Increase in the Mission Creek Subbasin Area of Benefit
Replenishment Assessment Charge for 2015

Effective July 1, 2015, Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) increased the annual replenishment assessment charge (RAC) in the Mission Creek Subbasin Area of Benefit to $112 per acre-foot. This is a 13.5% increase in the RAC, up from $98.73 per acre-foot. This increase is needed to recoup costs not covered by the RAC in previous fiscal years. Mission Creek had not had an increase in its RAC since 2011.

State law authorizes CVWD to collect a RAC from anyone who pumps more than 25 acre-feet of groundwater from the Coachella Valley’s aquifer in a twelve month period. The district uses the RAC to fund its Groundwater Replenishment Program, which is essential for long-term reliability of the local groundwater supply.

Why was a rate increase to the RAC in Mission Creek implemented?
CVWD is dedicated to providing exceptional services at the lowest possible cost while ensuring the district has the funds it needs to operate and provide those services. Rate increases were necessary to enable the district to:

- Cover increases in operating the Groundwater Replenishment Program to recharge the Coachella Valley’s aquifer and maintaining Mission Creek replenishment facilities.
- Cover increases in costs for obtaining State Water Project water and Supplemental Water purchases. The Mission Creek RAC in previous years was not sufficient to cover the cost of obtaining water.

Who benefits from groundwater replenishment in the Mission Creek Area of Benefit?
Everyone who uses groundwater, including residents and businesses, benefits from groundwater replenishment. When more water is pumped out of the aquifer than returned from natural or artificial means, a condition known as overraft exists. This can lead to lost groundwater storage space, the need to drill deeper wells and concerns about the protection of water quality. Since 2002, when State Water Project water was first delivered to the Mission Creek area of benefit, more than 150,000 acre-feet has been replenished there.

What sort of increases in the RAC can be expected in the future?
The RAC was one of four areas CVWD sought independent development of cost-of-service studies and rate recommendations. Under consideration for a future fiscal year is the consolidation of the three RACs (West Valley, East Valley, Mission Creek) into a single RAC. This could impact the Mission Creek RAC.

How can I learn more about the rate increase?
Detailed information about proposed rate adjustments were outlined in the Notice of Public Hearing that was mailed in March to current/potential RAC payers. It is available on the district’s website at www.cvwd.org. For future reference, the district conducts public meetings before its Board of Directors votes on proposed increases to the three RACs within the boundaries of CVWD.