

Matrix of Fact Corrections



Erroneous reports included mention of damage to the South Coast Conduit, damage to District storage reservoirs, remote valve operation failures, and more.

FICTION

FACT

MWD's storage reservoirs were ruptured.

There was no damage to MWD's storage tanks (reservoirs) or treatment facilities during the storm.

8 to 9 million gallons of water drained downhill from MWD reservoirs.

Seven storage tanks containing a total of 5.8 million gallons of water drained slowly, over the course of 11 hours, through more than 300 geographically disbursed ruptures in the system. These leaks were caused by debris impacts to infrastructure on January 9th. Illustrative photos of pipeline breaks can be found on MWD's website in the presentation from the February 1, 2018, Board Meeting: www.montecitowater.com

Remote shutoff for valve system failed due to power outage.

There is no remote shutoff system. Valves are manual. The power outage had no impact on this. Water distribution would not have been shut off prior to or during the event, as water is necessary for public health and safety, fire protection, etc.

Employees did not have access to generators.

See above. Critical District staff sheltered in place during the storm, and crews were on site by 6 a.m. on January 9th, inspecting damage, shutting down leaks, and making repairs.

"Highline" refers to a high- pressure line.

The District has a transmission pipeline that appears on maps to run high along the hills and over the years it has come to be called the "Highline" for ease of reference. This is a 14-inch diameter pipe that conveys water to the distribution system pressurized as low as 40 psi and up to 150 psi. It is sited below the origin of the debris flows, which were initiated by rainfall intensity in the highest mountain elevations of the watersheds. The transmission pipeline was ruptured and drained slowly at nine separate locations where it was clearly impacted by boulders or attached to bridges that were damaged and/or destroyed.

MWD's water loss occurred instantly at a single location.

The loss was gradual and spread across a geographically wide area and across more than 300 leaks in the District's distribution system through nine transmission pipeline breaks, 15 distribution main breaks, 25 sheared off fire hydrants, and approximately 290 damaged service connections.

The South Coast Conduit was damaged in the storm.

While this was a concern early on and assessment was required, it was confirmed on January 11th that there was no damage to the South Coast Conduit delivery system which is operated by the Cachuma Operations and Management Board (COMB).