

# NORTH YUBA WATER DISTRICT



Providing Domestic Water for Brownsville, Challenge, Forbestown and Rackerby, and Irrigation Water for Dobbins and Oregon House

SEPTEMBER 2019



## CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE -

*Moving Forward Together*

Being a board member of the North Yuba Water District is challenging to say the least. I ran in 2014 and again in 2018, because I truly believe I can make a difference, and I believe a calm voice of reason gets much more done than a shouting voice of hate. It's working!

The 40 year effort to pipe the Forbestown Ditch is moving forward! Engineering is near completion, and our board recently voted to reaffirm commitment to finishing this project and authorize our General Manager to pursue the grant funding needed for construction.

Revenues are up and expenses are down (see details to the right.)

A customer survey was conducted earlier this year asking you to rate your overall satisfaction with the District on a scale of 1 to 10, 10 being the highest:

- Of the 169 domestic customers who took the survey, I'm proud to report an average satisfaction score of 8.8 out of 10!
- From our irrigation customers, 27 responded, with an average satisfaction score of 7.3 out of 10!

Fantastic news and I thank our NYWD staff for their commitment to customer service! Full survey results are listed inside this newsletter.

Please help us spread the good news, and if you have questions about things you are hearing, please take a minute to email your District representative (contact info inside) or call the District.

I promise to continue to find the calm in the chaos and lead this District with positivity and common sense.

Sincerely,



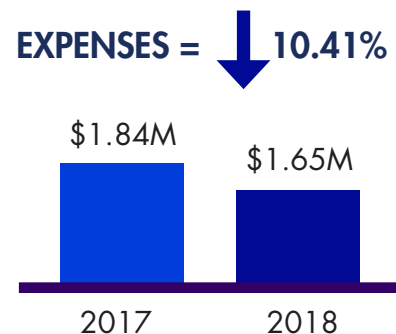
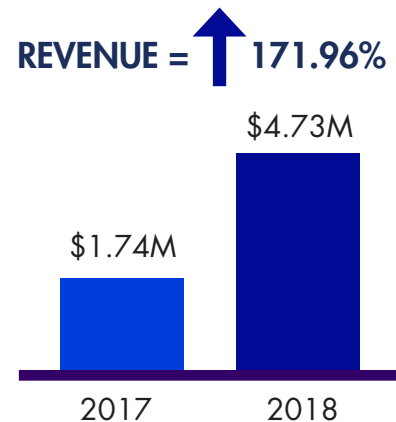
Eric Hansard  
Chairman, North Yuba Water District



## FINANCIAL UPDATE

The Annual Independent Audit Report for 2017/2018 was presented at the July 25, 2019 NYWD Board of Directors meeting.

To review the entire audit report, visit [www.nywd.org/publications](http://www.nywd.org/publications).





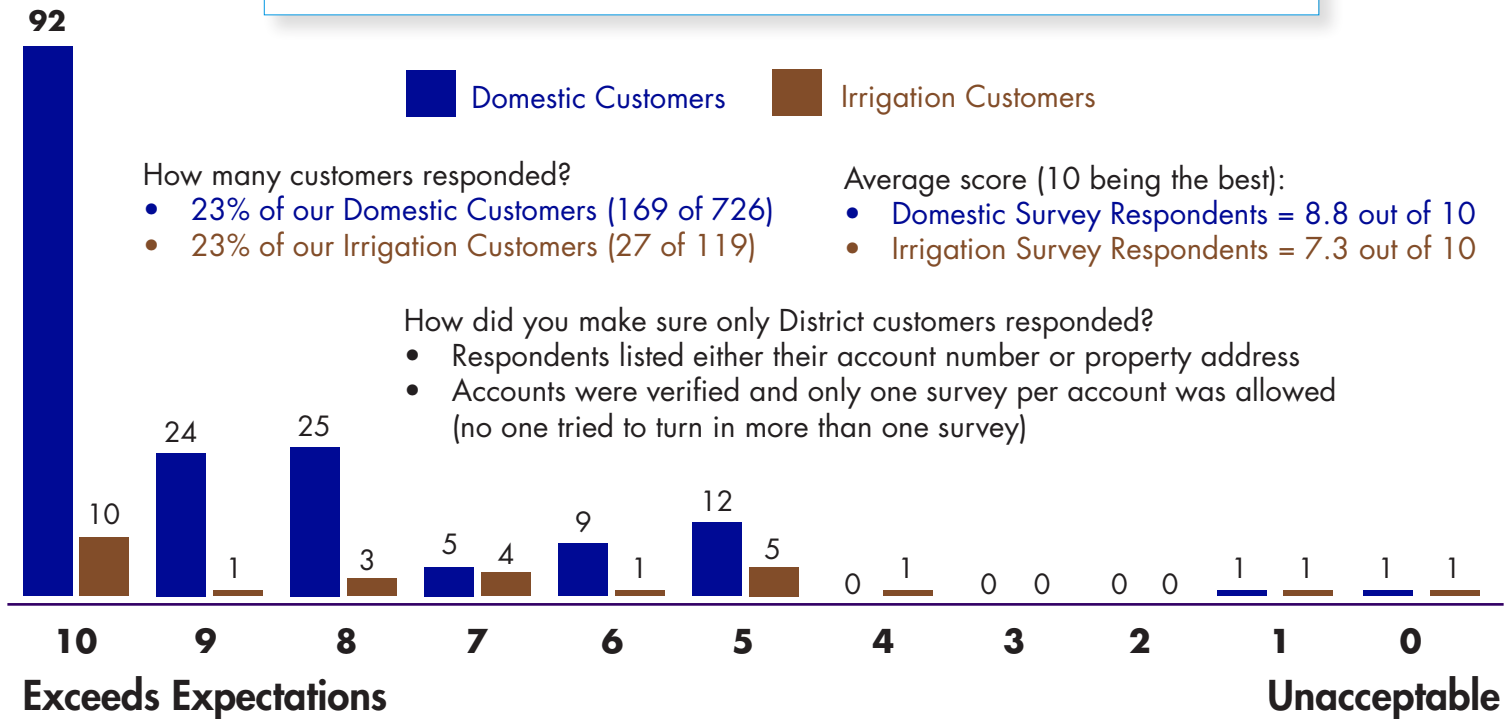
## CUSTOMER SURVEY - Results

Almost 200 customers took the survey - thank you for your feedback!

The survey asked:

**How would you rate your overall satisfaction with NYWD?** Circle one:

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0  
Exceeds Expectations Unacceptable



## IRRIGATION CUSTOMERS - Policy Reminder

Due to contractual obligations in the 2005 agreement, which took affect in 2010, only a small amount of water can be diverted from the Forbestown Ditch for irrigation use now. This leaves mother nature - Dry Creek and other tributaries - as the main irrigation water source. These sources are winding down before a full delivery season can be met again, so the District has begun standard curtailment actions. These steps maximize delivery for the longest amount of time, to the most amount of customers. As a refresher to irrigation customers, here is a summary of the policy. You can view the entire policy online at [www.nywd.com/publications](http://www.nywd.com/publications).

- The District does not and cannot guarantee full delivery
- Each Customer accepts the possibility of limited delivery as a condition of being a Customer
- Cutbacks will occur in stages:
  1. Voluntary Cutbacks - NYWD will attempt to solicit voluntary reductions from Customers
  2. Secondary Cutbacks - All deliveries in excess of 3 miner's inches may be cutback  
Note: 4 customers affected by this stage
  3. Tertiary Cutbacks - All deliveries in excess of 1 miner's inch may be cutback  
Note: 19 total customers affected by this stage
  4. Final Cutbacks - Once irrigation water has been depleted, no allocation is made or guaranteed



## **PROJECT UPDATE -**

### *Forbestown Ditch Piping Project*

NYWD received a \$500,000 planning grant from the State to cover the engineering phase of the Forbestown Ditch Pipeline project. This phase is almost complete! Next up is the construction phase. While a small group of detractors continue to hamper efforts to complete this project, your Board remains committed to completing this essential project. At a special meeting on August 13, the Board voted 4-1 to authorize our General Manager to continue pursuing grant opportunities for the construction phase.

Moving to a piped Ditch is a win-win-win! It will lower the possibility of breaches like the ones experienced in 2017 and 2019 (see photo below.) A piped Ditch will also save a significant amount of water lost from seepage and evaporation, increase the amount of water available for customers and eliminate a vast majority of dirt, trash and contamination from entering the treatment pond.

Questions about the project? We encourage you to email your District representative (see contact info on right.)



*A blowout, breached section of the Forbestown Ditch, January 2017.*



*Plastic sheeting is used to reduce water seepage on parts of the Forbestown Ditch.*



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

North Yuba Water District regular board meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room at the District's Administration Office located at 8691 La Porte Road, Brownsville, CA 95919. Board meetings are open to the public. Attendance and participation is encouraged.

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2019

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
OCTOBER 24, 2019

The board agenda will be posted a minimum of 72 hours prior to each meeting. In addition previous board agendas and minutes are available online. Visit [www.nywd.org/meetings](http://www.nywd.org/meetings).



## **CONTACT INFO**

Questions? Clarifications?  
Ask your NYWD representative!

### **DOMESTIC DIVISIONS**

**DIVISION 1 - DOUG NEILSON**  
DNEILSON@NYWD.ORG

**DIVISION 2 - TERRY BROWN**  
TBROWN@NYWD.ORG

**DIVISION 5 - ERIC HANSARD**  
**BOARD CHAIRMAN**  
EHANSARD@NYWD.ORG

### **IRRIGATION DIVISIONS**

**DIVISION 3 - GARY HAWTHORNE**  
GHAWTHORNE@NYWD.ORG

**DIVISION 4 - GRETCHEN FLOHR**  
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Tel: (530) 675-2567  
email@nywd.org  
www.nywd.org

## **ALERT FOR DISTRICT CUSTOMERS**

Please be aware that negative detractors of the District operate under the anonymity of names like North Yuba Water Alliance, Oregon House Dobbins Water Association, Yuba Vision and possibly others. These informal groups are not affiliated with the District in any way.

We encourage you to contact the District or your elected representative if you have questions, or need clarification about District policy, conduct or projects, (530) 675-2567 or email@nywd.org.



## **SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT -** *Is Irrigation Water for Fire Protection?*

**QUESTION:** Is irrigation water intended for fire protection?

**ANSWER:** No. The District's irrigation policy states, "District water is not intended for fire protection purposes. The District cannot guarantee that District water will be available at a quantity, quality or pressure suitable for fire protection."

**QUESTION:** Is this a new addition to the Irrigation policy?

**ANSWER:** No. This basic paragraph has been in every irrigation policy, in one form or another, and approved by the Board since at least 1986, 33 years and counting. In 2013, legal counsel at the time, Michael Cobden, explained that guaranteeing enough water for fire protection puts the District at risk because we cannot guarantee quantity, quality or pressure suitable for fire protection..

**QUESTION:** Is this policy similar to other water districts?

**ANSWER:** Yes. Our neighboring Browns Valley Irrigation District addresses the issue in Section 2.1.18, page 9 of their Rules and Regulations, amended in 2017 and posted to their website www.bvid.org. BVID's rules state, "...the District makes no guarantee or assurance that any water will be available in its water system or in adequate quantities or pressure for firefighting purposes."

Help us set the record straight! If you need clarification on any other topic, we encourage you to email your District representative (see contact info inside) or contact the District at email@nywd.org.



*A section of the NYWD irrigation ditch, late April 2018.*