

Splash

Metro Water
Newsletter
Summer 2016

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Revenue Stability Achieved

A public Information Meeting was held on May 18, 2016 to give the public a preview of proposed adjustments to the rates and fees, as well as provide an opportunity for customers to ask questions in an informal setting. Customers in attendance had positive comments about the proposed plan and asked a few general questions to learn more about the District's operations and long range planning.

For the past couple of years, the District has taken steps to balance revenue for fixed and variable costs by restructuring the rates amid declining consumption with minimal impact to the average customer. Fixed costs are defined as expenses that are incurred regardless of the amount of water used. Variable costs are those tied to the amount of water pumped and delivered.

The Board of Directors has supported the concept of having the Water Availability Rate (base rate) capture more of the District's fixed costs to increase financial stability. The Water Availability Rate presently covers about 83% of the District's fixed costs.

At the May 23, 2016 Rate Hearing, the Board of Directors adopted the proposed rate adjustments which increases revenue stability to nearly 90%. The average customer will see a \$2.45 increase to their water bill and the new rates are effective July 1, 2016.

The adopted rate structure includes the first 3,000 gallons of consumption within the Water Availability Rate, acknowledging those who conserve while still enhancing revenue stability.

The rate adjustment was structured so that staff can recommend a 0% increase next fiscal year due to the revenue stability achieved in the new rate structure. ■


Water Quality Reports Mailed in May

Metro Water District regularly checks its water for contaminants. The District is required by federal and state regulations to test for 166 constituents. Staff collects water samples from wells, storage facilities, points in the distribution system, and at residents' homes. The samples are then taken to state licensed laboratories for analysis.

Annually, a water quality report (also known as a Consumer Confidence Report) is sent to all residents within the District per EPA's Safe Drinking Water Act. Metro Water staff also tracks water quality regulations, as they change from time to time. ■

2015 WATER QUALITY REPORT

METRO MAIN SERVICE AREA



May 2016

Metro Water Delivers Safe Drinking Water
Metro Water District is pleased to report that the water delivered to your faucet meets all safe drinking water standards. This annual Metro Water District Water Quality Report is required by the Federal Government under the Safe Drinking Water Act. We believe customers who are well informed about their water supply are our best allies in supporting improvements necessary to maintain the highest quality of drinking water.

Where does your water come from?
Metro Water District uses groundwater from the northwest portion of the Tucson Basin aquifer. The water in our aquifer was created primarily from mountain runoff and storm water infiltrating into the ground along the Cañada del Oro Wash and Rillito River.
Metro's 26 active wells pump water from the local aquifer. Depth to water ranges from 158 to 450 feet. Water from wells is placed in reservoirs/storage tanks or directly pumped into the

What happens if the water tested indicates contamination?
If a constituent is found not to meet the safe drinking water standards, the District is required by Federal and State regulations to notify customers within affected service areas. Notification may be made via mail and/or through the news media. If a serious situation occurs that may affect the health and well-being of our customers, the District would do whatever is necessary to notify you, and provide an alternate source of safe drinking water.

What contaminants might be detected?
The table on page 3 shows no detections for total coliform bacteria and detections for 14 regulated contaminants in 2015 are still within EPA's accepted levels. Metro sampled for 84 regulated contaminants in 2015, as required by safe drinking water standards, and also 86 unregulated contaminants.



From April 5th to 7th, Metro Water staff partnered with Northwest Fire and Golder Ranch Fire on a joint confined space rescue training at the District's James M. Tripp Reservoir. This mutually beneficial training honed first responders' confined space recovery skills and provided insight on how to respond to emergencies at District facilities.



In the Metro Hub service area, Tricon Contracting staff installs bedding material (sand) around the newly installed 8-inch water mainline. The bedding material protects the pipe from the numerous rocks that are in the soil in this area. Without the bedding material, rocks could eventually cause the water main to leak or break.

Spotlight on Metro Southwest



Lazy B Interconnect Reduces Outages

In April 2015, Metro Water District entered into an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Tucson for the delivery of a portion of the District’s CAP water to Metro Southwest by “wheeling” or conveying the water through Tucson’s infrastructure. According to that wheeling agreement, the District will deliver a portion of its renewable CAP allocation to the City of Tucson recharge facilities in Southern Avra Valley, where it will be stored. Tucson Water will then recover that renewable water resource through recovery wells and convey it through their transmission infrastructure to Metro Southwest, including Lazy B, providing a renewable source of water supply where it would not be otherwise accessible.

Construction of a wheeling interconnect at Metro Southwest – Lazy B was completed and put into operation on April 27, 2016. This interconnect will provide a renewable source of water and provide resiliency and reliability for the area, which had been supplied by a single domestic well in the past, leaving it vulnerable to water outages. The District will still maintain operation of the single well as a backup water source. ■



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PRESORTED STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
TUCSON, AZ
PERMIT # 129

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

Summertime Watering Tips



- Water plants deeply and less frequently
- Water at night or early morning
- Even in the summer, established plants can take less water than you may think
 - Check your irrigation system, sprinklers and timers to make sure they are working properly with no leaks
 - Install a water harvesting system to capture rain water or reuse graywater and receive a \$50 rebate for materials (for more information, go to www.metrowater.com, Conservation/Quality)

For more water saving ideas, 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, July 11
Monday, August 8
Monday, September 12

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, July 4, 2016 and
Monday, September 5, 2016.*

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