

A New Year Message from the General Manager



Greetings!

On behalf of Mesa Water District's (Mesa Water®) publicly elected five-member Board of Directors, we wish you a happy and healthy new year!

Our staff is hard at work 365 days a year delivering high-quality water to 110,000 residents in Costa Mesa and a portion of Newport Beach. We are focused on enhancing our water reliability and exploring new water supplies. Two key projects tied to our Fiscal Year 2025 Strategic Plan are well underway:

- Upgrades to two reservoirs, which includes updating pump stations and implementing a reservoir chemical management system. These upgrades will allow Mesa Water to manage peak water demands by storing up to 11 million gallons more water.
- Local groundwater Supply Improvement Project (Local SIP) feasibility study, in partnership with the Orange County Water District, the City of Huntington Beach and the City of Newport Beach to explore the benefits of brackish groundwater desalination to enhance local and regional water supplies.

Check out the Fiscal Year 2025 Strategic Plan on our website at MesaWater.org/leadership/strategic-plan.

And, we have some exciting news coming this spring – so stay tuned!

As always, you have my commitment – and that of our Board – that Mesa Water will work hard every day to ensure a 100% local, reliable, clean and safe water supply.

Warmest regards,



Paul E. Shoenberger, P.E.

Maximize Efficiency and Growth: Get Your Drip Irrigation Installed Before Spring

As spring approaches, gardens awake, so now is the ideal time to start thinking about enhancing your irrigation system. Drip irrigation, a method that delivers water directly to the roots of plants, offers numerous benefits for gardeners.



Water Use Efficiency

Drip irrigation is designed to minimize water waste. By delivering water slowly and directly to the soil around plant roots, it reduces water loss from evaporation, wind and runoff—common issues with traditional sprinkler systems.

Weed Control

Since drip irrigation targets only the plants you want to water, it deprives surrounding weeds of moisture, reducing their growth and keeping your garden healthier and more manageable.

Invest in Sustainability

Installing a drip irrigation system is more than a convenience—it's a smart, sustainable choice. By using water wisely and promoting healthier plants, you'll enjoy a more productive garden while reducing your environmental impact. Make plans now to set up your system and enjoy the rewards all year long.

For more information on drip irrigation rebates, visit our website MesaWater.org/BeMesaWaterWise/rebates

Healthier Plants with Targeted Hydration

Spring is when plants begin to grow and establish their root systems. Drip irrigation ensures consistent moisture at the root zone, encouraging deep root development and healthier plants.

Cost-Effective Investment

While there is an upfront cost to installing a drip system, the long-term savings in water use and maintenance can make it a cost-effective choice. Installing before spring ensures you get the maximum benefit throughout the growing season. Additionally, Mesa Water offers rebates to offset the cost of installing drip irrigation.

Mesa Water Mission Statement

Mesa Water District, a local independent special district, manages its finances and water infrastructure, and advocates water policy, while reliably providing an abundance of clean, safe water to benefit the public's quality of life.



Staff Splash: Meet Juan Hernandez

Juan Hernandez, Assistant Water Operations Manager may have stumbled upon the water industry by chance, but he has made it a long-term career for himself.

What is your favorite part about working at Mesa Water?

I enjoy being challenged in my role every day. We have great staff here and I enjoy working with other departments to achieve common goals.

What drew you to want to work in the water industry?

I actually got into the water industry by chance. While I was deployed with the United States Marine Corps in Iraq and getting ready to discharge from the military, I applied for a distribution maintenance job with a water district through a temp agency. I took the job and ended up loving it. That was my entry into the world of water.

What would customers be surprised to learn about Mesa Water?

Customers would be surprised with the amount of hard work, coordination, certifications and expert knowledge required on the water operations side. Tap water is highly regulated and we take the job of ensuring that we continue to provide clean, safe water to our customers seriously.

What do you enjoy doing when you're not at work?

When I'm not working, I enjoy watching football and baseball – go Dodgers! I also spend a lot of time making memories with my kids and granddaughter.

Unidirectional Flushing Ensures a Safe, Reliable Drinking Water Supply

Mesa Water performs unidirectional flushing of the water main lines and fire hydrants as part of its regular preventative maintenance program.

Unidirectional flushing involves cleaning pipes by forcing water through isolated sections at high velocities, in a single direction. This produces a scouring action that loosens and removes any sediment buildup and sand from pipes that deliver your water. The sediment that is present is normal, however removing it improves the appearance of the water.

During a flushing operation in your neighborhood, you will see Mesa Water crews flushing water via fire hydrants and end of water main blow off pipes. Should you see water discharged in the street, please know that this a necessary part of maintaining a reliable, safe drinking water supply. Some of this discharged water will soak back into the groundwater basin for reuse.



How will this affect my water service?

- Water flushing generally occurs between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. and affected customers are notified in advance of this work with a door tag.
- Mesa Water's Operations team asks that you refrain from using water during that time, especially hot water, including laundry use, due to the potential of sediment getting into your hot water heater and appliances.
- Residents can flush toilets during this time.
- Once the work is completed, you may notice some discoloration or sediment in your tap water, affecting only its appearance. The water is safe and will run clear when you run cold water through the faucet of your bathtub or other unscreened tap such as a garden hose.

For more information on Mesa Water's flushing program, contact the Water Quality Department at 949.574.1031.



MesaWater.org

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Paul E. Shoenberger, P.E.

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 Board meetings are held the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 4:30 p.m. at 1965 Placentia Avenue, Costa Mesa, and are open to the public. For more information, call 949.631.1206.

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