

Mesa Consolidated Water District (Mesa Water) Water District News

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www.MesaWater.org

Hot Water News

Protect Your Backflow Device!

Backflow device thefts are rising in Mesa Water's area. Backflow devices are required to protect the water system and are expensive to replace. Mesa Water is collaborating with local police departments on this issue; if you witness a device being stolen, please call 911.

Mesa Water records the serial number for all backflow devices in our area. If your device is stolen, please call us at (949) 631-1291 to get this information for your police report. More information about protecting your device is at www.MesaWater.org -- click "Information Items" under the Water Quality tab.

Fresh Water Facts

Tap Water Cleans Wounds

The Dept. of Emergency Medicine at NYSU Buffalo found that tap water is almost as effective for wound irrigation as sterile saline solution. The study used either tap water or saline solution to clean subjects' wounds, after which researchers evaluated the wounds for infection. Results showed almost equal amounts of infection, or lack thereof, with a 3.3 percent infection rate in the saline group, and only a 4.0 percent infection rate in the tap water group. This indicates tap water's high quality as being almost equal to sterile saline for cleaning minor wounds. To see the study paper, go to <http://tinyurl.com/WoundStudy>.

Mesa Water Board Boosts Support for Local Water Supply Reliability

The Mesa Consolidated Water District (Mesa Water) Board of Directors continues to champion the development of sustainable and cost-effective local water supplies. Mesa Water has been a leader in this arena for many years with its Colored Water Treatment Facility, now undergoing improvements to produce 50 percent more water using less energy.

Mesa Water is a committed partner in solving our region's water supply challenges. Recently, Mesa Water's Board strengthened its support for local water supply reliability by taking steps to help increase production at another key regional water-supply project—the Orange County Water District's Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS).

As one of the world's largest and most advanced water reuse projects, the GWRS takes highly-treated wastewater -- that would otherwise be converted to recycled water for irrigation use, or discharged to the Pacific Ocean -- purifies it to high-quality drinking water that exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards, and puts it back into Orange County's groundwater basin to recharge our region's natural aquifer.

Some key GWRS benefits include:

- Drought Resistance** — GWRS produces high-quality water to replenish Orange County's groundwater basin;
- Environmental Preservation** — GWRS reuses a precious resource and reduces the amount of wastewater discharged to the Pacific Ocean;
- Groundwater Protection** — GWRS protects Orange County's groundwater basin from seawater intrusion; and,
- Water Reliability** — GWRS decreases Orange County's dependence on less reliable and more expensive imported water from Northern California and the Colorado River.

The GWRS helps to meet approximately 20 percent of central and north Orange County's drinking water demand, including the needs of Mesa Water customers. Mesa Water receives approximately two thirds of its domestic water, and all of its advanced recycled water, from the Orange County Water District.

For these reasons, Mesa Water's Board determined that the best way to ensure local and regional water supply reliability is to encourage maximum production at the GWRS, which recycles water for use in Orange County's groundwater basin. Mesa Water's Board recently declared its support of the Initial Expansion of the GWRS to 100 million gallons of water every day—enough water for nearly 850,000 people.



Photo courtesy of Orange County Water District

Dedicated to Satisfying our Community's Water Needs

How to Prevent Moldy Odor in HE Clothes Washers



Mesa Water customers can save water, energy and money by taking advantage of the high-efficiency ("HE") clothes washer rebate extended through April 30, 2012. For those who have switched to HE clothes washers, follow these care tips for front-loading machines:

- Always use HE laundry detergents...liquid formulas may leave less residue than powdered;
- Use less than the recommended detergent level (also a money-saver) to avoid residue;
- Instead of liquid softeners in the washer, use softener sheets in the dryer;
- Periodically wash whites, linens and towels in warm or hot water to help flush residue;

- Never leave a wet load in the washer;
- After laundry is done, leave the door and dispenser unit open to dry out; and,
- Run your washer's cleaning cycle per your product manual.

For more care information on front-loading HE clothes washers, visit <http://tinyurl.com/noHEodor>. For more information about HE clothes washer rebates, and other rebate offerings, go to the Conservation tab at www.MesaWater.org or call (949) 631-1200.

Conservation Spotlight

Turf Replacement Incentives for Mesa Water Customers

To assist our residential and small business customers in using water wisely, Mesa Water is promoting a Turf Removal Program with an incentive of \$1 per square foot for customers to replace their lawn with beautiful California Friendly® and native plants. Requirements include:

- 250-10,000 square feet of turf replaced with California Friendly®/native plants and other permeable materials (smaller areas may be eligible if all grass is removed);
- Pre- and post-replacement site inspections and measurements are required;

- Soil must be covered with mulch, or creeping or rooting groundcover;
- No invasive plant species may be used; and,
- Water system, if any, must be low-flow.

Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis through January 27, 2012 or until funding runs out. For more information, click "Rebates" under the Conservation tab at www.MesaWater.org or call (949) 631-1200.



Employee Recognition

Scheafer Service Legacy to Mesa Water, Customers, and Community

Maintenance Worker and Costa Mesa native Frank Scheafer has served Mesa Water since 1986, continuing the legacy of his father, Conrad "Shorty" Scheafer, who joined the District when it was formed in 1960. Shorty, who got his nickname in the military due to his 5'4" stature, worked at Mesa Water for over 26 years in various roles, including Maintenance Worker, Public Information Officer, and Customer Service Supervisor.

Frank says: "My four siblings and I recall how proud dad was to serve Mesa Water's customers." Indeed, many longtime locals and Mesa Water staff and customers remember Shorty Scheafer and his positive impact. A devoted husband and

father of two grown daughters, Frank adds, "My dad was a great role model, and instilled in us a sense of responsibility to serve our community."

According to Frank, "The most rewarding part about my work is helping to keep our water system going...I was also proud to serve with Mesa Water as part of a regional relief team to restore Northridge's water service after the '94 quake." Mesa Water commends Frank for his commitment and longevity at the District, and for carrying on the Scheafer legacy of serving our customers and the community.



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Board Meetings
Mesa Water's Board meets on the second Tuesday and 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 Mesa Water's Board of Directors, **Water District News** is a bi-monthly publication to inform Mesa Water's customers and community about water-related issues and events.

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