



EASTERN MUNICIPAL  
WATER DISTRICT

# **Report!**

## Board of Directors Summary for July 2, 2003

**Report!** is prepared by the Community Involvement Department for all interested individuals. This brief summary of selected items from Eastern Municipal Water District Board of Directors' meetings is distributed after each meeting. Please circulate it to others having an interest. For more information, call 909/928-3777, ext. 4226; or FAX: 909/928-6171.

### **BOARD WORK SESSION**

#### **Recognition:**

...The Board presented a proclamation expressing appreciation and commendation to Nancy Wagner, upon her retirement. Nancy began her career at EMWD in 1991 as Executive Secretary/Deputy Secretary to the Board of Directors and subsequently held positions as Secretary to the General Manager, Public Affairs Assistant, and Public Affairs Officer. In addition to her normal workload, she founded the Wellness Committee, participated in the Baldrige Performance Program application process, and coordinated many charitable fund-raising efforts. Nancy's last day is July 11.

#### **The Board:**

...approved and authorized an agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE), in an amount not to exceed \$4,000,000 for the design of the South Perris Water Supply Desalination Project. The Financial commitment is subject to the availability of federal appropriations of \$3,000,000 and the local share not to exceed \$1,000,000.

...approved and authorized an appropriation of \$333,334 for the design of the South Perris Water Supply Desalination Project as the District's 25% local share under the agreement with the USACOE.

...approved and authorized an agreement with the USACOE in an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000 for the Regional Water Related Infrastructure Design Project. The financial commitment is subject to the availability of federal appropriations of \$3,750,000 and local contribution not exceed \$1,250,000.

...approved and authorized an appropriation of \$50,000 for the Phase I design of the Regional Water Related Infrastructure Design Project as the District's 25% local share under the agreement with the USACOE. EMWD has developed conceptual plans to construct regional brinelines. Phase I includes design of 4.75 miles of pipeline.

...approved and authorized the administrative award of contract with consultants and contractors for construction of a 24-inch diameter recycled water pipeline (Reach 16) in California Avenue from Simpson Road to Devonshire Avenue.

...adopted Resolution Nos. 3753.1 and 3769.1, relating to the formation of Assessment District No. 9 (East Pourroy Road), which is west of Lake Skinner Dam.

**The General Manager reported:**

...EMWD has received confirmation that the District's bond rating has been increased to AA3 from Moody's and AA- from S&P.

...EMWD has been asked to testify before the California Energy Commission at the end of this month on water supply issues for the Inland Empire Energy Center.

...On July 15, San Diego County Water Authority is hosting a meeting of member agency managers, including EMWD, WMWD, and RCWD to discuss the operations of the Skinner service area. There are concerns about Skinner's capacity, hot weather, and increasing demand for water from this plant.

...The Groundwater Policy Committee (GPC) reached consensus on the Principles for Water Management. The agencies will obtain approval from their governing bodies this month. Seeking approval by the EMWD Board on July 16.

...Our security service has been acquired by Securitas. Employees are now wearing new uniforms. We intend to go out for new bids for security service in the future.

...Mike Garner was appointed to head up and coordinate the District's planning efforts. We are currently advertising to fill a Planner/Engineer position.

**Presentations from Outside the District:**

...SAWPA General Manager Joe Grindstaff presented a quarterly update on SAWPA. SAWPA expects to reach settlement over billing issues with Orange County Sanitation District by the end of this year. SAWPA will not hire a lobbyist this year; instead all member agencies' lobbyists will meet along with SAWPA staff on a regular basis to discuss SAWPA issues. SAWPA continues to follow issues regarding the property tax shift, targeting multi-county special district; special district reform; and the state budget.

**QUANTIFICATION SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT (QSA) BRIEFING**

EMWD invited community leaders to a panel discussion on the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA). The panel consisted of representatives from the four parties involved, including San Diego County Water Authority, Metropolitan Water District, Coachella Water District, and Imperial Irrigation Water District. The Agreement includes many long-term water supply programs that will provide 36 million acre-feet of Colorado River water supplies. It gives California 14 years to implement transfers and other programs to reduce the state's draw on Colorado River from 5.2 million acre-feet to its 4.4 million acre-feet basic annual apportionment. It quantifies and limits agricultural agencies' (Imperial and Coachella)

Colorado River water use. Water conserved by agricultural agencies can then be moved to urban agencies. There are many issues surrounding the QSA including reliability of Colorado River water; implications for the Salton Sea, which depends on runoff from Imperial; source of funding; etc.

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