

***Yorba Linda Water District***

***2006 Annual Report***

# Yorba Linda Water District Annual Report & Consumer Confidence Report

## Contents

Yorba Linda Water District  
Plans for the Future

About Yorba Linda Water District

District receives excellent rating,  
earns engineering award

Sources of our community's water

Water conservation rebates available

The Yorba Linda Water District  
Budget

Financial Overview

Combined Schedule  
of Net Assets

Combined Schedule  
of Revenues & Expenses

District Boundary map

## Board of Directors

The District's Board of Directors  
consists of five Directors elected  
on an at-large basis to four year  
terms of office

The Board of Directors meets every  
second and fourth Thursday at 8:30  
a.m. in the District office at 4622  
Plumosa Drive in Yorba Linda.

## Mission Statement

*"Yorba Linda Water District  
will provide reliable, high quality  
water and sewer services in an  
environmentally responsible manner  
at the most economical cost  
to our customers."*

## Vision Statement

*"Yorba Linda Water District  
will become the premier  
self-sufficient source for reliable  
water, sewer and related services  
in the communities it serves."*

## District Staff

Michael A. Payne  
General Manager / Secretary

Ken Vecchiarelli  
Assistant General Manager /  
District Engineer

Diane Cyganik  
Finance Director / Auditor

Lee Cory  
Operations Manager

Gina Knight  
Human Resources Manager

Mike Robinson  
Public Information Office

## ***General Manager's message...***

### ***Yorba Linda Water District plans for the future***

Yorba Linda Water District is taking a pro-active approach to ensuring top quality service and water reliability in the community we serve. The District's Board of Directors has adopted an aggressive and cost effective plan to upgrade two major water storage facilities, build a new water reservoir and booster station, replace aging water meters and consolidate all of the District's functions at our Richfield Plant site.

**Lakeview Reservoir Replacement:** The existing pair of two million gallon above ground steel tanks, built in 1961, will be replaced by an eight million gallon underground reinforced concrete structure. It will be expandable to 12 million gallons, which will triple water storage capacity at this location. A new state-of-the-art 5,000 gallon per minute booster station will also be built to move water more efficiently into our water distribution system. The new reservoir and booster station will be built on the current site near the intersection of Lakeview Avenue and Bastenchury Road. Total estimate cost of the project is \$12.6 million, to be financed through the use of long-term revenue bonds.

**Highland Reservoir Replacement:** This project consists of constructing a new six million gallon underground, reinforced concrete reservoir. This facility will replace the 4.6 million gallon, 95 year old Highland Reservoir, the District's first major water facility, which is now reaching the end of its effective service life. The new reservoir will be built on the same site as the existing reservoir, near the intersection of Yorba Linda Boulevard and Mountain View Avenue. The project is estimated to cost \$10 million, and will be financed through the use of long-term revenue bonds.

**Hidden Hills Reservoir Construction:** The District will build a new two million gallon underground reinforced concrete water reservoir in the hills of eastern Yorba Linda. This facility

will add to the District's water storage capacity in order to help meet demands and normalize water pressures, and increase the reliability of our water distribution system. The new reservoir will be built north of the extension of Hidden Hills Road. Total estimate cost of the project, which includes construction of the reservoir, 1,800 feet of inlet-outlet pipeline, 2,300 feet of storm drain pipeline, electronic and computer control equipment, and a complete pumping station, is \$6.4 million, to be financed through the use of long-term revenue bonds.

**Administration Building Construction:** A new 20,000 square foot administration building will be constructed at the District's Richfield Plant to house the administration, business and engineering departments. These functions are currently located in an off-site facility that is now inadequate in terms of work space, storage, security and safety requirements. The new facility, to be built on property already owned by the District on Richfield Road south of Orangethorpe Avenue, will accommodate staffing and service provision requirements for the next 20 years. The new building will allow the District to bring all personnel together in one location, thus improving organizational efficiency. Total estimated cost of the project, which includes offices and work spaces, document storage areas, a Board of Directors meeting room, landscaping, parking, drainage and adjacent street improvements, is \$7.5 million, to be financed through the use of long-term revenue bonds.

**Water Meter Replacement:** A contractor is currently replacing the approximately 23,000 water meters now in use throughout the District with more accurate "remote read" water meters. Replacement of aging and defective water meters will mitigate maintenance liabilities and result in more accurate and efficient meter reading. The total cost of this program is estimated to be \$2.8 million, to be financed through the District's capital improvements budget.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Payne  
General Manager

## ***About Yorba Linda Water District***

Yorba Linda Water District is an independent special district that provides water and sewer service to residents and businesses in Yorba Linda and portions of Brea, Placentia, Anaheim and unincorporated Orange County. The district provides service to approximately 75,000 persons in approximately 23,000 accounts.

The district's history dates from 1909 when the privately owned Yorba Linda Water Company was formed. The present Yorba Linda Water District was organized in 1959 as a result of a vote of local residents. Through 1959 the service area was largely rural in character with a small residential community at its center. From 1959 through the mid-1970's the district experienced a gradual transition from a rural, agriculturally oriented area to a suburban community.

In 1978 the District annexed lands to the east of the then existing boundaries that more than doubled the agency's size. These annexations made YLWD the largest county water district in terms of geographic area in Orange County. The District's present size is about 16,000 acres. From 1978 through 1991 YLWD experienced growth of water service connections that occasionally exceeded 12% per year. During the past fifteen years the growth rate has shown a slow but steady increase.

The YLWD service area can best be described as a suburban residential "bedroom" community. According to demographic data from a recent survey, about 60% of the district's residents are classified as either professional or white collar workers. Retail commercial businesses are located at key points throughout the service area. No heavy industrial or manufacturing occurs within the district's boundaries. There are, however, several small commercial/light industrial centers located in the southern and eastern portions of the District.

YLWD's sources of water supply includes groundwater and imported water. Groundwater is pumped from the Orange County Aquifer, and currently accounts for about 50% of the District's total water supply. The District's also obtains water from the Colorado River and northern California.

YLWD currently has a total of eight active water wells, thirteen reservoirs, twelve booster stations, three connections for treated imported water and one connection for untreated imported water. Topography within the district's service area varies from a low of about 200 feet above sea level to a high of around 1,400 feet.

### ***District receives excellent rating***

The Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) recently took a look at Yorba Linda Water District. The commission is responsible for assessing the level of services provided by city and special district governments and to conduct “municipal service reviews” and “sphere of influence” studies for every agency within their county every five years.

As a result of these studies, LAFCO increased Yorba Linda Water District’s sphere of influence to include all territory within the City of Yorba Linda’s boundaries with the exception of a small area belonging to the Chino Hills State Park. The District also serves portions of Placentia, Brea, Anaheim and unincorporated Orange County.

LAFCO recommends that Yorba Linda Water District and the City of Yorba Linda remain separate entities. The report states that “the district maintains high service levels, while also effectively safeguarding the public health.”

The reports are prepared in order to evaluate existing municipal services, identify future constraints or challenges that may impact service delivery in the next 15 to 20 years, and guide future decisions on boundary changes and proposals for incorporation, consolidation, merger or formation of subsidiary districts.

### ***District earns engineering award***

Yorba Linda Water District was honored with a “Project Achievement” award from the Orange County branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers at the society’s awards ceremony February 16, 2006.

The District’s project expanded the capacity of the Yorba Linda community’s sewer system in response to an additional 345 homes that are currently under construction. Primary goals of the design and construction team were to maintain the quality of life and ensure positive community support for the project.

The project had a minimal impact on residents, expanded efficiency of the sewer system and provided the least obtrusive alignment of facilities. The project was finished in a timely, efficient and community-conscious manner, while leaving the project area in a condition better than when the project began.

In addition to Yorba Linda Water District, consultant engineering firm Hall and Foreman, Inc. and the City of Yorba Linda were also honored for their participation in the project.

## ***Water conservation rebates available***

Yorba Linda Water District encourages our customers to take advantage of three on-going water conservation rebate programs. These programs will help you to save water in and around your home and reduce your water bill at the same time. Rebate funds are limited, and available on a first-come-first-served basis.

### **Ultra Low Flush Toilet Rebate**

YLWD and other Orange County water agencies are currently offering a rebate for the purchase of eligible toilets using 1.6 gallons-per-flush or less. This rebate applies only to toilets that are purchased to replace and upgrade "water-guzzlers" installed before 1992 and using more than 1.6 gpf. Up to three toilets per residence can be replaced.

The make and the model number of each toilet must be on a list of eligible toilets in order to qualify for the rebate. To obtain a rebate packet with full details on how to participate, please call toll free **1-800-954-4344**.

### **High Efficiency Clothes Washer Rebate**

Receive a rebate when you purchase a high-efficiency clothes washer from a list of qualified machines with a water factor of 6.0 or less. These water-conserving washers save you money by using only 18 to 25 gallons of water per load, which can save 6,000 or more gallons of water per year. The improved water extraction of these machines also means less drying time and up to a 50 percent energy savings. An additional rebate may be available from your gas company. State-of-the-art washer design also causes fewer wrinkles and less wear and tear on clothing.

To apply for a rebate you must provide the original receipt dated January 1, 2006 or later along with a recent water bill. To obtain a rebate packet with full details on how to participate, please call toll free **1-800-954-4344**.

### **Weather-based Irrigation Controllers**

YLWD is offering residents an opportunity to upgrade their old landscape irrigation controllers with new weather-based technology. These state-of-the-art controllers, called Smart Timers, conserve water, save money and reduce runoff by automating landscape watering based on the weather and water needs of plants.

In order to participate, residents must replace a fully operational automatic irrigation controller on a system with a minimum of 1200 square feet of irrigated landscape and a maximum of 48 valves. To obtain a rebate packet with full details on how to participate, please call toll free **1-866-846-3725**

## ***Sources of our community's water***

Southern Californians always need to prepare for drought. The average rainfall for our semi-desert climate is only around 14 inches per year. During the drought in the early 1990s we received as little as five inches per year for several years. A combination of local groundwater and imported water sources from the Colorado River and northern California give southern California reliable sources of fresh water during dry years.

### **Local Well Water**

Yorba Linda Water District's water wells tap a groundwater supply that underlies most of northern Orange County. This groundwater supply is carefully managed by Orange County Water District, and replenished by water from the Santa Ana River, local rainfall, reclaimed water and water purchased from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Last year Yorba Linda Water District produced nearly 3.5 million gallons of water from water wells located within the District.

### **Imported Water**

Yorba Linda Water District purchases the balance of water used by our customers from regional supplier Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and wholesale agency Municipal Water District of Orange County. Last year this amounted to over four billion gallons of water. Metropolitan obtains water from the Colorado River via the Colorado River Aqueduct and from northern California via the California State Water Project. This water is treated at Metropolitan's water filtration plants located throughout southern California.

### **In-lieu Water**

The District is working toward maximizing the on-going use of low cost "in-lieu" imported water when available during fall, winter and spring months to preserve and protect local groundwater supplies. In-lieu water is surplus water from the California State Water Project and the Colorado River system.

### **Other Water Sources**

Water supply is a finite resource. As the population continues to grow, so does the demand for water. Orange County Water District's Groundwater Replenishment System will add reclaimed water to local groundwater basins where it will be blended with water from the Santa Ana River and imported water. This will help keep our local groundwater levels high, and less dependent on imported sources. Improved technology will also allow us to make use of alternative water resources such as desalinated ocean water in the future.

## ***The Yorba Linda Water District budget***

The District's budget is one of the most important documents the Board of Directors considers and adopts. It allocates human and financial resources to accomplish the District's mission and vision statements. The budget is a financial plan for responsibly carrying out the programs and capital projects that benefit the District's customers. The budget directly reflects the Board of Director's priorities and financial policies.

The nature of planning means that expenditures may vary during the life of a budget due to events, weather and/or customer service demands not able to be anticipated when the budget was adopted. Decisions by the Board and general manager must, therefore, be flexible to strike a balance between the need to satisfy customer demands and respond to changing conditions while meeting the basic mission and budgetary objectives.

Variable operation costs continue to make up the largest single category of District expenditures. Orange County's groundwater basin continues to be over drafted by due to increased water demand. This has resulted in Orange County Water District, (the agency responsible for the maintenance of the basin), lowering the amount of water retail agencies can pump from the basin. Since pumping groundwater is less expensive than purchasing imported water from the Colorado River and northern California, the District's cost of providing water has increased.

The sale of water to our residential, commercial and institutional customers provides ninety percent of our revenues. Sewer maintenance charges and other revenues including interest on reserves and investments, developer annexation fees, and rents and leases account for the remaining ten percent. The District's water rates remain among the lowest of the thirty-some water providing agencies in Orange County. Yorba Linda Water District provides only water and sewer services. Water and sewer related revenue is not diverted to fund other programs, as is common in city water departments.

Total revenues from current water rates plus non-operation revenues will not balance operating expenses. Balancing the budget will require a combination of reducing expenses, drawing from monetary reserves, changing policy on drawing from the annexation fund, increasing the water rate.

# Yorba Linda Water District Profile

**Yorba Linda Water District provides** service to customers within Yorba Linda and portions of

- Placentia
- Anaheim
- Brea
- Unincorporated Orange County

Service area size:  
*14,475 acres*

Number of water service accounts:  
*23,042*

Number of sewer service only accounts:  
*1,489*

**The District's sources of water are** imported water from the Colorado River and northern California and water from our local wells.

Number of imported, treated water connections: *3*

Number of untreated water connections: *1*

Number of emergency interconnections with other water providing agencies: *10*

Imported water produced in 2005-06:  
*11,970 acre feet (52% of total)*

Groundwater produced in 2005-06:  
*10,703 acre feet (48% of total)*

(One acre foot =  
326,000 gallons)

Length of water pipelines: *640 miles*

Number of water reservoirs: *13*

Total capacity of water reservoirs:  
*49.3 million gallons*

Number of active water wells: *8*

Number of booster pump stations: *12*

Number of pressure reducing stations: *41*

Number of pressure zones: *6*

Length of sewer pipelines: *143 miles*

Number of sewer lift stations: *1*

## **Community water usage**

<i>Residential Public &amp; Private Landscape</i>	<i>73%</i>
<i>Commercial &amp; Industrial</i>	<i>17%</i>
<i>Agricultural</i>	<i>9%</i>
	<i>1%</i>

## **Rates and fees**

Residential and commercial water rate: *\$1.57 for each 100 cubic feet (748 gallons)*

Minimum monthly water service charge: *\$7.92*

Sewer service fee: *\$3.50 per month*

**Imported water is** obtained from water wholesaler Municipal Water District of Orange County. This water is obtained from regional supplier Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

## **The county's groundwater**

is protected and maintained by Orange County Water District

# Yorba Linda Water District

4622 Plumosa Drive  
P.O. Box 309  
Yorba Linda 92885

For customer service call

**714-701-3050**

Emergency service available  
24 hours a day, seven days a week

You can access the District's internet web site at

[www.ylwd.com](http://www.ylwd.com)

