

State Water Resources Control Board Announces Emergency Regulation for Water Reduction

The State Water Resources Control Board adopted an emergency regulation to reduce water demand and improve water conservation. It requires all urban water suppliers to implement demand reduction measures. Urban water suppliers must comply with the emergency regulation regardless of whether or not an actual water shortage exists for the supplier's service area. Mesa Water has an abundant supply of water due to long-term investments in water sources and infrastructure. Between the Orange County Water District's (OCWD) expert management of the Orange County Groundwater Basin (Basin) and the Groundwater Replenishment System, which helps refill the Basin – along with the Mesa Water Reliability Facility, our customers always have several years' supply of 100% local, reliable, clean, safe, groundwater in storage.

To comply with the emergency regulation, Mesa Water has put outdoor water restrictions in place because outdoors is where we use the most water and it is where customers can make the most impact by watering more efficiently. The following outdoor watering restrictions are now in effect:

- **Mesa Water District residential customers are limited to four (4) days per week for outdoor watering.** Watering or irrigating of lawn, landscape, or other vegetated area with potable water is prohibited

between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on any day. Hand-held watering cans, buckets, or similar containers reasonably used to convey water for irrigation purposes are not subject to these time restrictions. Similarly, a hand-held hose equipped with a fully functioning, positive self-closing water shut-off nozzle or device may be used during the otherwise restricted period.

- **Commercial customers are not permitted to water any grass that is ornamental** and not used for recreational purposes, except to the extent necessary to ensure the health of trees and other perennial non-turf plantings, or to address an immediate health and safety need.

- **All leaks, breaks, or other malfunctions in the water user's plumbing or distribution system must be repaired** within 72 hours of notification by Mesa Water, or turned off, unless other arrangements are made with the District.

Mesa Water's Board of Directors established a rate stabilization fund, designated to cover shortfalls in revenue from reduced water use, so we don't have to raise rates when we are being required to ask customers to cut back on their water use.

In addition, thanks to our customers' efficient water use during the last statewide drought emergency, Mesa Water exceeded our state mandated 20 percent conservation without raising rates and negative impacts to our financial standing.

Mesa Water Notify

If the emergency regulation moves into new levels requiring further reductions, we'll keep you updated through email, text, and voice message alerts with our Mesa Water Notify customer notification system. Contact Customer Services at 949.631.1200 to ensure we have your most current contact information.

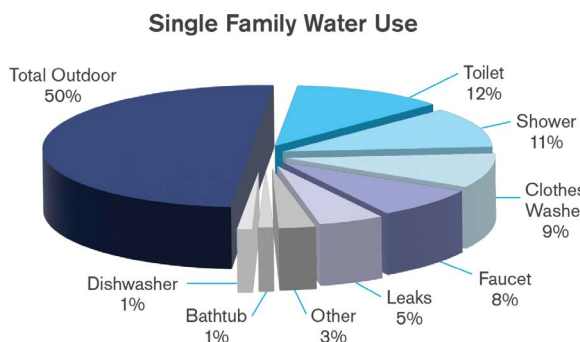
Take a Peek, Find a Leak with Your Residential Water Meter

Want to know if you have a leak in your home? Checking your water meter is an easy way to keep track of your water use.

Your water meter is usually located between the sidewalk and curb under a cement cover. Remove the cover by inserting a screwdriver in the hole in the lid, and lift the cover. The meter reads straight across, like the odometer on your car. Read only the white numbers (0000).

Turn off all the water in your home, both indoor and outdoor faucets, and then check the dial for any movement of the low flow indicator. If there is movement, that indicates a possible leak between the meter and your plumbing system.

For more water saving tips, visit: [MesaWater.org/BeMesaWaterWise](https://www.MesaWater.org/BeMesaWaterWise).



Low Flow Indicator

Meter Register



Mesa Water's Outstanding Financial Performance Reaffirmed by Fitch Ratings

Mesa Water's AAA credit rating – the highest achievable by an organization – has been reaffirmed by Fitch Ratings Inc., one of the top credit rating agencies in the nation.

The prestigious AAA rating allowed Mesa Water to borrow funds at 2%, the lowest possible interest rate for critical infrastructure improvements such as the current construction of two new wells, or replacement of water valves to ensure water reliability. Being able to borrow at lower rates reduces financing costs and helps protect customers from rate volatility.

The AAA standing highlights the Mesa Water Board of Directors and staff's proactive, financial management practices, including the use of long-term financial and capital planning.

Staff Splash: Meet Shane Kemp

Shane Kemp, water quality technician at Mesa Water, ensures your drinking water is safe.

Q: How did you start your career in the water industry?

A: I worked for a water conservation consultant that piqued my interest and exposed me to the water industry. I started taking water-related classes in the water science program at my local community college, and the rest is history.

Q: What do you find most rewarding about your job?

A: I enjoy informing customers about where their water comes from – that Mesa Water is the only water district in Orange County that provides 100% local groundwater and is not reliant on imported water – and how Mesa Water ensures their drinking water is safe and reliable.

Q: Tell us about your role to ensure that our water is safe for our customers.

A: In my role as a water quality technician, I perform tests and monitor equipment to ensure the water being distributed to Mesa Water customers is safe and meeting or exceeding water quality standards that have been established by federal and state regulatory agencies.

Q: Do you have a hobby outside of work?

A: I enjoy road trips with my family and friends exploring cities throughout California.

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



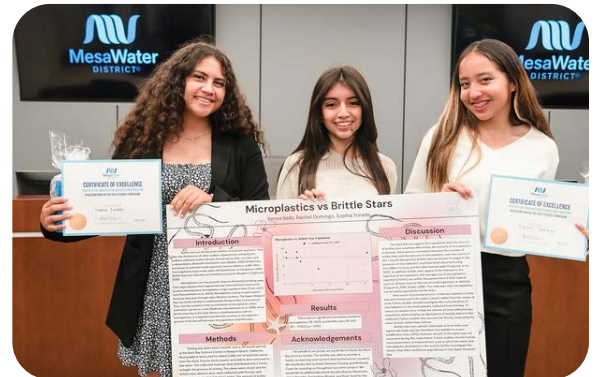
Budding Scientists and Water Experts Compete in Annual Poster Contest

Mesa Water District recently hosted the Institute for Conservation Research and Education's poster symposium for local high school students. As part of students' environmental sciences classes, they conducted research at local organizations and natural habitats. More than 100 students presented their insightful posters on topics ranging from soil and microplastics to plants and fertilizers.

The symposium is one of many educational programs that Mesa Water supports throughout the year.

The future is bright with these up and coming environmental scientists!

From left to right: Sophia Yurada, Kenya Bello and Rachel Domingo from Costa Mesa High School, with their 1st place poster presentation "Microplastics vs. Brittle Stars."



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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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