

YREKA CITY NEWSLETTER

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Yreka Phlox



Producing delicate bright rose-pink to white flowers, Yreka Phlox is both a local treasure and a conservation concern. This perennial blooms from March to June and has only been found at five locations in and around Yreka: China Hill, Greenhorn Creek, Jackson Street, Soap Creek Ridge and Cracker Gulch. In 2000, Yreka Phlox (*Phlox*

hirsuta) was placed on the Federal endangered species list by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and an official Recovery Plan for Yreka Phlox was released by the agency in 2006. The primary threats to Yreka Phlox are alteration or destruction of habitat from urban development, timber harvesting, road construction, and off-road vehicle use. Less promi-

nent threats include fire suppression, theft and vandalism, herbicide use, domestic animal grazing, and competition with exotic plant species. Multiple organizations have come together to support recovery efforts. The flower's biggest conservation proponent was the late City Attorney, Larry G. Bacon, who passed away in 2004.



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Important Numbers

**City Hall/
Water Division**
(530) 841-2386

Fire Department
(530) 841-2383

Police Department
(530) 841-2300

Public Works
(530) 841-2370

Senior Program
(530) 841-2365

Greenhorn Pedestrian Bridge

With funds from a Workforce Housing grant, Rick Evans Construction of Yreka was awarded the contract to erect the Greenhorn Park Pedestrian Bridge. Jim Bray is providing the engineering and oversight on this intricate project. This has been a long-awaited and vital component for completing an accessible trail around Greenhorn Reservoir. The City is seeking additional funds to provide a suitable surface to the trail around the lake which must be completed by 2011.



Grass Fires

Grass Fires are costly to the City and its Fire Department and these fires pose threats to adjoining property owners. You can help by cutting your weeds before they turn brown. On large parcels, please mow or disc a 40-foot perimeter on all sides of your property to a height of four inches or less.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

DAVID SIMMEN - COUNCILMEMBER

TOM AMARAL - MAYOR

JASON DARROW - COUNCILMEMBER

JIM GRIFFIN - MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

RORY MCNEIL - COUNCILMEMBER

LIZ CASSON - CITY CLERK

MICHAEL PAVLIK - CITY TREASURER

City Obtains \$3,325,000 in Grants for Water System



On May 7, 2009, the City Council adopted Resolution 2775 accepting a grant of \$3.325 million and a low-interest loan of \$7,759,500 for 40 years offered by Rural Development in order to complete the improvements identified in the Water Master Plan and the Water and Wastewater Utility Rate Study. City staff and the City Council have worked diligently over the last several years to get into a position to take advantage of available federal infrastructure dollars to help offset the cost of these improvements designed to meet new State water quality mandates and to make necessary repairs to our existing water system. The increases in the water rates are intended to repay the loan. The City will soon advertise for bids and plans to start construction on several of the following projects in the fall:

- 1) **Expand the Fall Creek Pump Station:** Addition of the fourth pump to the Fall Creek Pump Station will increase its capacity to meet existing and future needs.
- 2) **Filter Pump Station/Primary Coagulant Facilities:** The primary coagulant would be added at the new facilities prior to a pipeline flocculator, thus converting from inline to direct filtration. This will allow the State to classify the plant as an approved technology and meet new drinking water standards. The Filter Pump Station would be added immediately upstream of the primary coagulant injection point and increase the hydraulic capacity of the Fall Creek main transmission line to meet existing and future demands.
- 3) **Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Upgrade:** Two new filters will be added to provide for redundancy and nominal growth. Addition of magnetic flow meters and modulating control valves to the eight existing filters will provide individual flow control and prevent hydraulic overloading of the various filters. Replacement of the 40-year-old filter control panel will increase operation flexibility and treatment system reliability as well as reduce operation costs.
- 4) **2.5 Million-Gallon Water Storage Tank:** Will provide a continuous flow of treated water into the system during the filter backwash periods and during periods of WTP shutdown due to extraordinarily high raw water turbidity, thus increasing water system reliability.
- 5) **Backwash Pond Improvements:** Addition of a backwash containment tank with recycling of decanted water and sludge disposal to the existing pond system will bring the City into compliance with State regulations regarding discharges to surface waters.
- 6) **Zone 1 and 3 Supply Mains:** Replacement of an undersized pressure-reducing station and undersized supply mains to Zone 1 and 3 within the City will result in significant energy savings and reduced operation costs.
- 7) **Supplemental Improvements:** Rehabilitation of the Butcher Hill tank by installing a concrete foundation will greatly increase its reliability and extend its useful service life. Likewise, upgrading the existing distribution telemetry system will greatly increase the reliability of the overall water system and allow City staff to optimize the use of available storage capacity and minimize pumping energy use.

Glossary of Terms

Coagulant: a chemical used in water treatment to improve the filtration process by causing very small particles in water to attract to one another and form larger particles.

Flocculator: the water treatment process (following the addition of the coagulant) that uses gentle stirring to bring suspended particles together so that they will form larger clumps that can be removed during filtration.

Magnetic Flow Meter: a flow-measuring device in which the movement of water induces an electric current proportional to the rate of flow.

Modulating Control Valve: an automatic valve that works in combination with a magnetic flow meter to control the flow of water through a process.

Sludge: the accumulated solids separated from water during the treatment process.

Turbidity: a physical characteristic of water making it appear cloudy caused by the presence of suspended particles in the water.