

# La Mesa Water Cooperative

## **WaterGram - October 2010**

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### **Arsenic Treatment Planning**

In the August Watergram we reported that the Board has been studying the feasibility of installing arsenic removal equipment at well #3. This well, which has an estimated useful life of 10 or more years, was removed from service in 2008 because its level of arsenic exceeds the revised Federal standards. If we can return it to service it would exceed the combined capacity of our two oldest wells that are reaching the end of their useful life.

Over the last 18 months a committee has been studying alternative arsenic removal technologies and has examined proposals from several vendors. The Board has accepted the committee's recommendation that we began a series of pilot tests to determine the relative effectiveness and actual operating costs of 3 different proposals. These tests are being conducted at the well site and should be completed by early November.

To provide the LMWC with a reliable, cost-effective solution to our arsenic problem, and mindful of the well-publicized difficulties associated with arsenic removal in other communities, the Board has approached this project with an abundance of caution. In addition to running a 30-day, on site pilot test of the 3 different removal procedures, we have only chosen procedures

that employ well-established and proven technologies.

It is our intent to use water from the well that requires arsenic treatment only during the peak usage months of June, July, and August. However, we will select a process that can be operated 12 months a year if that should become necessary.

We will have an update on our plans for arsenic removal in our next Watergram.

### **Reminder on Irrigation**

Although it certainly feels like mid-summer as this is being written, the calendar reminds us that it is fall. As soon as the weather becomes more seasonable, it will be time to change from your summer to fall irrigation schedule.

### **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