

# News from the GM

## MARIANA RANCHOS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- This month's Regular Board meeting is Friday, December 14th at 8:00 a.m.
- New rates are currently in effect. Please check your bill.
- Please call the office with any questions or to receive financial assistance with your bill.

### HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Well we have survived another Thanksgiving. I hope this time found you surrounded by family and friends as you gave thanks for the past year. I know we sure did. It's hard to imagine that the ball didn't drop in Times Square just last week. Where has the time gone?

The District had a very productive year in 2012. We accomplished many goals that were set when I arrived in 2007. That's right, I am starting my sixth year with you folks. And I still look forward to every day. I can't tell you how rewarding it is when you stop me on the street or come into the office to let me know what you think. We even had a young lady come to our 8:00am meeting on the 9th just to say "Hello", and see how things were going. You folks make this position worthwhile. It changes everyday! But I digress, back to the accomplishments in the district.

We now have earthquake resistant couplers installed on our main storage tanks on Sagebrush road, along with retention ponds to catch any overflow. An aging 10" main line valve was replaced to ensure that we could adequately shut down the Sagebrush transmission line.

Our Board secured contracts with a tank management company that will ensure our three tanks will last almost indefinitely! And the list goes on and on and on.

Your Board of Directors and office staff have worked hard this year to ensure the water that flows from your tap is of the safest and highest quality we can manage with our aging system. We look to 2013 as another year of promise for the district. Our CIP is well under way and being financed nicely by our latest rate structure. All of the projects that were completed in 2012 were paid for in cash from the CIP. The District did not finance a single item! With our tank loan debt dwindling year by year, we will make our last payment and be totally debt free in 2017!

I would like to take this time to thank you for your continued support in our past and future projects. We've come a long way in the last five years. I don't believe we could have accomplished as much as we have without the participation of many of you - And you know who you are. The list is too long to place here. Thanks! Our next five years together will be even brighter!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you out there in the district. I look forward to seeing many, if not all, of you in 2013!

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Happy Holidays	1
November Agenda Actions	2
December Agenda Items	2
Water District Maintenance	2
Contact Information	2
Phone Numbers	2



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Office Hours: 8:30a.m.-1:30p.m. M-F

**Agenda Items from the November Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors.**

Annual review of the General Manager and his salary.

Discussion on the CIP progression with SEMS.

Update on Service connection changes to three customer accounts.

**Agenda Items (some) for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors**

**Friday, December 14th, 2012 @ 8:00 a.m.**

Re-visit the Allegre Vista Booster Project

Discussion about a customer account on Ocotillo way

Review of the Retention program

The agendas for these meetings are always available online at our website. You can view them 1 day in advance for a Special meeting and 3 days in advance for a Regular meeting.

**W A T E R D I S T R I C T M A I N T E N A N C E**

I would like to continue our Winterization program this month. With the first hard freeze already behind us, we have already had problems. One of the biggest was a frozen swamp cooler line on a roof. There were sheets of ice on this customer's roof! Please turn off the water to all swamp coolers! It's a terrible waste. If you or someone you know here in the District is having challenges trying to winterize their outside pipes and hose bibs, please call. We can fit you into our work schedule while we are out in your neighborhood. Believe me, I would much rather spend ten or fifteen minutes wrapping up a pipe or faucet now, than to have to shut off your water (and possibly your neighbors) while you wait hours for a repair. And plumbers aren't cheap! So give us a call, We're here to help!

I'd also like to ask you folks to be extra diligent this year watching out for leaks. The cold snap that's coming will be a good one. So if you see a leak, or find water on a road, and it hasn't rained for awhile, please call. The freezing of the first couple of inches of top-soil will help draw some of our leaks up to the surface. This will enable us to further tighten up our water loss numbers. Every drop we can save now will be a drop we don't have to pay for later.

BTW, on the saving water note...Please reach around and pat yourselves on the back! You saved an additional 8.58 acre feet of water from last year. That means 373,744 gallons of water that we don't have to pay for! In addition, over the last five years you have reduced the District's usage by 104.31 acre feet! That's 4,543,743 gallons!

***"The mission of the Mariana Ranchos County Water District is to efficiently serve our customers with the highest quality water, 24/7."***