

La Mesa Water Cooperative

WaterGram – January 2022

Well #3 Arsenic Treatment Facility

Construction has started at 64 Camino Manzano, and will take about a year. Once completed and in service, this will substantially increase our capacity, and most important, provide critically needed redundancy.

The building, about 2,100 square feet, has been designed by an architect to fit into the neighborhood and follow the Sundance Mesa HOA ACC rules. It will be made of concrete block covered with brown stucco, with a flat tan membrane roof and will have all of the equipment and tanks inside (which dictated the building height). Renderings of the building are on the Cooperative website:

lamesawatercoop.org

2022 Water Rates

New water rates go in to effect January 1, 2022. You will see this in the bill you receive in early February. The Fixed Base Charge and Usage charges are not changed. The Capital Improvement Charge changes to \$24/month. These rates are part of the 2022-2023 budgets approved by the Cooperative membership on August 28, 2021, with 157 in favor and 6 opposed.

Water Conservation Approach

Here is a story about how one member went about conserving water.

I'd like to share an experience I've had with members of our wonderful coop.

While living Phoenix, my wife and I decided to have our lawn replaced with Xeriscaping. Our water use, of course, went down, so we had done a good thing.

After moving here to Sundance Mesa, we once again had our grass replaced with a drip system with many beautiful plants. Everything was great. After years of status

quo, I became interested in lowering our water use even further. I happened to bump into one of the Cooperative volunteers and asked for advice. He quickly pointed out that a very large percentage of usage came from the drip system itself. I mulled that over for a while and came to the conclusion that all our pretty plants weren't worth the water they were taking to keep them thriving.

I took a dramatic step and shut off the drip system. Most of the plants of course died; some have survived. But the water savings has been very gratifying. As an example, last month [August 2021] the average community usage was over 8,000 gallons. I used a little over 3,000 gallons. After I remove the dead plants, I plan on replacing with zero irrigation water plants (those that can get by just on rain water), such as Apache Plume, Chamisa, etc. plus a few boulders, gravel, etc. to make the yard beautiful again, just in a different way.

I write this in the hope that others in the community will be encouraged to take a similar course. Or to reach out to Cooperative volunteers to get some additional information. I realize now that the notion of Xeriscaping is very seductive. It makes one feel good about doing a good thing. And Xeriscaping is a good thing compared to a lawn, but it is only a halfway step compared to what is possible. Thank you for reading about my experience.

Member Handbook Updated

Hints on how to find water leaks, links to water conservation and Xeriscaping websites, and other useful information are included. See the Cooperative website:

lamesawatercoop.org

Board of Directors

Tom Bowen 303 905-6358
Ray Burgess 505 303 6250

Sharon Chong 505 269-6401
Jock Embry 505 771-2330
Michael Niss 505 301-4808

Paula Redwine 505 506-6870
John Wilson 505 404-8067

lamesawatercoop.org

La Mesa Water Cooperative

Box 53, Placitas, NM 87043