

Mesa Water Celebrates 10th Anniversary of Providing Customers 100% Local Water

For more than 60 years, Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) has had the privilege of delivering high-quality water to our customers. This year, Mesa Water is celebrating its 10th anniversary of providing 100% local, reliable, clean, safe water – **the only water district in Orange County to fulfill water demand entirely from local groundwater supplies.**



In Mesa Water's early history, we relied exclusively on imported water from Northern California and the Colorado River Basin. Today, Mesa Water only uses groundwater that is pumped from the Orange County groundwater basin via Mesa Water's seven wells. The basin is replenished with water from the Groundwater Replenishment System managed by the Orange County Water District.

Mesa Water Reliability Facility Contributes to 100% Local Supply

Mesa Water's Board of Directors, known for forward-thinking planning and investments, took significant steps to ensure local water reliability by authorizing construction of the Mesa Water Reliability Facility (MWRF).

Raw water that meets all water quality standards is pulled from deep below ground by the MWRF's two wells. The water has an amber tint. The color comes from ancient redwood trees, which grew along the Orange County coast more than 100,000 years ago. The trees decayed under the surface of the earth and colored the water in the deep aquifer. Using state-of-the-art nanofiltration technology, the amber organic

color is removed and the clear water is added to our water supply.

How 100% Local Water Benefits Mesa Water Customers

- Local water costs less than imported water because there are higher treatment costs for imported water and it takes a tremendous amount of energy to bring imported water to Orange County.
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions – Mesa Water's carbon footprint is about half of what it once was when the District was more reliant on imported water.
- Local water is reliable and less subject to cutbacks due to recurring drought.

Local Water = Customer Savings

- Local Water – \$603 per acre foot
- Imported Water – \$1,143 per acre foot

An acre foot = 326,000 gallons

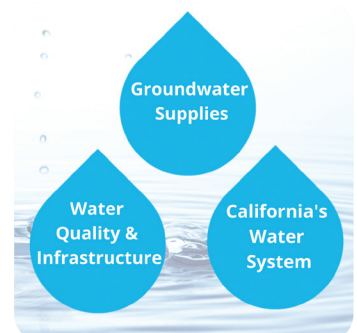
Cost savings per year –
\$8,258,000 or \$540 per acre foot

The lower cost of local water helps protect customers from rate volatility and keeps rate adjustments incremental.

Water Issues Study Group Returns in April

Our Water Issues Study Group is returning! You're invited to attend this popular educational event to hear directly from water industry leaders and experts. You'll learn all about Mesa Water, the California water system, the future of water, and how we keep your drinking water safe. The Water Issues Study Group will take place on Saturday, April 23, 2022 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Mesa Water's headquarters. Lunch will be served.

Pre-registration is required. Please register by April 15 to confirm your spot – at Info@MesaWater.org or 949-631-1201. We hope to see you!



Staff Splash: Meet Kay Lee

Kay Lee, water quality and compliance supervisor at Mesa Water, ensures your drinking water is safe.

How did you get into the water quality field?

I discovered the water quality field during an internship at a local water agency. That experience opened my eyes to careers in water quality. Making sure our drinking water is of the highest quality and meets or exceeds state and federal drinking water standards is incredibly rewarding work.

Tell us about your role to ensure that Mesa Water is safe for our customers?

I oversee a comprehensive water quality monitoring program. We collect samples from each well, treatment facility, and reservoir – and throughout the water distribution system. The samples are analyzed by a contracted State certified laboratory. Every month we provide water quality reports to the California State Water Resources Control Board to demonstrate compliance with drinking water standards and regulations.



How can our customers be confident that Mesa Water is safe to drink straight from the tap?

Your drinking water is safe! We conduct more than 30,000 water quality tests annually to ensure that your water meets all health requirements for drinking water.

How many glasses of water do you drink a day?

I drink at least 8-10 glasses of tap water a day.

Staff Splash is a new recurring feature in News on Tap. Look forward to meeting more Mesa Water employees in future issues.

Take a Peek, Spot a Leak During Fix a Leak Week (March 15-21)

Take a few minutes during Fix a Leak Week to check your plumbing fixtures and outdoor hose bibs for leaks. You can save water and money by fixing leaks around your home.

You might have a leak if:

- You've noticed an increase in the amount of water used on your billing statement with no explanation.
- Have a plumbing fixture that runs and doesn't stop.
- Have water pooling in specific locations.

For additional water use efficiency tips, visit MesaWater.org/Save-Water.



MesaWater.org

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Produced by Mesa Water's Board of Directors, **News On Tap** is a bi-monthly publication to inform Mesa Water's customers and community about water issues and events.

BOARD MEETINGS

Mesa Water's Board meets the second Wednesday of each month. Regular meetings begin at 4:30 p.m. at 1965 Placentia Avenue, Costa Mesa, and are open to the public. For more information, call 949.631.1206.

Public Affairs Department

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