

# News from the GM

## MARIANA RANCHOS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

### DISTRICT NEWS

#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- This month's Regular Board meeting is Thursday, October 18th 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.

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Happy October Folks, get out your candy and costumes, the kids are coming soon!

#### URGENT—ALERT – URGENT– ALERT— URGENT—ALERT – URGENT– ALERT— URGENT

Mike McHenry, one of our past (and better) Board members asked me to let you all know about the proposed expansion of Service Zone FP-5 by the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District. This expansion will place an additional \$157.26, with a maximum 3% annual cost of living increase on your property tax bill every year. This will be in addition to the \$130.00 the State is stealing every year for their fire coverage. I don't know how you feel about it, but as for my family, almost \$300.00 in taxes is getting to be enough is enough. You can go to the following website <https://www.sbcfire.org/ServiceZoneFP-5.aspx> to get more information about this plan. You can also find the necessary forms to protest this tax if you are so inclined. We will also have copies of the protest letter available at the office if you would like one. You have until October 15th to MAIL in your protest letter. You can only mail them in, no emails or faxes are allowed. Just thought you might like to know.

Great news for us here in the Marianas. The Rate Study is almost finalized! I received a draft copy of it last week and it looks great. They definitely went through every nook and cranny that we had here in the District. As promised, I am reviewing every inch of the document, and started the Board Members talking about it at the regular Board meeting held on the 20th of September. They all have such great ideas about how to proceed with this much information. They also want to hear your ideas, and get your input on the future of MRCWD. To do this, they have asked me to set up two meetings just for our customers and landowners throughout the District. Saturday, October 27th at 10:00am and Monday, October 29th at 7:00pm will be for open and honest discussion about our future, our plans and most importantly our restructuring of rates and fees throughout the District in order to accomplish our goals. The Rate Study has made some pretty specific suggestions to modify the way we are currently doing things. For example, we charge the same rate for 3/4" and 1" meters. This is a no-no as it places an undue burden on the 3/4" ratepayer, they are actually subsidizing the 1" ratepayer. So this must be addressed very soon. They have also recommended that we go from a five tier system to a four tier system when billing for consumption or actual usage. This will make billing easier to calculate and allow for a broader usage area in the third tier while still catching abusers and over users in the fourth tier. Remember folks, we who live in the desert are constantly under some form of DROUGHT. Now that the rest of the state has figured out they are as well, more restrictions and usage conditions are coming. (continued on back)

#### OFFICE CLOSURES FOR THIS MONTH

This month the office will be closed during the week of the 22nd thru the 26th. This allows the District to complete billing during the hours the office is normally open.

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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Alice Funderburk  
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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 August

2013 Usage	2018 Usage
775,443 cubic feet	802,600 cubic feet
5,800,313 Gallons	6,003,448 Gallons
Not So Good! 🤔	3.39% Increase

[www.mrcwd.org](http://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

Did you hear the one about 55 gallons per day per person? You will. We are trying to get clarification for you now. We will definitely keep you in the loop on that one. All in all these changes will be good for the District and it's long term plan for success. With all the Assembly and Senate bills popping out of Sacramento lately, we are having a hard time staying abreast of what we are now required to do. From forced taxes, to voluntary taxes, to forced consolidations of Districts and Companies (whether private, public or mutual) there is a never ending stream of do-gooders and well intentioned people who are trying to force the “One Size Fits All” scenario down the throats of hard working people like you that only want to pay their fair share and get on with their lives.

Please try and attend one or both of these meetings. You can also attend the regular meeting on the 18th as well. Come and talk with the Board, find out what is happening in the world of water, and more importantly what is happening in your world of water. Find out about the challenges that we are facing in an effort to provide clean safe drinking water, at an affordable price! Tell your Board members what they should be doing and how you want it done. By not hearing from you, they can only assume that you are happy with their decisions and the way things have been going. They will continue down that same path, always looking out for the best interests of the District. They are planning 5, 10 and even 20 years out! It's a big job.

By the way, I forgot to mention earlier that I will be posting a full and complete copy of the Rate Study on our website as soon as the finalized copy becomes available. I encourage you to pour over it and jot down questions that you can use at the above mentioned meetings. The Board will be discussing changes to our rates and fees. This is inevitable for our survival in these times. These rates and fees will be fair to you, and will help us to not only recover our Capital Improvement expenditures over the next five years but will keep us competitive in these times of forced consolidations and takeovers of smaller water providers. Big Brother is watching. He is taking action as well! We must ensure that the longevity of MRCWD is assured!