

# DONA ANA MUTUAL DOMESTIC WATER CONSUMERS ASSOCIATION

MAY 2019

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

### Policy Feature: Owner and Tenant Requirements

A Landlord Utility Transfer Agreement (LUT Agreement) is available to rental property management entities or property owners that consolidates account administration as specified by the landlord in the LUT Agreement. The LUT Agreement authorizes Doña Ana MDWCA to transfer water and wastewater without interruption in service to the landlord or property manager as rental properties transition between tenant occupancy. In the event that a tenant is delinquent, Doña Ana MDWCA will deactivate services pursuant to the process stated in Doña Ana MDWCA Billing and Service Policies. Property management entities that do not wish to execute an LUT Agreement to administer utility services for rental properties, and want the utility account to remain in the name of the property owner will be required to provide the same information for a utility service application as stated in Application, Billing, and Payment for Service Section of Doña Ana MDWCA Billing and Service Policies and a tax identification number if applicable, before service to tenants will be processed and activated. Failure of the property management entity to provide the property owner's information as stated above, may result in Doña Ana MDWCA placing a hold on the tenant's activation of utility services. As with any new activation, requests for new utility service connections with Doña Ana MDWCA will be verified to ensure that the prospective new user does not have an unpaid Doña Ana MDWCA utility account balance from another address. Additionally, if a prospective new user was the beneficiary of Doña Ana MDWCA service at the new address or at another address, and there is a delinquent balance on the utility account at either address, the new utility service will not be established until any outstanding balances have been paid in full. A security deposit of \$100.00 will be required for all residential accounts and \$250.00 will be required for all commercial accounts not in the name of the property owner. Doña Ana MDWCA reserves the right to refuse any visibly altered document submitted by a user for the purpose of initiating or activating utility service and/or establishing deposit requirement. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office at 575-526-3491 or visit our website at [www.dawater.org](http://www.dawater.org).

#### Board Meetings:

- May 2
- May 16
- June 2
- June 20

#### Past Due Bills Due:

- May 20

*Before 3:00 pm*

#### Disconnection Day:

- May 21

#### Current Bills Due:

- May 25

*Before 3:00 pm*

#### Association Closures:

- May 27

### Annual Water Fair:

Each year the City of Las Cruces Utilities Water Conservation Program hosts a Water Festival for the Las Cruces Public Schools' fourth (4th) grade classes. Various entities are invited to display exhibits on hydrology, cultural uses of water, local geography, and environmental impacts to support our communities continuing education. This year our booth featured 'How Water Is Filtered' and displayed how water flows through different types of earth and filter systems. The goal was to display how water moves through the various materials. Using recycled 2-liter bottles we filled the bottles with equal amounts of activated charcoal, gravel, and sand. The filters we used were coffee filters and cheese cloth. We asked each group of children which type of material they thought would allow water to pass through it with the best results. Then, using equal amounts of dirty water, we tested the group's hypothesis. The groups were excited to learn about the water we drink every day. Our experiment can be applied to their own class room studies on erosion, best water practices, and what impact society has on the Earth. The Festival was very well organized, and the attendees had a wonderful and engaging experience.

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

**Physical:  
5535 Ledesma Dr., Las  
Cruces, New Mexico  
88007**

**Mailing:  
P.O. Box 866, Doña Ana,  
New Mexico 88032**

**Office:  
575-526-3491**

**Emergency:  
575-644-4027**

**[www.dawater.org](http://www.dawater.org)**

**ServLine:  
575-449-88055**

## Staff

We would like to congratulate Joey Self for successfully completing his Level II Water Certification. Mr. Self attended our in house program that facilitates study guides and pretest exams to expose operators to the types of questions they would experience during their actual exam administered by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED). Margo Lopez, our Administrative Specialist, and our operations staff have been working very hard as we continue to see progress with each round of exams.

## Southeast Collection

We are excited to announce the continuation of the Southeast Wastewater Collection System in the North Valley. In 2017 we began a multi-phase project to expand the infrastructure for the collection of wastewater in the Village of Dona Ana. This new infrastructure will allow homes that currently use septic or cess pools to connect to the Association's wastewater collection lines to better serve our community. A growing number of existing sewage disposal systems are in poor condition or failing; whether through age or inadequate construction. The Southeast Collection Project would facilitate the collection of wastewater from residences and small commercial development within the developed areas and would then transfer the collected wastewater to the existing treatment facility owned and operated by the City of Las Cruces. There are currently concerns regarding the health and sanitation of on-site conventional septic systems and cess pools; many of which are unpermitted or poorly constructed with failing leach lines. The continued use of failing septic systems and cess pools can result in untreated sewage exposure and have a high risk of groundwater contamination that can lead to many health concerns. Once completed, the Southeast Collection System will remove the need for the existing failing septic tanks and cess pools. The construction includes over 54,000 linear feet of sewer lines installed using either a vacuum or gravity fed system. The wastewater collected would be pumped through the existing force main and gravity lines that flow to the City of Las Cruces collection system. The new infrastructure will redirect wastewater flows away from individual systems and potentially enhance groundwater quality. The Association is actively pursuing funding through USDA Rural Development for the remaining construction. If secured the funding has the possibility of assisting with the costs associated with decommissioning an on-site system, and the connection fees to connect to the Southeast Collection. If funding becomes available we will make an announcement.

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. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office at 575-526-3491 or visit our website at [www.dawater.org](http://www.dawater.org).

