



In Attendance: Katie Gibbs, Julie Fetherston, Alan Nicholson, Julie Beardsley, Angelica Figueroa, Stephanie Lane, Angela Wartell, Jessica Johnson, Mireya Turner, Angela Dewitt, and Denise Gorny

Note: hyperlinks provide links to websites with additional information on highlighted topic.

Update: The obstacle of infrastructure in non-municipal areas - Anderson Valley Water and Sewer

Julie and Angela gave an update/overview on the Anderson Valley Community Services District (AVCSD), Water and Sewer planning process. Julie went to Anderson valley in February and met with Angela and Valerie Hanelt (Chair, AVCSD). The AVCSD has been working with the California State Water Resources Control Board through the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB) to obtain technical/planning assistance and [Proposition 1 funding](#) for creating a sewer and water system, and for implementation. They received \$500,000 for wastewater and \$500,000 for drinking water (only 39% of that currently dispersed for the planning process). The project is 95% planned and will go to parcel owner approval in the fall. If the community approves the project, they will be moving to construction phase, hopefully starting in 2020 and completed by Anderson Valley received funding partially because they have water quality issues because of the small parcel size and proximity/overlap of septic systems (many old and not functioning at best capacity) and drinking water wells which tend to be shallow in this area. It was categorized as an “immediate health risk”. **INSERT HERE whether there is another funding opportunity for other communities and what next steps are.**

If the project is not approved by the landowners, then the project is dead and there is no clear idea of the next opportunity for this kind of infrastructure assistance. In the 1980's a similar thing happened, and the project died.

This project will affect three issue areas, public health, growth and fire suppression. The public health issue is highlighted by the following summarized comments from Chloë Guazzone, Anderson Valley Health Clinic Director:

“There are broad implications of not having a public water system. It’s hard to imagine until you experience it firsthand. It can be devastating [...]water born illnesses can cause everything from diarrhea to death. Birth defects, etc. [...]It’s hard for us to know on a statistical level when there is an outbreak whether we can attribute the health issues to the water; but for us, if we have a couple of kids with

gastroenteritis or colitis and the stool testing comes back positive for E-Coli bacteria – there are many factors- but definitely water could be the source of it.”

Growth: In addition to the wastewater cross contamination issue, the lack of capacity for growth inhibits more than just housing development. The Anderson Valley Clinic would like to expand their services such as mental health services or more services for the elderly, which is needed in the community, but cannot because they cannot build more or even add a sink to their existing system.

Fire Suppression: There is also an issue of adequate water for fire suppression which the project will address. The current system is a challenge, especially in the summer when flows are low. This is especially problematic for key sites like the schools and clinic. The water project will provide enough water, water pressure and infrastructure to support fire suppression in the event of a fire.

There is some resistance to the project and there is some concern that the project may be voted down. The HAT members see the importance of this for Anderson Valley and for the rest of Mendocino County. If the project goes through, it could serve as an example and bring awareness to the needs of the rest of the county.