
The Oaks Community Association

County: Amador

Population: 600

Challenges: Impaired drinking water source (Lake Amador)

Consolidation/exclusion Date: June 2019

The Oaks Community Association (Oaks) is located in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, four miles southeast of Lone in Amador County. The water system serves treated surface water via 212 service connections to approximately 600 customers including the customers residing in five homes outside the Park, and the customers at the restaurant in Buena Vista, located half a mile from the park. The five homes receive water by way of the restaurant. The system obtains its raw water from Lake Amador. The treatment system consists of pre-ozonation, coagulation, flocculation, clarification, pressure filtration, granular activated carbon filtration for taste and odor, and disinfection. The community was considered a severely disadvantaged community with a median household income of \$32,308.

The system's only surface water source is from Lake Amador. Lake Amador receives water from Jackson Creek and its tributaries. Jackson Creek receives storm water and treated wastewater from the City of Jackson, in addition to local area runoff. During the normal runoff, the dilution ratio for the City of Jackson treated wastewater in Lake Amador was determined to be about 20:1. The water quality in the Lake is poor, even under the best possible runoff conditions, and it deteriorates further during drought conditions. The Lake water contains high concentrations of algae and organic compounds. The Oaks was required to seek an alternative source of water due to the poor water quality of Lake Amador in a permit amendment issued by the Department of Health services, Drinking Water Field Operations Branch on November 12, 1997.



Fig 1. "The Oaks" road sign

The Oaks community is located within the service area of the Jackson Valley Irrigation District (the District). The District receives water from Pardee Reservoir, a good quality water source. The District has two Trimite water treatment units, each of which consists of one up-flow contact clarifier and one gravity filter. Both units have a treatment capacity of 175 gpm each. The District recently completed a 196,000-gallon finished treated water at the treatment plant site in January 2019.

On May 3, 2017, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) entered into a financing agreement with the District, to provide up to \$9,600,000 of construction loan (100% principal forgiveness) from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund program, to construct a new potable water system to serve customers within the District's serving area, including a master meter consolidation to connect the Oaks.

All the infrastructure upgrades at the District's treatment plant, pipeline and appurtenances construction work to connect the Oaks took place in between May 2018 and March 2019.

On August 9, 2018 the Oaks submitted a letter that requested the Oaks to be excluded from the permit requirement of the Safe Drinking Water Act under section 116280. The Oaks meets all the conditions of this section once they begin purchasing treated drinking water from the District as the sole source of drinking water.

In March 2019, the SWRCB conducted an inspection of the project area and received confirmation that the District is connected with the Oaks and providing potable water to the community of the Oaks.

In June 2019, the Division of Drinking Water (DDW) conducted a field inspection to ensure that the surface water treatment plant was removed from service and that the Oaks is only receiving drinking water that is purchased from the District.