



Sensible Water Conservation

**A position paper by Robert Ooten
Candidate for Director, Mesa Consolidated Water District #2**

Water conservation measures for inside residences, on the lawn, and in business and industry are available and are being developed. Technology applications that do not change life styles can reduce water usage to save water system-wide for 6000-7000 homes or 15% of the present water usage in the Costa Mesa service area.

As your Water Board member, my priority would be to focus on water savings starting with technology that focuses on the highest water users first. The highest water users are business and industry then our lawns and then inside our homes.

The largest industrial water user in Costa Mesa is John Wayne Airport using water equivalent to several thousand houses. Applying new waterless urinals in John Wayne Airport will save water equivalent to the use in over 200 homes. Applying this technology in office buildings, businesses, and industry can save three to four times that amount of water. I have had waterless urinals installed in my agency's office building and they each save up to 40,000 gallons of water per year.

I would encourage assessing industrial water usage and developing a method of rebates or grants to encourage water recycling. These water reductions to the sewer would save operating costs and treatment facility costs for Orange County Sanitation District which services Costa Mesa.

In addition, using new weather-based irrigation systems have the potential to save water equivalent to 4,000 homes in our service area. (See "Beach Pollution Reduction That Improves the Environment While Saving Money" Position Paper.)

In summary, sensible water conservation measures have the opportunity to substantially expand the Mesa Water District's water supply. The expansion will provide water purchase flexibility that will reduce customer cost, will reduce water delivery systems capital costs, and will reduce customer water utility bills.