

# Splash

Metro Water  
Newsletter  
Spring 2012

## Metro Welcomes New Board Member

Richard Byrd was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors in January. The Board of Directors appointed Byrd to complete the term of the Board position vacated by Helen Ireland, who resigned in December 2011. The Board selected Byrd in part because of his professional experience with the City of Tucson's Environmental Services.

Byrd has been a resident of Tucson for 49 years. He graduated from Sahuaro High School and has a Bachelor of Science in Geosciences from the University of Arizona. Byrd is currently a certified Hazardous Materials Manager and a Certified Professional Geologist. He has been employed by the City of Tucson Environmental Services since 1995 as a Lead Hydrologist and is currently the Environmental Management Coordinator. He has a good understanding of the area's hydrogeology, environmental impacts of groundwater, and the importance of groundwater conservation and surface water recharge.

The Board of Directors is comprised of five members, all of whom are District residents. The Board sets policy and water rates, provide direction to the General Manager, and oversee the budget and capital expenses. The Board meets at least once a month with the regular meeting on the second Monday of the month. ■



2012 Board of Directors (left to right):  
Jim Doyle, Dan M. Offret, Bryan Foulk,  
Richard Byrd, and Judy Scrivener



## Waterline Relocation Update

Metro Water is juggling three construction projects with a few more in the near future, as it continues to relocate waterlines due to the Pima County RTA road widening projects in the Metro Water Service area. With these road construction projects, Metro Water is addressing needed system improvements in addition to the waterline relocations.

The Magee Road/Cortaro Farms Road project between Shannon Road and Thornydale involves waterline relocations and the installation of a new transmission line. In addition, a reclamation line is being constructed from Thornydale Road to Omni/Tucson National. This line will deliver 225 acre-feet of reclaimed water to Tucson National. This will meet an agreement that Omni has with Pima County that reclaimed water would be used for its newest nine hole golf course. Using reclaimed water will help reduce Tucson National's reliance on groundwater and benefit the region's aquifer.

The La Cañada Road project between Ina Road and River Road is in full construction. Waterline relocations are required all along La Cañada Road. Metro Water is also installing a new major transmission line from Orange Grove Road to Roller Coaster Road also along La Cañada Road.

The La Cholla Road project between Magee Road and Overton is just beginning. This project will involve waterline relocations for Metro Water but it also meant the relocation of an important well site. The

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# Waterline Relocation Update

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well site would have been in the northbound lanes of the La Cholla Road expansion and so a new well was drilled further south near the new La Cholla and Magee Road intersection. Pima County has provided a new well site for Metro Water. Construction of the new well site improvements is expected to complete in late spring 2012.

All of the costs tied to waterline relocation projects are being financed through a \$6.6 million loan agreement with the Arizona Water Infrastructure Financing Authority. The \$3.00 RTA County waterline relocation fee paid by District customers goes to pay solely the debt on that loan. The new transmission lines and reclamation line being constructed are being paid through the Metro's Capital Improvement Program and use of other funds.

We appreciate your patience and safe driving while all of this construction is occurring. ■



**Contractors install a 20 " transmission main on La Cañada at Orange Grove Road as part of the required waterline relocations, in advance of Pima County RTA roadway improvements.**

## Springtime Irrigation Tips

Spring is a time when many of us like to work in the yard. Consider the following tips for having a low maintenance and low water using landscape.

- If planting, select low water using plants. They also mean less maintenance.
- Water slowly and deeply, but less frequently. Plants, especially mature ones, need a lot less water than you think. Let your plants tell you when they need water.
- Spring, rather than summer, is actually a better time to give plants a little extra water since they are starting their growth cycle.
- If you have a drip irrigation system, reposition the emitters. Especially for shrubs and trees, emitters ought to be moved further and further away from the trunk as the plant grows. This helps the root system to expand and become stronger.
- Check for leaks in your drip irrigation system and repair them right away. ■

# METRO WATER AWARDED DRINKING WATER PROJECT OF THE YEAR

The Arizona Water Infrastructure Financing Authority (WIFA) has named Metro Water District's acquisition of the Thim Water System as one of two of WIFA's Drinking Water Projects of the Year for 2011. WIFA recognized the project because it consolidated the management of regional water systems and improved managerial and compliance problems for the purchased systems. It also acknowledged that significant infrastructure improvements would be made including a "green" meter reading project. Finally, WIFA praised Metro Water for its continued demonstration of excellence in managing its water systems and its WIFA-financed projects.

Metro Water acquired the Thim Water System, which is located in the southwest area of metropolitan Tucson, in December 2009. The owner of the system had approached the District about selling his assets. The area is not built-out and residential development is planned, which will add new customers. The area is now known as Metro-Southwest.

Metro Water purchased the southwest water system after determining it could be self sustaining and would have no negative impact to existing customers. It was recognized that expanding the service area would benefit customers by providing economies of scale and increasing Metro's voice in regional water issues. ■

## Two Ways to Celebrate Earth Day

Metro Water will have an information booth at Pima Community College's Earth Day celebration on Wednesday, April 18th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the PCC Northwest Campus (Promenade Level) at 7600 N. Shannon Road. This is a free event open to the public.

Enjoy the Tucson Earth Day Festival on Saturday April 21st from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Reid Park. The free event includes educational, hands-on environmental displays about water, recycling, energy, and conservation. There will be a parade, alternative fuel vehicle show, solar car competition, live music, food, animal adoptions, children's activities and fun for all. ■

For more information, go to:  
[www.tucsonearthday.org](http://www.tucsonearthday.org)



**Over the past several months the Wellness Program has promoted healthy living for Metro employees and sponsored a "Biggest Loser" Challenge. The District had 23 employees participate in an 8 week challenge during the holiday season, focusing on moderation and healthy eating. Twenty employees lost weight or kept their weight the same over the holidays! Staff enjoyed taking on this challenge and becoming healthier. In January the District recognized the person with the most weight lost and this challenge was a great success. ■**





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**Board of Directors:**

Bryan Foulk, Chair  
Dan M. Offret, Vice Chair  
Richard Byrd, Member  
Jim Doyle, Member  
Judy Scrivener, Member

**Spring  
Board Meetings:**

*Public always welcomed*

*March 12, 2012  
6:00 pm*

*April 9, 2012  
6:00 pm*

*May 14, 2012  
6:00 pm*



Please visit  
[www.metrowater.com](http://www.metrowater.com)  
for more  
information about  
your water and  
Metro Water District

**Office Hours:**  
Monday - Thursday  
7:30 am - 5:30 pm  
Fridays  
7:30 am - Noon

**CURRENT  
DROUGHT  
RESPONSE:**

**STAGE 1  
ALERT**

**STAGE 2  
WARNING**

**STAGE 3  
EMERGENCY**

**STAGE 4  
CRISIS**

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