

Oak Creek Water District

Serving West Sedona Quality Water Since 1953

February 2024 www.oakcreekwater.org

***** CONSTRUCTION UPDATE *****

Storage Tanks: The interior and exterior of our three Panorama Storage Tanks have been rehabilitated and painted. The exterior of our two Airport storage tanks have been painted. Some additional ladders and safety hatches have been installed to meet new standards.

Arsenic Removal Systems: Both well sites have now been operating successfully with three required quarterly samples submitted and well below the required 10 ppb limit. The system is a chemical free process.

Water Main Replacement: The project is underway on Willow Way. This includes laying temporary above ground water lines and pipe bursting through the existing lines with new lines, avoiding as much excavation and disturbance as possible. Birch Blvd, Oak Creek Blvd, Inspirational Blvd and View Drive will follow. The contractor will then proceed to Northview, Saddlerock and Copper Vista Subdivisions respectfully.

Keep Up to Date: Check the website. Sign up for alerts. Come to monthly meetings. Summit Construction will contact individual streets as they come up in the lineup.

***** WHO IS OAK CREEK WATER DISTRICT *****

The District has 7 Board members; each are residents and water users just like you that volunteer their time. Meetings are the third Tuesday of every month at 4:30pm. We have one full-time and two part-time employees that keep this District in operation. Wayne, our full-time operator, has amazingly obtained four of his five required licenses within 18 months. There have been many systems issues that get resolved without a single water service interruption. Next time you see him about say hi and thank him. Becky in the office handling the Business Operations. It is great to be greeted by a smile when you walk into the office and in most cases recognized by one's name. When calling, It is great to be greeting by a real voice instead of an automated system.

***** ANNUAL BUDGET AND RATES *****

The District is required to submit a budget to Yavapai County annually. The Board of Directors will be voting on this budget at the February 20, 2023 meeting. See attached. Public comments accepted by writing or in person prior to the discussion and vote. The budget includes a rate increase following our approved 5-year plan from 2021. At that time the initial \$8 Million USDA grant/loan agreement from 2020 was in place. Since then a second \$8 Million grant/loan agreement with USDA was required to complete the projects (inflation, COVID, lack of materials/contractors). After completing a preliminary review, our rate accountant recommended we jump from the 2024 rate structure to the 2026 planned rate structure. The standard ¾-inch connection median water user, averaging 3,500 gallons per month, bill would increase by \$2.75 from \$42.09 to \$44.84. On average a 6% increase. In July of this year a full analysis will then take place to see the health of the District. USDA requires the District set aside reserves in the amount of \$57,000 each year to pay for future repairs and/or replacement of major system assets. F.Y.I.: Residents that xeriscape experience bills below \$30. Conservation of water benefits all.