



# Report!

Board of Directors Summary for **February 21, 2001**

**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: 909/928-6160.

## Board Meeting

**The Board of Directors** recognized **Socorro Carlos**, Customer Service Representative II, on her selection by the IBEW Local 1436 Board of Directors as the Employee of the Quarter (January-March).

...recognized three employees on reaching their 15-year service anniversaries: **Linda Pendergraft**, Mapping Technician II, **Gail Rawding**, Engineering Technician II, and **Pat Taylor**, Assistant Buyer.

...approved and authorized design and construction of an 18-inch sewer pipeline in the realignment of Oleander Avenue between Indian Avenue and Perris Boulevard. The total estimated project cost of \$512,900 will be financed from Service Area No. 35 (Perris Valley) Restricted Sewer System Expansion Fund.

...approved, authorized and appropriated \$60,480 for a contract with Project Software and Development Inc. (PSDI) to develop an implementation plan for a computerized maintenance management system (CMMS). The plan will assess the integration needs of the district, as well as the cost to buy, install, integrate and implement the system. This plan is financed from the General District's Replacement and System Betterment Construction Reserve.

...approved and authorized consulting and development services in the amount not to exceed \$120,000 to San Diego Data Processing, Inc. for the modification of SPORT (System for Project Organization, Reporting and Tracking). This change order will enhance the existing application to accommodate the revised connection fee structure and calculation method. These services will be funded from the General District's Capital Replacement Reserve Fund.

...adopted a resolution reappointing Director **David J. Slawson** and appointing Director **Randy A. Record** as members of the EMWD Security Trust Committee for four years.

...approved three annexations and one detachment. Annexations include:  
118 acres in the French Valley area (Improvement District Nos. U-23 and U-24). The landowner is Barratt American, Inc.;  
30 acres in the Sun City area (I.D. Nos. U-35 and U-36). The landowner is The Forecast Group, L.P.;  
154 acres known as the Audie Murphy Ranch (67th Fringe area). The project lies within the boundaries of both EMWD and Western MWD. The property owner, Brookfield California Land Holdings, Inc., requested the action because all parcels would be served

better from one water purveyor--EMWD;

A detachment of nearly 320 acres near Woodcrest lies within the boundaries of both EMWD and WMWD. The project, known as Boulder Springs, and owned by B&C Land, would be better served by one water purveyor--WMWD.

...received a report from the Department of Water Resources showing precipitation for the Northern Sierra eight-station index: 17.8 inches as of Feb. 20, or 59 percent of normal, with statewide reservoir storage at 61 percent as of Jan. 13.

...received the monthly staffing status report for January 2001, which showed the total number of EMWD employees at 492 as of Jan. 31, compared with 487 a month earlier. The total number of full-time equivalents at the end of January was 471.

...approved and authorized an administrative award of contract to pre-purchase membrane filtration system equipment from ZENON Environmental Systems, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$4,719,500. The equipment will be installed at the Perris Water Treatment Plant, which is expected to meet high summer water demands beginning in 2002. The total estimated project cost is \$19,462,800 and will be financed initially from Service Area No. 41 Restricted Water Facilities Expansion Fund, subject to reimbursement from the proposed issuance of 2001(B) Certificate of Participation funds.

...adopted resolutions revising water and sewer rules and regulations and schedules of financial participation charges (connection fees). After more than a year of effort with input by cities, the Building Industry Association and the Valley Economic Development Corp., the package reflects an overall net 3.9 percent decrease in connection fees for a typical home. Commercial and industrial connection fees will generally reflect similar reductions. As part of the package, Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU) calculations will continue for wastewater fees. But water fees will be based on meter size and use the term Equivalent Meter Size (EMS). One other change eliminates time limits for locking in fees. Rather than hold fees at a certain level for a specified period, payment of water and sewer financial participation charges will be subject to then-in-effect rates at the time the unit is completed and service is requested.

...approved and authorized funds for an amount not to exceed \$336,900 with Engineering Resources of Southern California, Inc. for design and preparation of construction documents for the North San Jacinto Water Supply Initiative Water Transmission facilities. After working with the North San Jacinto Landowner Coalition (NSJLC) to address increasing salinity and lowering groundwater levels in the Lakeview Basin, the most viable alternative is construction of a 36,000-foot unfiltered water pipeline along the Ramona Expressway between Davis and Warren roads. The project will be financed initially from Service Area nos. 41 and 42 Water Facilities Expansion Funds.

## Work Session

**The Directors** heard a report from **Bob Will**, of the firm of Will & Carlson, which represents EMWD on federal legislative issues in Washington. Mr. Will noted that energy issues seem to be the single item getting the most attention in the Congress at present, although the focus is national rather than being directed toward California's problems. He indicated that U.S. Senator Feinstein and Cong. Calvert are pressing hard for reauthorization of CalFED (the state-federal agency working on Bay-Delta problems), but that it will be difficult this year, with agriculture and urban interests generally allied against environmental interests that continue to oppose surface water storage. Mr. Will said that Bush administration cuts are expected in the Interior Department budget and that, with the Bureau of Reclamation being the biggest consumer of Interior funds, we can expect some significant cuts there.

...received an oral report from General Manager **John Brudin** regarding a variety of issues. It was noted, however, that the FY 2001-2002 district operating budget (preparation of which is just getting underway) will be as tight as possible in order to accommodate anticipated energy rate increases. The District's goal is to prevent water and wastewater rate increases through this calendar year.

...heard Director **Marion Ashley** and **Larry Libeu** comment on numerous issues affecting The Metropolitan Water District. Tunneling of the Inland Feeder line beneath the San Bernardino Mountains continues to be delayed pending receipt of a National Forest Service permit, but lining of the existing segments is ongoing. MWD expects no increase in domestic water rates in the coming year. The giant, cooperative agency, of which EMWD is a member, is broadening its scope in looking for additional water sources, to include possible desalination of seawater and brackish groundwater in the region. It was noted that Diamond Valley Lake is more than half filled at 480,000 acre feet (capacity is about 800,000 AF).

...noted from Finance Director **Chuck Rathbone's** monthly report that the District received \$110,000 from the State in a one-time rebate of some of the property tax funds the State usurped in 1992; however, that is only a small fraction of the millions of dollars the District has lost to date in that shift by the Legislature. Regarding the year's operating budget, January water sales were 109% of budget (56,084 AF, year to date) due to the dry winter, while wastewater service sales were right on target (\$15.15 million YTD). Recycled water sales were at 94% of budget (12,840 AF, YTD). For the seven months through January, there have been 2,906 new sewer EDUs (106% of budget) connected to the system while water accounted for 1,390 new EDUs (104%).

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