

Splash

Metro Water
Newsletter
Spring 2018

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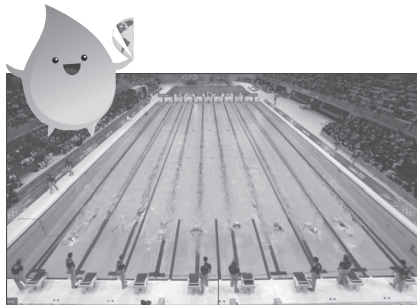
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1,4-Dioxane Update

What is 1,4-Dioxane?

1,4-Dioxane is a solvent stabilizer used in household items such as dyes, paint strippers, and shampoo.



Has the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulated or set a Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for 1,4-Dioxane?

1,4-Dioxane is not presently regulated by any State or Federal Agencies. There is a "Health Advisory" of 0.35 parts per billion which equates to less than one drop in an Olympic sized pool.

Has 1,4-Dioxane been found in the District?

1,4-Dioxane has been detected near the South Shannon Treatment Site as well as in 20% of public drinking water utilities.



What Are the Treatment/Remediation Options?

There are two ways to treat/remediate:

Blending (low cost) is the easiest to ensure that other sources of water blend with the water found to have any trace amounts of 1,4 Dioxane to below the health advisory. The cost is associated energy/pumping costs and infrastructure needed to convey and mix the water.

The **Advanced Oxidation Process (AOP)** (high cost) is very energy intensive and the treatment facility is very expensive to construct and operate.

What Steps Have Been Taken? The District has:

- Shut down a well that tested positive for 1,4-Dioxane above the health advisory in May 2016.
- Formed an internal Water Quality Action Team.
- Increased sampling 1,4-Dioxane in the area.
- Implemented data sharing and coordination with regional providers.
- Sent a letter to ADEQ requesting source identification and source mitigation assistance.
- Evaluated potential modifications to enable blend to below Health Advisory Level.
- Retained Carollo Engineers to complete an Alternatives Analysis.

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What Are the Next Steps?

The District will:

- Continue to work with ADEQ on source identification and remediation.
- Continue to educate customers on this issue and actions taken to ensure safe, reliable water that is below the Health Advisory.
- Continue enhanced sampling protocols and monitor for any potential impacts to other wells.
- Continue coordination with regional providers.
- Monitor developments on State and Federal regulations on this and other emerging contaminants of concern.
- Bring updates and subsequent recommended actions to the Board of Directors should the situation change. 💧



The Finance Oversight Committee (FOC) reviews financial recommendations and advises the Board of Directors on rate structure and adjustments, long range financial planning, and capital planning. The FOC traditionally meets three times annually.

The District welcomes a new member, Scott Schladweiler, to the FOC.

Scott Schladweiler, a District resident, has expressed interest in serving on the Finance Oversight Committee. Mr. Schladweiler is currently the Deputy Water Director for the Town of Marana Water Department and has over 20 years of design, construction, and operational experience of water and waste water systems. Prior to joining Marana Water, Mr. Schladweiler served as an Engineering Manager at Tucson Water and previously worked at various engineering consultant firms. Mr. Schladweiler also possesses a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Arizona.

Mr. Schladweiler joins the current FOC comprised of: Charlie Maish, Richard Sarti, Barbara Gelband, Lee Mayes, and Robert Shonka.

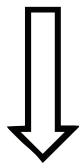
For more information and access to past and future meeting agendas go to: <http://bit.ly/focmeeting>

CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Metro Water District has a proactive conservation program, which includes continual education about water conservation. We take full advantage of available water resources but we need our customers' help in making sure water is not wasted. Working together, we can save our water resources to ensure plentiful water in the years ahead. One way we can do this is with your bathroom toilet.



FIX TOILET LEAKS



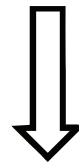
Toilet Leaks - A leak in your toilet may be wasting more than 100 gallons of water day. Studies show 1 out of 5 toilets can have leaks.



To check, put a little food coloring in your toilet tank. If, without flushing, the coloring begins to appear in the bowl, you have a leak. Adjust or replace the flush valve or call a plumber.



REPLACE OLD TOILETS



Replace old, oversized water guzzling 1.6, 3, 5, or 7 gallon toilets with a 1.28 gallons or less high efficiency toilets. The current plumbing code requires new toilets being installed or replaced to be a 1.6 gallon or less toilet. The High Efficiency toilet is designed to use 1.28 gallons or less of water per flush. Dual Flush toilets give two flush options.

Metro Water District offers its single-family residential customers a \$50 rebate with a High Efficiency or Dual Flush toilet. Additional toilets replaced are eligible for the rebate as well. Find the rebate form at:

<http://bit.ly/toilet-rebate>

Please Note: The toilet rebate is available as long as funds for the rebate exist in the budget. 💧

Repurposing Old Swimming Pools

A District Resident Shares Her Story

Not long ago ,many Tucsonans wanted pools; especially the transplants like me. While a pool can be a desirable addition to a home, ongoing pool maintenance costs have resulted a recent increase in pool demolition activities throughout the Tucson region.

My home came with a huge pool, built in 1975, by a family with 2 kids and a dog. The pool was equipped with a diving board and I loved swimming at every opportunity. After a number of years I began to question if I was really enjoying the pool or if I felt obligated to do so due to the associated high costs. While the pool was pretty to look at, only about half of the year was appropriate weather to enjoy swimming. After considering the additional around the year work associated with the pool (algae, ants, etc.) I decided to permanently drain the pool.



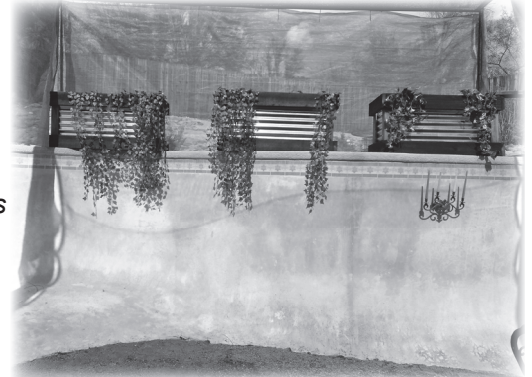
Unfortunately a dry pool also created ongoing maintenance issues. Every time it rained I had to pump out the pool to prevent mosquitoes and singing toads from taking up residence. Also, a dry pool presents a safety hazard as anyone who fell-in would suffer a ghastly injury or worse. I could certainly demolish the pool but this would have to be disclosed if the home was ever sold as demolishing a pool leaves a substantial amount debris underground making a future pool very difficult to construct. Another option was to completely remove the pool but this was very cost prohibitive and could permanently damage nearby mature trees.

Ultimately I decided to partially fill the pool by adding three feet of dirt at the deep end so the pool would be level throughout. This dirt would also be deep enough to potentially use for a garden in the future. As this would result in a soil surface five feet below the surrounding pool deck, it made

sense to also construct a sunshade to be able to enjoy this sanctuary in the shade.

Fortunately, I checked with Development Services as you need a permit to change the use of a pool. After paying the fee of approximately \$300, a coring company drilled four holes around the drain pipe to ensure rain water was able to percolate out of the pool. Soil was then delivered as close as possible to the pool but still required what seemed like countless trips with my wheelbarrow. Finally, I put planters around the periphery in the hopes for a cascading garden and to help prevent a five foot fall onto the dirt below.

As you can see in the photo, this repurposed space can now be enjoyed in many ways: a tranquil place for a cup of tea by the fountain, a relaxing place to read a book, and even a great place to host a movie night. ♣



SPOTLIGHT ON METRO SOUTHWEST

The Valencia Road Waterline Relocation project has been completed. KE&G Construction, Inc., has completed the relocation of mostly 12” waterline. The District also installed the water meters at a new bulk meter station.

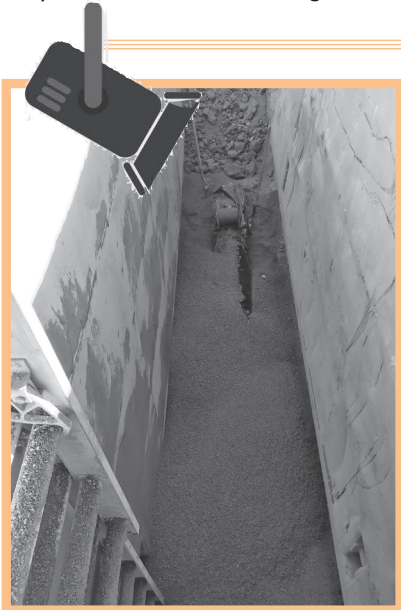


photo courtesy of
KE&G Construction, Inc.

WAREHOUSE AT METRO HUB #2



The warehouse at the Metro Hub #2 wellsite dated back to before the District acquired the Metro Hub service area and had become difficult to maintain as a storage area due to the age and condition of the facility. The warehouse was safely demolished and removed by contracted professionals who broke down the facility and hauled away the debris. ♦



NWRRDS RECEIVES AN AWARD

The Metropolitan Pima Alliance (MPA) held their annual common ground award dinner honoring projects that are collaborative in nature and beneficially impact the Tucson Region and beyond. Due to the collaboration between the Town of Marana, Town of Oro Valley, and the District, the Northwest Recharge, Recovery, and Delivery System (NWRRDS) project was selected as one of the 20 finalists and was ultimately chosen as one of the ten awardees. The NWRRDS project is another example of how the Tucson Region is the benchmark for water collaboration. ♦



Board of Directors:

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

Board Meetings:

Monday, March 12, 2018
Monday, April 9, 2018
Monday, May 14, 2018

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

Office Location:
6265 N. La Cañada Dr.
Tucson, Arizona 85704

Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday
7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Friday 7:30 a.m. - Noon

*Metro Water offices
will be closed on:
Monday, May 28, 2018
for Memorial Day*

visit us at:

call us at:

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