

**La Mesa Water Cooperative**  
**WaterGram - June 2010**

<i>George Bailey</i>	<i>867-8434</i>	<i>Irena King</i>	<i>771-8437</i>	<i>Burt Schippers</i>	<i>771-0684</i>
<i>Marty Davis</i>	<i>771-9127</i>	<i>Dave Otter</i>	<i>867-7986</i>	<i>Dennis Szarka</i>	<i>867-5225</i>
<i>Gordon Forbes</i>	<i>771-3464</i>			<i>Francis West</i>	<i>771-9283</i>

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**Annual Meeting - New Board of Directors**

The 2010 Annual Meeting of the Cooperative was held April 27. Three members were elected to the Board of Directors: Francis West, a La Mesa resident and an incumbent; Dennis Szarka, a resident of Sundance Mesa; and Irena King, a La Mesa resident. The new Board of Directors has elected the following officers:

President: George Bailey

Vice President - Projects: Marty Davis

Vice President - Operations: Dave Otter

Treasurer: Burt Schippers

Secretary: Gordon Forbes

In addition, Francis West will continue to be the State Regulatory Liaison with the assistance of Dennis Szarka and Irena King will be the Chairperson of the Pricing Committee.

The Board also thanks Carl Guist for filling in as Treasurer during Burt Schippers work-related assignment in Oregon.

You may be wondering why George Bailey was elected President, since his term as Director expired. The By-Laws do not require that an Officer be a Director. However, the Board then appointed him to be a Director. Such appointments are valid until the next election.

Finally, thank you all for your votes on the 2011 budget. You approved it, and we thank you for that, too. If you are concerned about our administrative expenses (see below), please remember to vote next year, so we won't have to ask twice. The extra mailing costs about \$165, just for postage.

**Administrative Expenses**

A number of you, on your second budget ballot, asked why administrative expenses go up. One reason is because postage costs go up. We have about 325 people who receive bills monthly and about 50 more who receive them quarterly. That's about 4100 pieces of mail each year. At 44 cents each, that's

about \$1,800. Our total cost for postage last year was \$2,100, which includes mailings for the annual meeting, correspondence with regulatory agencies, and mail when we pay our bills. If rates go up another 2 cents, that will cost us another \$100. Just like all of you, we pay real estate taxes. Would it surprise you to know they are going up? Our computer expenses (like the internet connections) seem to go up every year. And, yes, we periodically increase the wages we pay our contractors - costs for Billing and Secretarial services have increased from \$18,700 in 2006 to \$19,700 forecast for 2010. All of this information can be found in the information we sent you prior to the Annual Meeting.

Some of you have commented that the late fee is too large - it can easily be 2/3 of the actual bill. We review our rates every year and we will look at that issue, too. The By-Laws specify \$15 (in 2001) and they allow the Board to change that.

**Water Use**

Summertime is almost here, and we'll all probably be using our drip systems a lot more in the coming months. This would be a good time to check yours, to make sure it has no leaks. Turn your system on during the day and walk around it. If no fittings have cracked, if the rats have not chewed holes in your lines or chewed off the emitters, then you are a lucky homeowner! If you use an automatic timer, you might want to check the settings: days on (remember 1-2-3-2-1, 3 days/week in June, July & August) start time (best at night to reduce evaporation), time on, etc.

**Contacting the Board**

Want to know more? Come to our meetings - generally the fourth Tuesday of the month at 5:00 pm at the "Tank Site" (104 Camino Barranca.) Got a complaint? Contact a Board Member, write us a letter (same address as your payment), or e-mail George Bailey at gbailey25@comcast.net.