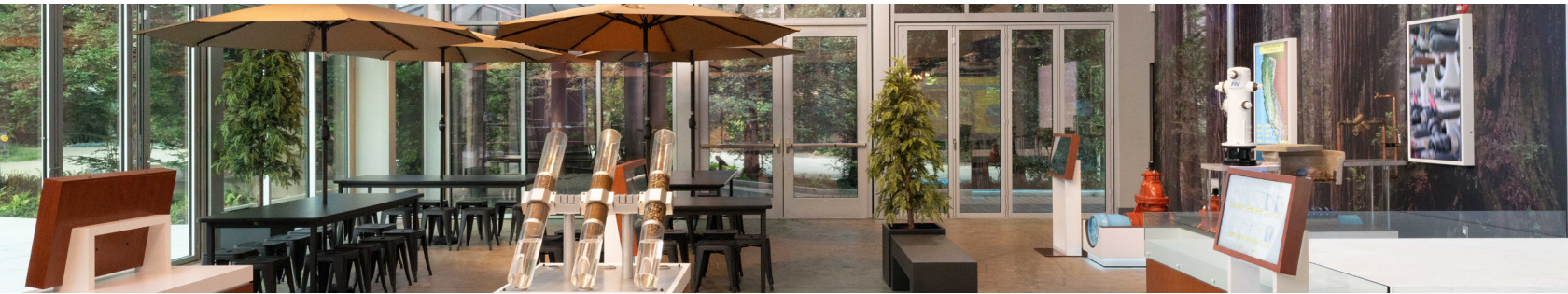


Celebrating a New Chapter in Water Education: The Mesa Water Education Center is Now Open!



The Mesa Water Education Center is a premier destination for fifth grade school field trips, civic, business and community organizations, and residents to learn more about water.

In January 2025, tours began at the new Mesa Water Education Center — the only facility of its kind in Orange County. Co-located at the Mesa Water Reliability Facility (MWRF), this 2,400-square-foot center offers visitors an interactive experience with more than 20 exhibits. Highlights include the Redwood Theater, which provides a never-before-seen look at Mesa Water District's (Mesa Water®) unique ancient amber water story, and the fully immersive Explorer experience, which takes visitors on an underground adventure into an aquifer.



The Mesa Water Education Center stems from the vision of Mesa Water's Board of Directors. As the only water district in Orange County to provide a 100% local water supply — Mesa Water is not reliant on more expensive imported water. The Center offers a valuable opportunity to share this unique story and educate residents about the essential role that reliable, clean, safe tap water plays in everyday life. Visitors will learn how Mesa Water ensures that the water they drink and use is of the highest quality.

The Mesa Water Education Center also addresses a pressing issue in the water industry — the ongoing loss of skilled workers due to the “silver tsunami” of baby boomer retirements. Across the country, the industry is facing a growing need to educate the next generation of water professionals. The Center highlights diverse career opportunities in water, from water operators and engineers to water quality specialists. It also provides insight into the education and training required for these roles. Mesa Water Education Center curriculum meets Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) guidelines, ensuring it is a beneficial visit for students.

Whether you're a student, a local resident or a business owner, there's something for everyone at the Mesa Water Education Center. Guests will gain a deeper understanding of the essential infrastructure that delivers water to homes and businesses. While visiting, guests will also explore the Orange County Groundwater Basin, learn about California's water system and much more.

Book a Tour Today!

Tours and field trips are available by appointment.

To schedule a tour, please contact Water Use Efficiency and Education Coordinator, Hester “Fritz” Petropoulos at HesterP@MesaWater.org or call 949.631.1201.

**For more information,
visit our website at
[MesaWater.org](https://www.MesaWater.org).**





Staff Splash: Meet Alison Wade

Alison is the friendly face who greets all new Mesa Water employees on their first day.

What do you do in your role at Mesa Water?

In my role as Human Resources Analyst, I mainly deal with benefit administration. This includes everything from Open Enrollment to leave administration and helping employees better understand and navigate the complex elements surrounding each benefit.

How did you get into the water industry?

I've always cared about water and the environment. One of my first jobs out of college was at the wastewater plant in Fountain Valley. After that job, I took a job at an aerospace company in benefits administration. When I saw this job advertised in the paper – yes, the paper – I thought it would be a perfect combination of the things that are important to me, making an impact in water by helping employees with their job benefits.

What is your favorite part of your job?

My favorite part of this job is going through the onboarding process with new employees and welcoming them to our amazing team. As a small agency, we are more like family, and this gives me the opportunity to get to know them at the onset of their career here.

What might the community find surprising about Mesa Water?

One surprising fact about Mesa Water is that we have two groundwater wells that pump amber-colored water from over 1,000 feet below ground. Since the water is amber-colored, we process it through nanofiltration to remove the color and deliver crystal clear water to our customers. Those wells pump amber-colored water as a result of the ancient redwood forest that existed here in Costa Mesa thousands of years ago.

What do you enjoy doing when you're not at work?

I enjoy spending time with friends, taking a walk or lunching at the beach. Being by the ocean brings me a sense of peace. I've always loved being close to the water.

Do you have a favorite water-themed movie or song?

My favorites are "The Ocean" by Led Zeppelin and "Into the Mystic" by Van Morrison.



Mesa Water Brings the Fun to STEM Night!

Mesa Water had a fantastic time at Killybrooke Elementary and Davis Magnet School's STEM Nights, where students got to dive into fun and educational activities! Students had the opportunity to "pump" their own groundwater through plastic pumps, simulating how real groundwater wells work. It was an exciting night of learning and exploring the wonders of water. Thanks to all the students, families and teachers who made these STEM Nights so special!

Your Water is Safe – 2025 Water Quality Report Available Online July 1

Mesa Water is proud to provide customers with clean, safe water that meets or exceeds all strict state and federal drinking water regulations. Mesa Water's 2025 Water Quality Report will be available online beginning July 1. To learn more, please visit MesaWater.org/WaterQualityReport.



MesaWater.org

Follow us @MesaWater



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marice H. DePasquale President, Division III

Shawn Dewane Vice President, Division V

Jim Atkinson Director, Division IV

Fred R. Bockmiller, P.E. Director, Division I

James R. Fisler Director, Division II

GENERAL MANAGER

Paul E. Shoenberger, P.E.

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

BOARD MEETINGS

Mesa Water Board meetings are held the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 4:30 p.m. at 1965 Placentia Avenue, Costa Mesa, and are open to the public. For more information, call 949.631.1206.

Public Affairs Department

949.631.1201

Info@MesaWater.org

After Hours Emergency Phone: 949.631.1200

Printed using soy-based ink on 10% recycled FSC®-certified and elemental chlorine-free paper. Please recycle this when you are finished reading it. Thank you.

