

ST. MARY'S GLACIER WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT

Winter 2024 Community Update

Our team at St. Mary's Glacier Water and Sanitation District have been hard at work addressing long-standing issues and planning improvements for the future. The purpose of this newsletter is to explain some of those issues in greater detail and provide you with an update on what to expect moving forward.

WHAT WE'RE TACKLING:

- ▶ **Aging infrastructure:** Our team is working diligently to revitalize our infrastructure, much of which has served our community for over 50 years. These upgrades are essential to ensure we have a reliable and resilient system, but repairing and replacing this infrastructure is costly and time-consuming - especially in a remote area like St. Mary's Glacier.
- ▶ **Significant water loss:** About 70% of the water that leaves our wells is lost before it reaches our customers, which is wasteful from an economic and environmental standpoint. Additionally, the treatment plant has to handle nearly twice as much wastewater due to groundwater and stormwater entering our collection system through inflow & infiltration. To fix these leaks and make the system more reliable will require significant maintenance.
- ▶ **Regulatory noncompliance:** The state has issued Notices of Violation and will penalize our system financially until we address these ongoing issues. Both our water and sewer systems have violations dating back to 2014. While we've resolved many of these violations, a few are still outstanding and will require significant resources to address. This is what we're currently working on!



St. Mary's Glacier Water and Sanitation District is committed to delivering high-quality drinking water and wastewater services to our customers, despite these challenges! Read more on the next page to learn about the efforts underway to improve our system and maintain our home's natural beauty.

This work is conducted with the financial support of the EPA.



St. Mary's Glacier Water & Sanitation District

Committed to Providing Clean, Safe Water for All Our Residents

WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON:

Closing out the Phase II Water System Improvements: This work included replacing an aging well house, upgrading two well houses, building a new booster pump station, replacing key pipelines and valves, and improving the operation of a water storage tank. These efforts strengthened the reliability and efficiency of our water service. See our work in action in the pictures on the right!

Continuing valve replacement under the Small Communities Grant from Colorado Department of Public Health (CDPHE): This grant allows us to replace aging gate valves in our water distribution system. By replacing these valves, we enhance our ability to manage water supply disruptions, reduce long-term maintenance costs, and improve overall service reliability. This season, we have replaced 10 valves.

Meeting regularly with CDPHE: We are keeping in contact with Colorado's environmental regulatory agency through monthly meetings to make sure we're setting our community up for long-term compliance and stability.

Seeking funding for infrastructure improvements: We are working with state and federal agencies to explore potential grants and loans to support infrastructure investments and reduce the financial burden on our community.

Hiring a new District Manager: We're excited to introduce our new District Manager, Connor McCarty, who brings a wealth of experience and dedication. As District Manager, he will be responsible for coordinating infrastructure improvement efforts across the District and maintaining operations. Having someone in this leadership role will ensure the District runs smoothly.



LET'S CONNECT!

Thank you for your support as we make these changes! We're doing everything we can to provide reliable, cost-effective service to our customers. Updates are posted regularly on the District's website. If you have questions or comments, or want to learn more about what's coming up, [visit our website](#) to find dates for the next Board Meetings, or reach out to our District Manager at:

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