# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

and

# REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Year Ended September 30, 2016

Rick Bowers, CPA A Professional Corporation

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

# **September 30, 2016**

	Page Number
Independent Auditor's Report	1 - 1a
Management Discussion and Analysis	mda
Financial Statements:	
Statement of Net Position	2
Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position	3
Statement of Cash Flows	4
Notes to Financial Statements	5 - 11



# RICK BOWERS, CPA, PFS, CMA

A Professional Corporation 730 S. Dora Street

Ukiah, CA 95482

office (707) 468-9210 fax (707) 468-1260 email rbcpacorp@yahoo.com

Certified Public Accountant Personal Financial Specialist Certified Management Accountant Independent Auditor's Report

Board of Directors Irish Beach Water District Manchester, CA

# Report on Financial Statements

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Irish Beach Water District as of and for the year ended September 30, 2016, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

# Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

# Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the District's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, I express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

#### Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the Irish Beach Water District as of September 30, 2016, and the changes in financial position and cash flows thereof for the year then ended, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### Other Matters

# Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis on pages mda be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. I have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge I obtained during my audit of the basic financial statements. I do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide me with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Rick Bowers, CPA Ukiah, California

July 31, 2018

# IRISH BEACH WATER DISTRICT AUDIT REPORT SEPTEMBER 30, 2016 MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The following Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) provides a narrative overview and analysis of the financial performance of the Irish Beach Water District during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2016. Please read this analysis in conjunction with the District's Basic Financial Statements and accompanying Notes immediately following this section.

#### Overview of the Financial Statements

The District operates under California Irrigation District Law as a utility enterprise. As such, the District presents its financial statements using the economic resources measurement focus and the full accrual basis of accounting, similar to methods used by private sector companies. These financial statements are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the finances and also present changes in cash balances, and information about both short-term and long-term activities of the District. There are three required components to these statements: the MD&A, the Financial Statements, and the Notes to the Financial Statements. As an enterprise fund, the District's Financial Statements include four components.

- Statements of Net Position present information on all of the District's assets and liabilities with the difference between the two reported as net position. The Statements of Net Position provide the basis for evaluating the capital structure of the District and assessing its liquidity and financial flexibility. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the District is improving or deteriorating. Net position is displayed in three categories: Net investment in Capital Assets, Restricted for Capital Projects, and Unrestricted.
- 2) Statements of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Positon present information which show how the District's net position changed during the year. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are recorded on an accrual basis, meaning when the underlying transaction occurs regardless of the timing of the related cash flows. These statements measure the success of the District's operations over the past year and determine whether the District has recovered its costs through water sales (usage charges on water bills and contract water sales), user fees (availability charges on water bills), and other charges.
- 3) Statements of cash flows provide information regarding the District's cash receipts and cash disbursements during the year. These statements report cash activity in three categories: Operating; Capital and Related Financing Activities; and Investing. These statements differ from the Statements of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position in that they account only for transactions that result from cash receipts and cash disbursements. As in the past, the Statements of Cash Flows continue to reconcile the reasons why cash from operating activities differ from operating income.

4) Notes to the Basic Financial Statements provide a description of the accounting policies used to prepare the financial statements and present material disclosures required by generally accepted accounting principles that are not otherwise present in the financial statements. The Notes are located immediately following the Financial Statements.

# **Financial Highlights**

During the year ended September 30, 2016, the District's operating income was \$5,877. This operating income is \$16,056 more than the prior year's loss of (\$10,179). The difference is the result of operating expenses less by \$244 and the increase in operating revenues of \$15,812.

# Financial Analysis of the District

Statements of Net Position – The District's net position grew between fiscal years 2014-2015 and 2015-2016, increasing from \$1,027,546 to \$1,101,416, respectively. The change can be seen in the condensed Statement of Net Position below as a \$73,870 Increase in net position. There was increase in capital assets of \$91,098. Current assets increased by \$76,531. Restricted assets increased \$93,933 which is the current year receipts of capital improvement assessments of \$62,411 plus the reimbursement of expenditures to restricted asset accounts. Change in current liabilities was increase of \$36,682; this amount less a non-operating payable of \$26,754 due to RCFPD for pass through SDAF nets \$9,928. Long term debt decreased by \$9,431 leaving balance of \$9,391 current due. This safe drinking water loan will be paid off by 9/30/2017.

## **Condensed Statements of Net Position**

	2016	2015	Difference
Current and Other Assets	\$ 671,428	\$ 594,897	\$ 76,531
Capital assets	<u>822,660</u>	<u>731,562</u>	91,098
Total Assets	1,494,088	1,326,459	<u> 167,629</u>
Other liabilities: Current & Def Rev	392,672	289,535	103,137
Debt outstanding Net of Current		9,378	<u>(9,378)</u>
Total liabilities	392,672	298,913	93,759
Net investment in capital assets	813,093	712,411	100,682
Restricted	293,562	199,629	93,933
Unrestricted	(5,239)	115,506	(120,745)
Total net position	<u>\$1,101,416</u>	<u>\$1,027,546</u>	\$ 73,870

<u>Changes in Revenues, Expenses, and Net Position –</u> The District's income before capital improvement assessments increased \$18,882 due to decrease in total expenses of \$1,901 plus increase in total revenues of \$16,981. The change in net position that resulted can be seen in the table below, which summarizes the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position.

# Condensed Statements of Revenues, Expenses, and Net Position

	2016	2015	Difference
Operating Revenues:			
Water Usage	\$ 40,638	\$ 32,313	\$8,325
Water Availability	159,842	160,886	(1,044)
Late Fees	2,727	806	1,921
Other Income	6,610		6,610
Total Operating Revenues	209,817	194,005	15,812
Non-Operating Revenues	8,981_	7,812	1,169
Total Revenues	218,798	201,817	16,981
Operating Expenses	203,940	204,184	(244)
Non-Operating Expenses	3,399	<u>5,056</u>	(1,657)
Total Expenses	207,339	209,240	(1,901)
Income (loss) before Contributions	_11,459	(7,423)	<u>18,882</u>
Capital Contribution Assessments	62,411	61,375	1,036
Change in Net Position	<u>73,870</u>	53,952	<u> 19,918</u>

# **Economic Factors and Prospective Information**

The District's Board of Directors has been very responsive to changes in economic factors and has increased rates as necessary to ensure that the District's costs continue to be covered by revenues. Following is a table of approved rates for the last four years. 16-17 is last year for prop 218 assessments.

	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18
Assessments	\$228.92	\$235.36	\$242.03	\$249.24	\$-0-
Availability Charge	66.49/200	\$66.49/200	\$66.49/200	\$66.49/202	\$66.49/202
Usage Charge	\$0.46/100g	\$0.49/100g	\$0.51/100g	\$0.51/100g	\$0.51/100g

There are 202 property owners connected to the system who pay all three charges, and 257 additional property owners that only pay the assessment charges.

Availability and Usage rates are based on operating budget approved each year, and may change from year to year. The District, by special election, is authorized to impose a special assessment for capital improvement to the water system. The assessment is levied annually and collected by Mendocino County Treasurer by placing these assessments on the property tax bills at a cost of 2%. The 2% charge which is approximately \$2,000 is recognized as an operating expenditure. Use of the funds are restricted based upon criteria as detailed by the Bartle & Wells Engineered Assessment report dated 2002. The assessment is adjusted for inflation annually but restricted to a maximum 3%. The funds are restricted for 1) Alternate Water Development, 2) replacement of Greater than 40 Year Capital items, 31 System Wide Capital Projects as detailed in the Engineer's Report, and 4) two-thirds of the safe drinking water loan repayment.

The Irish Beach Water District has three developed sources of water: 1) The Upper Diversion on Irish Gulch, 2) the well (Well #9) located east of the main subdivision; and 3) the Lower Diversion on Irish Gulch. Two new wells were drilled in 2008. One was drilled by agreement on a parcel owned by Gordon and Sandra Moores near Tank 2. This well has not been connected to the system because of the current law suit by Wm. Moores preventing the utility connection to that well. A second well was drilled on a deeded easement granted to the District for a well and a water tank (Tank5) in the Unit 9 area. The longtime existing Unit 9 well is on that same easement. The Unit 9 well has been diminishing in production volume. The two new wells were envisioned as a way to provide water to existing parcels and future homes yet to be built. (Ground water can be held in future reserve where surface water cannot.)

The new T5 Well was tested for recovery rate, water quality, and was licensed for use by the State Department of Public Health. More than a year went by before the Wm. Moores lawsuit was filed in 2009 against the District regarding liability for inverse condemnation for the drilling of the T5 Well. In a decision dated June 20, 2012, the Court ruled against the District. The trial for inverse condemnation was held August 18, 2014, where the District was found liable for \$401,000 in damages and \$734,000 in attorney fees and costs. The District is appealing.

In the spring of 2016 the second and third phase of this trial was held to invalidate certain prop 218 assessments, seek damages for road maintenance and an alleged breach of a 2002 settlement agreement. This phase II and III of the trial resulted in an award against the district of \$133,649 and ordered various refunds of the Districts Prop 218 assessment funds including the total Mallo Pass funds collected. The district appealed the phase II and III judgements and expect this action to be heard in fall 2019. All actions have been stayed pending the appeal.

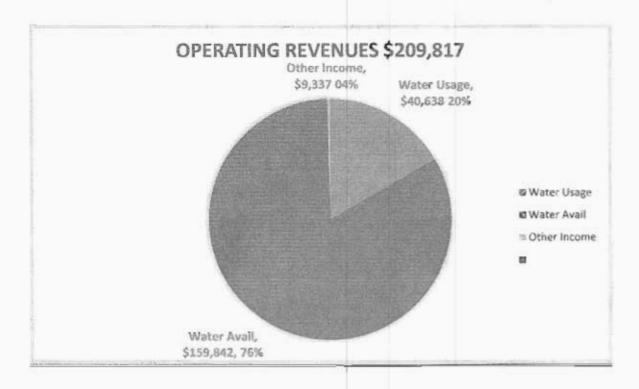
Well Moratorium — The District continues to enforce a new well drilling moratorium. However, two requests for exemption have recently been approved in the acreage parcels known as the Nichols Ranch.

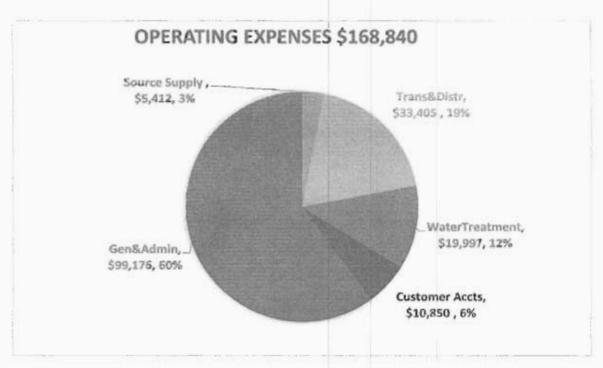
Projects in Process — The upper diversion pipe scheduled to be replaced was completed August 2016 for a total of \$21,055 from Systemwide Capital Projects Fund. Tank 2 is on the list for replacement. Finding and repairing leaks in the distribution system is a constant challenge due to the age and inferior quality of the work and materials when originally built. Currently in progress is project to replace over a mile of pipe on the O'Rorey's Roost Road loop. Completion of the project was December 2016 for total of \$124,316.

# Contacting the District's Management

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, rate payers, and creditors with a general overview of the District's finances and to demonstrate the District's accountability for the financial resources it manages. If you have questions about this report or need additional information, please contact the District or our Certified Public Accountant.

Irish Beach Water District	Charles Acker	Judy Murray	Rick Bowers, CPA
P O Box 67	General Manager	Treasurer	730 S. Dora Street
15401 Forest View Rd	cacker@mcn.org	jmurray@mcn.org	Ukiah, Ca 95482
Manchester, Ca 95459	707-882-2892	ibwd@mcn.org	rbcpacorp@yahoo.com





DOES NOT INCLUDE DEPRECIATION OF \$35,100

# STATEMENT OF NET POSITION September 30, 2016

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 22,195
Accounts Receivable	27,074
Assessments Receivable	929
	7,500
Legal Fees Advancement	
Prepaid Insurance	6,563
Total Current Assets	64,261
Restricted Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	607,167
A STATE OF THE STA	
Capital Assets	
Property, Plant and Equipment -	
Net of Accumulated Depreciation	717,517
Projects in Progress	105,143
Total Net Capital Assets	822,660
TOTAL ASSETS	1,494,088
LIABILITIES	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	23,495
Accrued Payroll and Taxes	19,251
Due to Redwood Coast Fire	26,754
Payable From Restricted Assets:	20,104
Current Portion Long Term Debt	9,391
Accrued Interest	176
Accided interest	176
Total Current Liabilities	79,067
Long-Term Liabilities	
Deferred Revenue - Water Source Development	313,605
Long Term Debt - Net of Current Portion	0
Total Long Term Liabilities	313,605
TOTAL LIABILITIES	392,672
NET POSITION	
Net Investment in Capital Assets	813,093
	293,562
Restricted for Capital Projects	230,002
Restricted for Capital Projects	(5.220)
Unrestricted	(5,239)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

# STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION

For The Year Ended September 30, 2016

Operating Revenues	
Water Usage	\$ 40,638
Water Availability	159,842
Late Fees	2,727
Other Income	6,610
Total Operating Revenues	209,817
Operating Expenses	
Source of Supply	5,412
Transmission and Distribution	33,405
Water Treatment	19,997
Customer Accounts	10,850
General and Administrative	99,176
Depreciation	35,100
Total Operating Expenses	203,940
Operating Income (Loss)	5,877
Non-Operating Revneues (Expenses)	
Debt Service Assessments	6,448
Investment Income	2,533
Interest Expense	(629)
County Collection Fees	(2,770)
Total Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses)	5,582
Capital Contributions Assessment	62,411
Change in Net Position	73,870
Net Position - Beginning of Year	1,027,546
Net Position - End of Year	\$ 1,101,416

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS For The Year Ended September 30, 2016

Cash Flows from Operating Activities	2 244 255
Cash Received from Customers	\$ 211,355
Payments to Suppliers	(70,372)
Payments for Employees and Taxes	(72,342)
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	68,641
Cash Flows from Capital and Related Financing Activities	
Debt Service Assessments	6,448
Capital Contribution Assessments	101,916
Redwood Coast Fire Net Collections	26,754
County Collection Fees	(2,770)
Capital Asset Expenditures	(126,198)
Principal Paid on Long Term Debt	(9,418)
Interest Paid on Long Term Debt	(795)
Net Cash Used by Capital and Related Financing	
Activities	(4,063)
Cash Flows from Investing Activities	
Investment Income	2,533
Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents	67,111
Cash and Cash Equivalents - Beginning of Year	562,251
Cash and Cash Equivalents - End of Year	\$ 629,362
Components of Cash and Cash Equivalents	
Cash in Checking and Savings	\$ 22,195
Restricted Cash and Cash Equivalents:	U 22,100
Capital Asset Assessments - Savings	247,233
County Treasury	359,934
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 629,362
Reconciliation of Change in Net Position to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	
Operating Income	\$ 5,877
Depreciation and Amortization	35,100
Net Changes in Assets and Liabilities.	
Accounts Receivable	1,538
Legal Fees Advancement	(7,500)
Prepaid Insurance	(3,262)
Accounts Payable	20,635
Accrued Payroll and Taxes	16,253
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	\$ 68,641

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

The Irish Beach Water District (the District) was formed in 1967 under the provisions of the Water Code of the State of California for the purpose of providing water to properties within the District, which include the subdivision known as Irish Beach along the southern Mendocino County coast line.

Fire protection services were added by legislation in 1978 but were subsequently taken over by the Redwood Coast Fire Protection District as part of an annexation of that department. The fire department is not a component unit of the District.

# NOTE I. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

# a. Reporting Entity

Criteria used in determining the scope of the reporting entity includes financial interdependency, selection of governing authority, designation of management, ability to significantly influence operations, and accountability for fiscal matters. The reporting entity consists of the District as the primary, and sole, reporting entity.

# b. Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting, and Financial Statement Presentation

The financial statements of the District are prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, as defined by the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB), the independent and ultimate authoritative accounting and financial reporting standard-setting body for state and local governments. The District's reporting entity applies all relevant GASB pronouncements. Proprietary funds apply Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) pronouncements and Accounting Principles Board (APB) opinions issued on or before November 30, 1989, unless those pronouncements conflict with or contradict GASB pronouncements, in which case GASB prevails.

The District is accounted for as an enterprise fund (proprietary fund type). A fund is an accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts established to record the financial position and results of operations of a specific governmental activity. Proprietary funds are accounted for on the flow of economic resources measurement focus and use the accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded at the time liabilities are incurred.

The activities of enterprise funds closely resemble those of ongoing businesses in which the purpose is to conserve and add to basic resources while meeting operating expenses from current revenues. Enterprise funds account for operations that provide services on a continuous basis and are substantially financed by revenues derived from user charges.

The District distinguishes operating revenues and expenses from non-operating items. Operating revenues include revenues derived from services for usage and availability of water, and related activities. Operating expenses include all expenses applicable to the furnishing of these activities. Non-operating revenues and expenses include revenues and expenses not associated with the District's normal business of providing water services. Capital contribution assessments are reported separately in the Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the District's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources as they are needed.

# c. Budgetary Accounting

An annual budget is adopted by the Board of Directors each fiscal year. The budget may be revised during the year to reflect unanticipated revenues or expenses. The budget is used for operating management and internal accounting control purposes, and is prepared on the modified cash basis of accounting.

# d. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include amounts in demand deposits and with the county treasury, as well as short-term highly liquid investments with maturities of three months or less. State statutes authorize the District to invest in obligations of the U.S. Treasury, commercial paper, corporate bonds, and repurchase agreements.

#### e. Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable represent amounts due for water services. All amounts are considered to be collectible, and no allowance for doubtful accounts has been recorded. Liens are placed on properties with outstanding balances. If accounts receivable do result in losses they are recognized when the amounts become determinable.

# f. Prepaid Expenses

Payments made to vendors for services that will benefit periods beyond the fiscal yearend are recorded as prepaid assets.

#### g. Restricted Assets

Assessments for capital improvements are considered restricted because their use is limited to future developments within the water system.

# h. Capital Assets

Capital assets are recorded at cost. Major improvements and additions are charged to the related capital asset accounts. Improvements and additions which do not significantly improve or extend the life of the asset are charged against earnings in the period incurred. Donated capital assets are recorded at their estimated fair market value on the date received.

# i. Depreciation

Depreciation is charged to expense for all capital assets; except land, right of ways, and any projects in progress. Projects in progress are considered depreciable upon completion of the related project.

Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the related assets. The estimated useful lives are as follows:

Improvements and Infrastructure 20 - 40 years Equipment and Vehicles 5 - 15 years Office Equipment and Furniture 5 - 10 years

# j. Net Position

Net position represents the difference between assets and liabilities. The District's net position is classified as follows:

Net Investment in Capital Assets – This represents the District's total investment in capital assets, net of outstanding debt obligations related to those capital assets.

Restricted Net Position – Restricted net position represents resources which are legally or contractually obligated to be spent in accordance with restrictions imposed by external third parties.

Unrestricted Net Position – Unrestricted net position represents resources available for transactions relating to the general operations of the District, and may be used at the discretion of the governing board to meet current expenses for any purpose.

# k. Water System Special Assessments

Section 37203 of the *California Water Code*, by special election, allows a California Water District to impose special assessments that are levied and collected by the county for capital improvements, future development of the water system, and debt service.

The county charges a 2% collection fee for this service. The assessments for general capital improvements or replacements and debt service are recognized as revenue when levied. Amounts assessed for special projects are recorded as deferred revenue and recognized upon completion of the project. By resolution of the Board of Directors, the capital contributions assessment cannot increase by more than 3% each year and will cease when the amount collected reaches 10% of the replacement value of the assets with estimated lives greater than 40 years.

# I. Measurement Uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### m. Subsequent Events

Management has evaluated subsequent events through July 31, 2018, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued. No material subsequent events have occurred since September 30, 2016 that would require recognition or disclosure in the financial statements.

#### NOTE 2. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash and cash equivalents consist of the following at September 30, 2016:

Checking Accounts -	JP Morgan Chase	\$	2,446
	Redwood Credit Union		19,749
Money Market -	Redwood Credit Union		247,233
County Treasury -	Mendocino County	_	<u>359,934</u>
STC I		Φ.	(20.000
Total		\$	629.362

District deposits are fully insured or collateralized with securities held by the District or its agent in the District's name. The *California Government Code* requires California banks and savings and loan associations to secure local agency deposits by pledging government securities as collateral. The market value of pledged securities must equal at least 110% of a local agency's deposits.

# NOTE 3. CAPITAL ASSETS

Following is a summary of changes to capital assets for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2016:

Improvements and Infrastructure Equipment Office Equipment Totals	Beginning <u>Balance</u> \$ 1,243,168 34,249 <u>13,789</u> \$ 1,291,206	Additions \$ 87,697 \$ 87,697	Deletions \$ - \$	Ending Balance \$ 1,330,865 34,249 13,789 \$ 1,378,903
	Beginning Balance	Additions	Deletions	Ending Balance
Property, Plant and Equipment Accumulated Depreciation	\$ 1,291,206 (626,286)	\$ 87,697 ( 35,100)	\$ -	\$ 1,378,903 (661,386)
Total Net Capital Assets	\$ <u>664,920</u>			\$ <u>717,517</u>
Projects in Progress	\$ 66,642	\$ 126,198	\$ <u>87,697</u>	\$ 105,143

Work in progress consists of a loop pipe replacement.

# NOTE 4. LONG-TERM DEBT

Long-term debt at September 30, 2016 consists of the following:

Safe Drinking Water loan through the California Statewide Communities Development Authority, secured by a pledge of water revenues. The loan was refinanced with WestAmerica Bank on November 1, 2003. The note is payable in semi-annual installments in May and November at \$5,106, which includes interest at 4.75%.

Future minimum principal and interest payments on long-term debt are as follows, for the fiscal year ended:

	<u>Principal</u>	<u>In</u>	terest
September 30, 2017	\$ 9,391	\$	329

# NOTE 5. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

# Alternate Water Source Development and Litigation

The District had a permit from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to divert surface water from Mallo Pass Creek. The permit was originally issued to an individual in 1974 and was assigned to the District by that individual in 1988.

The permit was issued with a requirement that the project be completed within a specified period of time, to which several extensions had been granted by the SWRCB. Due to litigation and other factors the project was not completed, and the SWRCB has denied any additional extensions and revoked the permit. The District retained legal counsel for this issue, and, after numerous appeals and discussions, it was determined that the revocation will stand.

In November of 2008 the District passed a resolution officially abandoning the project. It was determined by the District that the funds originally accumulated for this project could be held as restricted for other water source developments. This contention was challenged in a legal suit filed in 2009. A landowner in the District brought this action among numerous causes of action, and included the District's four Proposition 218 Assessments.

Proposition 218, which was approved by the voters in November 1996, and amended Article 13 of the State Constitution, regulates the District's ability to impose, increase, and extend taxes, assessments, and fees. New, increased, or extended taxes, assessments, and fees are subject to the provisions of Proposition 218. This decision was upheld and broadly interpreted to include water rates and charges in the recent court decision of Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency vs. Virjil which states "an agency may not adopt a rate increase if written protests against the proposed fee or charge are presented by a majority" of the affected property owners. In addition, the District's ability to finance the services for which the taxes, assessments, and fees are imposed in the future may be impaired. However, management believes it will be able to maintain its current level of service.

The Court found that the District's Mallo Pass / Alternative Water Supply Assessment ended in 2009 when the Mallo Pass permit was rescinded. The entire fund was ordered by the Court to be refunded to all landowners in the District. The District is appealing the judgement. Total legal expenses paid out of the Mallo Pass / Alternative Water Supply Assessment of \$80,810 that were not allowed by the court ruling have been paid back out of operating cash.

# **Continued Litigation**

In addition to the above, additional combined actions by the same plaintiff have been brought against the District for (1) inverse condemnation, (2) various allegations surrounding alleged violations of a 2002 settlement agreement and (3) deficiencies in the District's share of road maintenance fees. On August 18, 2014, the trial for inverse condemnation was held and the District was found liable for \$401,000 in damages. The District has appealed, and the Plaintiffs are currently seeking approximately \$734,000 in attorney's fees and costs. The District presently believes there is a good likelihood of prevailing on appeal.

The third phase of this trial was completed in 2016. In this third phase of trial, Plaintiffs alleged the invalidity of certain of the District's assessments, seek damages for alleged road maintenance issues, and allege the District breached a 2002 Settlement Agreement between the parties. The trial resulted in an award of breach of contract against the District for \$133,649. The Court also ordered various refunds of the District's Proposition 218 assessment funds totaling an amount greater than \$2,000 in the aggregate.

The District has appealed the judgement in this matter with Briefing due this summer. Oral Arguments are likely to be scheduled for fall of 2019.

To date the District has spent over \$350,000 in legal/fees on these issues. \$32,000 paid in the current fiscal year includes; \$8,000 paid as settlement to plaintiff for maintenance charges for road repairs, and \$7,500 advance payments for continued litigation. The ultimate outcome of this litigation cannot presently be determined. Judgements are being appealed. Accordingly, adjustments, if any, that might result from the resolution of this matter have not been reflected in the financial statements.