

Pride in Public Service

The management team recently developed an internal training program for employees, featuring sessions on topics such as finance, communication, decision making and customer service.

Congratulations to the following employees who completed the program: Aaron Owen, Allen Roseberry, Craig Schmitt, Dave Cavanaugh, Debra Nelson, Elizabeth Haskell, Jaime Licea, Janet Kinney, Jason Boaz, John Haviland, Katherine Ahlborn, Linda Collister, Luis Rodriguez, Mario Landeros, Matt Jenkins, Patty Lozinto, Ryan Kirchner, Scott Carter, Scott Ward, Sonja Drown, Tanya Potter, Tina Lindenberg and Todd Woolman.

Strong Cities/Strong State Campaign

This month Healdsburg will be profiled as part of the ongoing Strong Cities/Strong State campaign highlighting local government success stories across California. The Strong Cities/Strong State website is the centerpiece of a campaign broadly promoting city success stories alongside profiles of the elected officials and city managers working together to build and maintain a high quality of life for California city residents. The overarching goal of the “Strong Cities” campaign is to promote the innovation and experience of local officials in delivering vital services at a time when this expertise is vitally needed by state leaders struggling with fundamental issues of governance. Strong Cities/Strong State seeks to position cities as vital, necessary and equal partners in building a better California. The Healdsburg profile is accessible at: www.strongcitiesstrongstate.com/healdsburg.

Department Profile: Healdsburg Electric Utility

The City of Healdsburg, as a full service provider, has for over 100 years owned and operated an electric distribution system. As the City has grown, so too has the electric system that now serves over 5,500 customers through 59 miles of high voltage wires. As a community owned electric system, Healdsburg’s Electric Enterprise is structured to simply recover costs as opposed to maximizing profits. This structure has consistently resulted in lower [electric rates](#), long-term rate stability, and a quick responsiveness to the community’s needs. As a result, Healdsburg’s electric customers collectively saved over 2.9 million dollars in the previous fiscal year when compared to the energy costs of Pacific Gas & Electric. For residential customers, the average twelve-month savings is over \$230.00. For businesses located within Healdsburg, the collective annual savings exceeds 1.8 million dollars.

To keep electric rates as low and stable as possible, the City has maintained a long-standing policy of working cooperatively with other municipalities and public agencies to purchase generation plants throughout California. The direct ownership of generation plants provides stability in the supply and costs of current and future energy needs. Today the City of Healdsburg owns shares in five major generation plants; the Geyser Plants near Middleton, the Spicer Meadows Project in Tuolumne County, the Collierville Hydro Project in Calaveras County, the Combustion Turbine #1 project, and the Lodi Energy Center. Combined these generation plants can supply the City of Healdsburg with over 60 million kilowatt-hours annually, or approximately 75% of the City’s energy needs. Energy needs not met by City owned generation plants are sourced through short-term contracts from various market suppliers.

Healdsburg’s [Electric Department](#) maintains a staff of 11 fulltime employees to perform the routine maintenance, planned equipment replacements, system upgrades, new customer connections, and emergency repairs required of the City’s electric distribution system. In addition, the Electric Department relies on various other City Departments to assist in the administration and operational needs required of a 24/7 service provider. Collectively, the City of Healdsburg’s staff has achieved, and will continue to achieve, a superior level of service at the lowest possible cost.

