

Splash

Metro Water
Newsletter
Winter 2014-15

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Frozen!



As the cold months quickly approach, it is important to pay close attention to pipes subject to freezing. The District receives many calls during the months of January through March asking how to keep water pipes from freezing.

Many times frozen water lines can cause a complete blocking of water supply to a customer. Other times a section of a customer's dwelling may be without water. If the temperature is severe enough, water lines can burst, further compounding freezing pipe issues. In preparation, the District advises customers to protect their pipes by following a couple of helpful tips.

1) Take a quick survey to look for any water pipes exposed to the elements – typically, this would include the main pipe entering the house (usually located with the house valve), irrigation lines, backflow preventers, and if applicable, swamp cooler lines and swimming pool lines.

2) Any water line that is normally exposed to the elements, where water does not constantly move, is a potential candidate for freezing. There are a variety of ways to protect exposed lines with pipe insulation. Pipe insulation is a low cost solution to protect pipes from freezing and can be purchased at local hardware stores. ■

Watering in Winter

Temperatures are lowering and so should your water usage. With cooler weather, less water is needed for your landscape. Here are a few ideas for using water wisely this winter.

- Water less. Be sure to change your irrigation timer and modify your water schedule.
- Most landscapes will do fine with less water during the cooler winter months. Too often plants receive more water than needed. The winter season is a great time to see how little water your plants really need.
- Fix leaks and dripping faucets. Check your drip irrigation system especially if temperatures dip below freezing.
- If your green thumb itches to do some planting this winter, plant native or low water-use plants. You'll save water and time in the future and still have a colorful yard.
- Consider installing gutters on your roof and set up a water harvesting system. Collect the winter rains for spring watering. Receive a \$50 rebate for materials used for establishing a water harvesting system. ■



Election Results

Based on the results from the November 4, 2014 election, Metro Water's Board of Directors will have one new Board member and two returning Board members on January 1, 2015. Helen Ireland was elected to the Metro Board along with incumbents Judy Scrivener and Jim Doyle. The three directors will be joining Dan M. Offret and Bryan Foulk, who are both in the middle of their terms on the Board. Board members serve a four-year term.

Helen Ireland is not completely new to Metro Water since she previously served on the Board and before that, was Metro's Geographic Information System Analyst.

Judy Scrivener will return to the Board to serve a third term. She is the Senior Special Staff Assistant to the Deputy Director for Pima County Wastewater Treatment.

Jim Doyle has served previously five terms on the Metro Board. He has worked for Pima County Wastewater Treatment for 30 years and is currently the acting superintendent of the Tres Rios (Ina Road) Treatment Plant.

Richard Byrd chose not to seek reelection. During his service to Metro Water, he brought experience and knowledge to the Board regarding regulations, water quality issues and general utility matters from being City of Tucson's Environmental Management Coordinator.

As a public water utility, Metro is governed by a five-member board, similar to a school or fire district board. Directors must be a resident of the District. The Board meets regularly the second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. The Board establishes rates, approves and oversees the budget, and sets policies for the District. ■



Dual Metering

Metro Water continues to offer a dual metering option for the benefit of single-family residents.

This dual metering option was in response to customers inquiries about how to reduce their sewer user fees charged by the Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department. Pima County calculates sewer user fees by assuming the lowest consumption occurs outdoors during the winter months of December, January, and February, and using a winter average of these months to determine sewer usage fees. However, if a resident has three different consecutive months that are lower in consumption during the year, the resident can petition the County to use an alternate series of three months to recalculate their sewer fees.

The dual metering program was created as an option for customers who know they use a lot of water outdoors. The dual meter follows after the main meter, on a branch off the private service line, and measures only outdoor use. By subtracting the use on the dual meter from the overall main meter use, Metro Water is then able to report only what usage enters the dwelling each month, and therefore potentially impacts the sewer system.

There are important aspects of program to consider that vary from customer to customer. The placement of the dual meter is required to be within 5 feet of the existing meter. Customers are also responsible for all reconfiguration and installation of private plumbing for outdoor/irrigation uses supplied by the dual meter, including properly severing these uses from the house plumbing. Once this reconfigured system is in place, Metro Water will then provide and install both the meter and meter box.

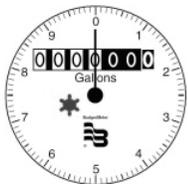
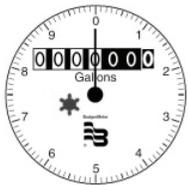
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CAP Recovery, Recharge & Delivery System

Metro Water is taking the first steps toward making its CAP Recharge, Recovery and Delivery System (CAP RRDS) a reality. Metro's Board of Directors has selected Tierra Right of Way Services to conduct the necessary investigation for land acquisition before Metro actually proceeds with the purchase of properties. Types of investigations include title reports, types of agreements for the sale/purchase, cultural resources assessment, biological resources assessment, environmental assessment, property appraisals and other items that would be necessary before Metro can purchase property.

The CAP RRDS will recover CAP water that has been recharged at the Metro's Avra Valley Recharge Project and then move the water through a 13 mile transmission line to be blended with groundwater at the Herb Johnson Reservoir. Therefore, it is crucial to identify issues related to the property around the Avra Valley Recharge Project and along the proposed 13 mile transmission line. The information gained will then ensure the best design work.

Last April, the Board approved a 10-year timeline to accomplish the three major components for the CAP RRDS – Land Acquisition, Design, and Construction. The timeline ensures that all aspects of the Project can be accomplished efficiently but also with the least financial impact to customers. The work that Tierra Right of Way will do and the actual land acquisition process is projected to take two years to complete. ■



Dual Metering



(continued from page 2)

The initial setup cost for a dual metering program is \$380, including a 5/8-inch dual meter and meter box installation, downstream and upstream fittings for the dual meter, a dual check valve after the dual meter, and all inspections to test the system. There is also a monthly water availability rate of \$7.33 charged for the dual meter (in addition to the main meter), representing one-third the cost of the regular single-family residential water availability rate.

Interested customers need to calculate if an acceptable recovery period exists, through the potential lowering of sewer fees based on only in-home usage, to address the costs of initial setup, installation, and reconfiguration. Customers also need to consider the new monthly charge for reading the dual meter, and when costs are recovered via savings from the program. While dual metering is not for everyone, customers who have year-round high outdoor water use demands tend to find dual metering very beneficial in lowering high monthly sewer usage fees.

For more information related to the program, please visit the dual metering area of our website, or contact Tim Dinkel, Development Supervisor, at 575-8100. ■



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NEW ENTRANCE & SIGN

Our north office driveway at 6265 N. La Cañada has been relocated due to road improvements and Metro Water will soon have a new, more prominent sign facing La Cañada.

Please take note of new traffic flow signage and use caution around construction activities.

The Metro Water office will be closed on:

Martin Luther King Day
Monday, January 19, 2015

Presidents Day
Monday, February 16, 2015



Board of Directors:

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

Board Meetings:

Monday, January 12
Monday, February 9
Monday, March 9

Board meetings
are held at
6265 N. La Cañada Drive
and typically start
at 6:00 pm.
Board meetings
are held the
second Monday
of each month.

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