

# News from the GM

## MARIANA RANCHOS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

### DISTRICT NEWS

**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

- This month's Regular Board meeting is being held June 20th at 4:00 p.m. Please call the office to confirm.
- **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. AB 217 (E. Garcia) has been amended again as of May 1st, 2019 to include a new version of a water tax. The bill is available at:

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201920200AB217](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB217)

The proposed water tax is on the last page of the bill. It is now referred to as a "system charge" instead of a "fee," but it would still be an unfair tax under California law. This proposal would have water districts and cities (and other public water systems) that purvey drinking water send the tax to the State Water Resources Control Board based on their number of connections. The tax dollars would go into a fund for drinking water solutions (e.g., in Tulare County and Salinas Valley). Because public water agencies must cover this cost, households (regardless of their income levels) and businesses that receive potable water from a public water agency would pay for this state water tax. AB 217 would be the precedent for future state water taxes. ACWA believes that there are better approaches that do not involve a water tax, such as SB 669 (Caballero) with the proposed Safe Drinking Water Trust.

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.

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

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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?

Your Board of Directors recently attended a morning training session and then held their monthly meeting. The question was posed as to why the Board meetings aren't held during normal business hours to help save money on resources used to conduct meetings during hours the office isn't normally open. So, the Board is thinking about going back to morning meetings since customer attendance has been zero in the afternoons. They are thinking of 9:00 or 10:00 am on the same third Thursday of every month. What do you think? Please call, email or just drop by and let me know what you think. I will pass on your comments to the Board at their next meeting in June.

**OFFICE CLOSURES FOR THIS MONTH**

This month the office will be closed during the week of the 17th thru the 21st. 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

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Jessy Francis  
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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 April

2013 Usage	2019 Usage
609,800 cubic feet	499,100 cubic feet
4,561,304 Gallons	3,733,268 Gallons
GREAT! 😄	18.15% Decrease

[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

Our new Rate Structure is working well. Most folks haven't really paid much attention to it. They will begin to catch on in the coming months. Our tracking has improved as well. When you log onto the website you will be able to see how you fare against the community based on meter size. Don't forget to look at your correct size, 3/4" or 1" as the case may be. Within the next five years we will all be 1", but for now there are more 3/4" meters out there.

We are continuing the swap out to 1" meters this month. As we spoke about before, all the meters involved in the East End Main Line Replacement project will be 1" radio read meters. We have also identified over 50 meters for immediate replacement to radio read that will help during our monthly reads. Now our field techs won't have to go onto private property, open fences and gates, be on the lookout for vicious dogs and dangerous areas. We can also omit areas where we need 4 wheel drive to get into. These kinds of changes will significantly reduce the District's liability exposures. It will also reduce the amount of time required to read our meters. Now the field techs can be more productive on other District projects, instead of riding around, jumping in and out of the Kubota every month. Good things are happening!

Speaking of the East End project. We have completed Flora Vista Street and have installed the new valve on Bella Vista Street. We will begin laying pipe in the coming weeks. This line is almost twice as long as our previous run, 1/2 mile in length. These improvements are just further proof of the excellent stewardship your Board of Directors are providing!