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PRESS RELEASE OF THE NOVEMBER 28TH BOARD MEETING

The Garberville Sanitary District Board met on November 28th to discuss District business and the summary of that meeting is included.

The District strives for efficiency and becoming self-reliant so we are exploring alternative energy options to eliminate or reduce the need for outside electrical providers. Greenwired gave a presentation on the process and feasibility of a solar system which we will continue pursuing.

A request for a water “will serve” letter was presented by a customer pursuing a Humboldt County cannabis business permit which the Board will continue working on through a two member committee. The plan is to have complete or partial language developed to provide a “will serve” letter to all pending permit applicants at the December 19th Board meeting.

The Board discussed the water treatment plant repairs and the “boil water” order issued.

On Friday November 24th at 6:00 PM the GSD operators turned off the water treatment plant and were in the process of backwash cleaning the filters which they do on a regular basis but on this particular night, they heard a loud popping sound outside of building. Upon research, they found water coming up out of ground above the chlorine contact chamber.

Management was notified at 6:04 and a plan was developed which included (1) Make sure water treatment plant is shut off (2) Turn on the Tobin well located in the middle of Garberville and insure that chlorine is adequate and continue providing safe drinking water to the customers. (4) Check all water storage tanks for adequate levels of water (5) Test various sites throughout District for chlorine residual and safe drinking water.

We coordinated with the State Water Board officials as this process took place because as water pressure drops or a pipe breaks, we notify the State. Our contact instructed us to issue a boil water order even though no water had left the treatment plant and GSD was being served from Tobin Well which was producing safe drinking water.

We objected to issuing a boil water order when there was no harm to the public but were following State protocol. A press release and boil water order was worked on with the State official but no further notification was considered because the water provided was safe.

GSD has analyzed how this incident was handled and is developing a new information and contact process so we welcome your input on how we can better contact you? Please provide us with working phone numbers, email addresses and alternative contacts.

We apologize for the confusion of this incident and the lack of information provided during the Thanksgiving weekend.

