



# CITY OF BISHOP

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## **Public Works News Release**

### **Bishop Checking Wells**

To ensure the City of Bishop has reliable and affordable water that is of excellent quality, a consultant is inspecting the city's two main production wells and performing needed repair work on those wells. Bishop water customers may be aware of pressure variations while the work is underway.

The two production wells are several decades old but continue to produce enough excellent water to meet even the extremely high water demands of summer. Both the wells have to work very hard to keep up during the summer and if there is a problem with even one of these wells during that time, there wouldn't be enough water. If this were to happen, emergency restrictions on water use would almost certainly be needed. To avoid this possibility, Bishop has hired a consultant to assess the condition of these two wells and find any looming problems before they are serious. If the consultant finds the wells need urgent repair work, they will be prepared to accomplish those repairs.

The consultant will work on one well at a time. Water use is low enough this time of year that the other production well can keep up with demand. The system will operate slightly differently with just one well than it normally operates with two and it is possible that customers will notice fluctuations in pressure while the work is underway.

The consultant started work 6 January 2009 and work is expected to be complete by 1 March. The cost of the assessment is about \$45,000 with any urgent repair work being in addition to that amount. One likely large repair is the replacement of the pump in one of the wells. This new pump could cost as much as \$30,000 but is expected to save about \$5,000 each year in electrical costs due to improved efficiency.

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