

## News Release

Mammoth Community Water District  
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### **John Pedersen, MCWD's District Engineer Retires after 34 years of Dedicated Service**

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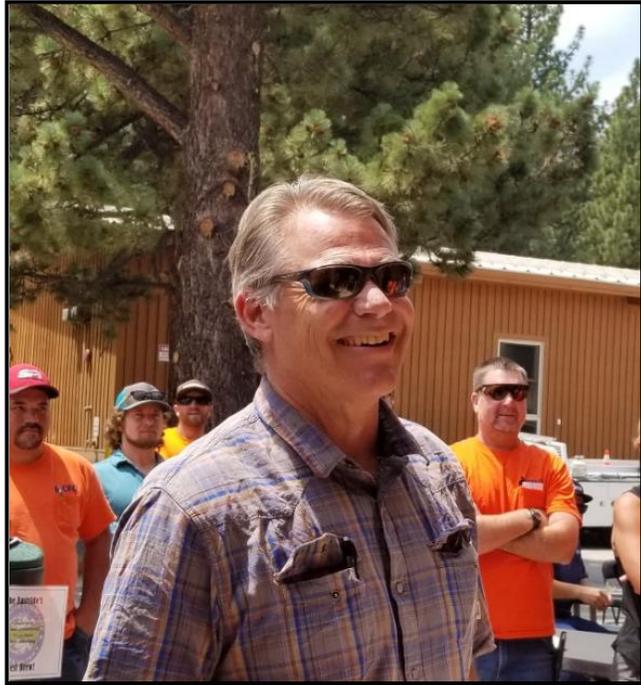
**Mammoth Lakes, California** – A staple member of the District's team has recently traded his engineering desk for a schedule of limitless travel, windsurfing, and family time. John Pedersen is retiring after 34 years of continued work as a Professional Engineer at the Mammoth Community Water District.

Pedersen's first glance at residency in the Eastern Sierra started with seasonal position as a Hydrologic Technician at the Mammoth Ranger District in 1981. He returned to Arcata to complete a degree from Humboldt State University in Environmental Resource Engineering. He began his engineering career in the San Francisco Bay Area where his family has lived for generations. In 1987, he started as an Engineer at the Mammoth Community Water District, adjusting from windsurfing the Bay to Eastern Sierra skiing. MCWD was a different utility in 1987, with less than half the current staff, Pedersen was the only Engineer working in a double wide trailer in the back lot. The District had one groundwater well, 1 surface water treatment plant and a single administration building. Pedersen designed and oversaw many of the projects that allowed MCWD to grow to what it is today. Most notably, water resource expansion has included 9 groundwater wells, 2 groundwater treatment plants and a recycled water facility. Other projects of significance have been a 1 megawatt solar facility, an expanded wastewater treatment plant, an engineering building, expanded equipment storage facilities and miles of new or replaced water and wastewater lines. The many projects and programs reviewed and led by Pedersen are integral to the infrastructure and quality of water and wastewater services the Mammoth Lakes community enjoys today. John has been an exceptional part of MCWD. His knowledge, dedication and years of experience were key in building the District's outstanding reputation within our community.

"John inspired me to do better with his brilliance and guidance. John was not just a boss, but a mentor and a friend. I will miss his leadership and smile." stated Kris Roberts, Permit Official for the Engineering Department at the District. Other staff commented that John's generous sharing of institutional knowledge will be missed, as well as his friendly demeanor and overall support in the office. His dedication to serve the public was always evident, he genuinely cares about the community and lives here for all the right reasons.

Looking to the future, MCWD is fortunate and excited to welcome long-time local resident Garrett Higerd to step into the District Engineer position. Garrett was born and raised in Mammoth Lakes. He received a degree in Civil Engineering from California Polytechnic State University and brings experience working at HDR, Triad Engineering, and most recently as the County Engineer for Mono County. Garrett started with the District on July 27, 2020.

If you have a comment or story you would like to share about working with John Pedersen, please email it to [bhylton@mcwd.dst.ca.us](mailto:bhylton@mcwd.dst.ca.us).



*Whether at his desk, a company party or outside recreating you never catch John without a smile.*