

CHESTER PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

251 Chester Airport Rd. · Chester, CA 96020 · (530) 258-2171 · chesterpud.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chester Public Utility District: Water and Sewer Service Continuing During Employee Work Stoppage

CHESTER, Calif. — Employees represented by the International Union of Operating Engineers, Stationary Engineers Local 39 began a work stoppage at Chester Public Utility District on Monday, August 24, 2026. Water and wastewater service to the District's approximately 2,100 customers is continuing.

The District's water system is under the direct responsible charge of a State-certified operator. General Manager Bonnie Mullaney holds California Distribution Operator Certificate No. 51477, Grade D2 — the certification California requires for the chief operator of the District's distribution system — and is personally overseeing water system operations.

The District has engaged a State-certified contract wastewater operator for the wastewater facility.

Required water sampling and monitoring are continuing on schedule. No boil-water notice, do-not-drink advisory, or other health advisory has been issued or is in effect.

The District has notified the State Water Resources Control Board regarding both water and wastewater operations, including the Board's Division of Drinking Water, and is coordinating with the Board.

“Our first obligation is to the people who depend on this District for water and sewer service, and that service is continuing,” Mullaney said. “I want our customers to hear the facts directly from me. A State-certified operator is in responsible charge of the water system. Required monitoring is going on as scheduled. No advisory has been issued. If drinking water ever posed a risk to health, state law requires this District to notify you in writing at your address — so if you have not received a notice from us, there is no advisory in effect.”

“I am not going to discuss personnel matters or the details of labor negotiations in public,” Mullaney added. “What I will say is that the people who work for this District do difficult, essential work, and that the District's bargaining team is scheduled to meet with Local 39 on Monday, August 31 and will continue working toward a successor agreement.”

The District office at 251 Chester Airport Rd. remains open. Customers with questions about water quality, service, or billing should call (530) 258-2171. Report service emergencies to (707) 932-0800.

The District will not comment further on personnel or labor relations matters.

About Chester Public Utility District

Chester Public Utility District is a California special district organized under Public Utilities Code section 15501 et seq., governed by a five-member elected Board of Directors. The District provides water and wastewater service, a solid waste franchise, and streetlights to approximately 2,100 residents and businesses in the Lake Almanor Basin, Plumas County.