

Fire Prevention Report

After sending a registered letter and follow up email to our County Supervisor, Rex Scott, City of Tucson Water, Tucson Electric Power and Rural Metro, conversations were had between various parties resulting in a meeting with the water company Roger, Jennifer and Ashley met with City of Tucson Deputy Director Scott Schladweiler on Thursday, July 17th, to discuss maintaining water to our neighborhood fire hydrants in the event of a power outage.

The water utility does have the ability to place back up generators at the booster stations(s). Scott is going to look at how many booster stations would require back up power as there might be more than one per line. We would then need to speak with an engineer for further detailed study and then get estimates to bring to the board.

Scott is giving Roger a contact at TEP so that we can be assured that TEP is aware that they should not preemptively shut off power to our neighborhood (and others similarly situated) as it inhibits our ability to fight potential wildfires.

Replacing the water main on Catalina Ridge appears to be cost prohibitive, therefore, the replacement of the current 4 inch line with a 6 inch line capable of pressurizing a hydrant is not something we will pursue, at this time. The financial burden of this upgrade would be borne solely by Cobblestone.

Scott mentioned that some grants might be available and Jennifer will research further to find any potential outside funding we can utilize as we are explore back up power to the booster station(s).

Of note, during the meeting, we were able to examine the map of our area delineating where the water storage facilities are located as well as booster stations, pressure and hydrants. Cobblestone is flanked by the two larger neighborhoods to the east and west (The Canyons and Sin Vacas) that have fire hydrants dotted throughout their communities. In fact, they appear to be at every third to fourth home which is in stark contrast with Cobblestone.

Our fire prevention strategy of clearing out dead and dying brush, trees and vegetation has yielded some results. Many homeowners have worked towards clearing out some of the available fuel. Our manager, Ashley, is working with homeowners that still need to remove dead vegetation.