



Report!

Board of Directors Summary for **May 16, 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 **Richard Hanks**, Construction Inspector II, for 15 years of service.

...received a plaque from the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority commending **Marion V. Ashley** for his service as a commissioner representing EMWD since July 1999. Mr. Ashley is the elected Director from Division 4 and represents EMWD on the Metropolitan Water District.

...commended **Jolene Allred** and **Rebecca Cuevas** for the public information/education program at the multi-purpose constructed wetlands in San Jacinto. The comprehensive wetlands program earned the Clair A. Hill award for excellence by the Association of California Water Agencies.

...approved and authorized a request by Integrated Care Communities, a non-profit organization in Moreno Valley, to participate in EMWD's fee postponement program. The 501(c)(3) organization will include a skilled nursing facility, assisted living facility, adult day health care center and child care center at the Riverside County Medical Center (Moreno Valley Medical Care Campus).

...authorized the appropriation of funds for the 6.8-million-gallons Rose Hills tank and 30-inch-diameter supply pipeline to serve new customers in the Menifee Valley area. The board approved a contract for \$81,600 with Albert A. Webb Associates for final engineering services, and the additional appropriation of \$434,100 to cover the cost of the project through the bid/award phase. The total estimated project cost is \$3.9 million, and will be financed from Service Area No. 41 (Mills Treatment) Restricted Water Tank Funds.

...awarded a \$455,905 contract with SS Mechanical Corp., Huntington Beach, for construction of primary sludge pumping modifications at the Hemet/San Jacinto Regional Water Reclamation Facility. The board also ratified the project's design and bid/award services of \$85,327. Total project cost is \$665,633, and will be financed from Service Area No. 31 (Hemet/San Jacinto Replacement and System Betterment Construction Reserve and Restricted Treatment Plant Expansion Fund) .

...authorized an amendment to the engineering services agreement with CH2M Hill, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$170,000 for design of the Perris Water Treatment Plant, bringing the total value of the agreement to \$1.27 million. The project will be financed from the

2001B Certificates of Participation Construction Fund. The project's total estimated project cost is \$19.6 million.

...approved and authorized insurance renewals for District vehicle liability, property, excess workers' compensation and excess liability coverage for fiscal year 2001/2002. Coverage will be provided by Divine's Insurance Service, Talbot-Hemet Insurance Service and Sawyer, Cook & Company for total premiums of \$351,716, an 11 percent increase over current rates. Funds will be provided from the respective service areas and general District's Operating Funds, General District Workers' Compensation reserve and General District's Internal Service Operating Fund.

...adopted Resolution 3345.7, amending Exhibit "A"-classification of positions, which sets new classifications, changes salary ranges classification titles, salary and bargaining unit designations for selected classifications.

...initiated legal proceedings necessary to establish water standby assessments and sewage and waste service standby charges for Fiscal Year 2001-2002. The public hearing is set for Aug. 8, 2001 at 9 a.m. in the board room.

...adopted resolutions making application to MWD for the following annexations:
Lennar Greer Ranch Ventures LLC, City of Murrieta (162.95 acres),
Khalda LLC, Sun City (20.11 acres)
Silver Oaks Ranch 240, LLC, French Valley (80.12 acres),
Pacific Communities Newport Estates, Menifee (276.3 acres)

...accepted the Department of Water Resources' final report for the current water year, during which time only 31 inches of precipitation were reported for the northern Sierra 8-station index, or 68 percent of normal. The report listed the year's snowpack statewide at 19 percent of normal and reservoir storage at 80 percent of capacity.

...accepted the staffing status report for April, which includes 494 employees as of April 30, or a full-time equivalent of 475.

...approved and authorized a joint project with the city of Perris for area sewage collection improvements in the northwest area of the city and beyond, known as the Enchanted Heights area.

WORK SESSION

The Directors heard from **Larry Libeu** and **Marion V. Ashley** on activities at Metropolitan Water District. As relates to our area, MWD expects to have a lease with Valley-Wide Recreation and Parks by mid-June. Director Ashley said he spoke out against the proposed project to build the electricity transmission line from Romoland to San Diego, which tentatively had been sited along the western recreation area of the Diamond Valley Lake complex. He said that many residents in EMWD's service area had expressed opposition to that alignment. Progress continues on the Western Center for Archeology and Paleontology, which is slated to be a 26,000 square-foot structure on a 10-acre parcel. They noted the MWD Chairman of the Board had been approached by a board committee to name the visitors' overlook in honor of the late **Clayton A. Record, Jr.**, former representative from EMWD on MWD's board.

Chuck Rathbone, Director of Finance, gave the monthly financial report for April which showed that 66,870 acre feet of fresh water had been sold year-to-date. This represents 106 percent of the amount budgeted at this time. Another 15,584 acre feet of recycled water were sold, or 75 percent of budget. Sewer service sales, at \$21.6 million, are at 101 percent of budget. Total revenues are \$88.5 million, with total operating costs/allocations at \$71.3 million.

Ted Haring, Public and Legislative Affairs Officer, gave a state legislative report, which included late information on the energy crisis. He noted the state's general fund has already been tapped for \$6.7 billion to buy energy, effectively eliminating the state's earlier expected budget surplus. On the CALFED Bay-Delta program, recent legislation will provide \$53.5 million in local water agency programs, including conservation, groundwater monitoring and management, watershed/ecosystem restoration programs and drinking water quality programs. Other legislative activities continue to affect land use and water supply, water transfers/wheeling, competitive bidding on public works contracts and proposed legislation that could affect Metropolitan Water District.

Angela Carman, Director of Human Resources and Risk Management, gave an Equal Employment Opportunity update. She noted that minorities comprise 21 percent of EMWD's workforce, which has been fairly stable since 1997. The percentage of minorities in Riverside County is more than 49 percent. Although minority employees are under-represented, steps are being taken to improve that number. Each year, the number of minorities is increasing in small amounts, and so, too, are promotions for minorities. To help get the word out to minorities, Angie and **Tony Pack**, Deputy General Manager for Operations and Administration, will be meeting with minority employees to seek their input in promoting job opportunities at EMWD. As part of the normal recruitment policy, EMWD generally contacts about 70 outside agencies, including 20 that are minority-owned. EMWD's overall policy is to promote from within.

On a different subject, Tony noted that the natural gas cost is four-to-five times as much as 18-24 months ago. We continue to meet with the South Coast Air Quality Management District to request waivers to the operational hours permitted for emergency power generation. The state expects to experience more than 37 blackouts this summer, with the potential impact of \$22 billion in lost productivity.

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