

In the News

Community: A Vermillion Flycatcher at the Quincy Community Services Wastewater Treatment Ponds made the front page of the Feather River Bulletin when it was sighted on November 16, 2007. A native of Texas and previously known to range as far north as Chico, the Vermillion Flycatcher is probably “the rarest bird ever observed at the QCSD sewer ponds,” according to Bob Battagin who has spearheaded the creation of a bird watching checklist for the ponds and their environs. Bob Battagin has been observing the birds at the ponds since February 20, 1998. He and his friends, many members of the Plumas County Audubon Society, have compiled the check list of birds actually seen at the ponds not just those likely to be there. They have observed 133 species so far. Also sighted was the rare Western Pond Turtle.

Water: The District also made front page news when it received a grant from the State Department of Public Health to embark on a search for a new well. The total of that grant is over \$930,000. Five sites will receive test wells. The new well will replace the District’s old Norton Well which QCSD Board of Directors closed down in 2000 as a result of polluted ground water. The potential test sites are near some homes that are on their own private wells. In an effort to proactively address concerns about negative impacts on its neighbors, the district is seeking to educate and communicate with any homeowners who may have questions or concerns about this process. The District would like to assess its neighbors’ water systems at the onset of the project so that any negative impacts can be documented and mitigated as they occur.

Wastewater: The District has submitted a grant proposal to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to build an Ultra Violet Disinfection System at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This system would eliminate the use of chlorine at the plant which amounts to a total of 152 tons of toxic chemicals per year. The new system would be designed to run on solar power which would help to fulfill the state’s Solar Mandate (SB 1). A chlorine free system would eliminate chlorine discharge violations and would work well with the new Wetlands (Prop. 50) project the District is scheduled to start building in 2009. The Wetlands Treatment project is expected to reduce heavy metals from the plant’s effluent thereby meeting the state’s new, more stringent discharge requirements, especially for copper.

Staff: QCSD General Manager Larry Sullivan celebrated his 15th anniversary with the District on January 11th of this year. As manager, Mr. Sullivan has administered over \$6 million in grant funded projects. He has remained ahead of the curve on numerous issues including the increasingly limited wastewater plant capacity in the face of the building boom of the last several years in American Valley. Mr. Sullivan has been instrumental in bringing solutions to the challenges that have arisen over the past 15 years including, but not limited to, eliminating the use of chlorine gas, a technology with some extreme risks, at the wastewater treatment plant. His innovation is greatly valued by his staff.