

**MWD**

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

March 22, 1996

Mr. John W. Roth  
P.O. Box 51389  
Riverside, CA 92517

Dear Mr. Roth:

Thank you for your letter of March 2, expressing concerns about Metropolitan's proposed water standby charge. I sincerely apologize for the tardiness of this reply; your letter took some time to be routed to my desk.

Per your request, I am enclosing a notice for an upcoming public hearing the District has scheduled on its proposed standby charge. This notice is being published Monday, March 25, and Monday, April 1, in the classified legal sections of several Southern California newspapers, including the *Riverside Press-Enterprise* and *The Los Angeles Times*.

As you will read, the hearing will be held at the beginning of the next regular meeting of our Board of Directors at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 9. MWD's board meetings are held in Room 311 at the District's headquarters located in Two California Plaza, 350 South Grand Ave., in the Bunker Hill area of downtown Los Angeles. Following the hearing, our Board is expected to act on the proposed charge at its May 14 meeting.

Regarding your charge that Metropolitan has not followed through with its intention to replace the standby charge with other charges tied more directly to water use, the District *has* fulfilled that commitment.

Mr. John Roth

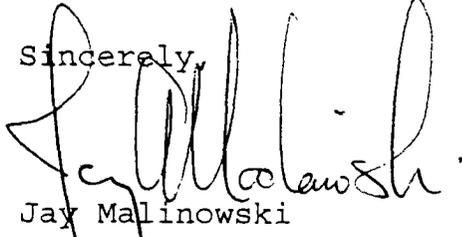
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Since the 1995-96 fiscal year, Metropolitan has collected from its 27 member agencies a readiness-to-serve (RTS) charge, which covers non-tax supported debt service for water quality and reliability improvements. The RTS charge is allocated to MWD's member agencies on a rolling average of their historical water purchases from Metropolitan.

One possible reason that you have not known about this charge is that most member agencies still use our existing standby charge on real estate parcels to collect most or all of their RTS obligation; that is an option of each member agency. Because the cities of Los Angeles, Beverly Hills and Santa Monica, along with the West Basin Municipal Water District, have chosen to pay their RTS obligation through their own water rates and charges, the standby charge does not appear on their residents' property tax bills.

Metropolitan appreciates your interest in this issue as well as other Southern California water matters. For the record, I have forwarded a copy of your letter protesting the proposed standby charge to the District's Executive Secretary's Office.

Sincerely,  
  
Jay Malinowski  
Director of Public Affairs  
& Conservation

Enclosure

Post Office Box 51389  
Riverside, Ca. 92517  
March 2, 1996

Metropolitan Water District  
Post Office Box 54153  
Los Angeles, California 90054-0153

Subject: Replacement of Standby Fees  
(Parcels 321330008-011 & 319240048,050,051)

To Whom It May Concern:

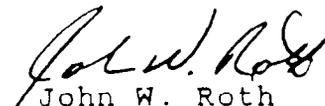
In late 1995, I contacted your 800-number assessment information line to determine why I was still being charged your illogical, inequitable and unconscionable Standby fees. These fees have been bleeding me since 1978 for the so-called "privilege" of being able to hook up to Western Municipal Water District (WMWD) water. I am currently on a well and will probably remain on a well until I die due to the exorbitant cost of connecting to your water.

And, No, I don't want to apply for an exemption...I just want MWD to do what it said it would do in late 1994 when it was reported in the Riverside Press-Enterprise that the 1994-1995 assessment would be the last time the Standby fee would be imposed and the district would..."replace it in following years with other charges tied more directly to water use."

When I contacted you 800 number in late 1995, I was told that a date had not been determined for a public hearing to discuss Standby fees and I should call back after the first of the year. I did that on March 1, 1996 and got an earful of gobbledegook from Wanda, who said she still did not know when the public hearing would be held and I would have to write to MWD to get a date for a hearing. What absolute nonsense...if MWD really does not know when they are holding public hearings on items that affect thousands of landowners in the MWD service area, then the MWD is in a sorry state of affairs and should be removed from it's monopolistic position and replaced by an agency that has some concern for it's constituents.

By this letter, I am requesting advance notification of the exact date and time for all public hearings that are related in any way to the subject of Standby fees. Additionally, I am requesting that the issue of Standby fees be placed on the agenda of the next public hearing of the MWD and that this letter be included in any staff report related to public hearings associated with the issue of Standby fees. And finally, I am requesting that these inequitable fees be abolished in favor of a rate structure based on actual water usage.

I await your prompt response.

  
John W. Roth

CC: California Public Utilities Commission  
Riverside Press-Enterprise