

La Mesa Water Cooperative

WaterGram - August 2010

Summer Water Usage and Future Needs

Typically our summer usage peaks in June, July, and August. At these times our water usage is approximately twice as great as during the winter months.

The two oldest wells (provided by the developer of La Mesa) are approaching the end of their useful life. In 2008 we refurbished one of these wells. This year we took the other well off line during the winter months. This well went back in service in May.

We are presently using three wells, with the majority of the water coming from our newest well that went in service in the spring of 2007. During the month of June we pumped an average of 395 gallons per house per day. This is significantly higher than the 288 gallons per house per day pumped in 2009, but very close to values of 382 and 367 pumped for the corresponding period in 2008 and 2007.

Even if one of our older wells should fail, we have enough capacity to meet expected peak levels of water usage. However, over the next few years we will need to find a source to replace the water currently provided by our two oldest wells.

We have an additional well that was taken out of service in 2008 because its level of arsenic exceeds the revised Federal standards. This was our second most productive well. If we can return it to service it would exceed the combined capacity of our two oldest wells. The Board has been studying the feasibility of installing arsenic removal equipment that would allow us to return it to service. A committee has been examining proposals from several vendors and should issue a report and recommendations in the next several months.

Annual Examination of Fee Structure

The Coop Pricing Committee examines our costs and fee structure on a yearly basis. This process is currently underway. A final report and recommended changes, if any, will be presented to the Board at our October Meeting.

Be Alert to Water Thefts

In June there were two incidents of water thefts in our area. These occur from time to time when unauthorized people fill water trucks from fire hydrants. These actions are cause for concern (and a violation of Federal Law) because bacteria and other contaminants can be introduced into our water supply. If you see trucks attached to a fire hydrant, do not approach the individuals, but please try to obtain identifying information such as the company name and/or license number. Then call one of the Board members at the numbers listed at the bottom of the WaterGram. Because we occasionally authorize our contractors or other properly trained individuals to obtain water from our hydrants, the activity you observe may be authorized and safe. However, please let us know what you have observed and let the Board decide if further action is indicated.

Contacting the Board

Want to know more? Members are encouraged to attend Board meetings. These are held at 5:00 PM on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the "Tank Site" (104 Camino Barranca). Meeting agendas are posted at the mailboxes and are available on our web site approximately a week in advance of the meeting. You can contact individual Board members at the numbers listed below or write us at the same address where you send your payment. Please tell us how we can serve you better.

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