



CITY OF BISHOP

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Public Works News Release

Bishop Wells Back in Service

The two main wells that supply water to the City of Bishop are ready to be back in service after a 2 month project to inspect and rehabilitate them. Bishop's reliable and affordable water depends on these two wells so it is important that they are in good condition and operate efficiently. This project made sure the wells are in good condition and improved the efficiency of both wells. One of the wells is about 3 miles west of downtown near Mummy Lane, the other is near the Tri-County Fairgrounds

Both wells were inspected with a submersible video camera and found to be in good condition their full several hundred foot depth. Due to wear on the well pumps, the pump in one well was replaced and the pump in the other well was rebuilt. The new and rebuilt pumps are anticipated to save about \$6,000 each year in energy costs due to their improved efficiency.

The project was not without hiccups. Routine tests of the water from one of the wells after the work was complete showed that it contained a small number of bacteria. This bacteria was not present prior to the work. Tests also showed that, for a short time, this water reached City of Bishop customers. The bacteria are not a type that causes illness, but their presence is not desirable.

Bishop normally treats its water with a low level of chlorine. This low level of chlorine is adequate to eliminate bacteria that might come from the wells. Unfortunately, when the well was restarted after the work, the chlorination system was out of order for a short period. As a result, for that short period, water reached customers with a small number of bacteria. As soon as the problem with the bacteria and the chlorination was identified, it was corrected and all tests since that time has shown the water to be free of bacteria. Bishop Public Works is working with the California Department of Public Health to resolve the issue.

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