

Looking Back and Moving Forward

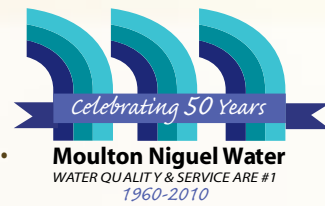
MNWD will celebrate our 50th anniversary in November. This is the first in a three-part series on the District's service. 1960-1974

Prior to becoming one of Orange County's most bustling coastal communities, the areas served today by MNWD were once part of two sprawling Spanish land grants: Rancho Niguel and Rancho Mission Viejo. You may be familiar with neighborhoods bearing the same names, but until the early 1960s, these lands were used primarily for ranching. Lacking a reliable water supply to maintain their herds, the area's ranchers banded together in 1960 to create their own water agency – and the Moulton Niguel Water District was born.

At its inception, MNWD served only eight customers. But as ranch land quickly began transforming into ranch homes, local water demands dramatically changed, and the District began building reservoirs to help serve its new customers. The lure of affordable coastal living drew new families to the region in the coming years, with MNWD's customer base doubling to more than 33,000 between 1970 and 1972.

Along with a reliable water supply, these new residents would need sewer service, so MNWD expanded its operations to provide wastewater treatment. In 1974, the District became one of the first water providers in Orange County to deliver recycled water for irrigation uses. This revolutionary program has saved billions of gallons of potable water over the years.

Next Month: 1975-2000



Prior to MNWD delivering water service in 1960, the region was primarily two large ranches.

IN THIS ISSUE

- MNWD evaluating new ways to achieve conservation
- Distribution team keeps water flowing 24/7
- Your water-wise gardening guide
- District to celebrate 50th anniversary
- MNWD facts and figures
- Three-day-per-week watering continues

WaterLines

September 2010 www.MNWD.com

District Evaluating New Ways to Conserve

Newly proposed rate model would encourage efficiency

Every MNWD customer has unique water needs. Typically, more water is used in large homes than condos, and some businesses need more than others. That is why the District is evaluating the way we calculate water rates, and looking at new approaches to bring our customers more fairness and equity, and to encourage everyone to use water more efficiently.

MNWD's Board of Directors has asked District staff to analyze a potential transition from the current tiered rate model to a new Efficiency-Based Rate



The proposed Efficiency-Based Rate Structure would reward efficient water use with lower rates.

Structure, as a way to stabilize water bills and allow MNWD customers to become part of the solution as we work together to protect our region's limited water resources. The move to Efficiency-Based Rates would only be a change to the way rates are assessed, and in fact, customers who use water wisely would actually see equivalent or lower water bills as a result.

The Board's request has begun what will be a lengthy process of evaluating this potential new rate structure. Our customers will have several opportunities to participate in this process, and will hear from the District numerous times in the coming months with more information before the Board considers the change in a public hearing in 2011.

What are Efficiency-Based Rates?

Efficiency-Based Rates make sure everyone receives a customized amount of water – a water budget – to meet their specific needs. This amount would be calculated based on a detailed survey MNWD is conducting of each of our customer's water needs, based on lot size, landscaped area, the number of residents in each home and localized weather data, among other factors. Customers whose water use remains within their budgets would be billed at lower rates; customers who waste water by exceeding their budget would be billed at a higher rate. This new rate structure would reward efficiency and give customers the freedom to use their water budgets as they see fit.

Water Efficiency Update

Since July, MNWD customers have conserved

11.7%

We are **required** to conserve

20%

Can you use water more efficiently?

Water Conservation Tip of the Month

Use a commercial car wash that recycles water. You'll save time, reduce runoff and conserve up to 500 gallons per year.

Visit www.MNWD.com or call (949) 831-2500 to learn other easy ways to save.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Richard S. Fiore
President

Gerald E. Buck
Vice President

Donald Froelich
Vice President

Lawrence R. Lizotte
Gary Kurtz

Larry McKenney
Brian Probolsky

Robert C. Gumerman, Ph.D., P.E.
General Manager

Charles J. Roy
Editor

For meeting dates and agendas, visit www.MNWD.com.

WaterLines is a monthly publication to keep water users in the Moulton Niguel Water District informed about water-related issues and events. Please send any comments or suggestions to MNWD, 27500 La Paz Road, Laguna Niguel, CA, 92677, or call us at (949) 831-2500. www.MNWD.com.

Level 2 "Water Alert" Irrigation Schedule

Residential

Aliso Viejo and Mission Viejo
Monday and Thursday, and Saturday or Sunday

Dana Point, Laguna Hills and Laguna Niguel
Tuesday and Friday, and Saturday or Sunday

Commercial

Monday, Wednesday and Friday

MNWD's Water Conservation Program prohibits watering between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Recycled water users are exempt from this schedule.

Conserve Today: Save Water. Save Money. Protect the Environment.

Providing a Clean and Reliable Water Supply

Keeping the water flowing is a 24/7 job at MNWD

MNWD's primary mission is to provide clean, safe drinking water to our customers. At the core of this mission is our distribution crew, a highly-trained four-member team that is in charge of transferring water from our regional wholesaler's supply line to MNWD reservoirs, protecting water quality and maintaining District infrastructure.

Monitoring the District's water supply is a round-the-clock job that takes an understanding of high technology and numerous pressure zones. The distribution team conducts most of its work in front of a wall of colorful computer screens tied to our supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system, which monitors supply, demand, chlorination and other critical information in real time. The distribution team can also access the system at home or in the field for constant monitoring. That becomes important because MNWD typically pumps most of our water late at night, taking advantage of off-peak power rates to keep costs to a minimum.

In addition to moving water to and from the District's 38 domestic and recycled water reservoirs, the distribution team also monitors MNWD's water quality. They oversee the chlorination system and perform regular tests to ensure MNWD's water meets or exceeds strict state standards. The crew also schedules preventative maintenance to keep the District's infrastructure running smoothly, which reduces the risk of costly and disruptive breakdowns. In order to hold this important job, crew members must complete years of rigorous training, pass numerous state exams and take part in regular continuing education to achieve and maintain the required certifications.

Our customers rely on MNWD to provide a clean and reliable source of water. The distribution crew works day in and day out behind the scenes to ensure that we continue to deliver on that promise.



MNWD's distribution crew ensures a reliable supply of clean water is always on tap.

Facts and Figures

Ever wonder what it takes to ensure a reliable supply of quality water every time you turn on the tap?

- Number of employees: 98
- Population served: 167,000
- Potable water reservoirs: 28
- Recycled water reservoirs: 10
- Miles of potable water pipelines: 700
- Miles of recycled water pipelines: 140
- Miles of sewer pipelines: 537
- Booster stations: 37
- Water connections: 54,174
- Sewer connections: 50,200
- Pressure zones: 9
- Average daily water demand: 26,150,000 gallons



California-Friendly Plant of the Month:

Dwarf Olive Tree

Whether in their native Italian countryside or in your California-Friendly garden, dwarf olive trees bring a touch of romance to water efficiency, without all the mess. Full-sized olive trees can reach 50 feet in height, making them unsuitable for many smaller gardens. The dwarf variety, however, known as Little Ollie, is much smaller, perfect for small beds, large pots or as shrubs.



Little Ollies look very similar to their larger cousins, with small aromatic dark-green leaves and light bark, but they produce no olives. They are very easy to care for once established. Pruning the lower half will help cultivate your Little Ollie into a tree, while pruning the top will keep it in shrub form. Water once or twice per week during the first year to establish the roots. After that, water deeply, but infrequently, and nature should take care of the rest.

Dwarf Olive Tree "Little Ollie" <i>Olea Europaea</i>	
Season:	Summer
Size:	4-6 feet
Color:	Evergreen
Water:	Low
Sun:	Full sun

Water-Wise Garden Guide

Sowing the seeds for a drought-tolerant garden

Drought-tolerant, California-Friendly gardens are a beautiful way to save water. Fall is the perfect time to start one and it is easier than you may think.



Step 1: Select a location. If you have an established garden, you can replace old or dead plants with drought-tolerant options. Group plants with the same watering needs together to avoid overwatering some while under-watering others.

Step 2: Select the right plants. Take your garden's soil type and sun exposure and the plants' size, water and maintenance needs into account when choosing which plants to purchase. Visit www.MNWD.com to learn about a wide variety of colorful options for all types of environments.

Step 3: Cultivate your garden. Drought-tolerant plants require regular watering at first to establish roots and promote growth. Winter rains will do most of this work for you. Once the plants are established, allow the soil to dry a few inches below the surface between waterings. Check the specific water needs of your plants as some will vary. Then sit back and enjoy.