

**WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT**

**AUGUST 6, 2003 - Water Resources**  
McDonald, Little

**AUGUST 25, 2003 - Board Meeting**

Prepared by: Jennifer Bender

Submitted by: Richard Nagel

Approved by: Darryl G. Miller

CONSENT CALENDAR

WATER QUALITY UPDATE

SUMMARY:

With the heat of summer beating down on us and our reliance on water to cool us in so many ways, here are some interesting water trivia facts that help put in perspective just how valuable our water commodity is.

**Basic Water Facts**

- It would take 219 million gallons to cover one square mile with one foot of water, or 40.5 billion gallons to cover the District's service area with one foot of water;
- Approximately 7.5 gallons are in one cubic foot;
- When it rains one inch, you get 27,000 gallons of water per acre, or 3.2 billion gallons in the District's service area;
- A gallon of water at 20 degrees Celsius weighs about 8.3 pounds;
- Eighty percent of the fresh water we use in the US is for irrigating crops;
- Much of the world has to walk about 3 hours to fetch water;
- A leaking faucet can waste up to 100 gallons of water a day;
- Heating water is the second largest energy user in the home, heating about 65 gallons of water daily (20 shower, 10 laundry, 6 dishwasher, 30 faucets);
- The average bath uses 30-50 gallons at a cost of less than \$1.00; and
- In one hour, 1,000 gallons can run through a garden hose.

**Water Distribution Facts**

- Community public water systems process 34 billion gallons daily.

**Cost Facts**

- One six-pack of soda costs the same as 4,000 glasses of tap water; and
- On a national average, a person's daily drinking water supply costs about 25 cents.

**Health Facts**

- Human blood is 83% water;
- Human bones are 25% water;
- Lack of water is the No. 1 trigger of daytime fatigue;
- Almost 10,000 children under the age of 5 die daily in Third World countries from water-borne illnesses (3,650,000 per year); and
- Water leaves the stomach five minutes after consumption.

### **Animal Facts**

- Camels can go nine days without water, but can drink about 50 gallons at a time;
- The desert rat does not drink water;
- A hog requires 4 gallons of water each day; and
- Eight percent of an earthworm is water.

### **Food Facts**

- It takes about 6 gallons of water to grow a single serving of lettuce;
- One-acre of corn evaporates 4,000 gallons of water daily;
- An individual corn plant requires about 55 gallons of water per season; and
- Watermelons are 93% water.

### **Nature Facts**

- 80% of the earth's surface is water;
- The Great Lakes form the largest fresh surface water system in the world;
- If all the water in the Great Lakes was spread evenly across the US, the ground would be covered with almost 10 feet of water;
- The highest lake in the world is Lake Titicaca in the Andes at 12,500 feet;
- The lowest inland body of salt water is the Dead Sea at 1,292 feet below sea level – the water is 7 times saltier than seawater (26% of the lake is solidified salt [7% sodium, and a 93% combination of magnesium, calcium, and bromide]);
- The highest waterfall in the world drops 3,212 feet - Angel Falls in Venezuela;
- Mt. Wai'ale'ale, Kauai, Hawaii is the rainiest place with only 15 dry days per year;
- Alaska has more than 3 million lakes;
- The Mississippi River is the longest river in North America at 2,340 miles long;
- The Nile River is the longest river in the world at 4,132 miles long;
- The sun evaporates 1 trillion tons of water every day;
- Local evaporation is approximately 5-feet per year; and
- 75% percent of a living tree is water.

### **Industry Facts**

- Almost 3 million gallons are used Mother's Day week to refresh flower arrangements;
- Approximately 50 million gallons of water are flushed during football halftime on Thanksgiving Day;
- One 8-ounce of milk is produced with 50 gallons of water;
- It takes 55 gallons to make one pound of synthetic rubber;
- It takes 13 gallons to make one gallon of paint; and
- It takes 1,360 gallons to make one ton of cement.

### **FISCAL IMPACTS:**

None.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Not applicable.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Water Resources Committee on August 6, 2003 and agendaized to the August 25, 2003 Board meeting Consent Calendar.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

This item is for information only.

G:\directors\wbmwd\03aug004