



Splash

Metro Water
Newsletter
Spring 2020

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RTA Fee to Conclude at the End of this Year

Several years ago, a series of Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) road improvement projects were approved within the District's service areas. Those projects required the District to relocate several miles of waterlines due to conflicts with the road improvements. To pay for these mandatory waterline relocations, the Board approved the RTA Fee of \$3.00 per month for the standard residential customer in 2009. This fee was intended to repay \$6.63 million in bonds that were taken out to cover the various waterline relocations. The RTA Fee was planned to end on December 31, 2020 to coincide with the last payment on the waterline relocation senior bond debt.

Throughout the subsequent years, other RTA projects required relocating District waterlines beyond the \$6.63 million obtained from the senior bond debt. Rather than increase the duration of the RTA fee, we worked with the District's Finance Oversight Committee and the Board of Directors in 2016 to ensure that we keep our promise to you to conclude the RTA fee at the end of 2020. Those additional waterline relocation efforts were accomplished in our annual capital improvements program.

You may be asking yourself what items are typically covered under the District's capital improvements program?

To ensure safe, reliable water, the District maintains water distribution infrastructure that includes 37 wells, 15 million gallons of storage in reservoirs and tanks, and over 400 miles of waterline to convey the water to 2,100 fire hydrants and 21,000 customer connections. All of this water infrastructure ages and requires regular maintenance and replacement to ensure continued service. The extensive list of the capital improvement program requirements is prioritized to ensure the revenue you entrust to us is allocated to the most critical infrastructure efforts. As RTA waterline relocations are mandatory for the District to accomplish, these relocations are prioritized higher than other important infrastructure replacement initiatives in our budget. Given our inventory of infrastructure assets, you will not be surprised to hear that there are always more requirements to address than available financial resources.

While we will never cease in our efforts to address these water infrastructure challenges, we wanted to remind you that we are keeping our promise to you by ensuring the RTA fee concludes at the end of this year. ♦



High Efficiency Toilet (HET) Rebate Program



Metro Water District offers customers a \$50 rebate when a High Efficiency or Dual Flush toilet replaces high water use toilets. The intent of the High Efficiency Toilet (HET) Rebate Program is to encourage single-family customers to reduce their usage by installing toilets that do not exceed **1.3 gallons** of water per flush.

The following requirements must be met to qualify for the High Efficiency Toilet Rebate:

- Replacement of existing toilets with a HET or Dual Flush toilet (1.0-1.3 gallons per flush) within the District. **NOTE: Rebate does NOT apply to 1.6 gallon flush toilets.**
- Applicant must be a Metro Water District customer in good standing.
- Applicant must provide a valid sales receipt from within the past year for the purchase of each qualifying toilet (labor excluded).

Steps to receive rebate:

1. Fill out the rebate form located at: <http://bit.ly/toilet-rebate>
2. Submit completed rebate Application:
 - In Person at 6265 N. La Cañada Drive, Tucson, Arizona
 - By mail to Metro Water District, PO Box 36870, Tucson Arizona 85740
 - By email to info@metrowater.com.
3. If approved, a rebate check of \$50 per qualifying toilet will be mailed to applicant within six weeks.

NOTE: Rebates will be available as long as funds exist and continuation of the rebate is subject to Board approval. Metro Water District reserves the right to inspect toilet(s) for rebate verification purposes. Appeals must be submitted in writing. ♣



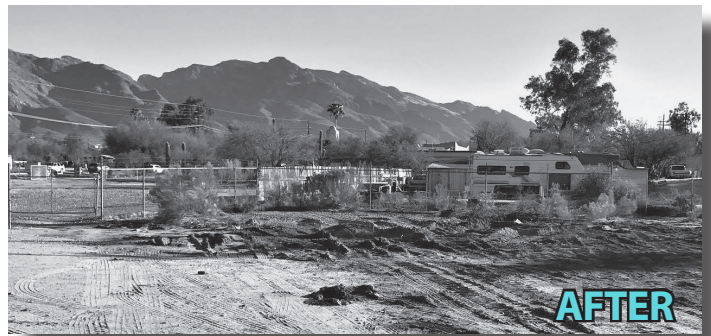
Bobby Martinez, Lead Utility Technician, Johnny Blanco, Utility Technician II, and Eric Gaytan, Utility Technician II, (pictured left) pothole for an existing 6-inch water main in an easement at the Metro Hub service area to document its location and depth for future upgrade to a 12-inch main. The upgraded water line will reduce friction losses and provide better flow to the western portion of the Hub service area. ♣

INA / LA CAÑADA AND RASMUSSEN TANK DEMO



When facilities reach the end of their useful life, some may be demolished. Removing these types of facilities reduces cost associated with insurance and, if no replacement facilities are planned, enables the District to sell the associated property. The Rasmussen tank (shown above) and the Ina / La Cañada tank (shown below) were recently demolished.

In the past, the contractors would use methods involving cutting and torches to tear down tanks. This was often a costly and labor-intensive effort requiring several days to complete. The contractor that removed the Rasmussen and Ina / La Cañada tank utilized a “claw” that cut through the 3/8” steel like it was and aluminum can. The process, including disposal, was completed in one day for each tank. ♦



SPOTLIGHT ON METRO SOUTHWEST



Southwest Well Scan conducted a video inspection of the Diablo Village No. 2 Well (pictured above).

The District entered into an agreement with a developer to upgrade the Diablo Village No. 2 well for greater production capacity to support the increased demand required for development. The well upgrade included upsizing the pump, motor, and related electrical components. The work also included well cleaning and column pipe replacement. ♦



DID YOU KNOW...

Metropolitan Domestic Water Improvement District is a municipal water provider with more than 22,000 connections between five public water systems, serving the water needs of more than 50,000 people and hundreds of businesses in northwest, northeast and southwest metropolitan Tucson. ♠

Board of Directors:

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

Board Meetings:

Monday, March 9, 2020
Monday, April 13, 2020
Monday, May 11, 2020

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

*Metro Water offices
will be closed on:*

**Monday, May 25, 2020
for Memorial Day**

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



THE DISTRICT'S FINANCE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE HAS A VACANCY

The District's Finance Oversight Committee (FOC) is made up of seven members with various skill sets and backgrounds. The 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: in January to review the mid-year Budget, in March to review the proposed Budget for the next fiscal year, and in October or November for informational updates on the District activities.

The FOC currently has two vacancies. If you, or anyone you, know resides in the District and is interested in volunteering to serve on this committee, please contact the District's Clerk of the Board at 520-575-8100 or email at info@metrowater.com with "Attention Clerk of the Board" in the subject line.

The current members of the Finance Oversight Committee are: Lee Jacobs (current Vice Chair), Water Utility Engineering Division Manager for the Town of Oro Valley, Lee Mayes, retired Battalion Chief, Rural Metro Fire Department, Scott Schladweiler (current Chair), Water Director with the Town of Marana Water Department, Robert Shonka, Retired Water District Manager, and Christopher (Kip) Volpe, Vice President/Treasurer for The Estes Co. and oversees the operations of the Vail Water Company.

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

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call us at:

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www.metrowater.com

575-8100

info@metrowater.com



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