



Yucaipa Valley Water District

For Immediate Release

News Release

Date: March 30, 2020

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YUCAIPA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT SCHEDULES WEEKLY TELECONFERENCES TO INCREASE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, COMMUNICATION AND RESPONSE

At a special board meeting held on Tuesday, March 24, 2020, the Board of Directors of the Yucaipa Valley Water District changed the frequency of board meetings to weekly online teleconferences. Typically the Board of Directors conducted board meetings twice per month.

“The Yucaipa Valley Water District continues to prioritize the health and safety of its customers and employees, while assuring the consistent delivery of safe drinking water and recycled water to our customers” said Board President Chris Mann . “By conducting weekly teleconferences and online meetings, the District will be able to continue conducting business and providing critical services, while at the same time preserving and enhancing public participation.”

General Manager Joseph Zoba believes that the online communication system used by the District will likely increase the amount of community involvement given the ease of use. “The District has taken extra steps to make sure the community can observe and be part of the teleconferences online meetings” said Zoba. “The implementation of the new online communication platform will significantly improve the availability of information for those with a computer and Internet access” said Zoba.

The COVID-19 events at an acute care facility in Yucaipa this past weekend shows how quickly emergency situations can change.

General Manager Joseph Zoba stated, “The primary response to this worldwide pandemic needs to begin at the local level with strong communication and coordination within the community. By conducting weekly board meetings, the District will be able to monitor, respond, and request assistance from the Federal and State authorities quickly and effectively.”

In 2019, the Yucaipa Valley Water District implemented their emergency response procedures in February when a 15-inches of rainfall was recorded at the Yucaipa Ridge over a two day period, and again in October with the fast-moving Sandalwood Fire that struck Calimesa.

“The District staff is extremely well trained and well prepared to respond to emergencies,” said Zoba. “While not knowing what future challenges will arise, we have learned that increased communication is the key to operating efficiently and effectively during an emergency.”

The next weekly teleconference meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 31, 2020 at 4:00 pm. The meeting is available by calling (888) 475-4499 and using passcode 623-317-242#. To view the presentation material live online, customers can access the meeting by computer at <https://zoom.us/j/623317242>

The public is encouraged to take a moment out of their day and tune in from their computer to observe the meetings. Future weekly meeting agendas can be viewed online at www.yvwd.dst.ca.us.

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