

Ram Spring Improvement Project ~ State Revolving Fund (SRF) Project
Report for ACWD BOD Meeting Date: 1/12/2021 Prepared by GM Rae Bell

This project is directly related to the planning project approved for funding in 2015 and completed in 2020. The planning documents (plans and estimates) are approximately 90% complete. The remaining planning work will be the first phase of this project after the application process is completed.

There are five application packets that must be completed to apply for funding: General, Legal, Financial, Technical and Environmental.

- The General application packet with all attachments was submitted on 4/25/2020
- The Financial application packet with all attachments was submitted on 5/5/2020
- The Technical Packet is on hold while the TMF (Technical Managerial and Financial) analysis and a new rate analysis are done with the help of RCAC (Rural Community Assistance Corporation).
- The Environmental packet will be completed with the assistance of RCAC.
- The legal packet has not been started.

Technical, Managerial and Financial (TMF) Analysis & Tune-up

- The Emergency Response Plan was finished as approved by the ACWD board last month.
- The job descriptions should be finished this month, providing the board approves them.
- The Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Plan is a big undertaking. I had a one-hour phone conference with our RCAC rep in December to get started and have “the list” of needed items. Both the Emergency Response Plan and the Job Descriptions are part of the O&M plan.
- Rate Analysis: Parts of the O&M manual will inform the rate analysis: specifically, the equipment list along with the maintenance schedules for that equipment. The audited financial results for fiscal year 19-20 will also be used. Note: the state requires a rate analysis that is less than 5 years old as part of the Technical Packet. Having a rate analysis done does not necessarily mean that the rates will have to be changed. There are affordability guidelines that also must be followed when setting water rates.

A time-extension for the TMF Analysis is being requested by RCAC because the original completion date was set for 12/31/2020.

Environmental Documents ACWD requested technical assistance through the SRF program to complete the environmental documents and the environmental application packet. RCAC will be the contractor and is currently in the process of getting proposals (cost estimates) from environmental consultants. Kip Lybarger was also invited to submit a proposal so that he can be paid to represent ACWD throughout the process as district engineer. A new contract with RCAC will be executed once the cost and time estimates are put together.

It is difficult for me to summarize what is going on with the environmental documents. The previous consultant hired as part of the planning project completed the required biological report and wetland delineation as well as a draft “Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for CEQA” However, that document has been deemed inadequate for reasons which I will not try to explain. The new environmental consultant contracted through RCAC will be a person who specializes in CEQA and they will be hired to help with the permitting process in addition to completing the Initial Study.

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