

Splash

Metro Water
Newsletter
Summer 2012

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Roadway Construction Impacting Water Customers

All roads in Northwest Tucson seem to be under construction. These County/RTA road improvements have impacted Metro Water District because we are required to relocate our waterlines in the right of ways, at our cost. In turn, this has impacted you with the monthly \$3.00 County/RTA waterline relocation fee.

In December 2010, Metro issued a \$6.6 million revenue bond to finance the waterline relocations tied to the County/RTA road projects. This was done to cover that expense and complete the relocations according to the County's aggressive road construction schedule. The \$3.00 County/RTA waterline relocation fee is used specifically to pay the nearly \$800,000 annual debt service, which will take through 2020 to pay off.

(Continued pg. 2)



Solar Array Reducing Office Energy Costs

If you have driven by the Metro Water office, you have most likely seen the array of solar panels shining with sunlight. These solar panels were installed last year to help reduce the electrical cost at Metro's office complex. And they are doing just that. Over the last twelve months, Metro Water has seen a modest reduction in its office complex's energy cost. Metro is expected to see those savings grow as electricity costs increase.

The solar equipment is being leased from Solar H2O through a 20 year agreement. Metro Water did not have to pay for the panels to be erected. Under the lease agreement, Metro will pay immediately less for each KWH than current electrical rates. Under the agreement, excess energy can be sold to Tucson Electric Power.

Congratulations to
Cindy Martinez,
Employee of the Year!

Fiscal Year 2012/2013 Budget Decided

Metro Water District’s Board of Directors approved its budget for Fiscal Year 2012/2013. The total operating budget is set at \$17,026,391. A third of the budget is covering debt retirement for two Capital Improvement Programs, acquisition of the Metro-Hub system and Metro-Southwest system, and waterline relocations to accommodate ongoing road projects. The remainder covers the day to day operations and maintenance of the system, including salaries and benefits for 54 employees, power costs of \$1 million, and costs associated with Central Arizona Project water.

Revenue projections were the most notable and challenging issue in preparing the budget together. The metered water sales for Fiscal Year 2011/2012 are estimated to end up being \$420,000 less than what had been budgeted. Despite a warm winter and continued shortage of rain, water usage has been lower than previous years. Based on the water usage trend, the Fiscal Year 2012/2013 metered sales are being budgeted \$732,000 less than Fiscal Year 2011/2012. With less revenue projected, expenses are limited to what is absolutely necessary and capital projects not currently underway have been put on hold.

We recognize the quandary that is created by the need to have a reliable water system and also the importance of conserving a precious resource. The challenge for a water utility is to have the capital to meet the necessary day-to-day operations and maintenance required for a utility. Reliability of the water system has to be insured whether a little or a lot of water is used. ■

For more information about the budget, please visit www.metrowater.com and go to the “Budget Overview” section under the “About Metro Water” tab.



**CURRENT
DROUGHT
RESPONSE:**

**STAGE 2
WARNING**



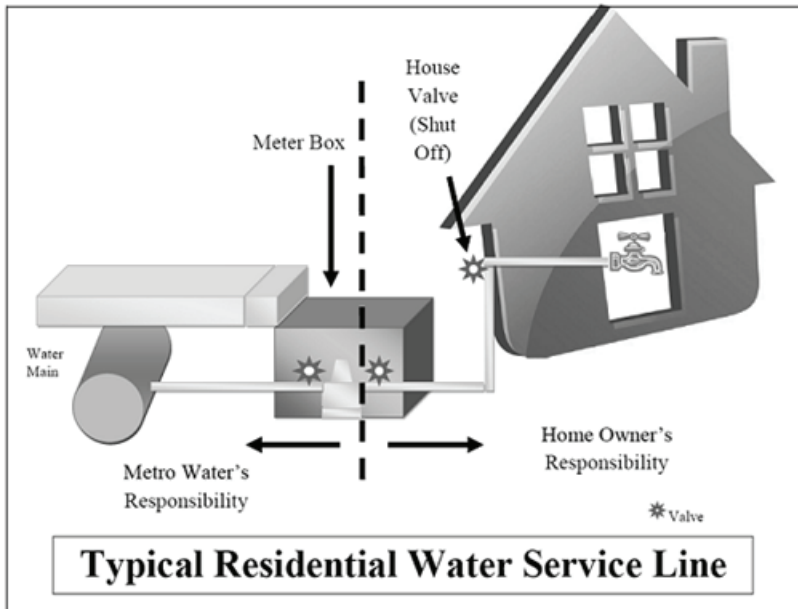
Roadway Construction Impacts *(Continued from page 1)*

The following table outlines the waterline relocation projects associated the County/RTA road projects.

Water Line Relocation Project due to Road Construction	Cost or Projected Cost	Completion Date	How was this project funded?
La Cañada – Ina Rd to Calle Concordia	\$2,333,000	June 2010	Paid by the \$3.00 RTA fee
Magee – La Cañada to La Cholla	\$2,097,944	Feb. 2012	Financed by \$6.6. million revenue bond – paid over 10 years by \$3.00 RTA fee
La Cholla – Magee to Overton	\$854,678	July 2012	
LaCañada – Ina Rd to River Rd	\$2,774,730	Sept. 2012	
Magee – Shannon to Thornydale	\$2,888,000	Dec. 2012	

While these projects are funded under the revenue bond issuance, Pima County has said additional road projects will be coming in the future, which will also affect our waterlines. These include Magee Road – La Cañada to Oracle; Orange Grove Road – Camino De La Tierra to La Cholla, the Ina and Oracle Intersection; Thornydale Road north of Cortaro Road; and La Cholla – Magee to Overton. ■

The diagram below gives you a visual representation about your meter box and how water flows to your home. You are responsible for the pipes between the meter and your home. The house or shut off valve is located on the front or rear of the house. This where you want turn off the water to your home if you are experiencing a leak. It is important to know where your house valve is in case you need to quickly turn off water to your house.



Pima County Wastewater Charges

On July 1st, Pima County is raising its sewer service fee from \$11.14 to \$11.86. This means you will see an increase to your wastewater bill.

Your water statement includes two bills: 1) a bill for your water usage, and 2) Pima County's wastewater bill.

If you have questions about your sewer rate, please call Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department at 740-6609. ■



Summertime Water Reminders

Ways to use water more efficiently during the hot 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 cooler 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 ■

Preparing for New Entrance

If you have visited Metro Water's office, you have seen additional parking spaces being constructed. This is actually part of a new entrance and driveway to the Metro Water office. Metro Water is being required to change its north entrance due to the expansion of La Cañada Road, which has just begun.

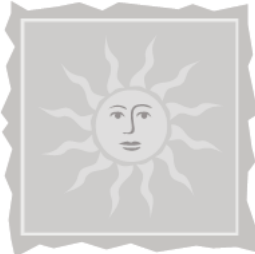
Metro Water has been planning for this required change for three years and had designed a new entrance and driveway that will allow for Metro vehicles and customers to exit either north or south on La Cañada after it becomes four lanes. Also, the driveway will allow for better flow of traffic with the drive up payment window and around the office complex.

Pima County is paying for the entrance itself onto La Cañada Road but Metro Water has had to pay for the driveway. Funds had been included in the Fiscal Year 2011/2012 budget. Additional parking spaces were added to accommodate meetings held for the District and for community groups; plus, the new entrance configuration will be removing a few existing parking spaces. However, the bulk of the construction cost is for the driveway itself. ■



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 Friday 7:30 - Noon
metrowater.com

Water CASA is Looking for Water Savers!

Have you been capturing and reusing your rainfall or graywater for over a year? Have you lived at this site for at least 3 years? Will you share with Water CASA information about these water savers and your water usage?

If you can answer yes to these questions, the Water Conservation Alliance of Southern Arizona invites you to be part of a study of water savings related to harvesting rainfall or graywater reuse.



Thank you in advance for making the effort to use your graywater or to harvest your rainfall! Email Water CASA if you are intersted in participating in this improtant analysis. You will be glad you participated and so will your community. ■

watercasa@watercasa.org

Board of Directors:

Bryan Foulk, Chair

Dan M. Offret,
 Vice Chair

Richard Byrd,
 Member

Jim Doyle, Member

Judy Scrivener,
 Member

**Next Public Board
 Meetings (6:00 pm):**

July 9, 2012
 August 13, 2012
 September 10, 2012

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