

DONA ANA MDWCA

Consumer Confidence Reports, Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan, New Rates

Each year the Association submits a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) to provide information on the condition of our local drinking water delivered to our membership. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Consumer Confidence Report Rule requires every community water provider submit their annual report no later than July 1. Being informed about your water source is important as germs, chemicals, and minerals, known as contaminants, may exist at varying levels. The Safe Drinking Water Act states that anything that is not exclusively H₂O is considered a contaminant without bias as to whether it is harmful to your health or not. Please be aware that while some items listed as contaminants in a CCR can be harmful to your health, others can be good for you; such as the appropriate amount of a disinfectant that keeps your water safe from germs. The EPA determines what levels of contaminants are safe to have in your water, and your CCR will explain whether or not your water source has a higher level of contaminants than recommended. The report provides the results for the most recent year sampled by EPA approved methods and certified professionals. Copies of the CCR are available in our office or can be found online at www.dawater.org.

We have received approval from the Board of Directors for the 2020-2024 Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP). The ICIP is a plan that establishes scheduling priorities for anticipated capital projects. Our top five projects selected for this ICIP are as follows:

1. Southeast Collection System
2. Lift Station and Force Main Line Improvements
3. Westwind Water Distribution System
4. South Tank Rehab
5. West Mesa Water Service Project

The Board of Directors is tasked with ensuring Dona Ana Water can meet its yearly budget requirements and also establish reserve levels to adequately plan for the future of the Association. As such the Board voted to approve a rate increase of three and a half percent for water rates and a three percent increase in wastewater. The decision is based off of the rate study completed by Carl Brown in 2016 that recommends increasing annually by small amounts instead of a large lump after many years. NMED conducts an annual rate survey on all of the water districts throughout the state, and currently our rates fall below the average water bill throughout New Mexico. The Board also approved updates to our policy handbook to include new requirements for the review of upcoming subdivisions. We have experienced a huge influx of subdivisions being built, which requires a significant amount of time and resources from the Association to review their utility plans. We are encouraged by the development happening throughout the county, however we have to create a structure for the review of utility plan sets in order to maintain best practices for the Association. Utility plan sets are reviewed in the order received and can take up to thirty days to complete given the amount of projects we are hosting in house and the amount of subdivisions being built. The water quality data, the ICIP, and our policy handbook can all be found on our website at www.dawater.org. If you have any questions or concerns please visit us online or contact our office at 575-526-3491.

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Calendar of Events:

Board Meetings:

- ◆ July 5
- ◆ July 19
- ◆ August 2
- ◆ August 16

Association Closures:

- ◆ July 4

Past Due Bills Due:

- ◆ July 20

Disconnection Day:

- ◆ July 23

Current Bills Due:

- ◆ July 25





Committed to provide quality water and sanitation services for members of our community.

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P.O. Box 866, Doña Ana, New Mexico 88032

Office:

575-526-3491

Emergency:

575-644-4027

Construction Projects:

June brought the excitement of bid openings for the Radium Springs Water System Rehab in District One, and the Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades in District Five. The apparent low bidder for the rehabilitation of Radium Springs is File Construction. We are eager to begin this work as the community in Radium Springs continues to experience line breaks and pressure issues. The construction will bring new 8- and 6-inch water distribution and fill lines, new fire hydrants, pressure reducing valves, a new booster station, and new water wells to District One. Once the project is concluded we will have the ability to isolate the district into sections in order to complete any preventative maintenance needed rather than have a water outage for the entire community. The project is funded through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) through a 3.2 million dollar grant and an 800,000 dollar loan.

The system improvements are well under way in Picacho Hills District Five. Construction along Via Norte will soon be completed and consisted of installing 5,670 linear feet (LF) of 8-inch waterline, five additional pressure reducing valves, and all related equipment. Our next major project in District Five is the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) with the apparent low bidder being Morrow Enterprise. This project incorporates much needed design improvements to the existing location. The new design will allow us to convert the secondary treatment portion of the facility into an Aero-Mod Sequox activated sludge process that includes additional tertiary treatment. This new treatment will utilize disk filters and disinfection processes with supplementary on-site effluent storage capacities, and the addition of a solids dewatering press for more efficient operations. The Aero-Mod activated sludge method is used for treating wastewater using air and microorganisms that can digest organic matter in sewage in order to process solids more productively while having the benefit of having a small footprint. The project's design and construction improvements will bring the WWTP up to code for meeting the State of New Mexico discharge permit requirements.

As with any construction, we ask the public to be mindful of the construction workers and our staff. There is heavy equipment involved in these projects with traffic controls, flaggers, and orange barrels directing traffic. Please be cautious, drive slowly, and be respectful to the workers and their safety.



Crews from Morrow Enterprise installing new water lines along Via Norte

ServLine:

575-449-8055



"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." - John F. Kennedy