

News from the GM

MARIANA RANCHOS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

DISTRICT NEWS

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- This month's Regular Board meeting is Thursday, July 19th at 4:00 p.m.
- **PLEASE UPDATE YOUR PHONE NUMBERS!!!** We need to be able to reach you!
- Please call the office with any questions or to receive financial assistance with your bill.

Well the HEAT is on! Summer is finally here again. We are definitely seeing the water usage increase when I check the tanks every morning.

I have found another class for you folks. The City of Victorville is hosting a "Plants, Trees & Shrubs" class on June 30th, 2018. It starts at 8:00 am and runs till 10:00. The address is 14343 Civic Drive, Victorville. You can contact Donna McCormick at 760-955-2016 to reserve a seat. Space is limited, so call early! This class is going to cover California native drought-tolerant plants, characteristics of popular trees & shrubs, rare dry climate plants, plant size and spacing along with growth rate and hardiness. This class will help you to create a drought-tolerant sustainable landscape that still looks beautiful. These classes have really been a big help up here in the high desert. Just take a look at the back of this newsletter. When we compare our usage from May 2013 you can see a drastic 11.69% decrease in the total gallons used. That's all you folks. Thanks in a big way for all your conservation!

Lastly, Thank you so much for your input on the fencing at the office. The resounding response was "No Way", "Don't spend the money". Which is completely understandable. This is exactly why the Board asked for your input on this delicate matter. I wanted to let you know that we are working with the folks concerned and hope to have a resolution in the coming months. The Board meets tomorrow to go over this item again, I would expect them to table or completely drop the idea. But as you know, I don't speak for the Board!

Exciting things are coming in the next few months. We are working closely with our partners at Mojave Water Agency and California Rural Water on some Technical Assistance programs that include, GIS mapping, Leak Detection and we are going to have a complete Rate Study performed. All of these services are made possible by grants through the State as well as some Federal monies. Our hats off to Mojave Water Agency for choosing to partner with California Rural Water. They have been providing us with excellent training and continuing education units since last year. These classes normally cost \$200.00 to \$300.00 each. Now, this partnership allows us to take them for free. And you all know my philosophy, you can never have too much training. Mike and I try and take every class they provide. We always walk away with at least one new idea or item we can implement to make our water better here in the Marianas. Questions? Call, come by or drop me an email. Take Care Folks.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| District News | 1 |
| Information | 2 |
| Mission Statement | 2 |
| District Water Usage | 2 |
| Water District Maintenance | 2 |
| Phone Numbers | 2 |

OFFICE CLOSURES FOR THIS MONTH

This month the office will be closed during the week of the 23rd thru the 27th. This allows the District to continue training during the hours the office is normally open. Please call the number listed below for all emergencies .

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

James Hansen
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Alice Funderburk
Office Assistant

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

The opinions expressed belong to the General Manager and may not reflect those of the Board.

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

For the month of May

| 2013 Usage | 2018 Usage |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 680,700 cubic feet | 601,100 cubic feet |
| 5,091,636 Gallons | 4,496,228 Gallons |
| Fantastic! 😄 | 11.69% Decrease |

www.mrcwd.org

Agendas for meetings of the MRCWD Board of Directors 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

We will soon be replacing many of the problem lines out in the East end. Our water main treatment program has helped us to identify the worst areas of the District, places where the lines are the oldest and most susceptible to this kind of problem. They will be replaced first. Then we will begin the process of updating most of the antiquated steel lines that we have left in the District. This will also include the associated street valves and service connections on those lines. Your continued support (and contributions) to the District’s Capital Improvement Plan are going to pay off in spades. Having the necessary cash on hand will allow us to perform the rehabilitation of lines, valves and service connections in-house, in an effort to keep our costs at a minimum. This allows us to complete these drastic renovations on our old creaky system and still remain absolutely debt free! No loans will be necessary for this massive undertaking. Your support and continued contributions, along with the guiding hands of the many Directors, past and present, have made this happen. Pat yourselves on the back people. We did it!

This is not really a maintenance item, but it fits well with the paragraph above. The District will be depleting part of our Capital Improvement Fund with all the updates and replacements we will have going on through the fall. Our next task is to find a good way to replace it. The current Board of Directors have not approved a rate increase since January of 2016. This is one of the many reasons for the “Rate Study” we talked about on the front page. It will give us an accurate picture of what we are charging and what we should be charging for our water. With the proposed taxes, and reductions on the amount you can pump and use on the horizon, California is not a very water friendly state. It is going to make the water business a very tricky endeavor. Here is my promise to you; I will look at the study, take all of our unique desert attributes into account, do all the research necessary to form a common sense approach, and then present a viable rate to the Directors for their consideration. This rate will be fair to you, as well as the District. We must ensure that the longevity of MRCWD is assured in these troubled times. I’ll see you out there.