

Mesa Water Awarded \$250,000 from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to Lead the Local Groundwater Supply Improvement Project Feasibility Study



Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®), Orange County Water District (OCWD) and the cities of Huntington Beach and Newport Beach are joining together to spearhead coastal Orange County's water supply resiliency efforts by pursuing innovative ways to sustainably provide local, reliable water supplies to the region.

Mesa Water was awarded \$250,000 from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to lead the local groundwater Supply Improvement Project (Local SIP) feasibility study, in partnership with OCWD, the City of Huntington Beach and the City of Newport Beach. The study will explore the benefits of brackish groundwater desalination for water whose salinity is between that of fresh water and marine water – to enhance local and regional water supplies.

“Mesa Water supports the development of cost-effective and environmentally sensitive sources of water, including recycling, groundwater clean-up and brackish desalination,” says Paul Shoenberger, P.E., Mesa Water General Manager. “The funding for this critical effort will help us study new opportunities to augment our local water supply.”

Desalinated brackish groundwater was identified as a potential new source of water to improve local reliability in the future for the Orange County Groundwater Basin and the other 18 agencies that serve water from this aquifer.

Reservoir Upgrades Project Underway

One of Mesa Water's Strategic Plan goals is to perpetually renew and improve our infrastructure. Investments in infrastructure maintenance and renewal are less costly than emergency repairs, which helps protect customers from rate volatility.

The Reservoir Upgrades Project will allow Mesa Water to help manage peak water demands by storing up to an additional 11 million gallons of water at two reservoirs. The project will replace pumps, generators and motors, add new infrastructure to pumping systems and make upgrades to the reservoir management system.

During times of the day when system usage is low, the reservoirs are filled. During periods of above average or peak use, the reservoirs empty. In addition to daily use, the reservoirs provide emergency water storage. During an emergency, water demand may exceed production; continuous local storage helps safeguard adequate supplies for such an event.

Construction at Reservoir 2, located under Lindbergh Park, began in June and is expected to be completed by Summer 2025. Divers were recently sent into Reservoir 2 to install new equipment, so stay tuned to our social media @MesaWater to watch the dive footage.

Construction on Reservoir 1, currently a 10-million-gallon reservoir at Mesa Water's headquarters, is scheduled to begin in Fall 2024 and be completed by the end of 2025.

The Reservoir Upgrades Project is part of Mesa Water's \$70 million Capital Improvement Project Renewal Program.



Reservoir 1 Construction in 1988



Reservoir 2 Construction in 1992



2024 Water Quality Report Now Available

Mesa Water conducts extensive water quality testing to ensure your water is clean and safe. To read the 2024 Water Quality Report, visit MesaWater.org/WaterQualityReport.

To request a printed copy, email Info@MesaWater.org or call 949.631.1201 and provide your name and mailing address.

Staff Splash: Meet Nathan Bylsma

Nathan Bylsma, Operator II has had an interest in the water industry since he was young.

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

A: Some of my family members have been in the industry for 30 years and seeing the work they accomplished on a day-to-day basis drove me to follow in their footsteps.

Q: Do you have a favorite project you work on?

A: I really enjoy working on our Capital Valve and Hydrant Replacement Program. It's very mechanical – we use more parts and heavy equipment compared to other maintenance projects, which makes it exciting.

Q: What is your favorite part about working at Mesa Water?

A: My favorite part is being able to interact with and help our customers. I also enjoy being outside every day in the beautiful Costa Mesa weather.

Q: What do you like to do when you're not at work?

A: I really enjoy working on older cars and getting them up and running again.



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

100% Local Mesa Water Dispensed at OC Fair

If you were at the OC Fair this summer, we hope you took advantage of the free, chilled water at the Mesa Water branded water bottle refilling stations. The stations were a huge hit with fairgoers on the hot summer days.

Summer Event Season Winds Down

Every summer, Mesa Water staff have loads of fun at community events in our service area. We love it when customers stop by the Mesa Water booth to test their water knowledge. Our staff interacted with over 1,500 visitors – at the Lions Club Fish Fry at Davis Field and four Concerts in the Park at Fairview Park – who wanted to learn more about Mesa Water's abundance of local, reliable, clean and safe water. Perhaps you saw our new ride out and about too...the Mesa Water mobile supports our many outreach events throughout the year.

We look forward to seeing you in the community at future events!



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 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.

Public Affairs Department

949.631.1201

Info@MesaWater.org

After Hours Emergency Phone: 949.631.1200

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