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# ON TAP

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## **DISTRICT WATER RATE SCHEDULE FOR 2014**

Although water rates for most south county water agencies are set to increase this year, the Board of Directors approved District staff's recommendation to not adjust the District's Water Rate Schedule, and absorb the rate increases from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MET) and Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC), effective January 1, 2014.

The approved MET and MWDOC water rates and fee increases of approximately 5% primarily apply to the imported treated water rate, with no change to the current imported untreated water rate. The majority of the District's purchased imported water is received as untreated, then filtered and treated at the District-owned Dimension Water Treatment Plant, and then conveyed through the distribution system to your home. It is through the ability to treat raw water at its own facility that the District can help control costs for our customers and continue to provide services in a cost-effective and efficient manner. It is important to note though, that in addition to these absorbed water rate increased costs that the District anticipates an increase in energy costs to convey this water.

If you have any questions about the District's Water Rate Schedule, please feel free to contact Customer Service at (949) 858-0277, or visit our website at [www.tcwd.ca.gov](http://www.tcwd.ca.gov).

## **BAKER WATER TREATMENT PLANT**

You may have read recent articles in local media sources concerning Irvine Ranch Water District's (IRWD) Baker Water Treatment Plant Project (Baker

WTP Project), and have learned that Trabuco Canyon Water District (District) was associated with this project. The Baker WTP Project is a new regional water treatment facility designed to provide additional water reliability and serve as an emergency source of water supply for the project's participating agencies, which includes the District.

At the November 20, 2013, Regular Board Meeting, the Board of Directors approved the District's continued participation in the construction, operation and maintenance of the Baker WTP Project, as well as the District's funding portion of \$4.9 million through the Water Reliability Emergency Storage (WRES) Fund and transfers from the District's Special Designation Reserves to be repaid from District revenues. The District's participation in the Baker WTP Project is one of the three projects funded by the WRES Fund, which is a meter size-based monthly fee that appears on customer's utility bills and was implemented in January, 2010.

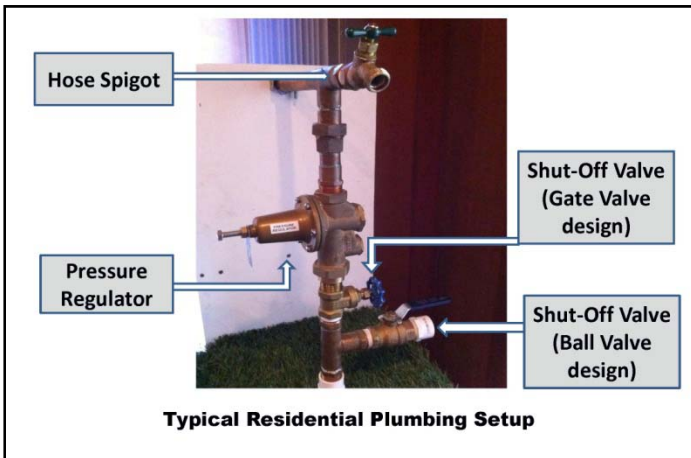
Stay tuned to future issues of On Tap for more information concerning the construction of the Baker WTP Project.

## **NEW YEAR CHECKLIST FOR 2014**

The New Year has arrived, and it is typically a time for renewal and re-evaluation. TCWD encourages our customers to review some of the key water-related items and devices used at your homes that may require some attention. A word of advice before tackling a few of these projects, some of these items or devices may require the assistance of a certified plumber.

### • Exercise valves

At your home, there is a water service valve which is indispensable in the event of a plumbing system water leak. This valve is typically in line with a hose spigot and is designed to isolate the home plumbing system from both the meter and the residential irrigation system. Usually, this valve is located in the garage or close to the front door.



This should be the valve customers use first when turning off water to their house in the event of an emergency or plumbing repair. This valve can come in two designs: Gate Valve or Ball Valve. A word of caution, if this valve is not exercised (closed and opened slowly) at least once a year, it may not work correctly at a time of great need. If there is a problem with this valve, it is important to have a certified plumber make the repairs.

### • Pressure Regulator Check

Another device which is important to check is the pressure regulator. This device is very important to the homeowner because it is designed to maintain an optimal water pressure in the home plumbing system. Typical water pressures in the District's distribution system can be as high as 125 pounds per square inch (PSI). This amount of pressure is not ideal for the plumbing inside your home; therefore a pressure regulator may be installed. This device can lower the pressure to the recommended levels of 60 to 80 PSI. A pressure regulator's effectiveness can be checked by connecting a pressure gauge the hose spigot and turning on the water slowly. This test measures the

PSI in your home plumbing. The District recommends that homeowners contact a certified plumber for the adjustment or replacement of this device.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of these water-related items at your home, please feel free to contact TCWD's Customer Service or stop by the Main Office.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board of Directors Regular Meeting is scheduled for the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the District's Administrative Facility, which is located at 32003 Dove Canyon Drive, Trabuco Canyon. The public is encouraged to attend.

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following items are highlights or matters discussed at the December 18, 2013, Regular Board Meeting:

- Election of Board Officers for 2014.
- Committee Member and Agency Representative Appointments for 2014.
- Approval to not adjust the District's Water Rate Schedule, effective January 1, 2014.
- Approval of the MET Representative Selection Process for South County Agencies.
- Status update on District Website Upgrade Project.
- Status update on Alternate Raw Water Transmission Line Project.
- Status update on Baker Water Treatment Plant.
- Status update on Shadow Rock Detention Basin Facility Project.
- Status update on the proposed Independent Special Districts of Orange County (ISDOC) Bylaws Amendments.

*ON TAP* is published and distributed by Trabuco Canyon Water District.  
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