



## **Reducing Government Cost**

**A position paper by Robert Ooten  
Candidate for Director, Mesa Consolidated Water District #2**

Using my 40 years of work experience and knowledge in the water industry, I will work to reduce water government cost at MCWD by increasing productivity and lowering expenses. My experience shows that reducing costs can be done by utilizing a reinvention study, changing agency policies, working on mutual aid and equipment exchanges with local agencies, and re-examining Board expenses.

1) Using reinvention techniques developed through a study, my current agency staff reduced operating costs 16% by adjusting shift schedules, automating equipment, and outsourcing non-core work saving over six million dollars annually. All this was accomplished over six years on budget and on schedule with no layoff of staff through an implementation plan developed by the agency staff themselves. The consultant assessment that ultimately saved my agency 16% can be accomplished in MCWD for under \$10,000.

2) An example of a policy change I would recommend is the vehicle policy that replaces cars and trucks at 75,000 miles or 7.5 years. My recommended policy would be 100,000 miles or 10 years.

3) I would encourage mutual aid exchanges between Mesa and other public agencies. My current agency has an integrated emergency response plan developed where I have experience as the Incident Commander in charge of emergency operations. Mesa already has several plans for emergency response that could be brought together incorporating the present plans of other agencies.

I would recommend establishing a list of spare equipment for possible exchanges among local agencies. It happens that my current agency has several of the capital items needed by Mesa such as surplus traffic signboard equipment.

4) The Water Board costs for fee and expenses have been rising at Mesa at about 20% per year. The incumbent voted for a 30% fee increase for himself. I would work for slowing and reversing increases in Board member meeting fees and benefit expenses.

In summary, I will bring to Mesa experience and knowledge on reinvention, local agency cooperation, and examples of policies, procedures, and Board fee policies that will increase productivity and lower overall customer cost.