

Water Returns workshop

Petersen announced that Donala will be holding the Water Returns workshop in the district conference room at 15850 Holbein Avenue on Oct. 7 from 6 to 8 p.m. The topics to be presented by the consultant landscaping firm Water Returns will be "Preparing Your Landscape for Winter" and "Planning for Spring." For more information see: www.donalawater.org/images/stories/pdfs/September%202015%20Newsletter.pdf

Petersen also announced that the district will hold an election in May 2016, at which time the current board president, Bill George, will be "termed out" and cannot run for office again.

The absences of Board President George and Director Bill Nance were unanimously excused.

Water main break

Wright said he noticed the high flow and extra pumping activity at home at about 4 a.m. on Aug. 22. Donala's answering service called him at 7:20 a.m. to report a resident's call about seeing a possible leak near the school while walking his dog. Petersen said that the operators' priorities were to get the affected residents notified of a potentially lengthy outage, repair the leak, and restore service as soon as possible. Wright's four-man crew arrived on site at about 10:30 a.m. with the necessary gear after turning off the appropriate valves to shut off flows to the area of the leak and making customer notifications to the 30 homes affected.

The crew discovered that a residential home saddle tap that was installed adjacent to the water main failed. The saddle tap leak wore a hole in the 8-inch 100 psi water main. This hole then developed into a split that propagated along the length of the water main. This unusual longitudinal split had expanded to about 10 feet in length when the water valves were shut off by about 10 a.m. The high pressure water spraying out of the split created a large erosion cavity that undercut the adjacent street, sidewalk, and the school's adjacent south perimeter grassy slope. The crew's physical investigation of the cavity revealed that the water main leak was upstream of the meter for the adjacent house connected to the failed saddle tap, precluding any billing problems for this homeowner. A new segment of pipe was installed to replace the damaged portion of the existing main, using cast iron couplers at each end of the



Above: On Oct. 17, the Donala board recognized the work done by four Donala water operators in repairing a 250,000-gallon water main leak on Jessie Drive, adjacent to the Antelope Trails Elementary School that started at 3:30 a.m. Aug. 22. The board praised them for ensuring the safety of motorists and pedestrians due to undercutting of the roadway and school sidewalk during the two-day water main repair and compacting project. From left are Director Ken Judd, Vice President Dave Powell, Ronny Wright, Aaron Tolman, J.R. Vialpando, General Manager Kip Petersen, and Director Bob Denny. Not pictured is Troy Vialpando, the fourth water operator of the Donala repair team. *Photo by Jim Kendrick.*

splice. See photo on page 1.

The need to complete repairs was urgent because west Jessie Drive is the primary residential collector that provides access for all the homes near the Antelope Trails Elementary School, which is located on Jessie Drive between Gleneagle Drive and the east end of Copperfield Drive. Vehicles can also access the homes served by Jessie Drive and Copperfield Drive via Lariat Lane, a one-block unpaved dirt road that serves five adjacent homes to the west in the adjacent Chaparral Hills subdivision. Lariat Lane connects Copperfield Drive to the south end of Leather Chaps Drive.

After customer service was restored, Wright reviewed the recorded digital signals from the SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) system for this segment of the Donala drinking water distribution system. The flow and pumping data showed that the progressively worsening split in the water main began at about 3:30 a.m. During the time that the pressurized leak from the widening split in the water main was active, about 250,000 gallons of water were lost.

Petersen noted that the four operators worked on repairs on Aug. 22 straight through until 11:45 p.m. to make the adjacent road and unsupported section of school sidewalk safe. He stated that the crew had quite a gallery of observers throughout the repair and compacting operations for the cavity that resumed at 7:30 a.m. on Aug. 23.

"I was really proud of those guys. They did a good job." Petersen also said that overall, most of these people "were impressed by how professional they were and considerate of the residents. We're fortunate to have these men working for us."

Additional daily repairs were substantially completed to make the road passable to traffic again by 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 23. Petersen said the contractor that replaced the damaged road and sidewalks did a good job. The total

cost for the repair was about \$20,000, some of which may be reimbursed by insurance.

Maintenance facility purchased

Petersen presented the sales contract for the golf course maintenance and storage facility, which he said had been reviewed and approved by Donala's attorney Rick Fendel. The facility is located near the west end of Palm Springs Drive. Petersen said that Senior Assistant County Attorney Lori Seago had provided a letter stating that Donala's planned "use of the existing facility is consistent with the development agreement that covers the entire golf course property." He added that all conditions have been satisfied and the environmental assessment for the property was complete. Donala's first priority will be building a perimeter fence, installing security lights activated by motion detectors, and installing security cameras.

The board unanimously approved the \$200,301 contract for Donala's purchase of the property from Westbrook Capital Holdings LLC of Englewood, and authorized Petersen to sign all the required documents at the closing that was scheduled for Sept. 18.

Financial reports

Petersen reported that water sales revenues had "picked up in the past six weeks" due to less rain than in previous months. Revenues are still expected to be less than the amount budgeted for 2015. He said that Donala's reduction in water sales revenue would not "be as dire as we had initially thought." There were almost 10 million gallons more in sales through the end of August than for the first eight months of 2014, which had a dry spring and wet fall, the opposite of this year. Tap fees remain higher than budgeted for 2015 due mainly to construction in Paradise Villa. Petersen said this upturn in revenue had now allowed him to initiate a few of the previously postponed 2015 capital projects during the remaining warmer weather.

In contrast, wastewater treatment revenues continue to be as steady as they were in 2014. Petersen said he would soon wrap up the draft 2016 Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility budget to provide to Donala's wastewater facility co-owner special districts, Forest Lakes and Triview Metropolitan Districts so their district managers can also present their 2016 district budgets by Oct. 15. Donala operates the facility for all three of these wastewater special districts. Director Ken Judd thanked Petersen for his aggressive cost control so that expenditures "track" the variable flow of revenues to date this year.

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