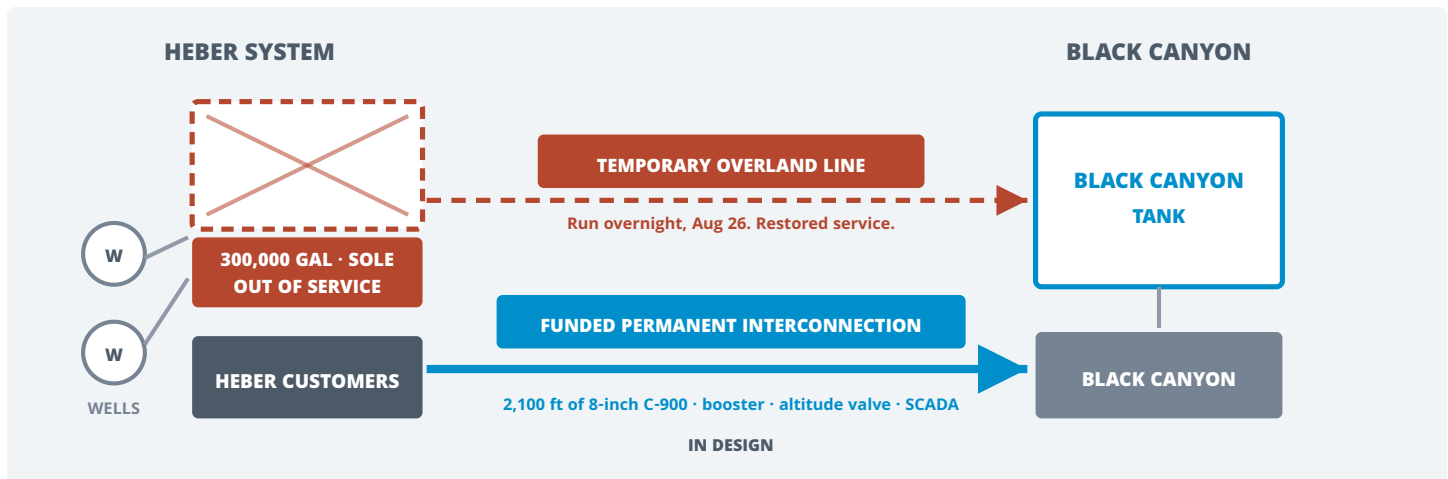


HEBER DOMESTIC WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT · NAVAJO COUNTY, ARIZONA

The backup plan got tested before it got built.

Heber DWID had already secured nearly **\$4 million** from WIFA to interconnect two water systems and add a second storage tank. That project is in design. On **August 26, 2026**, the district's only storage tank collapsed. Overnight, an operator ran a temporary line to the Black Canyon tank and put the town back in water. It was a hand-built preview of the funded project.



What the funded project builds permanently, the emergency improvised in one night.

One tank was doing four jobs

Storage is the most misunderstood asset on a small system. It is not a bucket. Lose it and you lose four things in the same minute.

- **Peak demand.** Morning showers draw faster than wells can pump.
- **Backup.** Cover for a well or a power feed going down.
- **Fire flow.** The water the fire department is counting on.
- **Pressure and control.** Elevated storage sets system pressure, and the tank level is the signal every well and booster answers to.

WHY IT IS ON THE TOUR

The agenda for today was written before August 26. This stop was added after the tank came apart, because it is difficult to explain rural water redundancy in the abstract and very easy to explain it standing next to a tank that is no longer there.

Cause has not been determined. An engineer's report is pending. Nothing on this sheet assigns one.

\$3,997,106

Awarded from the WIFA Water Supply Development Revolving Fund across two projects

300,000 gal

Capacity of the failed tank. It was the system's sole storage.

2,100 ft

8-inch C-900 interconnection in the funded scope, along Hill Road

In design

Project status on the day the tank came apart

TWO FUNDING RECORDS, ONE REDUNDANCY PROJECT

What the funding actually builds

WSD-038-2025 · AGREEMENT 941016-25

Heber DWID Tank and Modernization. PWS AZ0409014.

- A new 300,000-gallon welded steel storage tank
- Sandblast and recoat of the existing tower tank
- Access road upgrade to the tank site
- System mapping
- **Remote monitoring and SCADA** on the wells and the tanks

WSD-039-2025 · AGREEMENT 941015-25

Black Canyon Consolidation. PWS AZ0409343.

- 2,100 feet of 8-inch C-900 interconnection along Hill Road
- Rock trenching and road surface replacement
- Hill booster station and pump house
- Altitude valve, electric rack and antennas
- **SCADA system** and communications
- Rehabilitation and coating of the existing Black Canyon tank

How it unfolded

- Sep 2024** Both WSDRF applications signed. Budgets prepared for new storage, tank rehabilitation, interconnection, booster, and **SCADA controls**.
- Oct 2024** Project Finance Application Part 1 signed for both projects.
- 2025-26** Design proceeds. Nothing is in the ground yet.
- Aug 26** **The 50-year tank, already scheduled for replacement, collapses.** Sole storage removed from service, the well damaged, the surrounding area flooded.
- Overnight** Operator runs a **temporary overland line** to the Black Canyon tank. Storage restored. Water restored.
- Now** Wells and boosters are being run **by hand**, around the clock, because the automation answered to the tank that is gone.



Inside the tank. The floor tore open at the seams and the whole bottom let go. The person is standing there for scale.



Where the water went. The scour channel runs from the tank site down to the school athletic fields.

“The funded project was already about redundancy. The emergency did not invent the need. It showed what that need looks like when the old system loses its only storage point.”

STILL OPEN

Cause of failure. Whether the tank can return to service. Emergency procurement of the already-scoped controls. Revised construction schedule.