



**Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
Regular Board Meeting
July 9, 2025**

Emergency

STAFF REPORT

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Dan Jaggars, General Manager

SUBJECT: Emergency Item: Ratification of the General Manager's Declaration of a District Emergency regarding Necessary Immediate Repairs to Well 24

Staff Recommendation

Ratify the General Manager's Declaration of a District Emergency (in conference with Board President Slawson) to address the emergency regarding necessary immediate repairs to Well 24 declared on Sunday, July 6, 2025.

Background

On Sunday, July 6, 2025, District production staff responded to a telemetry system alarm indicating a fault at Well 24. Upon arrival, personnel observed significant smoke emanating from the well's 600-horsepower (600hp) electric motor. In accordance with safety protocols, staff immediately isolated the electrical panel and switchgear using lockout/tagout procedures and notified the Director of Operations.

Director of Operations James Bean conducted an initial inspection and observed visible soot deposits around the motor's ventilation openings, accompanied by a strong odor consistent with burnt electrical wiring. Subsequent testing with a megohm meter (megger) confirmed a direct short to ground within the electrical system, indicating that the motor, the associated wiring, or both had experienced a catastrophic failure. Further diagnostic evaluation and immediate repair efforts are necessary to restore Well 24 to operational status.

General Manager Jaggars was notified of the emergency at approximately 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 6, 2025. Well 24 historically provides approximately 2,500 gallons per minute (gpm) of pumping capacity to the District's 2750 pressure zone. District Management has determined that the failure and resulting outage of Well 24 constitutes an Emergency Condition due to the following operational and system reliability concerns:

1. Well 24 serves as the primary source of supply for the District's 2750 pressure zone. Its continuous operation is essential to maintaining pressure and meeting peak demands in this zone.
2. As summer progresses and temperatures rise, water demand across the District increases significantly. Compounding this seasonal demand, multiple wells are currently offline to prevent discharge water from reaching Stewart Park during required flushing activities. This situation places additional strain on remaining production facilities and heightens the urgency of restoring Well 24.

The District is presently engaged in drilling new production wells (Wells 1A and 2A). Associated flushing activities necessitate the installation of a high line of temporary piping along the center median of Palm Avenue, as well as additional discharge flows through the District's non-potable water system to the Cherry Channel. During these



operations, Well 26, typically a contributor to the non-potable system, must remain offline due to necessary valving configurations.

Additionally, Well 3, which historically delivers approximately 1,500 gpm to the City Tank at 12th and Palm (and is boosted into the 2750 zone), is temporarily disconnected. To facilitate flushing of Well 2A through the non-potable system, staff removed a four-way cross fitting at the City Tank to enable use of the existing Well 2 pipeline to the 12th and Palm yard. District staff are actively working to restore the Well 3 connection and to develop a contingency plan for continued flushing during ongoing drilling operations.

3. Given current high water demands and the ongoing threat of Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) by Southern California Edison (SCE), it is imperative to maintain redundancy within each pressure zone. The temporary loss of Well 24 compromises system resiliency and increases the risk of service interruptions during peak conditions or unplanned electrical outages.

As previously stated, the anticipated increase in seasonal water demand, combined with the concurrent unavailability of multiple wells, constitutes an operational emergency as identified by District Management Staff. In response to this critical condition, the General Manager determined that formal emergency measures were warranted and subsequently confirmed the emergency declaration with Board President Slawson.

The District's Policies and Procedures Manual, Part III, Sections 1B, 1E and 1F provide procedures to address emergencies, including water supply:

B. Emergency. Emergency means the actual or threatened existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the provision of critical District functions and the health and safety of staff or the public, caused by such conditions as fire, severe storm, riot, hazardous materials releases, earthquake, power outages, dam failures, freezes, water supply contamination, and other conditions which may be beyond the capability of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of this District, and may require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to help respond.

E. District Emergency Declaration. When an emergency condition arises, the General Manager may, in consultation with the Board President, declare a "District Emergency." The Board must ratify the declaration within fourteen (14) days at a regular, special or emergency Board meeting.

F. Authorization During District Emergencies. The General Manager's Declaration of a District Emergency is a public acknowledgement of the serious situation the District faces, and that the District's resources may not be adequate to respond to the emergency. The Board of Directors, in consultation with the General Manager, may delegate to the General Manager the authority to suspend competitive bidding and enter into emergency contracts of up to \$250,000, as authorized by Public Contract Code §20567 and §22050.

In addition, the Policies and Procedures Manual Part III, Section 17J – Purchasing Policy, contains procedures for Emergency Purchases:



J. Emergency Purchases. Emergency purchases may be made without competitive bidding when unforeseen circumstances present an immediate risk of:

- *Harm or hazard to the public health, safety and welfare;*
- *Damage to District property; or*
- *Serious interruption of District essential services*

Since emergency purchases do not normally provide the District an opportunity to obtain competitive quotes, sound judgment shall be used in keeping such orders to an absolute minimum. And,

Emergency purchases at Level 5 (more than \$25,000) require notification of the General Manager within 24 hours. The General Manager will notify the President and/or Vice President of the Board of Directors within an additional 24 hours

Summary

To address the failure at Well 24 and restore operational capacity as swiftly as possible, District staff recommend the following course of action.

1. Return Well 24 to service using temporary equipment and implement a phased strategy to restore production utilizing available equipment, as outlined below:
 - a. Remove the existing 600hp motor and transport it to a motor repair vendor for evaluation and potential repair.
 - b. Remove the current head shaft and fabricate a new head shaft designed to accommodate a spare 600hp motor in currently in storage at District facilities.
 - c. Install the spare 600hp motor on a temporary basis to bring Well 24 back online while repairs or replacement of the damaged motor are completed.
 - d. Once the repaired or replaced equipment is available, re-install the complete head shaft and the restored (or new) 600 hp motor for permanent service.

Due to the critical nature of Well 24 to the District's production activities, staff requests and recommends the Board ratify the District emergency situation as declared by the General Manager.

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal impact to the District has not yet been identified.

Funds are available from the Capital Replacement Reserve for completion of this work.