**Blue Mountain Water District**

**Water Storage Tank and System Improvements Project**

**FACTSHEET FOR UPCOMING BALLOT ISSUE**

The BMWD will present a TABOR Ballot issue in this November’s election for authorization from BMWD residents to borrow money from the Colorado Water Resources and Power Authority (CWRPA) in the form of a low interest loan for a Water Storage and System Improvement project. Colorado’s TABOR law requires the BMWD to get approval from its constituents to take on debt. BMWD currently has no debt and a reasonable reserve fund intended for future needs of system replacements, potential water rights acquisitions and emergency expenditures; so, it is always prudent to have those resources on hand. A loan is the best way to accomplish this project. The loan repayment of around $50,000 per year will come out of current revenues and BMWD will **not** need to ask voters for a higher tax authorization. Last years surplus revenues were approximately $60,000 so the repayment amount should be able to be made with our current income and expense history. The Ballot issue will ask for authorization to borrow up to $800,000 and a maximum interest rate of 3.5% but we expect both numbers to be slightly less. The CWRPA interest rate is 2.5% currently. We believe this project is needed and will enhance the water system’s reliability and add some additional level of protection for emergencies in the valley.

The project consists of:

* + - New 100,000 gallon buried concrete water tank
		- New Pumps for pumping station no. 3 (Westridge)
		- New individual residential water meters
		- Controls and miscellaneous system upgrades
		- The project estimated cost range is $500,000 -700,000
		- The project is expected to be completed in 2021

The BMWD has doubled the number of houses since its formation 40 years ago. The amount of storage recommended for the current number of houses is about 150,000 gallons. We currently have 70,000 gallons. There have been 3 house fires since the BMWD has been in operation and several nearby forest fires. Each time, the BMWD storage was substantially depleted. This project will increase our storage to 170,000 gallons which will improve fire-fighting capability and will allow for a longer period of water service during a power outage. The storage tank will be located next to our current tank and allow our current tank to be easily inspected and cleaned.

The BMWD system is 40 years old. The pumps at Pump Station 3 (which serves the high zone along Westridge Road and Brumm Trail) are the original pumps. The project will replace these pumps with new pumps that utilize Variable Frequency Drives that can maintain a constant pressure in the event the current tank control system fails.

The residential meters are also the original equipment, and some are 40 years old. They use a mechanical means to measure the water use which can become inaccurate over time. We will replace them with the newest technology Ultrasonic meters which uses no moving mechanical parts and measure the water use more accurately. We will be able to read them more frequently to assist homeowners to tract their water use.

Some of our controllers at the water treatment plant are outdated without available replacement parts, so we need to upgrade them as well plus other minor upgrades as they surface during the project.

The BMWD would like to see an approval vote by our constituents in the November election to be able to undertake this project. Thank you.