

Water Words

2020 Newsletter Winter Edition

Happy New Year 2020!



There's something amazing about the ending and the beginning of a year. No matter how many times we've done this before, we always seem to have to cram in so much in the last moments to "finish well". But, if we can set aside for ourselves a few moments to enjoy the accomplishments of the past, take another few moments to breathe deeply, and consider the blessings around us, then the miracle of beginning again starts to unfold.

What's on the docket for 2020 for the water company? First and foremost, providing quality water to you the shareholder, as well as handling and treating the wastewater generated within our service area. The challenges we face have as much to do with our community desiring to be good stewards of the resources we have as with developments at the County and State level. These include:

- Getting a better understanding of our future water needs and taking actions where warranted.
- Keeping tabs on developing goals at all levels of government regarding the handling and possibly recycling of wastewater, and, positioning the Company for the capital expenditures required to meet future goals. One shout out to the Company's technical and management team – they implemented a low-cost, low-energy pond design that looks very promising in being able to reach tertiary quality standards. This will likely delay or even eliminate capital needed to reach this treatment standard.
- Evaluating how to best manage the State water the Company purchases, and considering whether or not a market exists and it make sense for the Company to sell some of its allotment.
- And, finally, keep an eye on costs and cost-saving opportunities.

I sincerely thank our volunteer Board for the time they have given this past year. To our office and field staff, thank you for the reliability, responsiveness, and pride-of-ownership you put in each day to make San Miguelito Mutual Water Company something we can all be proud of. I look forward to working with all of you as we unpack 2020.

Regards!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marvin St. Pierre".

Marvin St Pierre, Board President

What work is happening at the Marre Weir?

Have you noticed this structure while walking along the Bob Jones trail? The Marre (pronounced mar-ray) Weir is actually a “hydrological” facility that sits on the boundary between the golf course and SLBE. This amazing structure, jointly owned by San Miguelito Mutual Water Company and the golf course, contributes freshwater recharge to the local aquifers while keeping sea water from migrating inland. Company management has been diligently working to maintain the long-term viability of the weir by working closely with California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Conservation Corps, the City of San Luis Obispo, and Central Coast Salmon Enhancement, now called Creek Lands. Last year Creek Lands and the project team were awarded a grant from the Department of Fish and Wildlife for \$480,000 to prepare 60% design level plans for a new fishway and strengthening of the weir. Survey work and other exploratory work will begin shortly. This fantastic opportunity and multijurisdictional cooperation will help protect our water supply as well as the freshwater habitats upstream of the weir for many years to come.

New Rates for 2020

For 2020, the Board has decided that there will be no change to the Capital charge, water base availability charge and water usage charge. For the Wastewater side there will be an increase in the minimum availability charge of 3%. This adjustment was necessary to make the wastewater fund self-sustaining. This means that the total availability rate for Water will stay the same at \$56.28 and the total availability rate for Wastewater has increased from \$67.90 to \$69.16.

	2019	2020		Change
Water Monthly Availability Charge	\$30.28	\$30.28		0
Water Usage 1,500-10,000	\$1.12	\$1.12		0
Water Usage 10,001-50,000	\$1.38	\$1.38		0
Water Usage 50,001 & Over	\$1.48	\$1.48		0
Sewer Monthly Availability Charge	\$41.90	43.16		3%
Water Capital	\$26.00	\$26.00		0
Sewer Capital	\$26.00	\$26.00		0

Capital Projects completed in 2019

In 2019, we enhanced our SCADA system to monitor instantaneous and totalized flows. The radio-based system reports and records all telemetry data directly to our office. Our biggest undertaking this year was Pond 2 out at the wastewater treatment plant. This was done to passively enhance the treatment process and to show our due diligence in making our treatment process more efficient as we head towards sustainability by using Recycled water. The other project that was planned and completed was the replacement of older meters within Skylark Meadows and Kingfisher.

Capital Projects for 2020

For 2020 our projects will include the replacement of the antiquated transfer switch at Lift Station #1, building repairs and door replacements. On the water side we will be refurbishing the outside of tanks 300 and 500, replacing a staff gage and replace doors on the older facilities. Staff will continue to replace aging water meters, this year focusing on Heron Crest.

Our Location

For those of you who have not visited our office yet, we are located at **1561 Sparrow Street**, behind the Cal-Fire Station. Our mailing address has not changed. Customers can still save postage by placing their payments in our SMMWC drop box at the Lupine Canyon mailboxes across from Mallard Green or deliver their payments to our office. Our office also has a payment drop slot next to the front door for afterhours use.

SMMWC now offers Online Bill Pay

Please visit our web site at smmwc.com for information regarding the option to pay your bill online. This feature can be found on our homepage, just click on “Pay my Bill “. Please note that this option is through a secure third-party website, so a small fee will also be charged to your credit card.

As an additional convenience to our Customers, SMMWC offers our **ACH auto debit payment program at no additional charge**. This method of payment allows SMMWC, through our Bank, to directly debit Customer payments through Customer checking accounts. SMMWC submits all ACH debits on the 15th of each month so there is no worry of getting a late charge from SMMWC. Please inquire at our office for more information. For those of our shareholders who use their own bank’s “Bill Pay” process, please remember to schedule the delivery of your payment far enough in advance to allow for slower USPS deliveries during the Holidays and bad weather.

Conservation Tips

- Check all faucets, pipes and toilets for leaks
- Check your irrigation timer’s backup batteries annually
- Water your yard and outdoor plants early or late in the day to reduce evaporation
- Use Plants that require less water
- Mulch around plants to hold water in the soil
- Use a broom, not a hose to clean driveways a walkway
- Use a shut off nozzle on your hose



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SAN MIGUELITO
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