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LETTERS: NCT, Sept. 14, 2009

Stop the giveaway of our money

People elected to government positions aren't required to have a prerequisite of common sense, or any sense at all. Bureaucrats in government, or quasi-government, jobs may be promoted into positions that exceed their level of competency. They then make decisions on matters that exceed their sophistication and intellectual ability to cope. Government at all levels is rife with such personnel.

Take the Metropolitan Water District as a prime example. The decision-makers plan, on Sept. 15, to increase 2000 employees' retirement benefits by 25 percent. That is from 2 percent for each year worked to 2.5 percent. This largess, once imposed, will never be reduced.

Government workers in the distant past were paid pitiful wages. To compensate, government tossed the workers a bone of sorts. They were granted the prerequisites of limited health and retirement benefits. But the worm has turned. Now government employees receive top pay plus very generous health and pension benefits beyond the pale of industry.

The Metropolitan Water District, whose pension portfolio is $400 million underfunded, intends to add an additional $70 million of long-term expense. In its wisdom, the MWD plans to pay for it by increasing our water rates this month by 19 percent and another increase of 12 percent next year.

There is no time to spare. You can berate the water authority by phoning 213-217-6000 and insisting that this giveaway of our money be stopped.

Robert "Zeb" Zbornak

Oceanside