was modified for the September reporting period to transition to new water conservation regulations. Gallons Per Capita Per Day values will be the most significant number to track.

2. **Water Production and Sales:** Water sales in September were 30,099 units (69.1 AF Guerneville cycle), and production was 72.06 AF. Compared to one year ago, sales were lower, and production was lower (62.7 AF and 67.82 AF, respectively). Figure 1 shows sales, production, and % difference for the combined systems; the water loss trend was down this month (19.3%). Looking at the data over the last ten years, water production has dropped approximately 29%, and sales have dropped 18%. The water loss percentage was around 30% and now is in the 15-20% range. Much of the production and water loss drop can be attributed to the capital projects funded by Redevelopment. The sales drop is probably due to conservation.

3. **Leaks:** In October, we had twelve total leak repairs with 109 hours on them. Eight leaks were in Guerneville, and four were in Monte Rio. All leaks were in older lines. That is more leaks and more person-hours than the prior month and more leaks and more person-hours than October one year ago (7 and 51). Figure 2 shows service and main leaks separately with a total leak line as well. For Calendar Year 2019, total leaks were 78, down from 105 in 2018. Looking at the leaks chart over the last ten years, we've come

down from around 300 leaks per year to under 80 - quite a difference and very noticeable in what the field crews are able to do - address ongoing issues with in-house projects instead of chasing leaks every day.

4. **Guerneville Rainfall:** October rainfall was 0.00", which is lower than the long-term average month and puts the yearly total (00.00") below the long-term annual average. October begins the new precipitation year.

5. **In-House Construction Projects:** There were six in-house construction projects in October. 15504 River Rd., El Bonita pump building and stairs were painted, totaling 48 hours. A one-inch service line upgrade at 15920 Riverlands Avenue was completed totaling 15 hours. A meter was relocated outside of the fence at 16336 Third Street, totaling 6 hours. Construction of a new one-inch service was completed at 22620 Sylvan Way, totaling 31 hours. Three hundred sixty-five feet of two-inch HDPE was installed at Duncan Rd and Santa Rosa Avenue, totaling 38.5 hours. The total hours for all projects was 167.5.

6. **System Flushing:** System flushing began October 19th along Old River Rd and Rio Nido. We will complete Guerneville in mid-November and move to Monte Rio. All flushing will be complete by mid-December. We will do more abbreviated flushing at each hydrant due to the need to conserve water. After last year's flushing and water use during the fire, the system should be easier to flush. We have sent out flyers in the billing to alert customers if they see temporarily discolored water. The flushing schedule is attached to this report.

7. **Guernewood Park Resort:** At the September Board Meeting, the Board approved the draft reimbursement agreement with the Guernewood Park Resort development group. I emailed the developer group with the reimbursement agreement attached. I repeated the District's need for plan submittal for review before a will serve letter would be issued. I also reminded the developers that I had been in touch with Permit Sonoma, who also needs such a will serve letter to proceed with permitting. As of now, I have received no reply to my multiple outreach attempts.

8. **Watershed Recovery Task Force:** The Walbridge and Meyers wildfires started August 18th, and Mandatory Evacuations were issued on August 19th for most of our service area. The fire was 95% contained by the end of August. I continue to take responsibility for coordinating as liaison to County Emergency Operation Center (EOC), updating staff and the Board, and virtually attending all County Supervisor, Sheriff, Cal Fire, and EOC meetings. As part of the EOC coordination, I joined the Watershed Recovery Task Force, including Permit Sonoma, Sonoma County Water, State Water Resources Control Board, California Geological Survey, and many other partners. The meetings were held daily, starting on August 25th. Since September, the meetings are held three days a week. The group has been divided into three primary groups, Hazard Mitigation, Water Quality, and GIS. I have been most active in the Water Quality group.

Early on, I brought the Mercury mine and Mt. Jackson up as the District's primary concerns, along with Sweetwater Springs Rd. Tank and infrastructure impacts. The Water Board personnel cleared the mine, our staff has inspected and cleared the Sweetwater Springs Tank, and on Thursday, September 24th, the Board, Jack Bushgen, and I toured Mt. Jackson to assess damage and mitigation needs. We will need to take a more in-depth look at the Sweetwatersprings Rd. Tank area for potential vegetation issues. Water quality sampling plans and maps are being developed. I will share all final reports with the Board when I receive them. This has been a positive experience relative to building relationships with area officials. I have applied to FEMA for funding for vegetation removal, tree clearing, and erosion control of our property at Mt. Jackson.

9. **17448 River Lane Property Sale:** The District received a copy of a letter from the State Lands Commission stating that a new determination has been made for the high-water mark on the property for sale. The Russian River Parks and Recreation District is looking into the ruling and will advise Sweetwater Springs Water District relative to the property sale.

10. **Monte Rio Recreation and Parks District Trail:** At the October 1st Board Meeting, Sherry Pimsler with Monte Rio Recreation and Parks District (MRRPD) and Brian Grant with Praxis Architects presented the concept of a trail using District property, including potential purchase of parcel 097-130-011 and 096-010-001. MRRPD, in partnership with the County of Sonoma Parks, is planning to establish a regional trail linking Monte Rio to the Pacific coast via our property and through Willow Creek State Park. At Board direction, I have reached out to Steve Baxmon to arrange a tour for the Board to visit the site.

11. **Lower Russian River Community Advisory Group Governance Meeting:** There was a remote meeting of the LRRCAG on September 21st to discuss Wastewater solutions for Monte Rio and Villa Grande. Dan Fein and or Steve Trippe will attend the November 5th Sweetwater Board meeting to update the Board in more detail.

12. **Battery Backup Grant:** Golden State Renewable Energy LLC (GSR) contacted the District to offer Tesla battery storage backup for some of our pump station facilities. All our power usage infrastructure was investigated for such backup power viability. Our two highest power demand locations, El Bonita and Monte Rio well stations, were eliminated due to flooding concerns. Ultimately, three sites were considered viable, 9204 Monte Vista Terrace (Harrison Tank Pump Station), Park Avenue PS, and Sunset Avenue PS. The Board approved the MOU at our October meeting. The agreement states that the District will incur no costs for these installations. The State of California will reimburse GSR for their costs through a grant, and the District will enter into a ten-year lease with GSR for the use of the battery backups.

The MOU has been executed, and the District is now on a waitlist for the funding as the Grant was fully subscribed. Hopefully, some applicants will fall out, and funding will become available.

13. **Grants Update:** On October 14th, I submitted a Request for Assistance to FEMA for mitigation of debris removal, erosion control, and minor water line repair near Mt. Jackson and Sweetwater Springs Tank. This event is named DR-4558 and is a Federally declared disaster. The deadline for this submittal was October 31st. On October 20th, I submitted a grant application to the CalOES Community Power Resiliency Allocation to Special District Program for generator replacements for $300,000. This is a newly opened grant opportunity for Special Districts with no required match. I also applied for FEMA grant assistance for mitigation of the Mt. Jackson site.

14. **Property Tax Lien Policy Change:** Sukey, Gaylord, and I met on October 8th and had a thorough discussion about the Policy changes related to Property Tax Liens. We will continue to meet and hopefully finalize the policy before the December Board meeting.

15. **Gantt Chart:** The Gantt Chart is updated for November 2020.

16. **Economic Impact of no Disconnects for Non-payment:** The total uncollected amount in this Guerneville billing cycle due to non-payment with the non-Disconnect Executive Order is $5,094.43. This amount is tracking upward. The chart is updated with separate columns for billing cycles. We will continue to follow this amount.

Figure 1. Water Production and Sales 12 Month Moving Averages
Sweetwater Springs Water District Since September 2008

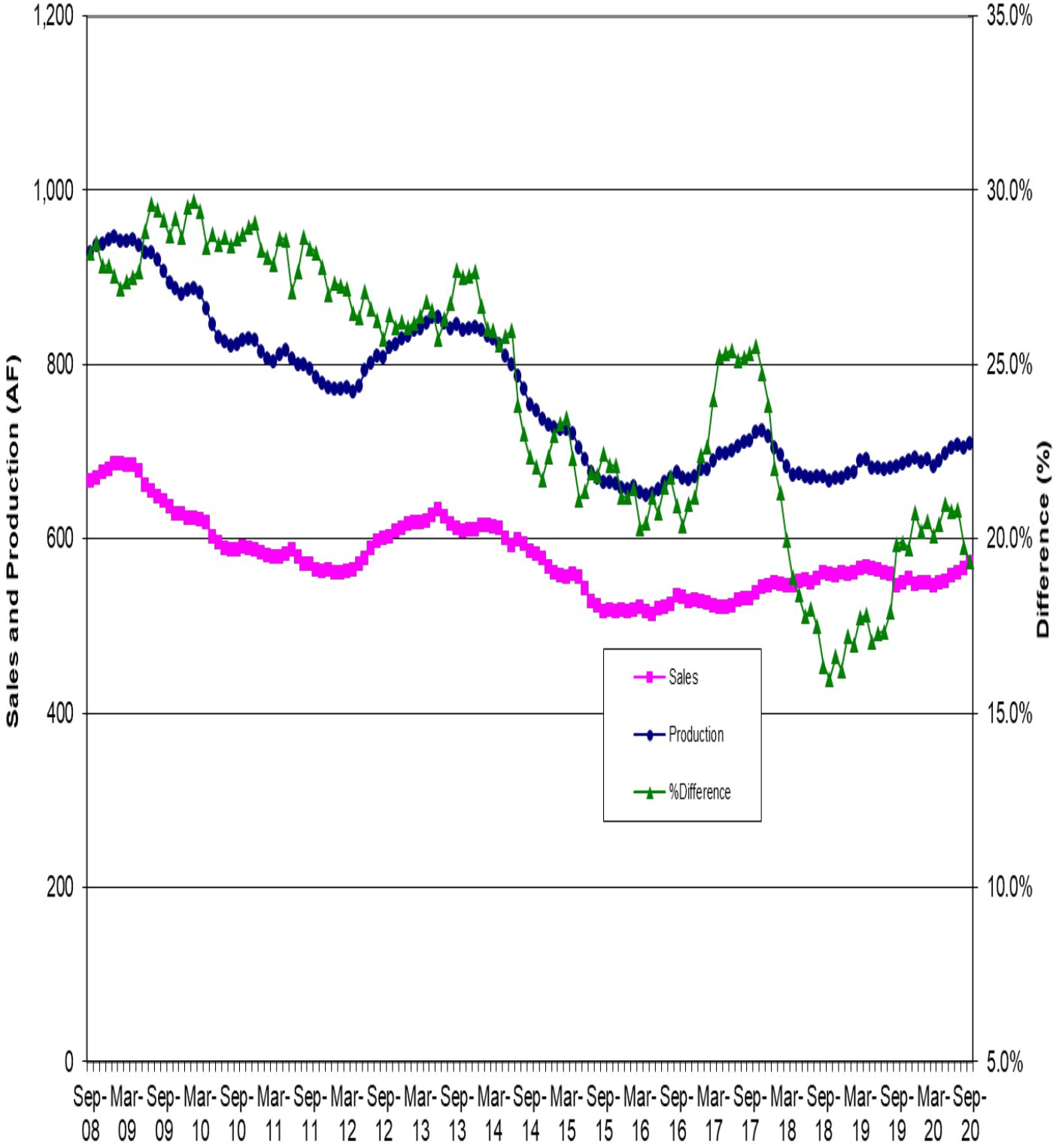

Figure 2. Sweetwater Springs Water District Main and Service Pipeline Breaks Moving Annual Average Since September 2008

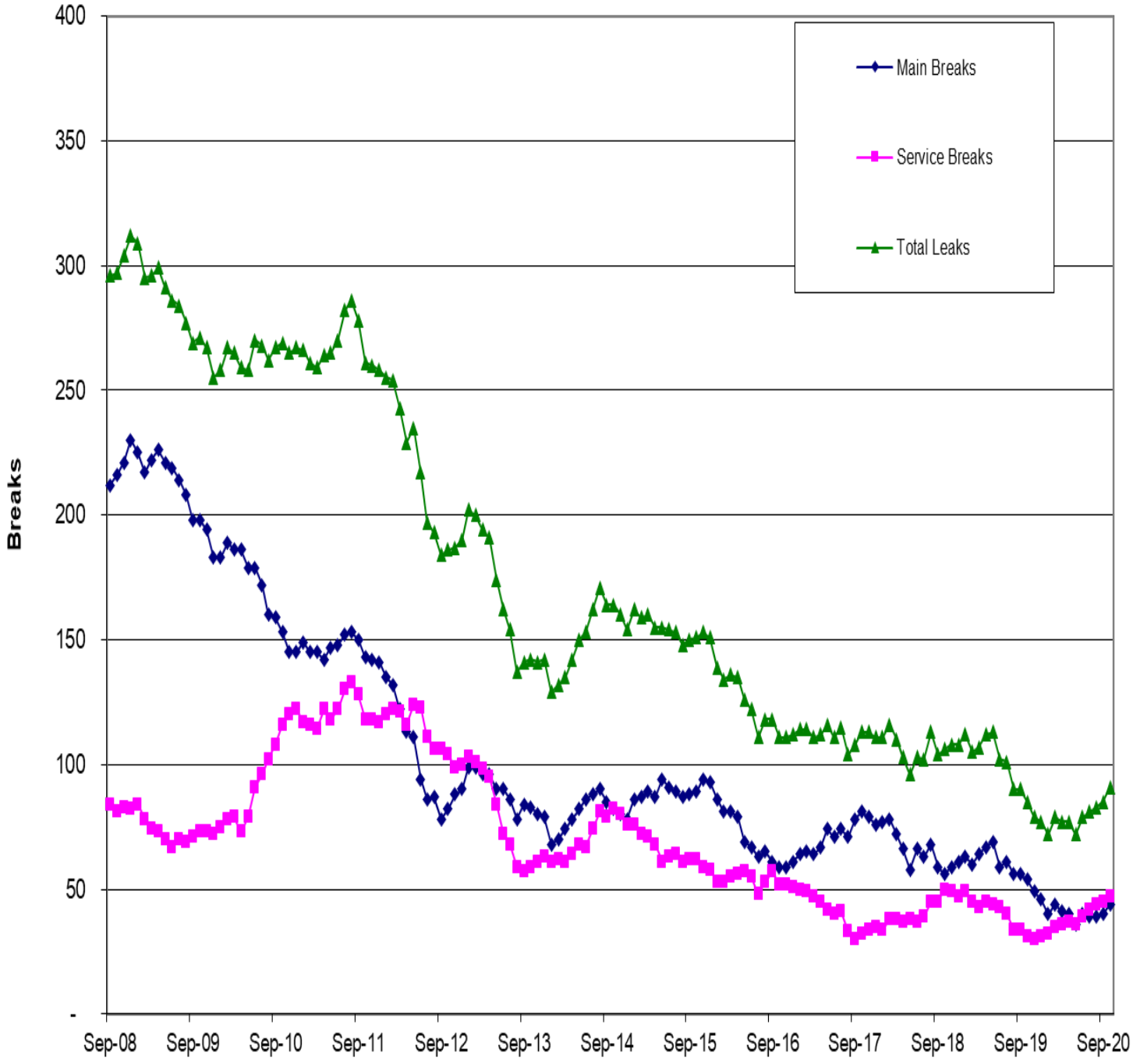

Figure 3. Guerneville Cumulative Monthly Rainfall

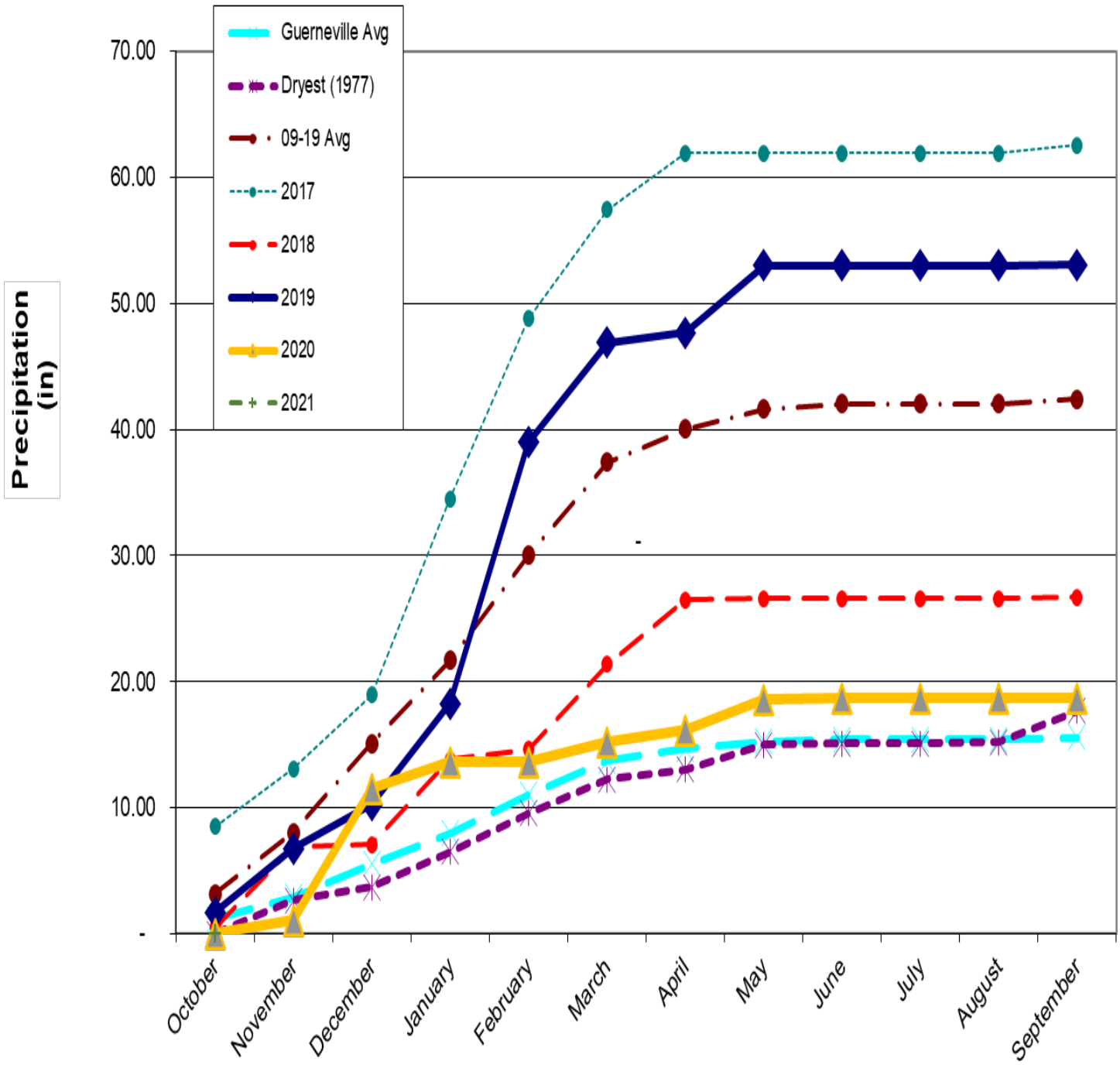

Figure 4. Sweetwater Springs WD Calendar Gantt Chart		Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	FY22+
Ongoing Activity														
Board Action														
Other Milestone														
Current Month														
By Activity														
Action Item/Milestone	**Projected Completion/ Milestone Date**													
Budget Preparation														
· Capital Improvement Program Board Discussion														
· Staff Budget Preparation Begins														
· Ad Hoc Budget Committee Reviews Draft Budget														
· Draft Budget to Board for Discussion/Action														
· Approve Budget														
Capital Projects														
· Update/Review District CIP														
· 2021 CIP Planning														
· 2021 CIP Design														
Local Hazard Mitigation Plan														
· LHMP Committee Meetings														
· LHMP Approval														
EPA Vulnerability Asessment														
Urban Water Management Plan														
Water Rights	SCWA													
Emergency Response Plan Review														
Urban Water Management Plan														
· UWMP Approval														
Policies and Procedures														
· Other Policy														
· Overall Review														
District Annual Review														

Tracking the Economic Impact of Suspending Water Disconnects for Non-payment

EVEN CYCLE			ODD CYCLE		
Billing Date	**# of Customers whose prior bill was still unpaid when next bill mailed**	**$ Value of Past Due Amounts**** (including unpaid customer deposits)	**Billing Date**	**# of Customers whose prior bill was still unpaid when next bill mailed**	**$ Value of Past Due Amounts**** (including unpaid customer deposits)
2/15/2020 (Historical disconnect procedure)	0	$0	3/15/2020 (SB 998 extends time before disconnect)	10	$1,565
4/15/2020 (Exec. Order N-42-20: Disconnects completely suspended)	24	$4,096	5/15/2020	5	$594.02
6/15/2020	9	$2,947.56	7/15/2020	8	$1,261.02
8/15/2020	7	$2,464.32	9/15/2020 (Suspended delinquency process due to wildfire.)	57	$7,646.52
10/15/2020	**16**	**$5,094.43**			

As of 10/15/2020, 15 customers have entered into COVID-19 Agreements. These customers are not included in the numbers above.

SWEETWATER SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT
2020 FLUSHING SCHEDULE

Sweetwater Springs Water District will soon be flushing the water lines. Flushing can temporarily cause your water to lack pressure and/or be discolored. If your water is discolored as a result of the District's flushing process, run an outside faucet at full pressure until it clears up. This should be done **after** flushing by the District is completed in your area. It should take no more than 5-10 minutes to clear. We also recommend that you flush your water heater at this time.

Look for the dates in 2020 that the District plans to flush the water lines in your neighborhood.* Flushing hours are from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

We regret this inconvenience, but this maintenance program should improve water quality in your neighborhood.

** It may be necessary to revise flushing schedule dates due to unscheduled repairs*

Flushing Date:	Neighborhood:
Zone 1 October 19-23	Old River Road (A-Action Rents east); Riverside Drive; Orchard Road; Foothill Blvd.; Bonita Ave; and Rio Nido. This zone also covers Sweetwater Springs Road.
Zone 2 October 26-28	Old River Road (A-Action Rents west); Woodland Drive; Morningside Drive; Palo Alto; downtown Guerneville; Fern Road; and Solar Ridge.
Zone 3 November 2-6	Drake Road; Guerne Way/Hill; Riverlands; Wright Land/Drive; Edgehill; Leasowe; Melody; Redwood Lane; Eastern; Western; Northern; Southern; Orchard Ln; Glenda; and Glandy Glen.
Zone 4 November 2-6	Neeley Road; E. Guernewood Road; Vacation Beach; Lark Drive; and Benson Road
Zone 5 November 9-13	Old Cazadero Road; Cherry Street; Hidden Valley; Fern Way; Monte Rosa; and Camino del Arroyo
Zone 6 November 9-13	Dubrava Village; Riverside Drive; Park Avenue; McLane Avenue; Summit; Old Monte Rio Road; Santa Rosa Avenue; Lovers Lane; and Hwy. 116 west of Guerneville
Zone 7 November 16-20	Monte Cristo Avenue; Duncan Road; Santa Clara Avenue; Hwy. 116 west of school and Russian River Meadows
Zone 8 November 16-20	Front Street; Beech; Breen Court; El Rancho; Grahn; Foothill Blvd.; B,C,D,E & F Street; Sunnyside; Ridgecrest; Redwood Drive; Hill; Chapel; Crescent; Golf Court; Northwood, and upper Northwood area
Zone 9 December 7-11	East Monte Rio; River Blvd.; Heller; Willow; Alder; Park; Kingston; Railroad; Elm; Pebble; Field Way; Bohemian Avenue; Monte Rio Avenue; and Railroad Avenue
Zone 10 December 7-11	Moscow Road; All of Villa Grande; Starrett Hill; and all of the Terraces
Zone 11 December 7-11	Main Street; downtown Monte Rio; Old Bohemian Highway; Fir; South, Alta; and Tyrone Road