



## City Manager's Message

Welcome to our first monthly newsletter of 2024. I've been City Manager since November of last year, and really love all the great things that Sutter Creek has to offer. I've been getting to know people and digging in to everything the city does. I really appreciate the warm welcome and "can do" attitude of the people I've met.

This newsletter is intended to provide insights into your city staff and how your local tax dollars are being spent. I hope you'll subscribe to this newsletter and encourage your family and friends to do the same!

One area in particular that I will focus on during the coming months is the city's finances. We are beginning budget season early this year, starting with the long-term financial forecast. This forecast will include city revenues and expenses over the next five years. While Sutter Creek has always balanced its budget, it has done so by spending reserves intended for long term maintenance and investment in infrastructure. We currently have over \$30M in needed projects to repair streets, replace sidewalks, maintain city buildings and ensure the storm water system is functioning well. Our wastewater utility (sewer system) is a separate enterprise fund, but the picture there is similar – millions of dollars are needed to repair the local collection system from your homes, upgrade the wastewater treatment plant and maintain the disposal system that transports our treated wastewater to lone. Just as this challenging situation has taken years to develop based on neglect and less than optimal financial management, it will take years to correct and get back on a stronger and more sustainable financial footing. It all starts with prudent financial planning, and reserving funds for investment in infrastructure.

We need to prioritize our limited resources, and that's where your input is essential. We are going to be surveying residents to understand the issues you care most about. Watch for an invitation to participate in a city survey in the next month or two.

Finally, Sutter Creek could really use your help. If you are interested in volunteering with the city, please reach out and let me know. We are interested in recruiting volunteers to help with emergency preparedness, with some fun events, and with our parks and trails among other things. Or please reach out anytime just to let me know how you think the city is doing. You can reach me at [tdubois@cityofsuttercreek.org](mailto:tdubois@cityofsuttercreek.org).

Best,  
Tom DuBois

## Welcome New Businesses to Sutter Creek

### Pumpco

30 Ridge Rd., Sutter Creek  
209-223-2811  
[www.pumpco.biz](http://www.pumpco.biz)

### Ridge Mini Storage

92 Ridge Rd., Sutter Creek  
209-267-1017  
[www.92ridgeministorage.com](http://www.92ridgeministorage.com)



## Upcoming Meeting Dates

Feb 5<sup>th</sup> City Council  
Feb 10<sup>th</sup> Special City Council  
Feb.12<sup>th</sup> DRC  
Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission  
Feb 15<sup>th</sup> ARSA  
Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> City Council

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## An Update from the Public Works Department

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From Dan Lafontaine, Public Works Director

Just as we have experienced rising wastewater bills locally in Sutter Creek, wastewater rates are rising all across the state. In my previous career, working with disadvantaged communities all around California, most utilities are collecting rates that are approaching \$100/month. As bills increase it makes all of us ask, **"Where is all that money going"** and **"What do I get for my fees"**.

To give everyone a little background, wastewater rates are collected into an enterprise fund. An enterprise fund is just a fancy term for a self-supporting fund where everything related to the wastewater collection and treatment is funded completely by user fees. That means that every dollar that is collected from your wastewater fees **MUST** be used to clean our wastewater!

We here in the public works department wanted to give you a brief overview of the whole system and the magnitude of those components and what those parts of the system provide each day, month and or year:



- **Wastewater collection system**

The Public works team is responsible for the maintenance of over **114,750 feet (a little under 380 football fields)** of underground pipe (most over 75 years old). The team has an internal goal of responding to every sewer spill out of those pipes in **under 30 minutes** no matter where it occurs in Sutter Creek.

- **Wastewater operations**

The wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) was constructed in 1950 and processes over **400,000 gallons of wastewater each day, 365 days/year**. Last year alone we processed over **150 million gallons**. As you can expect it costs a lot of money to treat wastewater.

- **Compliance with Environmental regulations**

The WWTF must treat the wastewater to ensure we do not pollute our environment. This requires a lot of chemicals (**over 2,000 gallons of bleach a month**) to disinfect and wastewater testing (everyday) to prove to any and all that we are being environmentally responsible.

**Visit our website to sign up for online Sewer Bill Pay**

[Sign up Here](#)

### **Help Improve Our Air Quality**

Reduce smoke pollution and use the FREE green waste bin at the Sutter Creek Fire Station

#### **EASY MONEY**

#### **Air District Grants Amador Residents**

\$250 reimbursements are available for purchasing electric gardening equipment.

[Find Out More](#)

The public works department keeps all of these systems working efficiently and environmentally safe for \$76.93/month. When you think about how much your public works team can accomplish with so little, it makes me proud to be associated with the team. Keep up the good work!