

“GRAVITY IS GREEN” -- NEWLY-COMPLETED AWA GRAVITY SUPPLY LINE SAVES MONEY AND ENERGY

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PHOTO ATTACHED:

PG&E Customer Relations Managers Jerry O'Neill (third from the left) and Randy Herbst (far right) present a PG&E energy efficiency rebate check of \$206,720 to AWA Board President Robert Manassero (center), board members and staff. PG&E awarded the rebate to the Agency on completion of the energy-saving Gravity Supply Line Project.

(Sutter Creek) The Amador Water Agency's highly-anticipated Gravity Supply Line (GSL) is up and running – saving upcountry AWA customers money and reducing a significant amount of greenhouse gas emissions.

The 6.6-mile gravity-fed pipeline was put into daily use on December 21, delivering Mokelumne River water from the Tiger Creek Regulator Reservoir to the Buckhorn Water Treatment Plant. This raw water supply for most upcountry customers is now running downhill, without the use of large electric pumps formerly needed to push the water supply on an uphill route.

Without the need for pumping, the new gravity pipeline is not subject to interruptions due to power outages, fire or mechanical problems and is eliminating pumping costs of about \$300,000 per year for upcountry water users. Upcountry customers will see the monthly surcharge for pumping costs removed from their water bills incurred after December 21, 2015.

At the January 14 AWA Board of Directors meeting, representatives from PG&E demonstrated the value of the reduced energy demand by presenting an energy efficiency rebate check of \$206,720.00 to the Agency. PG&E Customer Relations Managers Randy Herbst and Jerry O'Neill said reduction of 1.8 million kilowatt hours

per year realized by construction of the gravity-flow GSL is equivalent to the power used by 116 homes for a year and eliminates 1,272 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions.

“Building the GSL was the right thing to do for our customers,” said AWA Director Rich Farrington. “From the first day of operation it started saving upcountry AWA customers money on their water bills – and it’s already proven its reliability by keeping the upcountry water supply flowing during the Butte fire and a significant upcountry power outage on Christmas Eve.”

During the Butte Fire, AWA crews temporarily operated the almost-complete GSL in order to fill water tanks and make new fire hydrants along the pipeline available to fire-fighters when power outages shut down the Mokelumne River water pumps.

Also present for the PG&E presentation was Sherry Curtis, chair of the Upcountry Community Council, who thanked the Board and staff on behalf of upcountry residents, saying, “The GSL has been a long time coming, and we are all so happy it is finally on-line for better fire protection and more reliable service.”

AWA crews continue to complete some final work on the pipeline, which was approved in April, 2013. Construction began in October, 2013. The U.S. Department of Agriculture provided a \$5.07 million grant for the project, with the balance to be paid by a 2 ¾%, fixed-rate loan.

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