

## Hot Water News

### Water Education Poster & Slogan Contest for K-6 Students

Mesa Consolidated Water District welcomes all K-6 students in our service area to submit posters and slogans for the 2011 Water Education Poster and Slogan Contest. This year's theme is "Low flow is the way to go!", and the entry deadline is March 31, 2011. To learn more, visit the "Poster Contest" link at [www.MesaWater.org](http://www.MesaWater.org) or call (949) 631-1201.

## Fresh Water Facts

### Planning Spring Vacation? Check for Water Leaks!

Water leaks are wasteful and can damage your home. Before going on vacation, check in and around your home for water leaks...here's a simple way to detect them:

1. Turn off all water inside and outside your home, and read your meter.
2. If your meter has a Flow Finder triangle, it should not be moving.
3. If the Flow Finder is moving, there may be a leak.

Learn more about detecting water leaks with the District's free Wise Water Use Residential Survey Program. For more information, visit our online conservation section at [www.MesaWater.org](http://www.MesaWater.org), or call (949) 631-1200.

## Mesa Helps Westin South Coast Plaza Become Water Wise

### *Efforts Will Save Nearly One Million Gallons Each Year*

Visitors flock to Orange County for our sunny weather, clean beaches, and exciting entertainment. Many stay in Costa Mesa hotels, and Mesa Consolidated Water District (Mesa) is working to ensure guests' stays are as water-efficient as possible.

Mesa recently partnered with the Westin South Coast Plaza to study its indoor and outdoor water practices, and recommended several options for the hotel to reduce its water use and costs. The study was conducted with WaterWise Consulting as part of the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) Water Smart Hotel Program.

As a result of the survey, the Westin replaced all 397 guestroom toilets with water-efficient models. It also added low-flow aerators, provided by Mesa, to all hotel faucets. These changes will help the Westin save nearly one million gallons of water annually. That's the same as 600,000 fewer toilet flushes per year!

The retrofits will also help the Westin save thousands of dollars in annual water costs while protecting the environment. Retrofit rebates were provided by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and MWDOC.

Through activities like participating in MWDOC's Water Smart Hotel Program, Mesa is committed to collaborating with our customers to help ensure there's enough water to meet our current and future needs. Mesa also offers free water-use surveys and water-wise landscape classes for residential customers, and honors our most water-efficient customers with a Water Conservation Award.

For more information on Mesa's water-use efficiency programs, visit the conservation section at [www.MesaWater.org](http://www.MesaWater.org) or call us at (949) 631-1200.

***Mesa partnered with the Westin South Coast Plaza to install new toilets and aerators that will help the hotel save nearly 1 million gallons of water each year.***



Photo courtesy of the Westin South Coast Plaza

# Serving the Community

## Mesa Consolidated Water District Proudly Participates in Local Springtime Events



For the fourth consecutive year, Mesa Consolidated Water District (Mesa) is a sponsor of the annual Costa Mesa Community Run in Fairview Park. The event includes a Friday Expo at Estancia High School on April 22nd, starting at 5 p.m., followed by the Community Run on Saturday, April 23rd, starting at 7:30 a.m. To participate, or for more information, go to [www.CostaMesaCommunityRun.com](http://www.CostaMesaCommunityRun.com).

Also in April, the District will again host a booth

at the 22nd annual Spring Garden Show, at South Coast Plaza, April 28th to May 1st. The Spring Garden Show has over 75 specialty garden vendors offering exotic plants, unique garden accessories, and more. Mesa staff will be onsite with water conservation tips and giveaways to assist gardeners on wise water use. For more information, visit [www.SpringGardenShow.com](http://www.SpringGardenShow.com).

# Employee Recognition

## Silver Lining Award Honors District Employees

Detlef Goris, Water Maintenance Crewleader at Mesa Consolidated Water District (Mesa), is the 2010 Silver Lining Award recipient. Named in honor of the District's former General Manager, Karl Kemp, the Silver Lining Award is annually bestowed to an employee who looks for the good in others, and who remains optimistic and productive when faced with challenges. Karl Kemp was the first recipient of the Silver Lining Award in 2001.

Mesa employees nominate coworkers who meet

the criteria, and then a committee reviews the nominations and makes recommendations to the General Manager who determines the awardee. According to his supervisors, "Detlef was nominated because he is always genuine, respectful and positive, and he goes above and beyond his regular job duties...his quiet strength is an inspiration to others." Congratulations Detlef!



# Special Notice

## Backflow Device Thefts On The Rise

In the past few months, water backflow devices and fireline meters have become targets of thieves. These devices are important to maintaining water system quality and can be expensive to repair or replace.



Mesa Consolidated Water District ("Mesa") alerts you to take precautions to protect these devices from theft and damage. In most cases, commercially available enclosures provide enough security to deter theft. Other deterrents to theft are increased lighting, trimmed landscaping, security, and/or video surveillance. There are also local companies that specialize in backflow device theft protection.

If you observe a theft in progress, call 911 immediately. If your device is stolen or damaged, Mesa encourages you to file a report with the Costa Mesa Police Department by calling (714) 754-5255.

For more information about backflow device theft protection, contact Pieter Pijl, Mesa's Cross-Connection Specialist at (949) 631-1291, or visit [www.MesaWater.org](http://www.MesaWater.org).

## Board of Directors

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## Board Meetings

Mesa Consolidated Water District's Board of Directors meets on the second Tuesday and the fourth Tuesday monthly. Regular meetings begin at 7 p.m. at 1965 Placentia Avenue, Costa Mesa, and are open to the public. For more information call (949) 631-1206.

Produced by the District's Board of Directors, *Water District News* is a bi-monthly publication to inform the District's customers and community about water-related issues and events.

We welcome your comments. Send correspondence to:  
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[www.MesaWater.org](http://www.MesaWater.org)

