

On the WATER Front

A Message from Ed Archuleta, P.E., President/CEO

December 2009



Holding the Line

Like many industries, our operating costs are increasing, but we're holding the line. So while we won't increase rates in 2010, you'll still receive the same world-class service.

Our proposed FY 2010-11 budget funds infrastructure to accommodate newly annexed areas and growth at Fort Bliss. It rehabilitates water and wastewater lines and extends reclaimed water lines into north central El Paso. Northeast area customers will see the final phase of the Fred Hervey Water Reclamation Plant expansion and renovation.

We're also reducing our carbon footprint. Several large wells will be rehabilitated to increase energy efficiency and meet new regulatory requirements. And we've allocated funds for a co-generation plant. The plant will produce electricity from the methane gas we generate when we treat wastewater.



The Fred Hervey Water Reclamation Plant treatment capacity will increase from 10 to 12 million gallons per day.

The RV Channel Improvements project will transform a non-functioning earthen channel to a functional one.



Stormwater System

On March 1, we'll have two years of experience in operating and maintaining the stormwater system and planning and designing system improvements. While we'll continue to emphasize maintenance next year, nearly 80 percent of the stormwater budget funds capital expenditures.

During the next three years, we'll spend a little more than 10 percent of the total capital funding for stormwater master plan projects, an investment that improves public safety by 60 percent. You'll see a better system and a cleaner system. We'll have a system you can be proud of.

We do our best to manage our resources responsibly, and we work very hard to keep costs under control. Recent surveys confirm that the average El Paso Water Utilities water and wastewater bill is still among the lowest in the region.

The Public Service Board is scheduled to approve the budget on December 17.

On the Water Front is a publication of El Paso Water Utilities. If you have any comments or questions contact Editor Christina Montoya at 915.594.5596 or by email at cmontoya@epwu.org

