

# News from the GM

## MARIANA RANCHOS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

### DISTRICT NEWS

#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- This month's Regular Board meeting is being held January 17th 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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Welcome to January. Happy New Year folks! I hope you had a wonderful holiday season surrounded by friends and family. I also hope you got all the gifts you wanted as well!

It's finally over! After almost six months of research, providing information, rate studies, financial planning and cost of service surveys; we are done. Your Board met on the 20th and overwhelmingly approved the new rate restructuring for MRCWD. This will ensure our solvency and allow us to update our aging infrastructure for the next FIVE years. By implementing this structure over the coming years, your Board has demonstrated the necessary vision to carry out our master plans. They have also created a fair and equitable rate for you, our loyal customers. We can ease into this transition with modest increases in your monthly bills that won't break your wallet. By doing it this way, over the five years, we can accomplish what the Rate Study recommended, in baby steps. Ultimately, we both win. The District and the customers! It will also help to facilitate our transition into one inch meters for all customers of the MRCWD. This will bring us more inline with Fire Flows and Safety as required by the State and County agencies. It will also bring better service flows to you our valued customers. By implementing the one inch change now, we can soften the blow of increased rates. If you look at the Proposition 218 Notice on the website you can see the difference that a one inch meter along with 2000 cubic feet of usage will make. The difference is \$6.44 per month. If we wait two or even three years to implement the one inch meter plan, the sticker shock of base rates will be enough to hurt our average customer. So as always, your Board of Directors spent countless hours looking at an equitable plan that would serve the District. I personally think they have done an outstanding job! Lot's of discussion, debate, blood, sweat and tears. Speaking of discussion, our final meeting for the customers was held on December 11th at 7:00pm. Not a very big turnout, but lots of good questions. By the end of the meeting everyone was quite satisfied about the new rate structure.

You will see the results of our new rates in your January Water Billing Statement which you should receive by the first of February. The new rates will be applied to your usage from the month of January, as the new structure becomes effective January 1st, 2019. Then 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.

#### OFFICE CLOSURES FOR THIS MONTH

This month the office will be closed during the week of the 21st thru the 25th. 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  
General Manager

Alice Funderburk  
Office Assistant

Michael Sweitzer  
Jessy Francis  
Field Technicians

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Phone: 760-247-9405

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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 November

2013 Usage	2018 Usage
383,600 cubic feet	518,300 cubic feet
2,869,328 Gallons	3,876,884 Gallons
Not So Good! 🤔	25.99% 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

The rains are HERE! And along with them will be the hard freezing for days at a time like last year. It's coming! That unenviable time when you found out a line wasn't drained or a pipe wasn't wrapped well. Let me take this time for a last call to remind you about our annual winterization program here in the District for our seniors and fixed income folks. If you have exposed lines, faucets or fixtures, we need to get them wrapped or covered up! Call the office to schedule an appointment with Alice. We will come out and walk your property to find any exposed items. We can then wrap and or cover these items to keep them safe for the winter. For the rest of you folks that aren't seniors or just need some help, you can also call the office to schedule an appointment. We will be happy to come out and help you to walk your property. By doing this, we can help you to identify areas of concern as well as recommend the correct materials to protect them this winter. We can also offer our assistance for the cost of the materials used. No charge for our labor will be involved. And, the cost of the materials that we use can be placed on your water bill for the following month! Please help us to conserve and protect our most precious resource. Call Alice today!

Here we are, going into winter again. It's time to roll back all your outside watering, sprinklers, drip systems etc. When you close them down, please try to turn off the system at the source. Right where it connects to the anti-siphon valve. Then you can go to the farthest, hopefully the lowest point of the system and open one of the bubblers, heads or sprayers and let the system fully drain. This will help to stop the breaking of components when it does freeze this winter, as well as help your pocket book next spring. You will have far fewer repairs if you can get all of the water out of the lines!

I wanted to remind all the good folks of the Marianas about our bounty system again. With the cold weather and freezing coming we will start 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.