

Mesa Consolidated Water District (Mesa Water) Water District News

Volume 26, Number 2
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www.MesaWater.org

Hot Water News

Calling All Garden Enthusiasts!

Join Mesa Water at the 23rd Annual Spring Garden Show, April 26-29, at South Coast Plaza. Learn more about Mesa Water and get unique items for your garden from over 75 specialty vendors offering exotic plants and various garden accessories. Also, the show's seminars and landscape exhibits feature creative gardening ideas. Bring your recent Mesa Water bill to our booth to receive a complimentary water-wise kit with water-saving items for your home (while supplies last). For more information, visit www.MesaWater.org, email info@MesaWater.org, or call (949) 631-1201.

Fresh Water Facts

Survey Says...

Mesa Water is continually looking for ways to improve our service to you. To get better, we have retained a professional survey firm to contact our water users and ask your thoughts about Mesa Water, our programs and services, and general water-related issues. If you receive a call this spring from a survey representative, Mesa Water thanks you for your participation. We will report on the survey results later this year. For more information, please email info@MesaWater.org or call (949) 631-1201.

Recent Study Shows Mesa Water Is One Of Orange County's Most Efficient Water Districts

Study Uses Total Annual Water District Expenditures Per Capita To Measure Operational Efficiency

The Mesa Consolidated Water District (Mesa Water) Board of Directors commissioned [Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc.](http://www.Raftelis.com) (RFC) to study the "true cost of water" and to develop a standard for measuring the operational efficiency of Orange County water districts. Raftelis analyzed 10 Orange County water districts' 2009 revenues and expenditures, and compared each district's service area population.

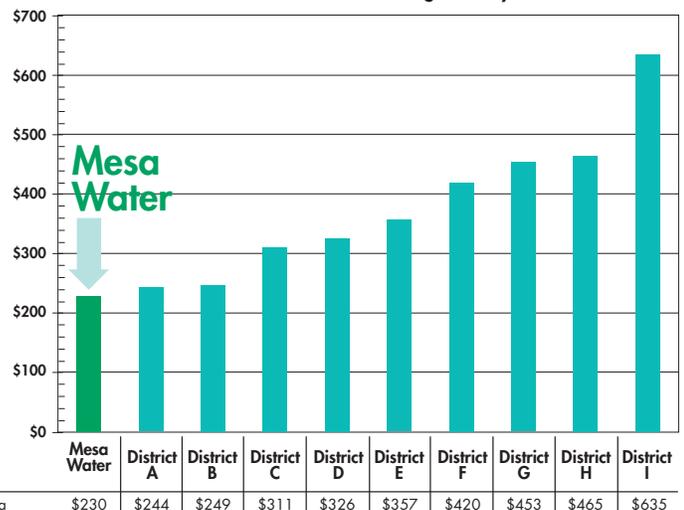
RFC reported that water rate comparisons are an inferior indicator of operational efficiency due to water districts' differing revenue sources. For example, many Orange County water districts -- but not Mesa Water -- receive substantial revenue from property tax, assessment fees or other fees paid by their ratepayers, which offsets water costs and subsidizes water rates.

Unlike most other Orange County water districts, Mesa Water receives no property tax income; 94 percent of Mesa Water's revenue comes from rates paid to the District by its customers. RFC's study further found that a water district's total annual per capita* expenditure is a better measure of operational efficiency. Mesa Water's total 2009 expenditure was \$230 per capita in its service area, making it one of the most efficient water districts in Orange County according to this measurement (see graph).

The study concluded that, if water rates make up a higher percentage of a district's revenues, then: 1) the rates better represent the "true cost of water," and 2) the rates have a stronger impact on educating customers about water's real value and may better promote customers' water use efficiency.

For more information about the RFC Water Cost Comparison Study, and its follow-up Conservation Overlay Study, go to www.MesaWater.org - click "Operational Efficiency" under the "About Mesa Water" tab.

FY 2009 Comparisons for Total Expenditures per Capita
Water Districts in Orange County



*Per capita = Population, or total water users, for a water district's service area

Dedicated to Satisfying our Community's Water Needs

High-Quality H₂O

Mesa Water Provides High-Quality Tap Water

Mesa Water's top priority is to provide you with safe and reliable tap water. Tested over 30,000 times annually, Mesa Water's water meets or surpasses all state and federal standards as regulated by the California Department of Public Health and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Our water quality department thoroughly and stringently tests Mesa Water's water at the source, during and after treatment, and again in our District's neighborhoods. Our water is tested for 238 different constituents since 2005 -- about

double the required 122 -- to make certain that the water you receive from us is high-quality and safe.

To read Mesa Water's water quality report, updated annually and distributed each July, go to www.MesaWater.org/water_quality.php. For more information about the District's water quality, click the "water quality" tab at the top of our home page at www.MesaWater.org, email info@MesaWater.org, or call (949) 574-1031.



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Board Meetings

Mesa Water's Board meets on the second Tuesday and 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 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
Communications Department
1965 Placentia Avenue
Costa Mesa, CA 92627
P (949) 631-1201
F (949) 574-1036
info@MesaWater.org

www.MesaWater.org

**After Hours
Emergency Phone:**
(949) 631-1200



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Community Commitment

Mesa Water Sponsors Costa Mesa Community Run

Join us at the 5th annual Costa Mesa Community Run and Family Expo on April 27 (Expo) and April 28 (Run) at Estancia High School and Fairview Park. Mesa Water is the exclusive sponsor for the Run, which raises funds for education with net proceeds benefiting Costa Mesa schools in the Newport-Mesa Unified School District.

During both events, visit Mesa Water's booth where our Directors and staff will answer your water questions and provide information. Also, bring your most recent Mesa Water bill to our booth for a chance to:

-  Fill your water bottle with pure Mesa Water water;
-  Receive water-saving items for your home (while supplies last); and,
-  Sign up to enter Mesa Water's drawing for a valuable water-wise prize!

To register for the Run, go to the "Public Information" tab at www.MesaWater.org and click "Community Outreach." For more information, email info@MesaWater.org or call (949) 631-1201.



Employee Excellence

Manning's Expertise Ensures Excellent Water

Mesa Water customers enjoy safe, high-quality water thanks to our Water Quality Coordinator, Tracy Manning, who facilitates the District's water testing and monitoring, and reports on its quality to regulatory agencies.

Administration with an emphasis in public works administration from California State University, Long Beach.



Tracy holds a D-5 certificate, California's highest water distribution certification, and a T-4 certificate, California's highest level of water treatment certification available for Mesa Water's technology. Both certificates require extensive training and completing state exams, as well as yearly continuing education.

Tracy oversees Mesa Water's 30,000 water quality tests per year, ensuring that we provide you with safe, clean water.

In her spare time, Tracy enjoys sailing, kayaking, and snowboarding...and her favorite Costa Mesa activity is enjoying a night of theater at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts. Mesa Water merits Tracy for ensuring that the District's tap water meets or surpasses all state and federal standards—thanks Tracy!

Tracy joined Mesa Water in 1994. While working full-time, she earned her master's degree in Public