



**MesaWater**  
DISTRICT

[MesaWater.org](http://MesaWater.org)

# Water District News

**Volume 27, Number 6**  
**November/December 2013**

## Hot Water News

### Free Water Education Assemblies for 5th Graders

Mesa Water offers no-cost water education assemblies for fifth-grade students attending schools in the District's service area. The interactive program is taught by Discovery Science Center teachers and meets California State Science Standards. Students explore topics such as the Water Cycle, Pollution Prevention, Water Use Efficiency, and more. Teachers may contact Adam Jacobson at 714.263.3806 to schedule an assembly to take place now through May 2014. First come, first served. For more information, email [info@MesaWater.org](mailto:info@MesaWater.org) or call 949.631.1201.

## Fresh Water Facts

### Mesa Water Awarded Transparency Certificate of Excellence

Mesa Water received the *District Transparency Certificate of Excellence* by the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF). SDLF is a statewide nonprofit that provides educational opportunities for special district officials and employees to enhance their service to the public. To receive the award, a special district must meet eight essential governance transparency requirements. In addition, Mesa Water fulfilled fifteen website requirements and demonstrated effective outreach to its constituents through newsletters and public budget hearings. The award recognizes Mesa Water's outstanding efforts to promote good governance and transparency.

## Planning for Water Reliability, Now and Into the Future

To accomplish Mesa Water's mission of being Dedicated to Satisfying our Community's Water Needs, the Board of Director's strategic plan has seven goals:



1. Provide a safe, abundant, and reliable water supply.
2. Practice perpetual infrastructure renewal and improvement.
3. Be financially responsible and transparent.
4. Increase public awareness about Mesa Water and about water.
5. Attract and retain skilled employees.
6. Provide outstanding customer service.
7. Actively participate in regional water issues.

Designed to fulfill Mesa Water's strategic plan goals, the District's Fiscal Year 2014 (FY 2014) budget lists the expenses necessary for the ongoing delivery of safe and reliable water, and the revenues needed from water rates to cover those expenses.

Mesa Water's expenses can be divided into three main categories: **Operations**, including labor and equipment; **Infrastructure** or "capital" improvements; and, **Reserves**. Mesa Water establishes its rates to ensure efficient operations, effective infrastructure, and economically sound reserves, as follows:

**Efficient Operations** – Mesa Water's FY 2014 budget reflects a 5.7 percent reduction in operating expenses from Fiscal Year 2013, saving the District over \$1.25 million. Among all water districts in Orange County, Mesa Water's total annual expenditures are the lowest per resident.

**Effective Infrastructure** – Mesa Water determines the infrastructure improvements needed to perpetually renew the District's water delivery system on an annual basis and over the long-term, and this maintenance is factored into Mesa Water's rates.

**Economically Sound Reserves** – A proper level of reserve funds, also included in rates, provides cash for better safety, security, liquidity and flexibility to help the District plan ahead and navigate emergency situations (such as a catastrophe, drought, or other disaster). Mesa Water's strong reserves balance resulted in a AAA bond rating from Fitch, enabling the District to borrow funds needed for infrastructure improvements at the lowest interest rate, saving customers money.

As a financially sound water agency, Mesa Water is committed to providing safe, reliable water for the District's present and future customers. For more information, call 949.631.1201, email [info@MesaWater.org](mailto:info@MesaWater.org), or visit [www.MesaWater.org](http://www.MesaWater.org).

***Dedicated to Satisfying our Community's Water Needs***

# Environmental Stewardship

## Conserving Water with the "Water By Request" Program

Water is a limited resource in Southern California, and there are many ways to be more efficient with our water use. To help local restaurants save money and conserve water, energy, and labor, on a voluntary basis, Mesa Water is offering "Water by Request" outreach materials. Mesa Water's [Water-Smart Restaurant Program](#) is designed to conserve and efficiently use water by encouraging restaurants to serve drinking water upon request by customers. For every glass of water not served, as much as 1.5

gallons of water are saved by not filling and washing the glass. To effectively share this message, Mesa Water has offered beverage coasters, menu labels, window decals, and table tents to local restaurants. For more information or to request materials, please call Mesa Water's Customer Services department at 949.631.1200 or email [JustinF@MesaWater.org](mailto:JustinF@MesaWater.org).



## Board of Directors

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- Fred Bockmiller**  
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Paul E. Shoenberger, P.E.

## Board Meetings

Mesa Water's Board meets the second Thursday of each month. Regular meetings begin at 6 p.m. at 1965 Placentia Avenue, Costa Mesa, and are open to the public. For more information, call 949.631.1206.

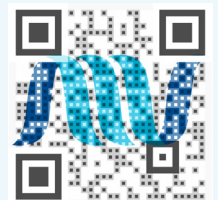
Produced by Mesa Water's Board of Directors, **Water District News** is a bi-monthly publication to inform Mesa Water's customers and community about water-related issues and events.

### We welcome your comments:

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[MesaWater.org](http://MesaWater.org)

**After Hours Emergency Phone:**  
**949.631.1200**



# Water Education

## Mesa Water Hosts Annual Water Issues Study Group

Mesa Water kicks off its 2014 Water Issues Study Group (WISG) on Wednesday, January 29, 2014. Now in its 28th consecutive year, the annual WISG series is offered – at no cost to participants – to District customers, community and industry members, elected officials, employees, media, and others interested in learning about local, regional, and state wide water issues.

This year, WISG participants will learn about critical water issues, local and state water history, future planning for reliability, and tour the Mesa Water Reliability Facility, in a three-part series on Jan. 29, Feb. 12, and Feb. 26 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Since 1986, this award-winning program has attracted over 500 participants. Graduates and alumni of WISG are encouraged to share their water knowledge and expand water awareness with others. For more information, or to enroll, email [event@MesaWater.org](mailto:event@MesaWater.org) or call Mesa Water's Public & Government Affairs Department at 949.631.1201. A registration form is also available at [MesaWater.org/wisg](http://MesaWater.org/wisg).



# Employee Excellence

## Meet Alfred Mondragon, Mesa Water's NEW Water Quality Technician

Alfred Mondragon began working for Mesa Water in 2006 as a Maintenance Technician monitoring, maintaining and repairing Mesa Water's water delivery system. Alfred is certified in both distribution and water treatment. With the retirement of Mesa Water's long-time water quality technician earlier this summer, Alfred sought the opportunity to work in the water quality division of Mesa Water's operations. A typical day requires taking water quality samples at reservoirs and wells, at the Mesa Water Reliability Facility, and at 25 sample stations along Mesa Water's

distribution route. He enjoys his new role in water quality and understands what people mean when they say, "If you do something you like, you'll never work a day in your life." A sports enthusiast, Alfred enjoys football, basketball and soccer, as well as sharing quality time with his wife and new baby daughter.



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