

News from the GM

MARIANA RANCHOS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

DISTRICT NEWS

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- This month's Regular Board meeting is being held February 21st 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.

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

Water tax proponents have proposed a new twist to the water tax issue. Let's get our newly elected Governor to include this tax in his proposed budget for California. That way we can sneak it through the process and no one will be the wiser. Every time it sees the light of day it's ridiculed, shot down and not forgotten, this tax will just not go away! We have talked about this in past newsletters, each by a different name or action. The latest request comes from the Governor himself, with no real explanation of how it works, or how it will be implemented. It has had quite a few forms. The original was mandatory, you had no choice. The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Organization was able to quash that version. Then they tried a Budget Trailer Bill, it failed. Then it morphed to SB 845 which would require more than 3,000 community water systems to add a voluntary remittance with an opt-out feature to the local water bills of California families and businesses. These voluntary remittances would all go to the State Water Resources Control Board to help fund a new Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund. While well-intended, this last-minute proposal is highly problematic. When SB 845 failed due to sunlight being cast upon it, they tried another Budget Trailer Bill. Even outgoing Governor Brown wouldn't sign it. Now it's back again.

Please cut out the box below. It has two phone numbers in it. These are your elected representatives here in Southern California. Please take some time every couple of days to call these numbers and let them know that there are better ways to accomplish this goal. Adding further taxes to what little we bring home in wages doesn't help us as voters. We already pay so much in California and receive so little in return.

Check out websites like <https://www.acwa.com/our-work/delivering-safe-drinking-water/no-water-tax/> (a link is also posted on our website). Here you can find excellent discussions on alternatives to this tax. We already have the ability to help, why take on a new tax?

If the California elite want to help, then let them add it as a voluntary check box on the California Form 540 (income tax) as an elective. Don't force us to subsidize mishandling and further operations of systems that we will never see or even benefit from. Yes water is a Right in California, But, We have Right's too!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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

Sen Shannon Grove (916) 651-4016
Assy Jay Obernolte (916) 319-2033

OFFICE CLOSURES FOR THIS MONTH

This month the office will be closed during the week of the 18th thru the 22nd. 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

James Hansen
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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 December

2013 Usage	2018 Usage
374,300 cubic feet	369,600 cubic feet
2,799,764 Gallons	2,764,608 Gallons
Great! 😄	12.56% 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

You will see the results of our new rates in your January Water Billing Statement which you received with this newsletter. This was the culmination of some very hard work by your Board of Directors and the staff here at MRCWD. I would like to thank all those customers that gave valuable input during the process. Your questions and comments really helped the Board as they cast their final votes in December. As always, your input is requested, and needed on crucial items such as these.

The new rates will be applied to your usage from the month of January, as the new structure became effective January 1st, 2019. It includes changes to the “Variable Commodity Charge” tiers; they are reduced from five to four, and a separation of rates for 3/4”, 1” and 1 1/2” meters under the “Service or Base Rate Charge”.

After that, the rates for the “Service or Base Rate Charge” and the “Variable Commodity Charge” will automatically increase on January 1st of every year for the next four years. By going on autopilot over these five years, you can know exactly what to expect on your water statement each month. I will leave the Rate Study and the Prop 218 notice up on the website under the “Rates & Fees & Rules” tab. This will allow you to go to the website every December and see what the January increase will be. But, as always, we are here to help. All your questions, concerns and challenges can be resolved right here, with me.

I wanted to remind all the good folks of the Marianas about our bounty system again. With the cold weather and freezing already here, we are starting to see more leaks around the District. Be the first person to call the office, or myself at 760-912-9400 (24 hours a day), to report water on the roadway, or a broken line, and you will receive a \$10.00 credit on your water bill. Be the first to call about someone hooked up to, or tampering with a fire hydrant, along with information about the truck or trailer, and receive a whopping \$50.00 credit for reporting water theft! With all of you out there acting as my eyes and ears, I know we can't fail.