WELL 7 – Things were going terrific on the well until we hit a snag installing the casing the end of March. At just a little over 600 feet of depth, the lower two 20-ft sections of casing got jammed up by a rock which fell out of the formation and wedged against the casing and those two sections broke free from the rest of the stem. That has caused a problem for the driller in that he had to retrieve the nearly 600 feet of installed casing above and go back into the hole to re-drill the lower 100 feet, align the two broken off sections and then re-case the rest of the hole. That effort is still ongoing as of this writing. The net result of this unfortunate turn is that our “several weeks ahead of schedule” has no changed to “on schedule, but with a chance of slipping behind”. In more meaningful terms, this means that we will NOT be able to tell everyone what the actual capacity of the well is at our annual meeting as we had previously anticipated – but we will be able to update everyone on success of driller’s efforts.

SCADA – Automation Werx (our SCADA contractor) has really performed for us. They have the new system installed on all our existing facilities, it has been tested, it is working, and we have already switched over to it. Given their performance and cost-effectiveness on the original scope and our need to get flow meters installed and linked in to the SCADA system before irrigations season, we expanded their task and asked them to supply, install and link all the flow meters as well. We have elected to standardize all the flow meters (same brand, size) throughout the system both for ease of operations/simplified maintenance and to capitalize on volume discount. Automation Werx and their installation subcontractor (3H Construction) are well on the way with that and even though it is a tight schedule, they feel they can measure up. Once that is complete, the SCADA portion of the contract will go on hold until the new facilities (Well 7, new tanks 1 and 3, Big Bend and Tank 1 booster pump stations) are built and operational.

OVERALL DESIGN – The Project Committee completed an in-depth 50% design review with the Engineer on 12 March and gave the “go-ahead” to complete the design and prepare the bid package for the major items remaining (tanks, booster stations, hydrants, Well 7 pump house). Our objective is to bundle all these items into a single bid package to increase our chances of attracting multiple bidders and obtaining a better overall price. We would like to get this out for bid by the end of May so that we can get construction underway as quickly as possible. However, if the driller is not able to fix the problem with Well 7 described above in a timely manner, we may have to break the Well 7 pump house out of the package to stay on track. The reason for that is that we have to know the exact capacity of the well before the design can be finalized as the size of pump motor, piping, valves, electrical service, etc. are all dependent upon how much water the well can produce. Keep your fingers crossed!!

PORTABLE STANDBY POWER GENERATOR – Our generator is now here and available to power our temporary bypass until the new Tank 1 booster station can be built. Thanks again to Fred Schneyder for helping us locate and procure this “good deal”

unit. You will be able to see it in operation next to Tank 1 within the next month or so.