



# Municipal Water District Pump Station Design

## **What's the Problem?**

The Menlo Park Municipal Water District pump station ([photo](#)) in Sharon Heights is almost 50 years old and nearing the end of its useful life. Since 2001, both emergency and preventive maintenance costs have averaged thousands of dollars per year. Several other limitations on the existing pump station require new construction:

1. Remote control capacity is limited. An updated remote control system will allow the pumps to be operated at peak efficiency. Pump station controls will be automated to ensure adequate emergency water supply.
2. The pump station was constructed with submersible (underground) pump/motor units. Although underground units minimize noise, they require special equipment for servicing and maintenance. A crane and truck must be hired to remove the unit and transport it to a workshop. Modern pump stations are generally built above-ground with equipment or a pump house building to contain sound and make maintenance less costly and intrusive.
3. The pump/motor parts are no longer being manufactured. The lack of available parts has greatly increased maintenance and repair costs.
4. A permanent backup source of energy is not currently available. The portable generator currently at the site only has enough electrical output to run one of the three existing pumps. A permanent and reliable backup generator is needed.

## **Givens**

1. The pump station will be completely rebuilt. An equipment upgrade would not adequately address the problem.
2. In order to avoid unnecessary costs, the location of the new pump station must be next to the Hetch Hetchy pipeline or the pipeline leading to the reservoir (near Sharon Park Drive & Lassen Drive).
3. The Menlo Park City Council will make the final decision about the design of the new pump station, based on recommendations from the engineering consultant with input from the community.

## **A Brief History**

In the late 1950's, the City entered into an agreement with Stanford to provide domestic water service and fire protection via the Menlo Park Municipal Water District (MPMWD) to the proposed linear accelerator (SLAC). A reservoir was built on land leased from Stanford and, in 1962 a pump station was installed to send potable water to the reservoir, SLAC, the Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club and the newly developing Sharon Heights neighborhood. During the 1960's and 1970's the Sharon Heights neighborhood expanded to include approximately 700 new homes, 60 businesses and 40 multi-family residences which are served by the Menlo Park Municipal Water District and the Sharon Heights pump station.

## **How the process will work**

2009, May – Informational mailing to Sharon Heights water customers within 1000 feet of the pump station, defining its problems and history and inviting comments, concerns, questions and suggestions.

2009, June – Informational public listening session for water customers to provide comment.

2009, July – Informational public meeting to present design options that incorporate water customer comments.

2009, August through December – Consultant preparation of Basis of Design document and Planning application packet.

2009, December – Planning Commission review of architectural, sound and environmental aspects of selected design proposal.

2009, January or February – City Council review of selected design.

2010, February through April – Consultant preparation of plans and specifications for public bidding by construction contractors.

2010, April or May – City Council award of construction contract.

2010-2011, June through June – Construction of new pump station.

## **Past Activities**

2008 February – City Council approved Sharon Heights Pump Station Replacement Design funds for use in 2008-09 fiscal year.

2008 September and October - City published a request for qualifications for project design and received responses from six engineering consultants.

2008 December - City staff interviewed three consultants, then selected and began contract negotiations with Carollo Engineers.

2009, March - City Council awarded a contract to Carollo Engineers to assist staff in developing design options and obtaining public comments. (Staff Report [#09-048](#))

2009, May – Surveying and soil investigation at the site to assist consultant in developing design options.

### **How to get involved:**

Your input throughout this process is essential to planning and building a pump station that will best serve the needs of the Menlo Park community now and in the future. You can help by attending meetings or sending comments or questions to:

Virginia Parks, Assistant Engineer  
(650) 330-6740  
vkfparks@menlopark.org

Check this website to stay up-to-date on project activities.