



Report!

Board of Directors Summary for **August 16, 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

Board Meeting

The Board of Directors awarded certificates of appreciation to **Dean Wetter** and **Charles Kemp** for their two years of service on the Employee Quality Improvement Program (EQIP) committee.

...approved and authorized an award of contract for an amount not to exceed \$273,000 for construction of Winchester Ranch water transmission pipeline. The 24-inch diameter pipeline project is in the Murrieta Hot Springs area between Calistoga Drive and the Winchester Ranch tank. Financing will come from Service Area No. 43 (Skinner Treatment) Restricted Water Facilities Expansion Fund. All costs incurred will be reimbursed from Community Facilities District 88-4.

...approved and authorized an administrative award of contract for concrete repair, coating and equipment replacement at Temecula Valley and Hemet/San Jacinto Regional Water Reclamation facilities. The award will go to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder for an amount not to exceed \$1.4 million. Raw sewage releases hydrogen sulfide gas which causes accelerated corrosion of concrete and steel. These projects will be financed equally from Service Area No. 34 (Temecula/Murrieta) and Service Area No. 31 (Hemet/San Jacinto) Restricted Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion funds.

...approved and authorized the execution of a lease agreement with Cox PCS Assets, LLC (Sprint) for a telecommunications tower at the Upper Landmark Reservoir site in Moreno Valley. The initial term will be for five years at a monthly rent of \$1,200.

...approved the purchase of vehicles, including two used backhoes at auction, for a total allocation of \$761,000. Budgeted funds for the identified vehicles are noted in the 2000-01 Capital Outlay Budget. Funding will be from the District's Internal Service fund.

...adopted Ordinance No. 68.1 amending rules and regulations governing recycled water system facilities and service. Most revisions reflect language simplification. The revised ordinance also eliminates the fees-and-charges section known currently as Resolution Nos. 2963 and 3351.

...received a report noting that staffing for the month ending July 31 included 472 full-time equivalents. The total number of individuals, including those on a full-time leave of absence, student workers and part-time employees was 489.

...ratified the execution of a memorandum of understanding with Nuevo Water Company (NWC) for domestic blending water. The agreement calls for EMWD to sell and deliver to NWC no less than 150 acre-feet of domestic water per year. NWC will blend that with its own supplies.

...adopted Resolution No. 3416, approving general and specific project budgets with Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority at \$230,088. The District's budget earlier allocated \$144,000 towards the SAWPA budget, with the difference of \$86,088 to be made from the Research and Development Reserve or by deferring other expenses within the general manager's operating budget.

...adopted Ordinance No. 86 setting the policy not to transport water through any district facility that is outside any existing wheeling agreement. State law permits transfers of water through unused capacity of public agencies. The board does not anticipate the availability of any unused capacity in its distribution system.

Work Session

The Board of Directors heard public comments from Chuck Washington, president of Habitat for Humanity of the Inland Valleys, requesting a waiver of sewer connection fees for a project the organization is currently building in Temecula. The matter was referred to staff and will come back to the board for a decision.

...reported out of closed session that a review of the general manager's performance had been concluded and that the board appreciates the outstanding job that Mr. Brudin has done in leading the district through many accomplishments. It was noted that several items of contention have been resolved to the satisfaction of the board and the general manager.

...was informed by Finance Director **Chuck Rathbone** that medical insurance premium costs to the District for coverage of employees will increase over 9 percent in 2001. The District currently pays \$2.7 million per year in premiums as an employee benefit. Only the 30 employees currently insured under the PERS-Care program will be required to pay an increased personal share, and that is because PERS-Care premiums exceed the maximum amount the district covers. All other coverages currently in effect for employees fall below the maximum.

...received and filed the monthly financial report for July. Because of very hot weather, domestic and irrigation water sales were 125% of budget at \$6.7 million (11,215 acre-feet), while sewer revenues were almost precisely on budget at \$2.1 million. Recycled water sales were 119% of budget at \$146,691 (2,447 AF). In July, 413 new sewer EDUs connected to the system, while 164 new water EDUs were added.

...was updated by Governmental Affairs Director **Larry Libeu** on federal issues. The district is pursuing federal funding for the non-reclaimable waste lines from Temecula and Moreno Valley to the disposal pipeline in Sun City at a cost of \$21 million. Eastern is also seeking \$25 million for a groundwater desalter in south Perris. It was noted that the U.S. EPA is developing or promulgating rulings that will affect EMWD on arsenic standards, radon, total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) of contaminants in streams, and rulings that would affect our recycled water ponds because of the ponds' use by migratory birds.