

It's Spring Planting Season – Brighten Your Garden With California Native Plants

California native plants are always a great addition to local landscapes. They need less water than non-native plants and can add vibrant color. These plants are excellent choices for gardeners who want to be water-wise and beautify their outdoor space with a rainbow of color:

Red—Santa Ana Cardinal Coral Bells are a pinkish red and love cool full sun on the coast and light shade inland. It is a perennial that needs very little water. Hummingbirds love this plant.

Orange—Mexican Gold Poppy is similar to the California Poppy, but has smaller blooms. These flowers prefer full sun and well-drained soil. Blooms will attract bees.

Yellow—Desert Marigold is a hardy, fast-growing perennial that loves full sun and grows in all soil types, as long as it is well-drained. It needs very little water, but occasional water can increase the size of the blooms.

Blue—Baby Blue Eyes is an annual native wildflower that is very easy to start from seed. The delicate plant prefers sandy soil, low to medium water and full sun to partial shade. The flowers are sky blue with white centers and attract pollinators.

Purple—Margarita Bop Foothill Penstemon is an evergreen perennial that is very easy to grow. It thrives in full sun and all types of soil. Flowers will appear throughout the year, especially when spent flowers are removed. Bees, butterflies and hummingbirds love the tube-shaped flowers.

Visit our website MesaWater.org/BeMesaWaterWise for a list of plants Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) features in its own water-wise gardens.



Desert Marigold (Baileya multiradiata)



Baby Blue Eyes (Nemophila menziesii)

Students Learn About Water Storage and Supply at Children's Water Education Festival



The 'Mesa Water Warriors' booth was a hit as energetic students, led by Mesa Water's own Water Use Efficiency and Education Coordinator, Hester "Fritz" Petropoulos, raced against the clock to keep their team's reservoir full of water at the annual Children's Water Education Festival. This two-day immersive event, hosted by Orange County Water District at the University of California, Irvine welcomed thousands of third, fourth and fifth grade students to learn about all aspects of water from underground aquifers to water quality and water use efficiency.

Mesa Water's AAA Credit Rating Reaffirmed

Mesa Water was recently reaffirmed as AAA credit rated by Fitch Ratings Inc. — the highest rating achievable by an organization. Our sustained AAA standing highlights the Mesa Water Board of Directors' and staff's proactive financial management practices and dedication to remaining fiscally responsible and financially strong for our ratepayers. This sustained AAA credit rating allowed Mesa Water to borrow funds at the lowest possible interest rate to fund vital infrastructure improvements including two new potable drinking water wells, mainline valve replacements and reservoir upgrades.





Staff Splash: Meet Tyler Jernigan

Tyler Jernigan, Water Operations Manager, is committed to helping ensure a reliable, clean and safe source of water for our customers.

Q: How did you get into the water industry?

A: I worked as a contractor for water agencies in the tri-state area conducting hydraulic system analysis. At each agency, I saw how engaged and excited staff were to be there and that made me want to be a part of the water industry.

Q: What advice do you have for someone wishing to pursue a career in water operations?

A: I might be a little biased, but water operations is the backbone of any water district. This is where all the action happens. You get to work with a great group of people and utilize your brains and brawn.

Q: What would people find surprising about your role at Mesa Water?

A: They would be surprised about the vast scope of what this job entails; I know this surprised me as I entered this role. Water operations includes everything from production and distribution to maintenance, repair and water quality. Having a great team around you, like I do, makes it possible to be a successful water operations manager.

Q: What is your favorite water-themed movie?

A: *The Waterboy*, his attention to water quality was very impressive.

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

Your Water is Safe – 2024 Water Quality Report Available Online July 1

Mesa Water is proud to provide customers with clean, safe water that meets or exceeds all strict state and federal drinking water regulations. Mesa Water’s 2024 Water Quality Report will be available online beginning July 1. To learn more, visit MesaWater.org/WaterQualityReport.

Come See the Mesa Water Team at Summer Community Events

Fun summer community events are coming up and we’re looking forward to seeing our customers out and about. You’ll find us at the Costa Mesa Lions Fish Fry at Lions Park June 28-30 and at the Costa Mesa Foundation’s Concerts in the Park series held on July 9, 16, 23 and 30 at Fairview Park.

Stop by the Mesa Water booth to say hello, ask questions and win a beach ball, rubber duck or water bottle by spinning our ever-popular water trivia wheel!



MesaWater.org

Follow us @MesaWater



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Shawn Dewane, President; Division V
Marice H. DePasquale, Vice President; Division III
Jim Atkinson, Director; Division IV
Fred R. Bockmiller, P.E., Director; Division I
James R. Fisler, Director; Division II

GENERAL MANAGER

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.

Public Affairs Department

949.631.1201

Info@MesaWater.org

After Hours Emergency Phone: 949.631.1200

Printed using soy-based ink on 100% recycled FSC®-certified and elemental chlorine-free paper. Please recycle this when you are finished reading it. Thank you.

