



NEWHALL COUNTY  
WATER DISTRICT

# WATER LINES

Your Newsletter from Newhall County Water District

[www.ncwd.org](http://www.ncwd.org)

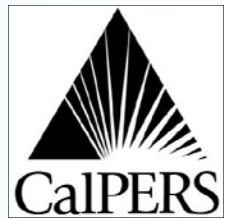
Fall 2011

## NCWD Recognized Nationally for Proactive Solution to Employment Benefit Obligations

You may have seen Newhall County Water District in the news recently regarding our proactive actions to tackle such difficult long-term financial issues as pensions and retiree health care benefits.

Earlier this year, Newhall County Water District was featured in a story by MarketWatch, a national financial news organization, regarding our efforts to trim the District's long-term pension obligations and convert our health care benefits program for retirees from one entirely paid for by the District to a shared contribution program.

These steps were necessary to avoid a major "hit" to future District budgets when we would be obligated to meet higher pension requirements to make up for shortfalls in the California Public Employee Retirement System (CalPERS). Before the recent recession, the state pension system was practically a self-funded program due to a highly rewarding investment history. But the economic downturn and other factors wiped out a significant portion of those investments, meaning agencies like Newhall County Water District would be required to now pay greater sums to meet future pension obligations.



In response, the District capped contributions to CalPERS retirement plans. As the MarketWatch article highlighted, the District also changed its post-retirement medical benefits program from a defined "benefit" plan to a defined "contribution" plan. While the District needed to make these changes to ensure a responsible financial future, we worked closely with our employees to be fair to them—and our customers—in explaining the situation and discussing the options.

MarketWatch said Newhall County Water District's pension reforms may serve as the model for other public agencies in California and the nation. The good news is that we were able to improve both our current operating efficiencies and long-range financial condition without raising rates or impacting customer service.

If you would like to read the full MarketWatch story, go to:

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/pension-wake-up-call-hits-public-agencies-2011-02-22>

MarketWatch  
From DOW JONES

# Wildwood Canyon Mainline Replacement Project

Newhall County Water District is replacing a 50+year-old section of steel pipe as part of its proactive effort to ensure reliability of its water system. The project began in September and is expected to last six weeks.

Approximately 940 feet of six-inch wire wrapped steel pipe is being replaced with a more durable 12-inch “ductile” iron pipe that is expected to last twice as long. This section serves several homes along Wildwood Canyon Road in Newhall. During construction, the District will also replace service connections to these homes and replace two fire hydrant lines.

“Newhall County Water District has taken an assertive approach in maintaining its large infrastructure system to preserve the quality and reliability of pipelines, pumps and other components,” said Steve Cole, General Manager. “Our goal is to keep pace with the depreciation of these pipes to minimize failures and reduce the expenses associated with breaks and leaks.”



NCWD Construction Crew on Wildwood Canyon, Newhall

## Employee Recognition

*Celebrating Anniversaries with the District*



Photo: starting from front row left -to-right

- **Martin Torres**, Water System Worker—15 Years of Service
- **Paco Pliego**, Water System Worker—10 Years of Service
- **Robert McLaughlan**, Customer Service & Conservation Coordinator—10 Years of Service
- **Juan Perez**, Water System Worker—5 Years of Service
- **Bobby Martinez**, Water System Supervisor—15 Years of Service (not shown)
- **Jose Laguna**, Customer Service Field Rep.—5 Years of Service (not shown)

## Board of Directors



**Daniel Mortensen**  
*President*

**Maria Gutzeit**  
*Vice-President*

**B. J. Atkins**  
*Director*

**Kathy Colley**  
*Director*

**Lynne Plambeck**  
*Director*

District Board meetings are regularly held at 6:30 pm on the second Thursday of the month, unless noted otherwise. The boardroom is located at 23780 North Pine Street Santa Clarita, CA

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SAVE MONEY**

Pay your bill online with the click of a button from your home or office.

Sign up to receive a monthly eBill notification.

Visit [www.ncwd.org](http://www.ncwd.org) and sign up today or contact 661-259-3610.

By going “green” you’re helping to protect the environment and saving money in the process.

## SERVING OUR CUSTOMERS

The District’s customer service staff is available to assist you during regular business hours, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you have a water emergency after hours, please leave a message with your return phone number and the stand-by staff member will promptly contact you. Contact NCWD 24-hours a day at

**(661) 259-3610**

**NEWHALL COUNTY WATER DISTRICT [www.ncwd.org](http://www.ncwd.org)**

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