

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Metro Water's Bond Election Overwhelmingly Approved**

Tucson – Metro Water District's resident overwhelmingly approved a \$28 million bond to finance the first phase of a 10-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Eighty-three percent (83%) of the votes were in favor of the bond program.

"We are extremely pleased with the high support given to the District. This bond will benefit all of our customers," said Suzanne Downing, Chair of the District Board.

The bond will finance a 5 million gallons storage facility, 27,000 feet of transmission main, 13.5 miles of mainline replacement, and the first phase of a renewable supply line.

Mark Stratton, Metro's General Manager, said, "These improvements will enhance the reliability of our water system, increase fire flow protection in neighborhoods, keep meeting peak demand, and reduce our reliance on groundwater."

Before calling the election, Metro Water's Board assessed needs of the District's infrastructure. The District identified additional storage, transmission, mainline replacement, and water supply needs in spite of successfully finishing its first bond program. The District has in place a Bond Oversight Committee to ensure that the bonds are spent as intended.

Stratton said, "Receiving 83 percent of the votes is all the more significant since water is often a divisive issue in southern Arizona. This support shows confidence in what the District is doing and recognition that these improvements will meet our customers' needs for the future."

To finance the \$28 million bond, it is projected that there would be an approximately four percent annual rate adjust for five years. For the average customer, this would mean a \$1.40 to \$1.70 monthly increase.

Metro Water plans to enter a loan agreement with the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA). WIFA is an independent agency of the state, authorized to finance water and wastewater projects in Arizona. As a "bond bank," WIFA can provide lower interest rates and greater financial flexibility than a traditional revenue bond.

Metro Water District was formed as a public water utility in 1992. The District covers a 25 square mile area in the northwest region of the Tucson metropolitan area as well as a small service area near Sabino Canyon Road and Cloud Road. The District has 17,500 customers.

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