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East Valley Water District Showcases Capital Projects

East Valley Water District presented project updates and new headquarters design and financing details at a January 7, 2013, special board meeting.

Highland, Calif., (January 8, 2013) – As an organization with a vast history, East Valley Water District highlighted priority projects and recent progress at the January 7, 2013 special meeting. The presentation included a comprehensive overview of the Capital Improvement plan, unveiled a redesigned website and discussed major elements for the proposed District headquarters project.

“The January 7, workshop is a great example of our efforts to invest in system enhancements throughout our service area while protecting our natural resources,” said Chairman Matt LeVesque. “These 15 water and sewer projects and the new headquarters facilities are important long-term projects that directly benefit our customers.”

Looking out over the next two years, East Valley Water District presented 15 water and sewer capital improvement projects at various stages of completion with an estimated \$50 million price tag. As part of the Strategic Initiatives and effort to maximize system enhancements through grant opportunities, 75%, or approximately \$37 million, of the District Capital Improvement Program consists of State and Federal grants and 0% interest State Revolving Fund Loans, along with an estimated \$21.65 million in direct interest savings. Projects range from replacing deteriorating water lines to the expansion of an eight million gallon water treatment facility, and are located throughout the 27.7 square miles service area. These projects have been identified as critical projects necessary to continue providing safe and reliable water through preventative maintenance, necessary system enhancements or emergency repairs. In an effort to further reduce costs, the District is looking to partner with the City of Highland on multiple projects with similar timelines and locations.

In order to keep residents informed on these high profile projects, the District will be launching a redesigned website on January 11, 2013. The fresh look allows for not only easy navigation, but also new advanced features including email updates, electronic forms, and easy to access meeting agendas.

Building on the exciting current projects in the works, was a first glimpse at the proposed headquarters facility. The presentation discussed this turn-key project which would transform the Greenspot Road property into a centralized district operations center, with public demonstration gardens, customer service counters and meeting facility. The new full service \$15.5 million headquarters facility would be owned by the District and include construction costs, permit and development fees, technology equipment and furniture. Currently, East Valley Water District is located at multiple sites and is paying \$180,000 a year in rent payments.

“We have set out to maximize our investment in this community by making value-added decisions, and the current facilities are not meeting our ratepayer’s needs for efficient operations,” said John Mura, General Manager/CEO. “The new building design is based on a long-term assessment to ensure that building meets future demand for many years to come.”

The headquarters project is scheduled for board action on the January 9, 2013, regular meeting at 5:30 pm. Should the governing board approve the project, construction could begin early this spring and be completed by April 2014.

For a complete description of the Capital Improvement Program or update on the new headquarters facility visit the District website at www.eastvalley.org. 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.

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