



# Water District News

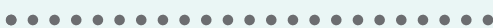
Volume 25, Number 1  
January/February 2011

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

## Hot Water News

### Water Issues Study Group 2011

The Water Issues Study Group is an adult educational program for Mesa Consolidated Water District customers interested in learning more about water supply and related topics. The 2011 series begins January 19, from 7:00-8:30 p.m., in the District's Boardroom, and continues with meetings on the third Wednesday monthly through June. To RSVP, please visit [www.MesaWater.org](http://www.MesaWater.org), or email, [Event@MesaWater.org](mailto:Event@MesaWater.org), or call (949) 631-1201.



## Fresh Water Facts

### 50th Anniversary Book

To honor its 50th anniversary, the District published a commemorative book providing an account of its legacy, accomplishments through present day, and future plans. Prepared in collaboration with local historians, this book is the first definitive history of the District since its 1960 formation. The book honors the District's forefathers, whose courage, vision, and commitment to water quality, reliability, and independence continue to inspire us today. It also includes archival photos of the District and the region. Priced at \$23 each (the District's cost, includes tax), books can be purchased in person at the District, or by calling (949) 631-1201.

## Special Feature.....

### Mesa Consolidated Water District Improves A Key Treatment Facility To Increase Its Local Water Reliability

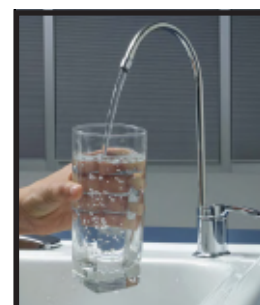
Thirty years ago, Mesa Consolidated Water District set a goal of getting closer to 100 percent reliance on locally produced water to meet its customers' water needs. Local water from the District's wells is more reliable and less expensive than imported water from Northern California and the Colorado River. Local water is also more drought-resistant since it isn't as dependant on rain and snowfall.

After decades of planning, building, and innovation, the District will come even nearer to achieving this self-reliance goal when its Colored Water Treatment Facility improvements begin in January, 2011. The groundwater basin under the District's service area consists of clear water and, at lower depths, tinted water that traces back to local ancient redwood forests. This colored water is of high quality and is safe to drink.

The District's facility that treats this tinted water to remove the color has been operating since 2000. Planned improvements to this facility will add new, nanofiltration membrane technology to the plant, which will increase its capacity and efficiency. The District's water delivery will remain stable throughout the improvements, and other benefits include:

- 💧 A drought-resistant source of high-quality, locally controlled, reliable water for the District's customers;
- 💧 A 50 percent increase in the District's colored water treatment capacity to 6,000 gallons of water per minute;
- 💧 An increase in the District's reliance on its own diverse water supplies, with up to 98 percent of water needs produced locally;
- 💧 Better protection of Orange County's groundwater basin by keeping tinted water from seeping into the region's clear water reserves; and,
- 💧 Cost reductions from energy savings and other credits, allowing for improvements to be implemented at no added cost to District customers.

Improvements are expected to be complete by mid-2012. For more information, please call Mesa Consolidated Water District's Communications Department at (949) 631-1201 or visit [www.MesaWater.org](http://www.MesaWater.org).



*Dedicated to satisfying our community's water needs*

# District Spotlight

## AAA Bond Rating Saves Money for Mesa Consolidated Water District Customers

Mesa Consolidated Water District has become one of a small number of water districts in Orange County, and the U.S., to achieve an AAA bond rating from Fitch Ratings and Standard & Poor's. Fitch rated all of the District's bonds at AAA; and, Standard & Poor's gave the District an AAA rating on its outstanding senior debt -- which was refinanced in 2009 -- and an AA+ rating on the District's upcoming issuance.



The AAA and AA+ bond ratings are among the highest available from the rating agencies. These ratings will save money for Mesa Consolidated Water District customers in the coming years by enabling the District to finance future water infrastructure improvements at lower interest rates, thus reducing costs while increasing the District's service reliability.

Mesa Consolidated Water District has one of the lowest staff-to-customer ratios in Orange County, and the District recently refinanced its debt to save customers over \$1 million. The new rating accomplishments reflect the Mesa Consolidated Water District Board of Director's fiscal responsibility to ratepayers, as well as the District's secure financial position, based on its operational stability and its low overhead costs and debt.

# Serving the Community

## Mesa Consolidated Water District Booth at 15th Annual Children's Water Education Festival

The annual Children's Water Education Festival makes learning about water and the environment fun for local fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-grade students. On March 23 and 24, 2011, nearly 6,000 Orange County students from 70 public and private schools will attend this event at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum in Yorba Linda.

Mesa Consolidated Water District has been




involved in the annual Festival since it launched in 1997, and will again have an activity booth with giveaways and information for students at this event. Teachers can register their classes for the event at [www.ChildrenWaterFestival.com](http://www.ChildrenWaterFestival.com). Transportation assistance is also available. More than 80,000 students have attended the event since its beginning.




# Supporting Education


## Educating Tomorrow's Water Stewards

Since 2004, the regional Water Education School Program annually teaches thousands of local students in the District's service area about water issues and conservation in a motivational and standards-based format. Applications are now being accepted for schools interested in a free presentation to students about the topics listed below:

-  Kindergarten: Three forms of water; Evaporation
-  1st Grade: Three forms of water; Thermometers; Sun as a heat source
-  2nd Grade: Types and properties of soil; Water as a resource

-  3rd Grade: Three forms of water; Heat energy of the Sun; Geophysical features

-  4th Grade: Ecosystems; Flow of water

-  5th Grade: Water cycle; Sources of water; Origin of local community water

This program is a joint effort between the Discovery Science Center and the Municipal Water District of Orange County, which provides added water to Mesa Consolidated Water District. To register your school for a presentation, please call (714) 263-3806 or email [ajacobson@discoverycube.org](mailto:ajacobson@discoverycube.org).



## Board of Directors

Fred Bockmiller  
President  
Division I

James F. Atkinson  
First Vice President  
Division IV

Shawn Dewane  
Vice President  
Division V

James Fisler  
Vice President  
Division II

Trudy Ohlig-Hall  
Vice President  
Division III

Paul E. Shoenberger, P.E.  
General Manager

## 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: Mesa Consolidated Water District Communications Department 1965 Placentia Avenue Costa Mesa, CA 92627 call (949) 631-1201 or visit [www.MesaWater.org](http://www.MesaWater.org)

