

KEELER CSD QUARTERLY ADMINISTRATOR NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2024

PROVOST & PRITCHARD

Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group has been contracted by the State to serve as the Water System Administrator for Keeler CSD. Provost & Pritchard (P&P) is working in the best interest of the Keeler community to ensure the water system delivers a sufficient supply of affordable, safe drinking water.

IMPORTANT DATES

Bottled Water Distribution October 17

The bottled water distribution this month will be on Thursday, October 17. Pickups are between 9 - 9:30 AM and we will deliver to anyone that needs it. To request, please contact Hazel Critchfield from RCAC at hazel.critchfield@rcac.org.

Why is bottled water being provided?

Keeler CSD is under a Compliance Order due to contaminants exceeding safe drinking levels. Bottled water is provided as a temporary measure to ensure safe drinking water until long-term solutions are implemented.



WATER SYSTEM UPDATES

PFAS SAMPLING RESULTS

On May 22, 2024, Geosyntec Consultants conducted PFAS sampling at no cost to Keeler CSD, funded by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). The sampling returned non-detect results for all 26 "forever chemicals," meaning the concentrations were below the Reporting Level of 2 nanograms per liter (ng/L). You can view the results for each analyte at <https://sdwis.waterboards.ca.gov/PDWW/>.

LEAK REPAIRS

On August 20, a leak was reported behind the Keeler Fire building. The issue stemmed from a cracked meter and curb stop, which were replaced with a straight pipe. A functioning meter will be installed at a later date. This repair will not impact rate charges, as Keeler customers are billed at a flat rates.

On September 9, another leak was reported at a residence where the homeowner was out of town. The connection was shut off later that day, and the issue will be addressed before reconnection.

LEAD & COPPER SAMPLING

Lead and copper samples were collected from five homes on September 10, with all results below the SWRCB action limits. Lead & Copper sampling is required every three years under the federal Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). For more information, visit the SWRCB's Lead and Copper Rule page.

LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY COMPLETED

By October 16, 2024, all California water systems were required to submit a service line material inventory to comply with the US EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR). McMor Water Services completed this inventory for Keeler CSD, confirming that all service lines are made of either galvanized steel or Schedule 40 PVC.

SYSTEM COMMUNICATION FAILURES

Since early September, the system transmitting tank level data to the groundwater well pump has malfunctioned, requiring manual monitoring. A radio transmission system, tested for signal strength and interference, is being installed as the primary solution. The wired backup will also be repaired to provide redundancy and ensure reliable operation moving forward.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TA) PROJECT UPDATE

GHD Engineers, under a separate contract with the SWRCB, are responsible for designing and implementing long-term capital improvements for Keeler CSD's water system to resolve the arsenic and manganese contamination. In the short- to mid-term, P&P, through its Administrator contract, is overseeing day-to-day operations and ensuring that the system remains functional and compliant. Although these roles are distinct to avoid conflicts of interest, P&P, GHD, and the Keeler CSD Board continue to coordinate closely to ensure that all improvements align with what is best for Keeler.

In the coming months, GHD will conduct a Well Siting Study, a Test Well Installation (pending the study's outcome), and a leak study to address system leaks and source quality. A more detailed schedule will be provided as these tasks advance.

SWRCB ADMINISTRATOR EXTENSION REQUEST

The State Water Board has requested that P&P extend as the Administrator for Keeler CSD until February 28, 2026. This extension is requested to continue to allow for the implementation of long-term solutions that will address the system's operational and compliance challenges. P&P will continue to manage system operations, ensuring stable water service until a permanent solution is in place.

CONTAMINATION CORNER

Arsenic: 89 µg/L (MCL: 10 µg/L)

Arsenic is a primary contaminant under the Safe Drinking Water Act. For more information, visit the SWRCB Arsenic page.

Manganese: 97 µg/L (MCL: 50 µg/L)

Manganese is a secondary contaminant, primarily regulated for taste, color, and odor, though higher concentrations pose health risks. For more details, visit the SWRCB Manganese page.

Additionally, on October 1, 2024, the **Hexavalent Chromium** Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 10 µg/L went into effect. Keeler CSD sampled for hexavalent chromium on October 13, 2023, with results showing a detection level below the 0.2 µg/L Reporting Level, meeting initial monitoring requirements.

THANK YOU & REMINDER TO RESIDENTS

We appreciate the cooperation of Keeler CSD residents over the past year. Your efforts in reporting system issues directly to the administrator team, instead of intervening with system infrastructure, have resulted in fewer leaks and reduced emergency repair needs this quarter.

As a reminder, all maintenance of Keeler CSD's water system, including valve boxes and hydrants, is handled exclusively by McMor Water Services, our certified water operator. If you notice any issues, please report them through the proper channels - Keeler CSD board members, Provost & Pritchard, or Golden State Water Company (GSWC) customer service. Unauthorized adjustments can lead to complications that require additional resources to fix.

For emergencies, you can also reach Hamish Kellam, Program Manager at P&P, directly at (424) 442-0171.

HOW TO REPORT AN ISSUE

If you notice any issues with a valve, stand, or other water system component, please report it to Keeler CSD, Provost & Pritchard, or GSWC.

In case of emergencies where a faster response is needed, Call GSWC at 1-800-999-4033
Email GSWC at customerservice@gswater.com

Call P&P at (559) 449-2700
Email P&P at keeleradmin@ppeng.com
Call Keeler CSD at (760) 608-3208

Call Hamish Kellam at (424) 442-0171

DID YOU KNOW?



Keeler CSD's water system has separate contractors to avoid any conflict of interest. P&P is responsible for managing day-to-day operations as the Administrator, while GHD Engineers are tasked with designing long-term infrastructure improvements and RCAC manages bottled water distribution. Keeping these functions separate ensures checks and balances, while continuing to coordinate with Keeler CSD.

