

Hot Water News

Award-Winning Outreach and Transparency

Mesa Water® knows that transparency is paramount to providing excellent customer service and preserving the public's trust. The District has won multiple awards for its outreach and transparency, including:

- District of Distinction, and Transparency Certificate of Excellence from the Special District Leadership Foundation
- Excellence in Communications from the California Public Information Officials Association
- Exceptional Public Outreach from the CA Special Districts Association
- PROTOS for Community Relations from Public Relations Society of America, Orange County Chapter

Fresh Water Facts

The Optimal Governance Structure Study by Arcadis U.S., Inc.



About Measure TT: An Interview with Mesa Water's General Manager

Water District News interviewed Mesa Water's General Manager, Paul E. Shoenberger, P.E., to answer frequently asked questions about Measure TT.



Q: What is Measure TT and why is it on the November 8 ballot?

A: Measure TT is a non-binding advisory measure that asks whether Mesa Water District and the Costa Mesa Sanitary District (CMSD) should pursue consolidating to become one agency. Measure TT is a preliminary step to inform decision-makers on the level of public support for exploring consolidation. If Measure TT passes, the two districts would approach the Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission (OC LAFCO) to do a study. OC LAFCO is the authority that decides on consolidation.

Q: Can Measure TT lead to customer cost-savings from consolidation?

A: Yes. Measure TT is based on an impartial study which found that, if Mesa Water and CMSD consolidate, substantial cost-savings for ratepayers could include **\$15.6 million** one-time savings that could provide an immediate **\$650 rebate** per customer, and **\$2.7 million** annual savings that could reduce customer's sewer rates by up to **28 percent**. Mesa Water believes the study is valid and the findings verifiable.

Q: What is the basis for Measure TT?

A: Measure TT is based on the [Optimal Governance Structure Study](#) conducted by Arcadis U.S., Inc. The study compared the governance, operations, organizational structure and finances of Mesa Water and the Sanitary District, including an analysis of both districts' real estate holdings, reserves (cash on hand), and staffing. The study used the most recently audited financial information available on both districts' websites.

For more information about the study, call 949.631.1201, email info@MesaWater.org, or visit MesaWater.org/SDSE. For Measure TT information, see your Orange County Sample Ballot & Voter Information Pamphlet or visit OCvote.com.

Dedicated to Satisfying our Community's Water Needs

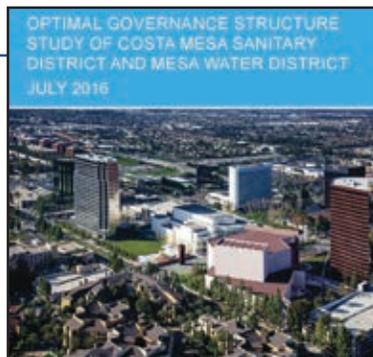
Study Shows Consolidation Can Create Customer Cost-Savings

The nationally recognized consulting firm [Arcadis U.S., Inc.](#) is a leader in infrastructure and management consulting services for the public sector, water/wastewater and utility industries. Using a competitive selection process, Mesa Water® retained Arcadis to conduct an impartial [Optimal Governance Structure Study](#) to analyze potential benefits of consolidating with the Costa Mesa Sanitary District (CMSD).

Arcadis reviewed publicly available information including both districts' most recent financial reports, governance and staffing, operations and infrastructure maintenance, real estate and reserves (cash on hand). The [study](#) shows substantial cost-savings for customers are possible if Mesa Water and the Sanitary District consolidate, including:

- 💧 **\$15.6 million one-time savings** that could provide a **\$650 rebate per customer**
- 💧 **\$2.7 million annual savings** that could reduce customers' sewer rates by up to **28%**

Based on these cost-savings, the non-binding advisory **Measure TT** on your November 8 ballot asks: **Shall the Mesa Water District and the Costa Mesa Sanitary District pursue consolidation?** For information about the study, go to [MesaWater.org/SDSE](#), email info@MesaWater.org, or call 949.631.1201.



Financially Strong and Responsible

Mesa Water's [Strategic Plan](#) has seven goals that guide the District in achieving its mission of satisfying our community's water needs and vision of being a top-performing public water agency. One Strategic Plan goal is being financially responsible and transparent. Mesa Water meets this goal by:

- 💧 Maintaining a strong [AAA rating](#)—the highest score possible from credit rating agencies such as Fitch and Standard & Poor's
- 💧 Having [rates](#) that are equal to the cost of water, fair, understandable and prudent for the District's financial stability
- 💧 Retaining right-sized [reserves](#) of \$40 million—the equivalent of 600 days cash on hand
- 💧 Annually preparing a balanced [budget](#) that funds infrastructure improvements, operations and reserves
- 💧 Annually producing accurate, timely financial documents such as a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)
- 💧 Posting on [MesaWater.org](#) financial documents such as budgets, CAFRs, and Board and staff [compensation](#)

Through these actions, Mesa Water demonstrates its responsible protection and management of public assets, funds, and resources.



Mesa Water Maintains Operational Efficiency

Mesa Water's operational efficiency ensures the economical, effective use of agency resources in providing safe and reliable water to our community.

[Raftelis Financial Consultants](#), one of the nation's largest and most respected utility financial consulting firms, annually compares (since 2011) operational efficiency among 10 Orange County water utilities by measuring total operational costs per capita (which is the service area's total number of residents).

For the past several years, Mesa Water has been the most efficient public water agency in Orange County. The most recent [Raftelis study](#) (using 2013 data) shows that bringing water service to our community costs \$272 per resident per year, making Mesa Water the lowest, or most efficient, in the County.

Mesa Water continues to improve its businesses processes and systems to optimize operational efficiency throughout every department at the District. For more information, call 949.631.1201 or go to [MesaWater.org/about/Operational-Efficiency](#).



MesaWater
DISTRICT®

Board of Directors

- [Shawn Dewane](#)
President; Division V
- [Ethan Temianka](#)
Vice President; Division III
- [Jim Atkinson](#)
Director; Division IV
- [Fred Bockmiller](#)
Director; Division I
- [James R. Fisler](#)
Director; Division II

General Manager

[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:

Mesa Water District
Public & Government
Affairs Department
1965 Placentia Avenue
Costa Mesa, CA 92627
tel 949.631.1201
info@MesaWater.org

[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.