

La Mesa Water Cooperative

WaterGram - ~~October 2010~~ March 2011

******Watch your mail for materials on the Annual Meeting ******

Tuesday, April 26, 2011 @ 7:00 PM in the New Placitas Library

As has been the case in the past, write-in votes and nominations from the floor are always welcome. This year the board has clarified the procedures for these votes. The sponsor of the candidate (the person who wrote in the name or the person nominating from the floor) must ensure that the candidate (or their representative) is present at the annual meeting and that the candidate has agreed to serve if elected. At the meeting the sponsor, candidate, or the candidate's representative will present an oral or written brief biography. If the biography is not presented at the meeting, votes for the candidate will not be counted.

If you are not attending the Annual Meeting, don't forget to vote by mail. Your participation in the election is very important!

Update on Development of New Water Source

Previous WaterGrams have reported that our two oldest wells are nearly the end of their useful life, and for the last two years the Planning Committee has been investigating new sources of water. One of these possible sources is the treatment of water from well #3. This well has more than sufficient capacity and an estimated useful life of approximately 10 years. If we could economically treat the water to meet Federal arsenic standards, this would be the preferred new source of water.

The Board has been mindful of the problems and costs other small water systems have experienced with arsenic treatment. As a consequence, the Planning Committee proceeded with an abundance of caution. They solicited and studied proposals from multiple vendors and engaged in extended discussions with the vendors. As we reported in an earlier WaterGram, the Board authorized a series of pilot tests in the fall of 2010. These tests, which compared the performance of 3 systems, were completed at the well site.

After an analysis of the results and discussions with vendors, it became clear that the

high levels of minerals in our water was greatly reducing the efficiency of the arsenic removal process and greatly increasing final costs. Although the initial costs of arsenic treatment would be approximately a third of the cost of a new well, the unexpectedly high cost of operation would result in a facility total cost that would substantially exceed the cost of a new well by the end of the expected 10-year life of the facility. In addition, the expected life of the well would exceed 20 years.

For these reasons, the Planning Committee recommended that the Board authorize the drilling of a new well with the expectation that this well, along with the continued operation of well #5 (our newest and most modern well) will be sufficient to meet our water needs well into the next decade. The Board approved this recommendation on February 22, 2011. A tentative site for the well, located in an area known to produce the necessary volume of low arsenic water, has been determined. The necessary surveys and permit applications are now underway.

Board of Directors

George Bailey 867-8434
Marty Davis 771-9127
Gordon Forbes 771-3464

Irena King 771-8437
Dave Otter 867-7986

Burt Schippers 771-0684
Dennis Szarka 867-5225
Francis West 771-9283