

## **System Improvements and Rate Changes**

### **CWS Water Rate Increase**

Beginning in 2017 and continuing through 2019, a number of upgrades to the CWS treatment and distribution system will be addressed. These upgrades are needed to continue to meet state and federal requirements as well as replace old, outdated facilities within our system that can no longer function efficiently. The estimated cost of these improvements is \$5.5 million dollars.

To meet this need, CWS must increase our customer's monthly base water rate over the next three years. The first increase of \$1.50 will go into effect in February of 2017. Similar increases are expected in 2018 and 2019, but will be reviewed each year to determine the additional increases necessary to fund the remaining projects. As a non-profit water utility, our only means of meeting and maintaining our growing cost of operation is by increasing your water rate. This will be the first significant rate increase since January of 2006 when similar improvements were undertaken.

### **CWS System Improvements 2017-2019**

Several aspects of Community Water System's treatment and distribution system are in need of improvement for long term operation and compliance. These improvements will take place in several areas including the treatment plant, customer metering, distribution pumping and transmission. CWS began looking at these needed improvements several years ago by developing a system wide master plan that was completed in 2015. That plan included the system upgrades listed here. Engineering for many of these improvements began in 2016 and will continue thru 2018 in preparation for construction activities. As mentioned earlier, the total cost on these upgrades is expected to be around \$5.5 million.

The following is a more detailed explanation of the improvements planned.

#### **Meter Replacement:**

After 20-25 years of service, our current water meters are near the end of their service life. So, new meters will be installed which will provide more capabilities and function to both CWS and the customer.

##### ***New Meter Features include:***

- \* Customers can monitor their water usage via email and/or text...from anywhere
- \* Customers can set water usage alerts and monitor their daily requirements
- \* Both CWS and the customer can receive leak detection alerts

#### **Retail System Pump Station Replacement:**

The two oldest retail system pump stations, Edgemont Station and Station 4 located on Hwy.16, have been in operation since 1973 and have reached the end of their useful life. They will be replaced with more efficient and higher capacity pumps to meet the demands of the system now and well into the future. Engineering on these replacements has already started and construction is planned for the spring of 2018.

### **Water Treatment Plant Improvements:**

Areas within the older water treatment plant are in need of upgrades to improve overall operational performance now and in the future. These upgrades will increase our treatment capacity, improve performance, add safety and help us maintain compliance with current and future regulations.

#### *Some of these upgrades include:*

- \* Addition of two new water filters for increased treatment capacity
- \* Refurbish existing filters
- \* Construct larger backwash pond to handle increasing production volume
- \* Replace obsolete control valves on older filters
- \* Add and repair walkways around filters for better, safer access

Again, Community Water System is constantly working to provide the best service possible with the fewest problems possible. As our service areas continue to grow and customer numbers increase, we must be equipped and prepared to maintain the best water quality available anywhere.