



Report!

Board of Directors Summary for **October 18, 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 paid tribute to the 50th anniversary of the founding of Eastern Municipal Water District. Established Oct. 16, 1950, EMWD was created with two responsibilities in mind, both of which it continues to do extremely well today: to provide supplemental water from the Colorado River (and now from northern California, as well) to meet the needs of growing but arid western Riverside County, and to return to the area groundwater that mixes with the Colorado River Aqueduct to be carried away. In addition to our Board members and senior staff, two former Board members attended: Chet Gilbert and Craig Weaver. Two former General Managers were also in attendance: Don Stewart and Andy Schlange. The District's first Treasurer, Rogers Cox, also attended.

...honored **Juanita Luiz**, Environmental/Right of Way Technician in the Engineering Services Department, as the District's Employee of the Quarter for October through December 2000. Juanita also serves as president of IBEW Local 1436.

...continued until November the public hearing on possible establishment of Assessment District 20 to finance planned water and wastewater facilities in the Menifee Valley.

...at the request of the land owners, annexed into the District two parcels totaling slightly over 107 acres in the Temecula-Murrieta area in ID U-8 for sewer service; annexed 94 acres in the French Valley area into IDs U-23 and U-24 for water and sewer service.

...authorized an agreement with Carollo Engineers for \$58,511 for design of Pujol Lift Station in Temecula. The project is funded through the Service Area 34 Replacement and System Betterment Reserve and the Restricted Sewer System Expansion Fund.

...authorized a \$40,000 addition to the District's contract with CH2M Hill for engineering services related to development of the water facilities master plan. The agreement is financed from the General District Restricted Water Facilities Expansion Fund.

...authorized an amendment to the District's contract with Genesis Construction Company in the amount of \$33,907 for the Holland Road Water Pipeline Relocation project, which is funded from the Service Area 41 Replacement and System Betterment Construction Reserve.

...deferred the Water Demand Assessment for Specific Plan 310.

...authorized a contract with SCW Contracting for \$101,500 for the Mission Canyon 2 Tank Replacement, Maintenance and Improvement. Funding comes from the General District Replacement and System Betterment Construction Reserve Fund.

...adopted a resolution modifying "Exhibit A" to delete one position classification and establish two others.

...approved a negative declaration related to environmental effects of the La Piedra Road Water Transmission Pipeline Extension project in the Menifee Valley.

...accepted a report showing the District had 490 total employees (470 full-time equivalents) as of Sept. 29, 2000 compared with 489 on Aug. 31st.

Work Session

The Directors discussed with General Manager **John Brudin** the urgency of scheduling a meeting before the holidays of parties interested in resolving groundwater issues in the Hemet-San Jacinto area. EMWD's long-standing efforts to facilitate an agreement among groundwater users were noted, as Directors agreed the matter needs to be resolved before issues become any more complex.

...received an update from Director of Governmental Affairs **Larry Libeu** on the status of federal legislation still pending in Congress and which could affect EMWD. Among the items mentioned were the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) which contains funding authorization for brine line construction and the South Perris desalter, and which is likely to be passed; additional legislation that would provide \$14 million funding for the Western Cultural Center and for the trail system at Diamond Valley Lake; and a bill providing for cleanup of toxic wastes at Moab, Utah which have been leeching contaminants into the Colorado River for many years.

...were briefed by AGM/Engineering **Charlie Bachmann** on efforts to fast-track development of a water filtration plant at the Perris II pump station location to provide treated water for EMWD. If it becomes feasible to proceed, the plant could be constructed within a year and delay the need for the planned Mills Water Pipeline for as much as 15-20 years. At this point, there is no formal proposal, only an investigative effort to determine whether the project is realistic.

...heard MWD Director **Clayton Record** and **Larry Libeu** summarize progress to date on a new rate structure for MWD water. Optimistic hopes are that the structure might be adopted this December and put into effect in 2002. It was also noted that, in light of recent concerns about Chromium 6 in southern California water, MWD testing shows the highest level detected in its water to be 0.1ppb, well below the public health goal.

...heard from Board President **David Slawson** about the importance of keeping an active, elected official from the EMWD Board as the District's representative to Metropolitan Water District when our current "Met" Director, **Clayton Record**, retires at the end of this year. There was no decision on who will succeed Mr. Record as Eastern's MWD director.

...noted from Finance Director **Chuck Rathbone** that water sales through the month of September were 119% of year-to-date budget at \$19.8 million, representing 33,290 acre feet of domestic and irrigation water. Recycled water sales for the same period were 92% of budget at \$435,650 representing 7,712 acre feet. Wastewater service stood at 99% of budget for the 3-month period at \$6.4 million. There have been 1,240 new sewer service EDUs added, and 622 new water connections.

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Work Session

The Directors heard from **Chuck Rathbone**, Director of Finance, for a monthly financial update and the FY 2000 year-end results. Total fresh water sales, excluding certain wholesale sales to EVMWD and RCWD, were 83,152 acre-feet, or 121 percent of budget. Recycled water sales were 23,445 AF. Budgeted sales for FY 2001 are 75,677 AF (fresh water) and 24,000 AF (recycled). Revenues stood at \$105,055,113, with the major expense being the cost of water at \$26,331,029, or 31 percent of costs. Regarding new connections, Rathbone noted there were 4,393 sewer equivalent dwelling units (EDUs) and 2,038 water EDUs for FY 2000. The current annual budget projects 4,700 sewer EDUs and 2,300 water EDUs.

Tony Pack, Deputy General Manager for Operations and Administration, told the board that EMWD's maintenance crews have been putting in long hours recently to correct electrical problems relating to Southern California Edison power interruptions, including rolling outages in the region. He noted they have been able to keep EMWD in power for the most part through connecting additional generators, and from the use of other local supplemental equipment, such as additional air-conditioning. He also noted that EMWD had reached a new peak-day demand of 136 million gallons on July 27, and that water operations staff were successfully meeting near-capacity water demands on a daily basis, or around 130 mgd.

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