

Water from A1



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

The new hollow fiber membrane rack will be the plant's third installment of the microfiltration technology.

of our six-million-gallon water right and we don't want to lose that," said Sisson.

Demonstrating that the city can produce the amount it holds the rights to is key to keeping those rights, which Sisson said would be difficult to recapture once lost.

"And as the city grows, there maybe come a day when we need that," Sisson said.

**Water Quality in The Grove**

The expansion not only covers city concerns for some time on the horizon, but also triples down on Pall Corporation's hollow fiber membrane system, a technology Kimball readily gushes about.

"What's impressive for me is just how efficient it runs," he said. "It's really clean technology and it's been really fun to oper-

ate." The microfiltration technology consists of series of tubes, each of which is packed with tiny filaments with .1-micron pores. The process resembles pushing water through thousands of miniscule straws.

"That's kind of the leading edge when it comes to water filtration principles," said Lucas Albrecht, lead systems field engineer with Pall. "As far as meeting any and all requirements and regulations from a health perspective, this is the best kind of filter you can have."

While the tech offers this quality advantage, Kimball attributes the plant's level of water quality to the staff's dedication and thoroughness as well.

"We baby this plant," he said. "We really put a

lot of energy into making sure we put out the best product that we can."

Comparatively, Kimball feels the technology and the plant's production would seem to be on par or better than similar systems in the state.

"We've been sort of the poster child for membrane facilities," he said. "We have a lot of tours and a lot of plants that come to us to see how we're running because of how well we're able to run this and the water we're able to produce."

In the world of water quality contests, too, Cottage Grove has its place.

"They have annual water quality contests in Oregon where all the plants submit their water and we've come in

See **PROJECT 11A**

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