



EASTERN MUNICIPAL
WATER DISTRICT

Report!

Board of Directors Summary for **June 7, 2000**

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 was briefed by General Manager **John Brudin** on a number of issues. Those included informal discussions with Hemet's new city manager regarding relations between the two agencies and groundwater issues; the possibility that EMWD may be asked by the City of Perris to enter an agreement by which Eastern would operate and upgrade the city's water and sewer systems and construct sewer service to several areas, at no cost to EMWD ratepayers; the fact that Winchester Park, being constructed as mitigation for the construction several years ago of the Winchester recycled water ponds, is nearly complete; that the District's review of connection fees is well underway and that the BIA and several cities will soon be invited to participate in the process.

...ratified contracts with JCI Jones Chemical Company and Pioneer Americas for purchase of chlorine for the next three years.

...approved an environmental negative declaration regarding future annexation of the 150-acre "American Beauty" development in Murrieta.

...approved including the Valley Foundation for the Developmentally Disabled project in Hemet in the fee postponement program that applies to certain qualifying, charitable projects.

...approved rejecting all bids and rebidding the Cawston Avenue Intertie Pipeline project. There was confusion regarding certain documents in the first round of bidding.

...approved an amendment to classifications of a number of District staffing positions.

...heard from MWD Director **Clayton Record** and Director of Legislative Affairs **Larry Libeu** that MWD will be undertaking an intensive effort this summer to develop an acceptable water rate schedule under its newly-adopted strategic plan. It was also noted that the MWD board was briefed recently that a long period of "less than average rainfall" is expected for the next several years. Additionally, the EMWD Board was told that a State-Federal settlement of issues related to the Bay-Delta, through which all northern California water flows, is expected to be announced soon. Also, it was explained, quantification of entitlements still is the major issue blocking agreement on the "California 4.4 Plan" regarding Colorado River water.

...reviewed the proposed FY 2000-2001 operating budget with Finance Director **Chuck Rathbone**. Discussion and budget adoption will occur at the June 21 Board meeting. The staff recommendation is set at \$100,123,000, slightly under expected revenues for the current fiscal year of \$101,700,000. The new budget recommendation assumes no water or sewer rate increases while anticipating about the same water sales and in wastewater connections as the current year. It shows no additional employees and includes the previously-negotiated 1.5% salary increase and elimination of the 1.515% PERS retirement fund contribution by employees.

...heard Director of Purchasing and Contracts **Dan Howell** report that there could be energy shortages this summer because of market changes and the lack of new generation facilities in the state. EMWD has saved over \$300,000 per year for the past several years by taking advantage of interruptible accounts. In addition, Eastern saved between \$80,000 and \$90,000 on electricity and about \$127,000 on natural gas by taking advantage of deregulation. Howell noted that, while such savings may not be possible in the future, EMWD is working toward shifting energy loads, avoiding peaks, using or developing additional storage when available and maximizing fuel flexibility in order to save as much as possible for its ratepayers.

...adopted a proclamation congratulating N. Gregory Taylor, MWD General Counsel, who will soon retire after 10 years with "Met" and many more years dealing with public issues in the state.

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