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WINTER 2007

A NEWSLETTER FOR CUSTOMERS OF THE OTAY WATER DISTRICT

Otay Water District Hosts Dutch Delegation

The Otay Water District (OWD) recently hosted a delegation of 14 members of the Dutch Water Board on a significant international mission. Their visit at OWD was one stop in a week long tour of water technology sites in California.

The meeting was arranged by the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), which designs and develops geographic information system (GIS) technology. ESRI chose OWD because of the advanced work the district has done to integrate GIS software and the district's business processes. General Manager Mark Watton hosted the event which included a technology demonstration highlighting the integration of its GIS, Infrastructure Management System, and its financial system software.

With much of the Netherlands and its population living at or below sea level, the Dutch have nearly one thousand years of experience building and maintaining levees and are widely considered to have the best water management systems in the world.

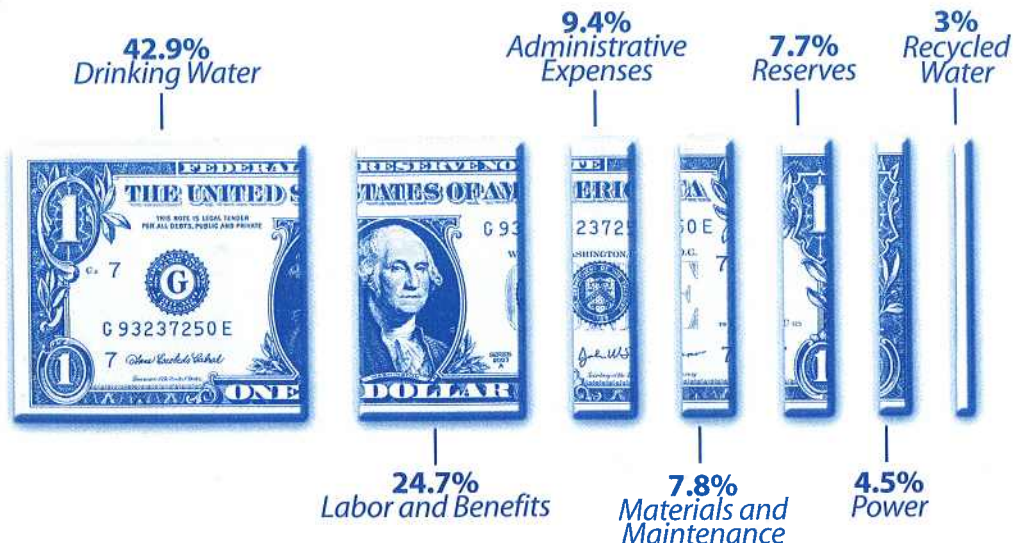


OWD staff and water officials from the Netherlands in front of District Headquarters.

While the Dutch systems must manage the perils associated with an abundance of water, here in Southern California we often deal with scarcity. Nevertheless, we each share similar issues of building and maintaining water management systems and ensuring those systems are cost effective and efficient. As a technology leader, OWD was proud to welcome the officials from the Netherlands and to do our part to build international relationships through the sharing of resource management techniques and information.

Where Your Water Dollar Goes

In January, the Otay Water District approved a 5.4 percent water rate increase. This is mostly a pass-through to our water wholesalers to pay for higher water and energy costs. It also funds system wide infrastructure upgrades such as the Emergency Water Storage Program to improve long-term reliability. The following graphic breaks down how each dollar of your water bill is allocated. The Operating Budget and Comprehensive Financial Report can be found on our website at www.otaywater.gov.



Holiday Treats for Our Troops

As a sweet holiday treat for an Otay employee whose Naval Reserve unit is currently deployed in Iraq, Otay staff organized a holiday cookie drive. Nearly 90 lbs. of homemade cookies were baked, individually vacuum sealed, packed, and shipped along with Christmas cards; one for each member of the unit. The holiday care packages arrived shortly before Christmas day and were a special treat for these men and women serving far from home.



(Above Right) OWD employees vacuum seal and package home baked cookies for soldiers fighting in Iraq. (Left Photos) OWD Employee Vince Brown and fellow Naval Reserve soldiers enjoy the holiday care packages. Each Reservist received approximately 2 lbs. of cookies.

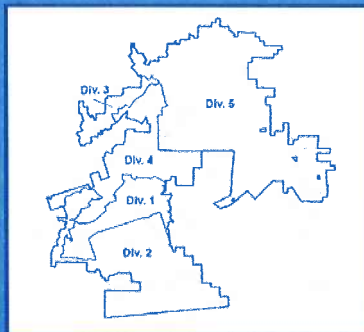
Croucher To Lead Board

Division 3 Boardmember Gary Croucher was recently elected President of the Board of Directors. Jose Lopez was elected Vice-President and former President Jaime Bonilla transitioned to Treasurer.

Division 1 Director Larry Breitfelder was also sworn in to office and has been a director for the district since 2002. Both Croucher and Breitfelder ran unopposed in 2006.

Croucher currently represents OWD on the San Diego County Water Authority board where he serves as chairman of the Imported Water Committee. While serving on the SDCWA, he also represents OWD on the Legislative, Conservation and Outreach, Small Contractor Outreach and Opportunities, Colorado River Program Ad Hoc, and Conservation Ad Hoc committees.

OWD Divisional Map



For a detailed map please visit www.otaywater.gov.

Check Your Water Pressure

Have you experienced a leaking faucet or a constantly running toilet? A faulty water pressure regulator may be the cause. Even in new homes, pressure regulators do wear out and can fail. The quality of your regulator dictates the years of service to expect. Regulators may last as little as one year or twenty years or more. To ensure proper pressure in your home, it is your responsibility to have and maintain a working pressure regulator. When doing any plumbing work around your house, ask your licensed plumber to check your water pressure.



OWD Receives Award for Pump Station Project

The San Diego-Imperial County Chapter of the American Public Works Association recently awarded the 2006 Public Works Honor Project of the Year Award to the Otay Water District for its 980-2 Pump Station Project. Located in eastern Chula Vista, the Eastlake Greens Facility can deliver up to 36 million gallons of water per day and serves the equivalent of 17,500 homes and businesses.

Otay Water District Board of Directors

The Board of Directors meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 3:30 in the Boardroom. The public is encouraged to attend at 2554 Sweetwater Springs Blvd., Spring Valley, CA

President

Gary Croucher, Division 3
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Vice-President

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Boardmember

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Boardmember

Larry Breitfelder, Division 1
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