

News from the GM

MARIANA RANCHOS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

DISTRICT NEWS

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- This month's Regular Board meeting is being held May 15th at 10:30 a.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 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

The proposed water tax is at Page 20. The bill refers to it as a "fee," but it would be a 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.

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!

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

Elections are coming this Summer! We have two Board seats that are going to be on the ballot. Please contact Alice here at the office if you would like to "throw your hat" into the ring and help us shape MRCWD for another four years. Please call, get involved. See how you can help our District be the best it can be!

OFFICE CLOSURES FOR THIS MONTH

This month the office will be closed during the week of the 20th thru the 24th. This allows the District to complete billing during the hours the office is normally open.

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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 March

2013 Usage	2019 Usage
430,966 cubic feet	317,000 cubic feet
3,223,626 Gallons	2,371,160 Gallons
GREAT! 😄	26.44% 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

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!

I wanted to remind all the good folks of the Marianas about our bounty system again. The sheep are back! They are making their way west through our District. Please watch out for them using our hydrants for water. They illegally hook up their water trailers to our hydrants in an unsafe way that could cause contamination to our system. Be the first person to call the office, or myself at 760-912-9400 (24 hours a day), to report 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.