

WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT**DECEMBER 4, 2002 – Water Resources**
McDonald, Little**DECEMBER 23, 2002 - Board Meeting**

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CONSENT CALENDAR

WATER TRIVIASUMMARY:

Water is such a valuable element to our daily lives. The tap is turned on, and without a second thought, water gushes out. In many ways, we take for granted just how essential water is to our livelihood, the economy and our basic survival. The need for water is interwoven into every aspect of our well-being. This memo attempts to broaden the understanding of the use and need for water and to take a peek at some interesting water trivia.

Water Use Facts

- The United States uses approximately 700 billion gallons of water each day.
- 47% of the population uses surface water, 53% use groundwater.
- If everyone in the United States flushed the toilet one less time each day, the water saved would equal a lake a mile long, a mile wide, and 4-feet deep. Each flush uses 2-7 gallons.
- Running water while shaving or brushing your teeth wastes more water (about 2 gallons) than what one person needs to drink.
- A five minute shower uses 25-50 gallons of water.
- The average dishwasher consumes 9-12 gallons per load. Hand washing dishes requires 20 gallons.

Water Distribution Facts

- There are about 56,000 community public water systems in the United States.
- Around 17 million households use private wells for their water supply.
- Approximately 1 million miles of pipeline and aqueduct exist in the United States and Canada, which is enough to circle the earth 40 times.
- The first water pipes in the United States were made from fire charred bored logs.

Cost Facts

- If all 56,000 community public water systems had to be replaced, it would cost more than \$175 billion.
- Annual cost to operate the water systems in the United States is over \$3.5 billion.

Health Facts

- About 70% of the body is water.
- 75% of Americans are chronically dehydrated.
- Humans can only live a few days without water.

Animal Facts

- Beef cattle drink 8-15 gallons of water daily.
- Horses drink 10-12 gallons of water daily.
- Dairy cattle drink 20 gallons of water daily.
- 75% of a chicken is water.
- An elephant is 70% water.
- The Koala Bear does not drink water.

Food Facts

- A pineapple is 80% water.
- An ear of corn is 80% water.
- A tomato is 95% water.

Nature Facts

- A birch tree evaporates off 70 gallons of water daily.
- An acre of corn evaporates off 4,000 gallons of water daily.

Industry Facts

- It takes 1 gallon of water to process a quarter pound of hamburger.
- For every glass of water brought to your table in a restaurant, another 2 glasses of water are required to wash and rinse that glass.
- It takes 5.5 gallons of water to make one board-foot of lumber.
- It takes 5 gallons of water to produce one serving of french fries.
- It takes 9 gallons of water to process one can of fruit or vegetables.
- It takes 10 gallons of water to produce one serving of a soft drink.
- It takes 12 gallons to process one chicken.
- It takes 24 gallons of water to make one pound of plastic.
- It takes 101 gallons of water to make one pound of wool or cotton.
- It takes 120 gallons of water to produce one egg.
- It takes 1,500 gallons of water to make one barrel of beer.
- It takes 1,700 gallons of water to grow a day's worth of food for an adult.
- It takes 1,850 gallons of water to refine one barrel of crude oil.
- It takes 2,000 gallons of water to manufacture 4 vehicle tires.
- It takes 2,600 gallons of water to produce one serving of steak.
- It takes 4,750 gallons of water to raise a Christmas tree.
- It takes 17,000 gallons to produce one bail of hay.
- It takes 28,100 gallons of water to process one ton of cane sugar into processed sugar.
- It takes 33,100 gallons of water to process one ton of beet sugar into processed sugar.
- It takes 37,000 gallons of water to manufacture a new car.
- It takes 42,000 gallons of water to grow and prepare food for Thanksgiving dinner for 8.
- It takes 62,600 gallons of water to produce one ton of steel.

- It takes 167 billion gallons of water to raise 35 million Christmas trees used yearly in the United States.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

None.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Not applicable.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Water Resources Committee on December 4, 2002 and agendaized to the December 23, 2002 Board meeting Consent Calendar.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

This item is for information only.

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