

## **Update on Water Supply and Conservation Measures**

The DHCWSC board of directors has been carefully monitoring conditions which impact the water level in our 3 wells. These include consequences of an ongoing drought which started in May 2022 and the fact that we have not had a normal or above normal annual rainfall since 2021.

Our aquifer is struggling to replenish and meet demand. Unfortunately, these drought conditions are forecasted to continue. Our wells are at dangerously low levels, and there is a possibility they may drop below usable levels within a few months. While we cannot predict the future with certainty, the board believes it is imperative to take corrective actions now to ensure we can meet the demand for safe potable water in the coming months and avoid the severe consequences of running out of water.

## **Immediate Actions**

To mitigate the immediate risks, the board has decided to begin hauling in water from outside sources to sustain water levels at a reasonable level that meets demand and protects the infrastructure from damage. The goal is to have this process fully integrated by mid-to-late December. We estimate that this new source of water will increase our operational costs by approximately \$25,000 - \$30,000 per month, depending on monthly member consumption.

We will use operational and, if necessary, reserve funds to develop and validate the processes for procurement, receiving, safe blending of the two water sources, billing, and delivery. We will then transition to a monthly supplemental charge to cover the additional costs. We are preparing the plan to implement the supplemental charge and that will be the subject of a follow-on communication.

Other actions the board will consider in short order:

1. **Improve Well Management:** Purchase and install transducers in each production well. Transducers electronically measure well water depths and record the data for analysis.
2. **Improve Pump Protection:** Install an electrical cut off circuit for pumps if well water level drops below pump level.
3. **Conservation:** Implement rate adjustments to encourage conservation and promote using an average of less than 10,000 gallons per month

We will continue to monitor consumption and well levels to balance water levels and the cost of using an outside source to supplement water levels. In the longer term, the board is exploring the feasibility, costs, schedules, and risks associated with other options to reduce reliance on outside water sources.

Your cooperation in continuing to conserve water is greatly appreciated and a necessary part of meeting future demand under these extreme conditions. We encourage you to explore the data provided by your smart meter in helping to conserve usage and detect leaks. Thank you for your understanding and support as we navigate these challenging times.