



# Water Notes

50 Years—Serving You Today . . . Planning for Tomorrow!

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## Wastewater/Sewer Project Update

A recent telephone survey revealed the majority of property owners believe a sewer system is necessary. The survey also showed the greatest concern remains cost.

"This is not a surprise," explains General Manager Ed Muzik, "we understood cost to be the number one concern and that we have to make this project affordable for our customers."

The goal is "lowest possible cost." A lower interest rate commitment from the State on the loan and additional grants can lower costs. Additionally, the District and the Town have developed a 1% sales tax revenue proposal to further reduce the cost. Fifty-percent of Yucca Valley's sales tax revenues are paid by non-residents and tourists. This would lower property assessment an additional one-third (30%), which gets us to the lowest possible cost scenario.

The District's Chief Financial Officer Frank Luckino assures, "we will have a comprehensive financing plan that takes into account the economic constraints of our community, while addressing this significant infrastructure need. One example is to delay the hook-up for those who cannot afford to connect until the property is sold." The District is working on several measures to address affordability and assistance for low-income customers.

In addition to lowering the cost to the customers, the District is moving forward with the Surveying & Mapping. This includes locating the septic systems on private property. If you live in phase 1, you may have already been contacted by a Hi-Desert Water District employee to locate your septic system. After the surveying and mapping is complete this year, a qualified Engineering firm will be sought to complete the final design. Once the design is complete and the assessment district is formed, the District can request bids for construction.

The District will continue to work with the Town of Yucca Valley and the community to complete Yucca Valley's Wastewater/Sewer Project. Information meetings will be scheduled. If you have questions in the meantime, please call (760) 861-8031 or email [wastewater@hdwd.com](mailto:wastewater@hdwd.com).

A new, comprehensive Questions & Answers booklet is available in the District lobby or online at [www.YuccaValleyWastewater.org](http://www.YuccaValleyWastewater.org).

## Be Our Guest

**April 24, 2012 from 8a-2p**, Mojave Water Agency and local water districts will host a tour for customers to learn about water in the Morongo Basin. To reserve your seat, please call Gloria Golike at Mojave Water Agency (760) 946-7001. For additional details or questions call Jennifer Cusack at (760) 228-6267 or email [jenniferfc@hdwd.com](mailto:jenniferfc@hdwd.com).

# Value of Water "SERVICE"

After all, water is FREE. Well, water is—the infrastructure, maintenance, electricity, treatment and labor to provide the water SERVICE is not. Water SERVICE contributes value to our health, well-being, economy, recreation and peace of mind. There is no profit and no shareholders to pay. Your bill covers the cost of providing you a SERVICE of certain value. It is this simple—your dollars purchase you the following:

- Purchase of imported water
- Pipeline replacement (over 480,000 feet to date—in 2012 pipeline will be replaced in North-west Western Hills around Farrello Road)
- Electricity to pump and move water
- Equipment (trucks, backhoes, dump trucks, tools, computers, etc.)
- Treatment process and products
- Monitoring, testing and reporting on water quality and quantities
- Well, tanks, pumps, valves, etc.
- Leak repairs, 24 hour system monitoring, emergency preparedness
- Meter reading, billing, accounting, customer service
- Administration, record keeping, public outreach, disclosures, etc.
- Human Resources, training, certifications, safety
- Governance, legislation, regulations (Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Public Health, Department of Water Resources, State Water Resources Control Board, etc.)

Next time you turn on the tap, consider the value of the SERVICE. How different would our lives be without it? Consider, that much of the world's population does not have water with the level of safety and reliability that we have. In fact, there are some residents of the Morongo Basin that do not have water service. Many must haul water at a cost higher than the average water bill. The average monthly water bill in Yucca Valley is \$60.42 for 5,984 gallons (a penny a gallon). For a typical household it costs \$ .73 per person a day for water service. That is less than a can of soda.

Hi-Desert Water District remains committed to maintaining and improving your water service. This year we will celebrate 50 years of public water SERVICE in Yucca Valley.

## Average Monthly Utility Bills for a Family of 5 in an 1,800 sq. ft. home

