

# Splash

Metro Water  
Newsletter  
Spring 2013

## Inside the Spring 2013 Issue of Splash:

Water Resources Utilization Fee .....	1
Water Resources Utilization Fee (cont'd) .....	2
Rain Water Harvesting .....	2
Waterline Relocations Nearing Completion .....	2
Rain Water Harvesting (cont'd) .....	3
Payment Options ...	4
Board of Directors Spring 2013 Meeting Schedule .....	4
Contact Information .....	4



## Water Resources Utilization Fee

Effective March 1st, the Water Resources Utilization Fee will be included on District water bills. The Water Resources Utilization Fee is to be used for the development, design, and construction of projects to utilize the District's renewable water supplies including its Central Arizona Project (CAP) water allocation and its effluent. This fee is set at 10 cents for every 1,000 gallons. The use of monies generated from the Water Resources Utilization Fee is to be approved by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors approved this fee as part of a rate structure adjustment at the October 22, 2012 public hearing.

The Board of Directors recognizes the importance of the District continuing its water resource planning efforts and putting to use its Central Arizona Project water allocation and effluent water. The Board wanted to have a designed fee to generate revenue specifically for such projects.

Over the years, Metro Water District has taken steps to use its Central Arizona Project water and reduce its reliance on groundwater. The District has done this because it is proactive management of its water resources as well as required by State law.

The District acquired the Avra Valley Recharge Project in 2010. With this acquisition, the District focused on a recharge and recovery approach for utilizing its CAP water allocation. The District participated with Oro Valley, Marana, and Flowing Wells Irrigation District to have a route analysis done that was completed the end of 2009.

*Continued on page 2*



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## Water Resources Utilization Fee

*(Continued from page 1)*

Metro Water District's CAP Water Utilization Program entails recovering CAP water that has been recharged at the Avra Valley Recharge Project and moving it through a pipeline to the District's distribution system. This effort involves various components including recovery wells near the Avra Valley Recharge Project; a pipeline to move the water that will need to cross the Santa Cruz River, I-10, and the railroad; a pumping station that includes land for a possible future treatment facility; and the last stretch of pipeline to connect with the Herb Johnson Reservoir and the Metro-Main distribution system.

In February, the Board approved a consultant to do a cost estimate study of the District's CAP Water Utilization Program. This study would give the District a better overview of the total cost estimate for this project but also for the individual components of the program including the recovery wells, pipeline routes, booster station, and water quality of recovered water as well as blended water. With these cost estimates, the District will be able to determine how it could best proceed financially to fund the overall project.

Having the Water Resources Utilization Fee in place will help to finance this study as well as have monies available when the District starts the design and construction of this project.

The Water Resources Utilization Fee will also help to utilize water resources in the Metro-Southwest service area. The District is examining its options for how to use part of its CAP water allocation in its Metro-Southwest area. The District recognizes the importance of replacing groundwater with renewable supplies.

For Metro-Hub service area, Metro Water will explore options for long-term reliability for water resource management in that service area.

Having a designated fee for water resource development and utilization is a common practice, with Oro Valley, Marana and Tucson having similar fees. The District recognizes that the Water Resources Utilization Fee will not generate enough monies alone for such a large capital program. Yet, the fee does put the District into a better financial position for tackling this important goal of bringing a renewable water supply into its service areas. ■

## *Rain Water Harvesting*

Yes, Mother Nature periodically gives away free water to all those clever enough to make use of it. It is called rain water harvesting and catching this rain and saving it for a use on a drier day is beneficial in many ways! It conserves our groundwater; it is free; gravity fed systems conserve energy; it is low in salts and good for plants; and it can reduce flooding and erosion. Rain water provides an excellent primary, supplementary, or alternative source of water.

Harvesting your rainfall can be simple as catching rain from a roof or downspout and directing the flow towards your plants. Or, it can be complex as using roof gutters, a storage vessel, a filter, overflow valve, and perhaps even a pump to



## Waterline Relocations Nearing Completion

Everywhere you turn, road construction is happening. To accommodate these projects Metro has now completed waterline relocations due to the RTA financed Pima County road improvements along La Canada Drive from Ina Road to Calle Concordia; Magee Road, from La Cañada Drive to Shannon Road (south); La Cholla Blvd. from Magee Road to Lambert Lane; La Cañada Drive from Ina Road to River Road; Magee Road/Cortaro Road from Shannon Road (south) to Thornydale Road; and Magee Road from La Cañada Drive to Oracle Road. Waterline relocations are continuing for the Ina Road/Oracle Road Intersection Improvements and for the Orange Grove Road from Camino de la Tierra to La Cholla Blvd. road improvements. Metro was spared doing any waterline relocation work along Orange Grove Road from La Cañada Drive to Oracle Road.



**Construction at Oracle Road and Magee Road intersection, one of last RTA project areas to be addressed by Metro**

In addition to waterline relocations, Metro constructed several transmission mains prior to the road construction along many of these road projects that were identified in its Capital Improvement Program. Additionally Metro is nearing completion of a new transmission main being constructed along Roller Coaster Road between La Cañada Drive and River Road that will connect to the Riverside Well, which was drilled in 2007. When the well site improvements are completed this summer, the Riverside Well will pump approximately 900 gallons per minute into the new transmission mains enhancing the reliability of the distribution system.

These waterline relocation projects have been required by the RTA and Pima County to alleviate conflicts with the proposed road improvements. In 2010, the District's Board of Directors approved the issuance of \$ 6.6 million in revenue bonds to meet the RTA's aggressive road construction schedule. A shortfall in funding for these waterline relocations has occurred due to the Oracle/Ina Intersection and Orange Grove Road from Camino de la Tierra to La Cholla projects being added after the revenue bonds were issued.

Although Metro's waterline relocation projects are nearly complete, the road improvements are expected to continue for another two years. Waterline relocation work may not be complete however, as two additional road projects in the Metro Main service area and one in the Metro Southwest service area may occur in a few years.

Please drive safely through these construction areas. ■

capture, store, and later deliver your rainfall to specific parts of your landscape.

Whether you install a complex or simple system, Metro customers can receive a \$50 rebate for the materials used for the installation of a water harvesting system. Rebate information can be found at [www.metrowater.com](http://www.metrowater.com) under Forms.

You can go to the Water Conservation Alliance of Southern Arizona website – [www.watercasa.org](http://www.watercasa.org) – and find everything you may want to know about water harvesting. Materials from gutters to water barrels have become more readily available at hardware stores. Shop around and find out what type of harvesting best meets your needs. ■





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**Office Hours:**  
 Monday - Thursday  
 7:30 - 5:30  
 Friday 7:30 - Noon  
[metrowater.com](http://metrowater.com)

## **PAYMENT OPTIONS**

Metro Water has added American Express as a payment option that already included Visa, Master Card and Discover for making a payment over the phone, through the mail or in person.

It should be noted that all card payments will now require the three (3) digit security code on the back of the card.

You also can pay online. Go to [www.metrowater.com](http://www.metrowater.com) to see how to use Xpress Bill Pay to view your bill, pay online, or even set up a recurring payment.

You can have your payment automatically deducted from your checking or savings account each month. This service is free with no transaction fee. Again, check at [www.metrowater.com](http://www.metrowater.com) to sign up for this service.

If you have any questions about how to make your water payment an easy transaction, please contact Customer Service at (520) 575-8100. ■

### Board of Directors:

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

### Spring Public Board Meetings (6:00 pm):

March 11, 2013  
 April 8, 2013  
 May 13, 2013

*Splash Newsletter ~ Spring 2013*