

September 13, 2017

Dear Valued Murrieta Customer:

In recent months, Western Municipal Water District (Western) conducted a preliminary comparison of water delivery options to ensure a high level of service at the lowest cost to you – our Murrieta Service Area customers. The Western Board of Directors formed the Murrieta Committee to consider whether to further evaluate service options. Staff provided the Murrieta Committee with information on potential cost savings, infrastructure needs, water quality challenges, and imported water capacity needs. During this investigation, staff considered if Murrieta residents could be served more economically by neighboring agencies.

Staff was originally directed to further review the service options available. Outlined below, is a brief timeline of the most recent actions taken by the Murrieta Committee and Western's Board:

July 26, 2017: **Special Murrieta Committee Meeting** - Approximately 100 people attended the meeting, and the General Manager shared an overview of issues facing the Murrieta Service Area. He explained significant time and expertise was needed to perform an economic benefit analysis by a consultant. A variety of factors would be analyzed to develop an Expression of Interest (EOI) that would be sent to interested agencies. The study responses, and ultimately, a report with findings and recommendations would be presented to Western's Board.

Aug. 16, 2017: **Board Meeting** - Based on the Committee's request to provide a thorough assessment of the Murrieta Service Area, the General Manager provided the Board with two options:

1) Hire a consultant to perform a thorough evaluation and develop an EOI for agencies to provide water service within the boundaries of Western's Murrieta Service Area.

or

2) Suspend the EOI process pending the resolution of several water-related challenges:

- a. Continue collaborative efforts with neighboring agencies to determine how to utilize existing infrastructure to meet development needs. Due to the complexity of this effort, staff estimates this could take one year.
- b. Determine costs to recover groundwater production levels that have been lost due to aging infrastructure and water quality issues.
- c. Identify costs for expanding imported water capacity from the current level of 5 cubic feet per second (CFS) to the ultimate need of more than 18 CFS.

The Board of Directors unanimously approved option 2. The results of these efforts will help the Board and community understand the potential impact these issues may have on future water rates.

The District will be scheduling another evening meeting in October to further update the community. We invite you to stay informed on Murrieta Service Area development issues by visiting our website at: wmwd.com and select the "Murrieta Service Area" menu under the Customers tab. Here you will find past and upcoming events/activities related to the Murrieta Service Area. Should you have inquiries regarding Murrieta matters, please email us at MurrietaInfo@wmwd.com or call **951.571.7109**.

Sincerely,



John Rossi
General Manager
Western Municipal Water District