



WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER: BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE WATER SYSTEM FOR THE FUTURE.

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About Us

City of Dixon acquired the water distribution system from Dixon-Solano Water Authority in 2014 and has served as a water provider to nearly 2,800 water connections (approximately 9,400 people).

The City of Dixon strives to provide the best value and highest quality water service to our customers, now and for the future.

The City of Dixon has a commitment to provide quality, affordable and reliable water service to its customers.

The City of Dixon places the utmost importance in conducting due diligence in its operations of the water system, which safeguards the quality of water, in the most cost-effective manner possible.

About the Water System

The City of Dixon delivered approximately 652 million gallons of water to about 2,800 connections (approximately 9,400 people) each year.

The water distribution system's mechanics and infrastructure were severely outdated and in need of rehabilitation or replacement. The City focused on immediate repairs while making a plan to prioritize, and fund, necessary capital improvement projects.

The City of Dixon's water system is complex. City engineers and maintenance crews are responsible for operating and maintaining a multi-part system consisting of five wells, four water storage tanks, and over 40 miles in length of transmission pipeline.

Continuous improvements to the water system are needed to keep the water storage and delivery system functioning in a safe, reliable manner.

City of Dixon is committed to protecting the city's assets and getting the most useful life from each component by implementing preventive maintenance and optimizing process controls.

City of Dixon must comply with state and federal standards. This requires annual state inspections with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to ensure infrastructure meets or exceeds regulatory standards.

Funding

City of Dixon receives its primary income source from monthly water service fees, which are used to maintain the overall operations and maintenance of the water system.

City of Dixon has been completing Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects based on the need to meet state and federal requirements, to be able to provide reliable water service, and to protect the water system. Annual CIPs are adopted by the city council based on need and are mostly funded through the water rates and reserves.

There are two reserve funds – Water Operating Reserve Fund and the Water Capital Reserve Fund, that are for “reasonable” expenses outside of the day-to-day operations, such as supply price increases, or unexpected issues such as replacing a broken pipe. The reserves are not for large-scale capital improvement projects, for example, well replacements.

While applying for grants or loans is feasible and will be pursued, receiving such funding is based on the ability to pay back the debt service. Reliable income to support debt service is a requirement to secure outside funding. Any decrease to the amount collected through water rates affects the city's ability to secure outside funding.

Without adequate revenue, necessary CIPs will not be completed, which could place the water system in jeopardy and compromise public health and safety.

All service providers, whether cable, internet, cell or utility, require adequate operating revenues to provide service. Water service is no different. Funds are needed for capital improvements, operations and maintenance, and to accommodate standard yearly increases in the costs of providing quality, reliable water service.

Operations, Maintenance and CIPs

Consistent, reliable operations and maintenance are needed to meet state and federal mandates, which are necessary to provide water service.

City engineers, operators and other staff work diligently to monitor the system, conduct safety protocols, perform maintenance checks and other day-to-day operations to maintain a safe, reliable water system.

A decrease in water revenues places the water system in jeopardy of meeting compliance measures such as developing and implementing a Cross Connection Control Program or operating a Valve Exercise Program. These programs are not only mandated under the City's operating permit, but each protects the health and safety of potable water supplies, provides fire protection and insures water supply in the event of an emergency.

Some of the wells acquired from the Dixon-Solano Water Authority are 40 or more years old and have surpassed usable life. New wells are needed to secure adequate supply and storage.

Several hundred existing water meters are antiquated and are not reliable for reporting accurate data. A Water Meter Replacement Program is needed to fund the replacement of these aging meters therefore allowing the City to collect accurate water usage data for billing purposes.