

Water Matters



MSWD Board Cuts Budget 52% in Response to COVID-19



The Mission Springs Water District Board of Directors adopted its fiscal year 2020-2021 budget in June. To maintain fiscal responsibility in our operations, the MSWD Board of Directors **cut the total budget by 52%**.

MSWD's budget went from **\$41.5 million to \$20 million** for fiscal year 2020-21, reducing all programs and spending on essential items only and pausing employee pay increases. In addition, **no rate increases** will be considered.

MSWD also took steps to alleviate the financial burden on customers facing challenges related to COVID-19, including **suspending water shutoffs** due to nonpayment, offering payment plans to those in need, and **doubling MSWD's bill assistance credit** in the Help2Others Program.

Providing Bill Assistance to Customers in Need

The Help2Others program helps eligible residential customers avoid water service shut-off due to non-payment of amounts owed. MSWD's customer assistance program offers eligible residential customers **a \$100 credit on their water bill** once in a 12-month period. Between March 1, 2020 and July 31, 2020, **4 times** as many customers were assisted compared to the same period last year.

MSWD worked with United Way of the Desert to establish a fund specifically to help customers in need pay their water bills, **funded in part by MSWD Employees** and its vendors.

You may also contribute to the fund and help someone who may be struggling to pay their water bill, especially during the COVID-19 crisis. Donations must be made directly to United Way of the Desert. All donations are tax-deductible.

Customers who need help paying their water bill can apply through United Way of the Desert by calling 760.323.2731.



SPOTTING WATER LEAKS

Large water leaks are easy to spot when they create puddles. However, small leaks may waste a lot more water than you imagine.

For example, toilets may slowly leak water without anyone realizing it. Here is a simple test to determine if a toilet is leaking water.

-  Place a few drops of food coloring in the water tank
-  Wait 5 minutes
-  Take a look at the toilet bowl. If there is colored water in it, you have a slow leak.

Did you know?

Repairing a leaky toilet prevents up to **6,000 gallons** of water from going down the drain each month!

+ Other places to look for drips and leaks:

- ◆ Kitchen sink
- ◆ Bathroom faucets
- ◆ Outside water spigots
- ◆ Sprinkler system



Toilet & Turf Conservation Rebates coming!

MSWD was recently awarded Proposition 1 grant funds from the CA Department of Water Resources through the Integrated Regional Water Management Program.

These funds will be used to implement turf removal, toilet rebates, and conservation outreach.

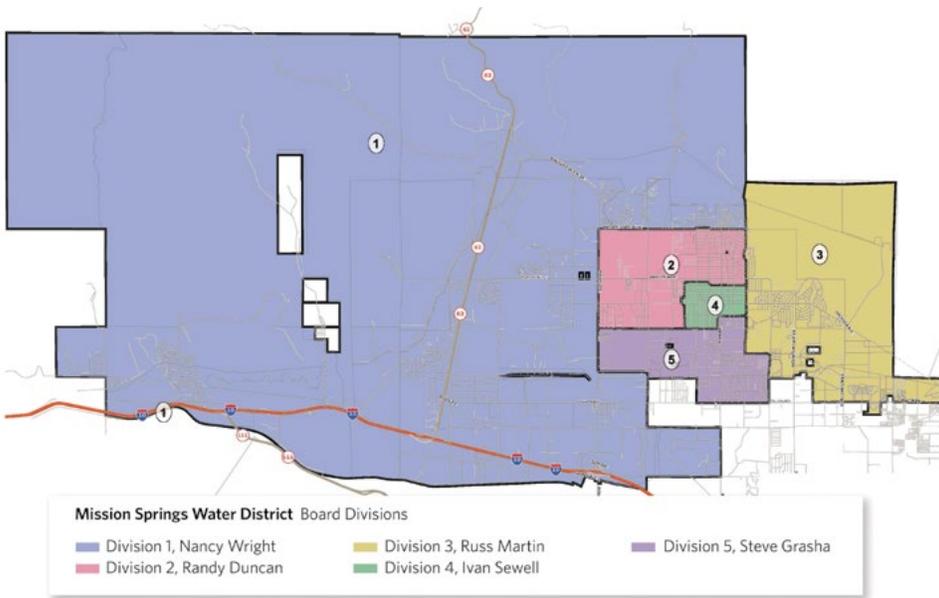
If you feel that you may have a toilet leak or want a water wise friendly option, it may be time to consider a new toilet. Applications for these programs will be released in October 2020.



Election by Division

On June 24, 2020, MSWD adopted Ordinance No. 2020-2, establishing the election of members of the Board of Directors by five divisions, establishing the boundaries and identification number of each division, and establishing the election order of each division.

Three of the five divisions will be up for election on November 3, 2020. Those are Divisions 2, 3, and 4. The remaining seats, Divisions 1 and 5, will be up for election in 2022. For more information, visit mswd.org/districting



MSWD TEAM SPOTLIGHT

Theresa Murphy, Engineering Technician

Theresa joined MSWD in 2008 as an Administrative Services 1 representative. Twelve and a half years later, Theresa has held various positions within MSWD and has found her home in the Engineering Department.

In Spring 2020, Theresa was recognized as the "MSWD Administrative Employee of the Year" by her fellow employees!



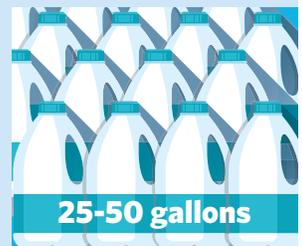
Rick Lyneis, Interim Lead Field Operations Technician

Rick has been part of the MSWD family since 2006 when he joined as a Construction Worker 1. This past Spring, Rick was recognized and nominated by his peers as the "MSWD Field Employee of the Year" for 2020. You may have seen Rick working outside in the hot summer temperature fixing leaks - make sure to say hi!



Did you know?

How much water is used in the average five-minute shower?



25-50 gallons



How much water is used to brush your teeth?

2 gallons

WATER TRIVIA SOURCE: EPA.GOV

MSWD IS HERE FOR YOU!

Contact us if you have questions or concerns about your water bill. We are here to help answer questions and provide assistance. Give us a call at 760.329.6448.

MSWD BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Directors meets on the third Monday of each month, and the Thursday prior to that Monday for study session. Meetings begin at 3 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend these meetings to learn more about the water district. Meeting agendas are posted online days prior to a meeting and include the time and location. Meeting agendas will contain information about any adjustments to participation procedures due to COVID-19.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Nancy Wright, President | Randy Duncan, Vice President | Steve Grasha | Russ Martin | Ivan Sewell
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