



City Manager's Message by Tom DuBois

The city recently completed a survey of Resident priorities. Thanks to all who participated. An amazing **96% of you rated Sutter Creek as a great place to live with an excellent quality of life.** The top identified needs to maintain that quality of life were Roads (roads, and roads), public safety with low response times, and maintaining other city services, such as storm drains, in order to have a well-run city that continues to attract both residents and visitors.

The City Council is investigating a possible local sales and use tax that would leverage our tourists to help pay for these things. More information will be coming as the Council continues to evaluate a possible ballot measure.

As you may have seen reported in the Ledger Dispatch, the City of Sutter Creek is facing large increases in our wastewater utility rates. These rates are set based on the City's sewer rate study available on the City's web site.

Rates are determined by analyzing the cities operation and maintenance costs for the wastewater utility ONLY. Funds cannot be used for any other purpose. The rate study identifies the maintenance and investment required, including emergency reserves and capital improvements required for long term viability.

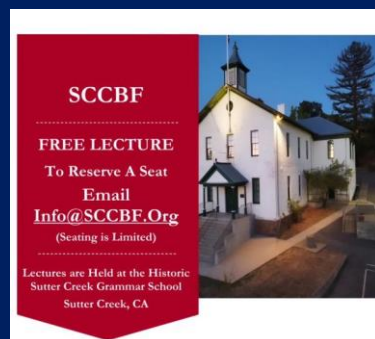
The biggest change the city is proposing is on capital spending - rebuilding our collection, treatment, and disposal systems, all of which are beyond their life expectancy. The plan is to fix leaks in the sewer system in order to drive down costs for an upgraded treatment plant. With the increased rates the city will be able to build up capital reserves needed for these repairs.

The rate study assumes that the city is leveraging all available grants and low interest loans available to it. Rates would need to be much higher if we attempted to "pay as we go" without debt. Grant programs require matching funds from the city in order to access. Debt financing requires the sewer rates paid are sufficient to repay the debt.

I understand this is a big ask of residents. **We are holding a community meeting at 6:30 PM, May 13th in the Community Building to present details of the plan and answer questions.** A public hearing will be held in June. As always, feel free to reach out to me at tdubois@cityofsuttercreek.org.

The Jewel of the Motherlode Upcoming Events

May 6th City Council
May 11th Weekly Farmers Market Begins
May 11th Grammar School Lecture Series
May 13th DRC
May 13th Planning Commission
May 13th Community Meeting –
Wastewater Rates
May 11th Knight Foundry Tour Day
May 20th City Council
May 16th ARSA
May 25th Knight Foundry Tour Day
May 25th Trash to Treasures
May 31st - June 2nd - Italian Picnic



Kimberly Wooten

Archaeologist and Local History Author

Saturday, May 11, 5:00 pm
Historical Archaeology 101

Enjoy a hands-on component with
historic-era artifacts

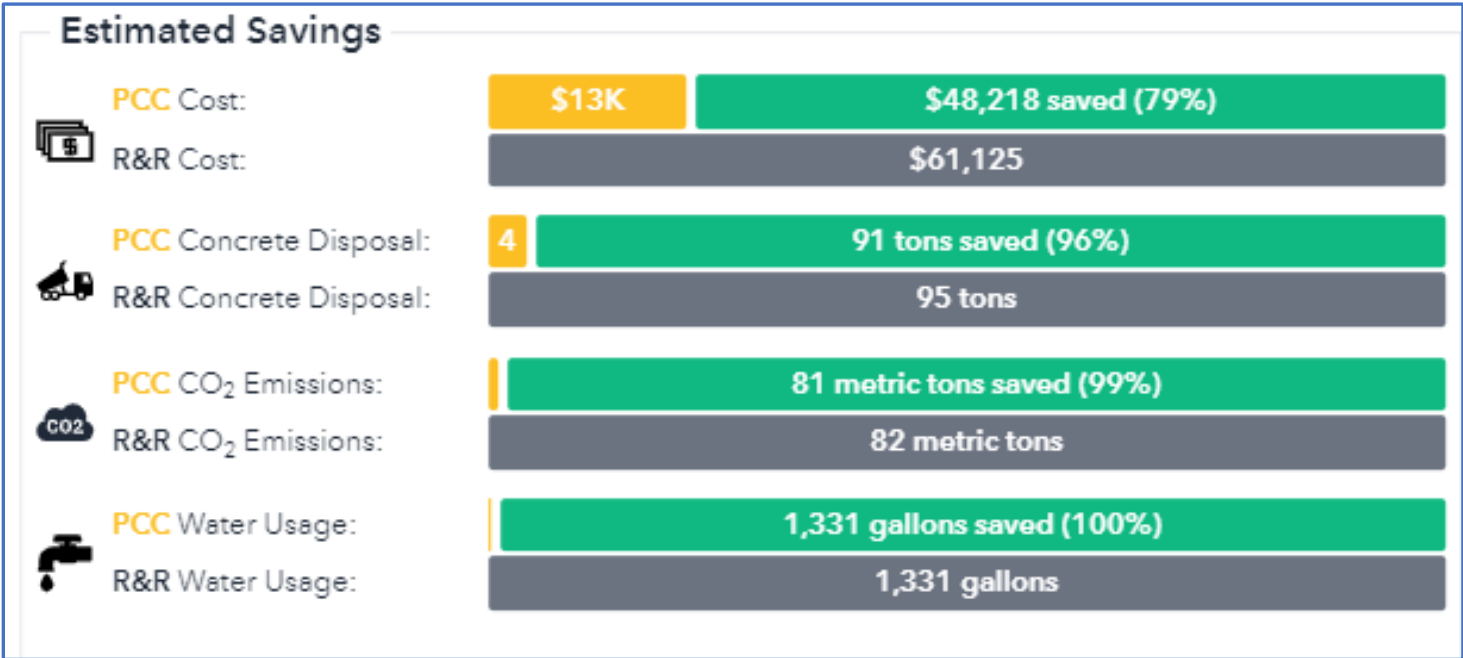


Great News! Update on the City Pool

Last month in this newsletter, City Manager Tom DuBois highlighted an unexpected \$50,000 unbudgeted expense to fix a crack in the City Pool. Good news – the crack has been fixed. The city searched for other qualified companies that could do the repair and found one that could do it for 1/10 of the cost (\$5000). This pool company has a good track record. In addition, Amador Unified School District, which owns the pool, agreed to pay for the repairs. The pool is now scheduled to open on time. A big thank you to the school district!

Sidewalk Repairs Downtown - Our historic downtown also has historic sidewalks. Over time ground settling and tree roots have pushed sidewalks up creating trip hazards. A traditional repair process can be expensive – either temporary patching which must be redone or complete replacement. The city is trying a different approach with Precision Concrete, a company that shaves the sidewalk level. For more information on the sidewalk shaving process go to: <https://safesidewalks.com/advantage/> to see a Demo video.

On March 4th Precision Concrete performed an assessment of our sidewalks in the downtown area on Main Street. The assessment identified over 163 lifts. Fixing them the traditional way would cost over **61K dollars**. Precision Concretes shaving solution will cost \$13,000 (**79% savings**) for all of the repairs. Additionally, the city is promoting environmental stewardship by reducing the amount of concrete disposal, CO₂ emissions, and water usage.



As a member of the Central San Joaquin Valley Risk Management Authority, we receive a **5% discount** on this work and a **\$1,000 reimbursement** through the Sidewalk Liability Mitigation Program, further lowering the cost to the city.