



2004

2024

State of the Fair Oaks Water District After Almost Twenty Years as the General Manager

In October of 2004, I was selected to lead the Fair Oaks Water District (FOWD) team as General Manager. At that time, the District was under investigation by the Sacramento Grand Jury, had nearly the highest water rates in the Sacramento Region and was burdened with seven million dollars in debt.

As we enter the second half of 2024, I continue to lead the FOWD team as General Manager. Currently the District has the lowest water rates in the Sacramento Region, has no debt from borrowing money and has over ten million dollars in reserve to complete Board approved capital projects on a “pay as you go” basis.

Over the past twenty years the FOWD team has established credibility as a leader in public financial accountability and water operations. This statement is supported by the following:

- ✓ Increased the net worth of the FOWD from \$24,000,000 to \$48,000,000.
- ✓ Increased the value of capital assets from \$14,000,000 to \$41,000,000.
- ✓ Invested over 40% of ratepayer revenue into capital improvements.
- ✓ Acquired over \$18,000,000 in money and assets from non-water rate sources.
- ✓ FOWD went from nearly the highest regional rates to the lowest.
- ✓ FOWD went from a seven-million-dollar debt to zero.
- ✓ Recognized and awarded for financial transparency every year.
- ✓ Successfully drilled and equipped five groundwater wells.
- ✓ Successfully designed and developed a new administration center.
- ✓ Successfully converted the FOWD from flat rate to metered billing.
- ✓ Successfully managed the FOWD through a major cyber-attack recovering all data.

- ✓ Successfully managed the FOWD through the COVID crisis.
- ✓ Acquired eight properties needed for water operations at little or no cost to FOWD ratepayers.
- ✓ Represented the FOWD on the Regional Water Authority (RWA) Board of Directors, Executive Committee and chaired the RWA Board.
- ✓ Represented the FOWD on the Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA) Board of Directors and chaired the SGA Board.
- ✓ Represented the FOWD at the Association of California Water Agencies and Region Four Executive Committee.
- ✓ Represented the FOWD on the California State University Sacramento Industry Advisory Committee.

The ratepayers trust the FOWD team to provide a reliable supply of quality water at a reasonable rate. As the General Manager of your water district, the FOWD team will continue to focus on this goal with a balanced approach. Balance between excellent water quality, responsible budgeting, positive customer service, fair employee recognition, and resourceful asset management. We will further commit to attempting to do so with grace and respect for everyone that we encounter.

The FOWD team thanks you for your trust and support as we continuously strive to serve the Fair Oaks community with excellence and integrity.

Best Wishes,



Tom R. Gray
General Manager
Fair Oaks Water District