



# Report!

Board of Directors Summary for **December 19, 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 honored two employees for 15 years of service:

- **Brad Crawford**, Plant Maintenance Technician II.
- **Bryan Gott**, Construction Crew Leader.

...recognized **Selena R. Moorehead**, Senior Business Systems Analyst, Information Systems department, for completion of the graduate-level Advanced Management Program at the University of California, Riverside.

...accepted a Commendation from Governor Gray Davis for EMWD's leadership in groundwater management activities being undertaken in conjunction with other water pumpers in the Hemet-San Jacinto area.

...adopted new boundaries for the board members' divisions as a result of the 2000 census. Divisions must be approximately equal in population. In general terms, the changes show Div. 1 (Siems) gaining Green Acres, Div. 3 (Record) gaining Homeland, and Div. 4 (Ashley) gaining Menifee. With a current EMWD population of 476,819, each director will represent an average of 95,364 residents. The new divisions will first come into play in the November 2002 election. Details of the changes are available from the Board Secretary at Ext. 4205.

...adopted sewer rate revisions averaging about 2% district-wide. These will be the first sewer rate increases for most parts of the District since 1997. They will be effective in January and will first appear on February bills. The Temecula-Murrieta area will not have an increase.

...allocated to the General District's Replacement and System Betterment Construction Reserve Fund \$808,000 in rebated water purchase funds from Metropolitan Water District.

...approved \$99,900 for an automated system to measure, dechlorinate, and monitor flows of recycled water when it is necessary to discharge excesses into Temescal Wash. Funds will come from the Recycled Water System Replacement and System Betterment Construction Reserve.

...approved a \$76,000 purchase of hand-held gas detectors to warn workers of hydrogen sulfide, carbon monoxide and explosive gases as well as low levels of oxygen in the system. These critical safety tools replace older units that are increasingly difficult and expensive to

maintain. The purchase will be made from the General District Capital Replacement Reserve.

...allocated \$50,000 for a feasibility study of a method to generate electricity from biosolids that result from the wastewater treatment process. The study will be conducted by UC, Riverside. EMWD's participation will be funded from the General District Operating Fund.

...appropriated \$948,000 from the Service Areas 41 and 42 Replacement and System Betterment Construction Reserve Funds to install eight new transmission valves at key locations on water transmission pipelines in order to facilitate system maintenance as needed.

...approved Water Demand Assessments as required by law for two projects, noting that EMWD will be able to provide water service:

- Murrieta Hills Specific Plan
- Audie Murphy Ranch (Specific Plan 209)

...appropriated \$286,900 from the Service Area 41 Restricted Water Facilities Expansion Fund for exploratory wells to serve the planned Perris area groundwater desalter.

...approved \$300,000 for sewer pipeline oversizing and extension in two development tracts in the Murrieta area by Calprop Corp. Funding is from the Service Area 34 Restricted Sewer System Expansion Fund.

...appropriated \$376,000 for total design cost of a water system for the Rancho Glenoaks development near Vail Lake, as a part of Assessment District 19.

...approved \$92,500 for phase one of a program to provide Interactive Voice Response capability for the Billing telephone system. The General District Capital Outlay Budget will fund the project.

...allocated \$84,000 for software upgrade of the District's telephone switch because the existing software will no longer be supported by the manufacturer. The upgrade will prevent the District from losing current telephone capabilities. The project is financed from the General District Capital Replacement Reserves Fund.

...reappointed **Patricia A. Elliott** and **Julie Hughes**, and appointed **Sonny Hopper**, **Mike Marcus** and **James E. Wyatt**, to the EMWD Security Trust committee.

...approved revision of several "fee-for-service" charges the District imposes. The changes were based on studies of actual costs incurred in providing the services. Changes will be effective Jan. 1, 2002.

...approved the annual statement of investment policy outlining how the District's funds are invested.

...entered into a joint community facilities district with Romoland School District and Riverview Estate Associates to provide water and sewer facilities.

...approved several annexations into the District at the request of the property owners:

- 379+ acres known as Lennar Greer Ranch in two parcels near the City of Murrieta's north boundary for water service. This is a concurrent annexation into Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District and Metropolitan Water District as well as EMWD.

- 198+ acres in the south Sun City area into I.D.s U-35 (sewer) and U-36 (water).

- 39+ acres in the Temecula area into I.D. U-8 for sewer service.

...received the monthly staffing report showing the District had 496 total employees (474 fulltime equivalents) as of Nov. 30, 2002. That is up one from the end of October.

...received the first monthly water supply report of the season, showing that as of Dec. 17 rainfall in the watershed feeding the State Water Project was 152% of normal for the date. Water content of the statewide snowpack was 136% of normal while statewide reservoir water storage was 90% of normal. These figures are very encouraging.

...approved upward adjustments to the upper ends of several pay ranges in order to keep District salaries competitive.

...approved CEQA certification of water and sewer facilities for Assessment District 20, comprised of approximately 1,200 acres in the Menifee Valley.

## WORK SESSION

...The Directors recognized 10 years of service by Public and Legislative Affairs Officer **Ted Haring** of the Community Involvement Department.

...reviewed current activities at Metropolitan Water District with Director **Marion Ashley** and **Larry Libeu** reporting on a number of issues. A video was shown highlighting MWD security measures that have been taken along the Metropolitan system since Sept. 11th. The video also highlighted the "portfolio of resources" MWD is developing to respond to future water demand.

...heard Finance Director **Chuck Rathbone's** monthly financial report. Through November, water sales and sewer service are just slightly above budget, while recycled water sales are 10% higher than anticipated. Operating expenses for the water and wastewater systems paralleled sales, being just slightly higher than expected. Total domestic and irrigation water sales through the five-month period was 45,983 acre feet while 12,822 AF of recycled water was sold.

Connection fee revenues (used to build new facilities to accommodate growth) reflected the higher-than-expected rate of new construction in the area. Growth in the sewer system was 146% of expectations at 2,736 EDUs, while water system growth was only slightly slower at 135% of budget (1,407 EDUs).

...received an overview by Assistant General Manager of Operations and Maintenance **Mike Luker** on the status of disposal of biosolids from the District's wastewater treatment facilities. An alternative must be found to the current practice of paying a vendor to haul away the material, because that is getting extremely expensive and the county is severely limiting land application of biosolids as fertilizer.

The District is studying three options. One is a proposed new composting facility in Lamb Canyon to be operated by the current vendor, Synagro. Another option is to continue the pasteurization process, with a trial program in preparation now. The third is a promising UC, Riverside trial project to generate electricity from biosolids; the Board voted to support this project with a \$50,000 investment.

...were updated by Public and Legislative Affairs Officer **Ted Haring** on results of the first year of a program that forces commercial landscape accounts to try harder to stay within their annual water budgets. Most businesses are enthusiastically embracing the program although the annual reconciliation next month of all such accounts will probably result in some receiving non-compliance assessments on February bills. Any penalty funds collected will be placed in a special account to provide more detailed water audits of the penalized accounts in an effort to help them bring their water consumption into compliance.

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