

*Inside the
Spring
2016
Issue:*

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RTA Fee to Sunset in 2020

Several years ago, a series of RTA road improvement projects were approved within the District's service areas that required the District to relocate some of its waterlines. When the first RTA waterline relocation project began, a funding mechanism needed to be determined to accomplish the project and all the planned relocations coming soon thereafter. In 2009, the Board approved the RTA Fee of \$3.00 per month for standard residential connections. Bonds in the amount of \$6.6 million were taken out in late 2010 to accomplish the rest of the projects and the fee was approved by the Board to be collected through the end of 2020, coinciding with the final payment on the \$6.6 million debt due on January 1, 2021.

Over the years, customers frequently asked when the RTA Fee would end and District staff have said the fee would continue through 2020.

Additional future projects are coming under RTA that were not envisioned in the \$6.6 million, at an estimated additional cost to the District of about \$1.5 to \$2 million. To address this, staff had a lengthy discussion with the Finance Oversight Committee, a committee comprised of District residents, and posed two options: continue collecting the RTA Fee beyond the end of 2020 until such point that the additional \$1.5 to \$2 million is fully collected, or the other option, to keep the promise to customers and allow the fee to sunset at the end of 2020. Staff and the Committee unanimously recommended to the Board of Directors and the Board unanimously agreed not to extend the collection of the RTA Fee beyond December 2020, honoring the commitment to customers.

As promised, we are very pleased to report the RTA Fee will end with the last debt payment at the end of 2020. ■

Transparency on Your Bill

We recently made a change to the water bill to increase transparency. The previous bill had only one line for "water" but actually included two components - the Water Availability Rate and the Water Consumption Charges. We have separated these components on your bill in an effort to provide clarity on what you are paying for each month.

The Water Availability Rate, or base rate, covers the fixed costs necessary to ensure you have water at all times. Fixed costs are expenses that the District must pay whether customers use no water or 100,000 gallons. Such fixed costs include improvements and maintenance to the infrastructure and our renewable supply - Central Arizona Project water. The Water Consumption Charges are associated with variable costs that fluctuate with how much water is used, such as energy costs required to deliver water to your meter.

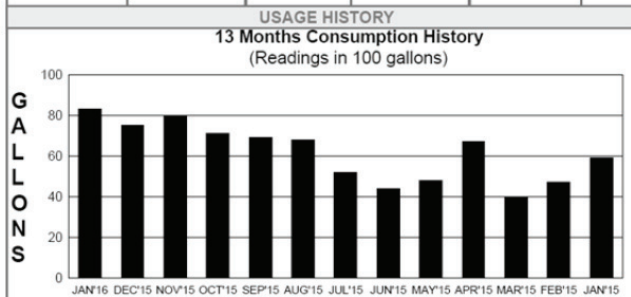
By having both components shown on your bill, we hope this enhances your understanding of how the rates are structured. The District can now explain how future rate adjustments are tied to fixed costs and/or variable costs as the breakdown is part of customer bills.

District customers have done an impressive job in reducing consumption, which does help keep individual water bills lower. We want to be upfront with our customers to show how the rates are used to maintain revenue stability. ■

STATEMENT

[8/31]

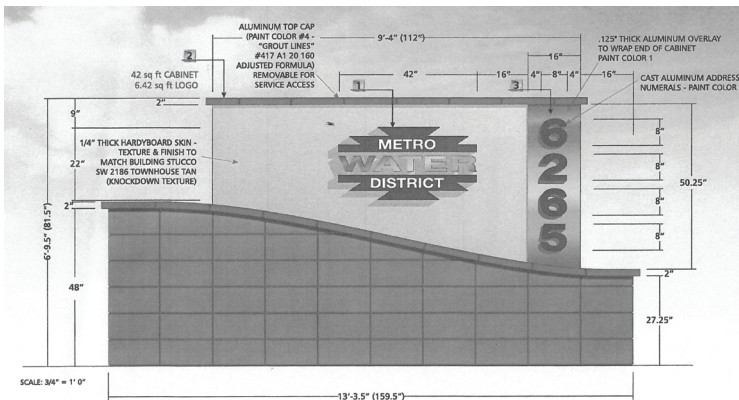
ACCOUNT NO.	SERVICE ADDRESS	BILL DATE	DUE DATE	PAY THIS AMOUNT			
000000.00	0000 N. YOUR STREET	01/23/2016	02/12/2016	\$51.36			
BILLING SUMMARY		METER READING DETAIL					
Prior Period Balance	\$48.78	FROM	TO	DAYS USED	PREV READING	PREV READING	USAGE
Payments	-48.78	12/15/2015	01/14/2016	30	6802	6885	83
Adjustments	0.00						
WATER							
Monthly Water Availability	\$27.00						
Water Consumption	15.40						
Superfund Tax	0.05						
State Tax	2.59						
RTA Waterline Relocation Fee	3.00						
Water Resource Utilization Fee	3.32						
Total Water Charges	\$51.36						
SEWER							
Total Sewer Charges	\$0.00						
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE							
Do Not Pay - Auto Draft	\$51.36						
DELINQUENT FEE WILL BE ASSESSED FOR PAYMENTS RECEIVED AFTER DUE DATE.							
Your water bill now shows both the Water Availability Rate and the Water Consumption Charges. The Water Availability Rate (base rate) is for fixed costs that must be paid whether water is used or not. The Water Consumption Charges is for the water consumed.							



METRO WATER DISTRICT
P.O. Box 36870
6265 N. La Canada Dr.
Tucson, AZ 85740-6870
Phone (520) 575-8100
www.metrowater.com



District Utility crews accomplishing a tricky repair on a leaking water line attached to the La Cañada Road Bridge over the CDO Wash. Crews used a method of repair that saved both time and money.



The District offices are now going to be easier to find while driving down La Cañada. Crews are constructing a larger, more visible sign. The sign was originally planned as part of the parking lot entrance reconfiguration required with the La Cañada roadway improvements. In addition, visitors will notice a new sign near the lobby entrance directing people towards the front door. We hope this will make your visit more convenient.



Shown right, is an example of the technology that Wachs Water Services used throughout the E&T service area in Metro Southwest to identify leaks in the distribution system. The survey was funded with the Water Resource Utilization Fee and helps ensure our precious water resources are not wasted on leaks that would otherwise go undetected.

Spotlight on Metro Southwest





6265 N. La Cañada Drive
Tucson, Arizona 85704
520-575-8100 phone
520-575-8454 fax
www.metrowater.com

PRESORTED STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
TUCSON, AZ
PERMIT # 129

Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday
7:30 - 5:30
Friday 7:30 - Noon



Springtime Planting



Many of us are thinking about planting something new or replacing a plant that did not make it through the winter. Here are a few things to remember:

~ When you are at the nursery, look at the label or ask for assistance to identify low-water plants suitable for the level of sunlight they will receive in the spot you're filling.

~ Select plants that will not need as much irrigation once they are established. Many low-water plants provide year-round color.

~ Appropriate placement of plants can help reduce energy bills. Grouping plants with similar water usage also makes maintenance easier.

For more ideas about low-water and low-maintenance landscaping, visit our demonstration garden or visit www.metrowater.com.

Board of Directors:

Judy Scrivener, Chair
Bryan Foulk, Vice Chair
Jim Doyle, Member
Helen Ireland, Member
Dan M. Offret, Member

Board Meetings:

Monday, April 11
Monday, May 9
Monday, June 13

Board meetings
are held at
6265 N. La Cañada Drive
and typically start
at 6:00 p.m.

*District offices will be closed
on Monday, May 30, 2016
for Memorial Day*

Splash Newsletter ~ Spring 2016