

## Hot Water News

### 5th Grade Students Learn the Value of Water

Mesa Water® continues to offer Water Education Assemblies to 5th-grade classrooms in its service area in the 2015-2016 school year. Principals, teachers, and parents are encouraged to work together to bring this valuable program to your students. Assemblies are taught by instructors from the Discovery Cube on the school's campus, which must be within Mesa Water's service area. Assemblies are offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Call the program scheduler at 714.263.3806 to arrange your 5th-grade assembly. More information is at [MesaWater.org/education](http://MesaWater.org/education).

## Fresh Water Facts

### We Love Safety!

Mesa Water District recently surpassed 730 days of good, hard work without experiencing a lost time accident. That's two years of maintaining and repairing the water delivery system without losing staff time to accidents. The District's safety strategy is simple: to keep safety at the top of its priority list, regularly train employees, and emphasize an environment in which safety practices are discussed and exercised daily. This practice has kept staff safe and healthy, improved efficiencies, and rewarded the District with \$67,000 in savings on its insurance premiums. Follow @MesaWater on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter for updates.

## Continued Conservation is Necessary

Mesa Water's customers are on track for achieving the State-mandated 20 percent water use reduction through February. Hundreds of thousands of square feet of lawn have been removed and replaced with drought-tolerant landscaping, and most of the service area is abiding by the 2-days-a-week watering schedule. Water use is down, and Mesa Water® and its customers are helping to save precious drinking water resources during the drought.

Outreach has been a significant tool in increasing efficiency and reducing residential and commercial water use. Mesa Water® has invested in multiple outreach methods, including mailing postcards to each customer, increasing staff presence in the community, and communicating the 2-days-a-week watering schedule through the *Mesa Water Saver* campaign with vehicle magnets, videos, billboards, online advertisements, news stories, social media, and more.



Customers have varying water needs, and Mesa Water's emergency conservation ordinance requires ongoing outdoor conservation as the most effective means of reaching the State's drought emergency goals. Through the *Mesa Water Saver* campaign, the District has made it easier for residents and visitors to be aware of the rules, make necessary changes, and save water.

Drought emergency rules remain in effect until further notice. To make lasting changes and improve water efficiency at your property, rebates are available to offset some of the costs associated with replacing water-wasting appliances and devices. Turf removal rebates may become available again. Visit [MesaWater.org/rebates](http://MesaWater.org/rebates) for updated information.

Participation in social media campaigns has been effective through #MesaWaterSaver and #KeepSavingCA. Be sure to share your water conservation success on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram with the hashtags above.

Keep up the great efforts, Mesa Water® customers! Together, we are making a difference. Visit [MesaWaterSaver.org](http://MesaWaterSaver.org) for more information.

## Conservation Corner

### Save Money Saving Water

Water is often lost through leaky or outdated appliances and devices. By updating residential and commercial equipment, property owners and tenants can achieve their water-efficiency goals and reduce overall water consumption. Rebates are available to help offset the costs of water efficiency improvements. Products eligible for rebates are available at [MesaWater.org/rebates](http://MesaWater.org/rebates). When pursuing a rebate for your new device or equipment, it's best to review the list of eligible products prior to making a purchase. Some products require prior approval. Examples of water-efficient products eligible for a rebate include:



- High Efficiency Clothes Washer
- High Efficiency Toilet
- Rain Barrel
- Rotating Sprinkler Nozzle
- Soil Moisture Sensor System
- Turf Removal
- Weather Based Irrigation Controller (aka "Smart Timer")

Rebates have limited availability and are considered on a first-come, first-served basis. Funding for this program is provided by Mesa Water District, the Municipal Water District of Orange County, and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

## Local Water Supplies

### Survey Shows Support for Desalination

Mesa Water® recently surveyed, by random sample, a portion of its service area regarding ocean desalination. The study included questions pertaining to the general concept of desalination, and specific questions about support for the proposed Huntington Beach plant. One of the District's strategic plan goals is to be active in regional water issues, including increasing awareness and demonstrating industry leadership. Countywide, there are 31 water providers, including special districts and cities that supply drinking water to nearly 3 million Orange County residents. The District engages regionally

to ensure its customers are represented in the context of providing safe, local, reliable, and cost-effective water supplies. The survey results posted at [MesaWater.org/desal-survey](http://MesaWater.org/desal-survey), showed that 70 percent of Mesa Water's customers support ocean desalination at the Huntington Beach location and would be willing to pay an additional \$89 a year for local, reliable water.



## Employee Excellence

### Operations Welcomes New Team Members

**Dustin Burnside** is an Operations Supervisor with more than 15 years of experience in water production, distribution, and collection, previously with the City of Newport Beach. Dustin holds several certifications, including Water Distribution Operator Grade IV, Water Treatment Operator Grade II, and AWWA Backflow Prevention Device Tester, among others. His duties include identifying and implementing Capital Improvement repairs, water supply production, and directing crews in the safe excavation, repair, upgrades, and maintenance of Mesa Water's distribution systems.

Distribution Operator Grade III and Water Treatment Operator Grade II certifications. Bryan joined Mesa Water® in March as Water Maintenance Worker II and was promoted based on his demonstrated abilities and experience.



**Richard Guzman** is a Maintenance Worker I with 5 years of experience with the County of Los Angeles. He holds a Water Distribution Operator Grade II certification and previously served in the U.S. Army.

**Bryan Tyson** is a Crew Leader with 6 years of experience in the water industry, and holds Water

Please join us in welcoming these excellent employees to Mesa Water®.



## 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](mailto:info@MesaWater.org)

[MesaWater.org](http://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.