

Media Contact:

Kelly Malloy
Public Affairs/Conservation Officer
(909) 806-4239 office

East Valley Water District Finance Update Brings Good News

Highland, Calif., and (March 29, 2013) – During 2012 East Valley Water District carefully reviewed operations and procedures to streamline programs and maintain high levels of efficiency. The financial plan update given at the March 27, 2013, regular Board meeting revealed that the District is operating at healthy financial levels, and that there is not a need for rate increases in Fiscal Year 2013/14 and possible the year after that.

“East Valley Water District strives to meet the day-to-day needs of our customers, while also maintaining the underground pipeline and critical distribution system that typically goes unseen,” said Board President Matt LeVesque. “We work very hard to operate this district efficiently and effectively, and because of that effort we can keep our current rates the same for the next two years.”

Currently, East Valley Water District has \$5.7 million in the water reserve fund beyond the required \$7.3 million minimum needed for bond payments. Reserves are generally used for funding specific projects, such as the new surface water treatment facility, or to complete emergency system repairs.

The District’s conservative budgeting approach paired with the improving local economy is resulting in revenues above initial estimates, and operational adjustment savings have expenses below budgeted amounts. These financial results, allow the District the opportunity to defer a rate study while various outside economic factors adjust, paving the way for a reliable ten year financial plan to be presented in fall 2014.

“There are so many unknowns for us over the next year, including potential new development and the completion of our Water and Sewer Master Plan updates, that any rate study we did now could be outdated before it is completed,” said General Manager/CEO John Mura. “We are committed to providing water and sewer services as affordably as possible, and want to make sure that when we prepare a long term financial plan that it is with the most accurate and consistent outlook information available.”

EVWD provides water and sewer collection services to about 70,000 people in the cities of Highland and San Bernardino. For more information about EVWD, call (909) 889-9501 or visit www.eastvalley.org.

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East Valley Water District was formed in 1954 to provide domestic water service to the unincorporated and agricultural-based communities of Highland and East Highlands. Today EVWD provides water and sewer collection services to about 70,000 people in western San Bernardino County. EVWD operates under the direction of a 5-member elected Board. The Mission of East Valley Water District is to provide its customers with a safe and reliable water supply that is delivered at a fair and cost-effective price. More information is available at www.eastvalley.org.