

October 2016



Dona Ana Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association

District 5 Water Improvements

Most of you that live in the Picacho Hills area have probably noticed all of the construction and may have even seen the new tanks being constructed on the west side of Picacho Hills. As of the end of September, 90% of the new water lines have been installed. However, they have not been connected to the system yet. The lines still need to be pressure tested as well as pass two consecutive bacteriological tests to ensure that the water lines have been properly disinfected during construction. This project also consists of replacing the booster station on Anthem Road. The new booster station will not be online until sometime in December.

Between now and the end of December the construction

crews will be replacing the existing pressure reducing valves in the system. During the replacement of these valves you may experience low pressure or water outages. We will do our best to limit the amount of time you will be without water. Please keep in mind that there are always unknowns with construction, but we will do our best to try to notify you at least 24 hours prior to the water outage.

The outages will begin at 9:00 am and will run until 5:00 pm. We will also provide a copy of the scheduled outage days to the Picacho Hills

Home Owners Association as well as the Country Club. Should you have any questions please contact our office at (575) 526 - 3491.

Below is a picture of the first water tank during construction. The water tanks will be painted a tan color once they are complete. For further updates and pictures during construction please visit our website at www.dawater.org.



Housekeeping Reminders

During the past several months the Association has sent out information regarding the changes that would be occurring with our utility bills. One of the major changes was the due date changing from the 15th of each month to the 25th of the month. Please note that the 25th is only for the current billing cycle and does not include accounts with a past

due balance. Any account with a past due balance must be paid no later than the 20th of each month to avoid additional fees and possible interruption of service. These policies can be found on our website at www.dawater.org.

In addition it is imperative that we have access to the water meter at all times.

Vehicles, foliage, and fencing can prevent our operations staff from accessing the meter and restrict them from doing their day to day jobs. Please be aware that the Association does have the right to remove any objects that are obstructing our access at the customer's expense.

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Board Meetings

October 6, 2016
October 20, 2016
November 3, 2016
November 17, 2016
December 1, 2016
December 15, 2016

Association Closures

November 11, 2016
November 24, 2016
November 25, 2016
December 23, 2016
December 26, 2016

All Board Meetings begin at 9:00am



Water Quality

Lead and Copper is of great concern, and is rigorously monitored not only by EPA, but by Doña Ana MDWCA. However, water can leach lead from plumbing materials within your home which cannot be controlled by Doña Ana MDWCA. Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones, and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

Lead levels in your drinking water are likely to be highest if:

- ▶ Your home was constructed between 1960 and late 1980's due to building materials.
- ▶ Your home has faucets or fittings made of brass
- ▶ Your home has lead pipes
- ▶ Your home has copper pipes with lead solder
- ▶ Water often sits in the pipes for several hours

Although this information is alarming there are a few steps that we can take to minimize the Lead in drinking water. These are:

- ▶ **If water has been standing for more than six hours, flush for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before consumption.**
- ▶ **Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water faucet.**

Hot water can dissolve lead more quickly than cold water. If you need hot

water, draw water from the cold water faucet and heat it on the stove. Boiling water will not reduce lead, but at least you will not be consuming the boiler (water heater) filtering element and the chemicals used for preventing corrosion. Never use water from the hot water faucet to prepare baby formula.

- ▶ **Remove faucet strainers and flush out any debris that has accumulated over time.**

If you have recently replaced plumbing or fixtures in your home, remove loose lead solder and debris by removing the faucet strainers from all taps and running the water from 3 to 5 minutes. Then replace the cleaned strainers.

Upcoming Projects

The Association is continuing to upgrade the infrastructure in the area. Over the next 90 days two new projects will be starting in the Dona Ana area. The first project will begin construction mid to late October along Valley, Taylor, and Dona Ana Road to install new 18 inch water distribution lines. This project will run from October 2016 to May 2017.



This project will provide increased flow and pressure through out the system. The second project will be the construction of a new wastewater vacuum station and force main on El Camino Real. This project is designed to bring much needed wastewater infrastructure to the San Ysidro

and surrounding area. This project will be Phase 1 of the Southeast Collection System. This project is scheduled from November 2016 to March 2017.

Please remember as with any construction project if you are traveling in the area please watch for orange barrels and signs regarding traffic patterns as well as the construction workers and heavy equipment.

New Employees

We are excited to announce the newest members of our team, Sean Lucero and Arthur Barela. Sean has joined our Operations Department as a Level 2 Water Operator, bringing over 13 years of water and wastewater experience. His experience also includes several years as a crew leader for a local municipality.

Arthur brings over 20 years of experience in the Customer Service Industry;

specializing in teaching and facilitating leadership skills and has joined our Customer Service Department as a Representative I. He also holds a bachelor of Agriculture Economics and Agriculture Business from New Mexico State University. Sean and Arthur are both from the Dona Ana County area and bring considerable knowledge and experience to our team. Welcome Sean and Arthur!

