

Metro Saves With Solar

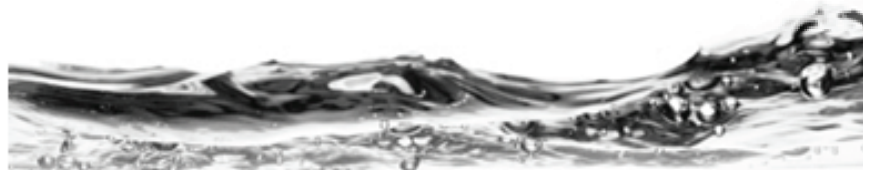
Metro Water District has started using solar energy to reduce electric costs at its office complex. Metro Water recently completed installing 608 solar panels on the north end of its office property located on La Cañada Drive, just south of Orange Grove.

The solar panels are estimated to produce 140 kilowatt hours (KWH) or 23,100 KWH per month. The energy generated from the solar equipment is expected to save \$10,000 annually.

"If there is a modest 3% increase annually in the cost of electricity, the District could save about \$500,000 over a 20 year period," said Mark Stratton, Metro's General Manager.

Metro is leasing the solar equipment from Solar H2O through a 20 year agreement. Under the lease agreement, Metro will pay immediately less for each KWH than current electrical rates and expects to further save as the projected cost for electricity increases.

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Road Projects Require Continualon of County/RTA Fee

Metro Water's Board of Directors has decided to keep the County/RTA fee in place until it better knows the full financial impact of the waterline relocations required by the ongoing RTA funded road projects.

Metro is currently relocating its waterlines on Magee Road before the County starts widening Magee Road. This one and four more major road projects are to occur during 2011 to 2013 within the District's service area.

"Those waterline relocations are estimated to cost \$6.6 million," explained Bryan Foulk, Metro's Board Chairman. "We issued \$6.6 million in revenue bonds in anticipation that was the best way to cover those expenses and meet the County's aggressive road construction schedule. Yet, until actual construction starts, we will not know the exact cost to the District and believed it was more prudent to make a long-term decision about the fee after we knew for certain the full costs."

Metro instituted the fee for waterline relocations in 2009 when the District needed immediate funding to move the water lines necessitated in the first phase of the La Cañada Road widening project from Calle Concordia to Ina. The fee generates approximately \$800,000 a year. The waterline relocations associated with the La Cañada Road widening were recently completed and cost almost \$1.5 million.

Pima County requires that the District relocates its waterlines that are within the right-of-way for each of the five major road projects planned over the next three years. It is anticipated the \$6.6 million issued in December 2010 will cover the costs but the exact amount will not be known until the County finalizes the road designs so the District knows exactly which waterlines must be moved. The annual debt service for the revenue bonds financed is nearly \$800,000 for 10 years, which is the approximate amount that the County/RTA fee generates.

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Girl Scouts Promote the Importance of Water

Girl Scout Brownie Troop #2164 took the guided journey, the Wonders of Water (WOW), to learn about the water cycle, water scarcity, how water gets dirty, and how to help save water.

To share what they had been learning, the troop decided to have its own booth during Butterfield's Multicultural Night in April. The troop created a display board with information about water and put together a flier about how to save water. They handed out faucet aerators, landscaping brochures, toilet leak kits, and educational water brochures supplied by Metro Water District. Their booth also had two activities to get people thinking about the importance of water. One activity was a guessing game where participants can look at pictures that relate to water and guess what is happening (like women and kids collecting water in containers to carry miles back home, or fixing a water leak). The other activity was cutting out water drop shapes to encourage participants to write one thing they can do to save water.

Hundreds of students attended the event with their families, and Troop #2164's booth was very well received. Nearly all of the 200 aerators and most of the literature were distributed. What will you do to conserve water? ■



Waterline Relocation RTA Fee

(Continued from page 1)

“After we know the full impact of the waterline relocations on the District’s finances,” explained Mark Stratton, Metro’s General Manager, “the Board will determine if the waterline relocation fee should continue to pay for the debt service for the revenue bonds or to include that cost into the rate structure. Other options will also be explored.”

The five County road projects (in addition to the La Canada project already completed) requiring Metro to relocate its waterlines are 1) Magee Road from La Cañada to Shannon (under construction); 2) La Cañada Road from Ina to River Road; 3) La Cholla Blvd from Magee to Overton; 4) Magee Road from Shannon to Thornydale; and 5) Magee Road from La Cañada to Oracle. ■

AZ Water Electrician of the Year

Metro's own Frank Gallego was awarded the Electrician of the Year at the annual AZ Water Association Conference held in May. Frank has been with Metro Water District for over ten years and during that time has worked consistently to assure power to our facilities. In addition, Frank maintains the District's SCADA system and oversees improvements to the electrical systems, which increases efficiency and reduce our costs for power.

An example of his professionalism is that a couple of a years ago during a failure at a booster station that caused flooding, Frank worked tirelessly to ensure that our ability to pump water to our customers was maintained, even though the booster station electrical system had been extremely damaged. We join with the AZ Water Association in saluting this dedicated employee. ■

AZ Water Kachina Award

The AZ Water Association gave its prestigious Kachina Award to Metro Water's General Manager, Mark Stratton, at the Association's annual conference in May. The Kachina Award is given to individuals who have given outstanding service to AZ Water Association.

AZ Water Association is the largest statewide water organization. AZ Water is a nonprofit educational organization founded in 1928 with a membership of 2,700 water and wastewater professionals dedicated to preserving and enhancing Arizona's water environment.

Stratton served on the Board of AZ Water Association from 1997 to 2010. He was elected as President of the Association from 2006 to 2007. After his presidency, he represented Arizona as a Section Director on the Board of the American Water Works Association. He is currently serving as the Chair of the Association's Utility Council. ■

Summertime Water Saving Tips

After we enjoyed a mild spring, we do not know what temperatures will be reached this summer but we can be certain that it will be hot. Water is the main ingredient for keeping cool and for sustaining life here in Tucson.

Here are some tips to consider for conserving water this summer.

Check your irrigation system, sprinklers, and timers to make sure they are working properly.

Water plants deeply and less frequently. Water at night or early morning.

Even in the summer, established plants can often take less water than you may think.

Let the plant tell you when it needs water.

Check for leaks in your irrigation system.

Make necessary repairs right away to save water and money.

Make sure your water cooler is working efficiently. Replace old pads.

Avoid bleeding off the water.

Install a water harvesting system to start capturing rain. We may not receive rain often but it can pour when it does, so water harvesting barrels can fill quickly. Receive a \$50 rebate.

For more water saving ideas, visit www.metrowater.com ■





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**STAGE 3
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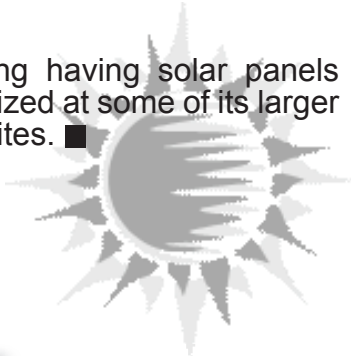
**STAGE 4
 CRISIS**

SOLAR *(Continued from page 1)*

Under the lease agreement, Metro will pay immediately less for each KWH than current electrical rates and expects to further save as the projected cost for electricity increases. Under the agreement, excess energy can be sold to Tucson Electric Power.

Metro pursued this energy reduction option after Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department installed a solar system at its Roger Road Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Metro is exploring having solar panels constructed and utilized at some of its larger reservoir and well sites. ■



Board of Directors:

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

Spring Public Board Meetings (6:00 pm):

June 13, 2011
 July 11, 2011
 August 8, 2011