

News from the GM

MARIANA RANCHOS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

NEW RATES & FEES

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- This month's Regular Board meeting is Tuesday, May 8th at 12:00 p.m.
- New rates are currently in effect. They begin this month.
- Please call the office with any questions or to receive financial assistance with your bill.

Our new rates can be considered "Pay as you go". You can choose how much you would like to pay over the base. I'll use a similar example from last month's newsletter: Your old rate: \$43.00 for 1000 cu.ft. Your new rate will be \$54.50 if you used the same amount of water. Over 250 customers during February and March didn't stay the same. They all used less than 900 cu.ft., so their bills would have been even less. The new rates work like this:

- \$32.00 minimum for 0 cubic feet (cu. ft.)
- \$ 2.20 per unit for 0-900 cu. ft.
- \$ 2.70 per unit for 1000-1900 cu. ft.
- \$ 3.00 per unit for 2000-2900 cu. ft.
- \$ 3.30 per unit for 3000-3900 cu. ft.
- \$ 4.40 per unit for 4000 cu. ft. and above.

Please remember, this rate structure helps our fixed income and retired folks, while still encouraging conservation. Use what you want, pay for what you use. Isn't that fair?

Second, the Security Charge is back. By continuing this very simple charge, we can once again start our Hydrant protection program. When it's completed at the end of next year we will start paying off the security cameras we need to install at both of your remote tank sites. This small charge of \$2.50 per account, per month goes a long, long way to promoting safety and security here in our district.

Lastly, the fees for unused and undeveloped service connections are back as well. These small charges will help offset the District's liability of maintaining them. The largest charge is for empty homes or undeveloped property that have a service connection installed. The rate is 50% of the current base rate. The last charge is for multiple service connections. If you have two or more service connections listed under the **same owner**, you will only pay 25% of the base rate for each of the additional connections. These amounts will definitely help our current situation with the CIP program. By upgrading and maintaining our system we can ensure it will last for many years to come.

OFFICE CLOSURES FOR THIS MONTH

The office will no longer be closed during the 3rd week of the month. In the past, this has been financially beneficial to the District. But seeing how we still accept calls and receive payments during that week, I feel the District will be better served by dropping it all together. Please call, email or drop by the office; let me know what you think about the change.

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EMERGENCY AND AFTER HOURS
PLEASE CALL 760-912-9400



**M A R I A N A R A N C H O S
C O U N T Y W A T E R
D I S T R I C T**

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Agenda Items from the April Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

LAFCO Election for a Regular Member was directed to the GM since the Board deadlocked on their vote .

It was approved to have Vice-President Rayburn's son come in to explain Qa/Qc procedures to the Board of Directors at a future meeting.

Corrections to the January 26th meeting minutes were approved.

Agenda Items from the April Special Meeting of the Board of Directors

A special meeting was held on April 24th to discuss the Districts "Teleconferencing rules". The Board removed a majority of the requirements passed in February with a new Resolution.

**Agenda Items (some) for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Tuesday, May 8th, 2012 @ 12:00 p.m.**

Discuss and Approve changing the number of holidays the District recognizes.

Updates on the CIP program and future projects.

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

In the coming months you will see the crews out again exercising the street valves. We do this every year to keep the valves that are buried under the ground in good condition. That way we can use them to isolate certain affected areas of the District during emergencies or repairs. By doing this, we keep disruptions in our service to as few customers as possible. When we are accomplishing these tasks, it puts my folks in the middle of intersections and closer to the side of the road. Please look out for them. If possible give them a wide berth. When they know you are there, it's safer for all concerned.

We are also well into the location of unidentified lines and mains, so don't be surprised if you see us "potholing" (digging numerous small holes like a ground squirrel) all over the place this year. We actually locate the line, dig down and measure its size. Then we annotate what the line is made of. i.e. transite, pvc or steel.

We have a new field technician in training this month. If you get a chance, say "Hi" to Matt. Unfortunately, Sal is no longer with the District.

As always, if you have a question or a problem...please call, email or better yet, drop by and visit with us about it. I'll make sure that you are taken care of.

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