

## Growing South Mesa Water Company maps out water supply reliability in new urban water management plan

South Mesa Water Company will soon be listed as an “urban water system” under California’s classification system, a significant milestone in its growth as a water provider to communities in Calimesa and Yucaipa. General Manager David Armstrong reported to the Board of Directors that the community-owned company is just shy of the 3,000 service connection mark, which is the maximum cut-off for the “small water system” category.

“Being designated an urban water system comes with more stringent governance and reporting requirements for higher levels of accountability. South Mesa is fully prepared for this transition and has already been operating to meet the new standards,” said Armstrong.

“South Mesa and their customers have gone above and beyond in meeting the 2009

Water Conservation Act, a statewide mandate requiring urban water systems to achieve a 20% reduction in per capita water use by 2020. South Mesa achieved a staggering 27% reduction in water use.” said Laine Carlson from Water System Consulting. “This is an outstanding achievement that helps to improve long term water supply reliability and demonstrates South Mesa’s commitment to being a good steward of the water resources that are vital to human and environmental health.”

South Mesa’s Integrated Regional Urban Water Management Plan analyzes and projects water supply over the next 20 years to demonstrate water supply reliability in normal, single dry, and multiple dry water years. “Even if the current drought extends for five years, South Mesa has 100% water reliability due to

the health and abundance of the Beaumont, Calimesa, and Live Oak basins.” said Armstrong. “An Emergency Response Plan, Water Shortage Contingency Plan, emergency preparedness facilities, and procedures are all in place to strengthen resilience and address shortage and disaster concerns.” he said.

“South Mesa is one of the most cutting-edge and capable water systems in its region despite its status as serving a severely disadvantaged system.” said CalMutuals President, Lisa Yamashita-Lopez. “South Mesa continues to excel by engaging in detailed planning and preparation to provide accountability and predictability to protect its community. CalMutuals commends the management, wealth of knowledge, and hard work put in by employees, general manager, and board members at South Mesa.”

Yucaipa / Calimesa	
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