

## Your Water Company



*Don Wattenbarger, William Purkiser, Doug Nunneley-General Manager, Fred Hupp, Lonny Boller and Hugh Pearson*

### Office Employees

Jane Johnson - Office Manager  
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2836 McCray Street  
Bakersfield, CA 93308

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Your local water company -  
providing clean, affordable  
water since 1919





## Welcome!

Welcome to OMWC's first newsletter! We are very excited to make this resource available and will publish a newsletter every other month for our customers/stockholders. With water such a critical resource for our families, homes and businesses, our newsletter hopes to keep you updated and informed on issues affecting your local water company.

Enjoy this first issue, and be sure to look for our newsletter again in November!

## From the General Manager

This year has seen another major milestone regarding the water supply for the Oildale area. In April the completion of the Kern County Water Agency treated water capacity expansion project was celebrated. This project will provide an additional 5,500 acre-feet of treated water to the Company's existing 6500-acre feet annual entitlement. Having been hired in 1974, I was fortunate to be a part of the original treatment plant development that was completed in early 1977. The treatment plant was vital to the Company's ability to provide safe, potable water to its customers at that time. This expansion project not only expanded the capacity of the H.C. Garnett water purification plant, but also included the renovation of the original 34-year-old facilities, ensuring a dependable supply to the Company's 8,000 plus customers. This additional capacity will provide dependable water supply for the current and future customers for the next 30 years, if not longer.

- Doug Nunneley



## About OMWC

Oildale Mutual Water Company was founded by the residents of Oildale, California in 1919 to develop a provisioned water system to meet the demands of the growing community.

Since the first delivery of treated California State Water Project Water (SWP) through the Kern County Water Agency's (KCWA) H.C. Garnett water purification plant in 1977, local groundwater has only been used by the company for a supplemental supply and for emergency situations.

Oildale Mutual Water Company and Highland Park Public Utility District were the original retail suppliers of the water imported and distributed to the Oildale community by the North of the River Municipal Water District (NORMWD), a public water agency formed in 1969. Highland Park Public Utility District later merged with NORMWD in 1982. Although NORMWD serves over 1,800 retail customers, its primary mission is to buy treated SWP water from the Kern County Water Agency and resell it to others.



### *Our Mission*

*Oildale Mutual Water Company was founded by area citizens to sell water to customers at cost. Each of the 8,000+ retail customers is also a stockholder, having a personal interest in the company. Since its founding in 1919, the company has been committed to providing the best quality water available at the least cost to its customers/stockholders.*



## Board Member Spotlight

**Fred Hupp**—Fred is a retired public accountant and life insurance agent and has been with the OMWC Board of Directors since 1968 plus a resident of the area for 63 years.

**Don Wattenbarger**—Don, also a proud Board member since 1968, is a general building contractor specializing in custom homes. He has been a resident of the community for 64 years, attending local schools including Bakersfield College.

**Lonny Boller**—Retired in 1992, Lonny has been a Board member since October 1996. Before retiring, Lonny worked for 34 years as an oil well services contractor.

**William Purkiser**—Bill, who is currently retired, has been on the OMWC Board since 2000 and was born and raised here in Oildale. A member of the Navy for four years, Bill then became part of the Kern County Fire Department for 23 years. Bill also owned an auto upholstery business for 15 years.

**Hugh Pearson**—Hugh, retired since 2006, was with the Bakersfield City Fire Department for 8 years. A long time member of the community and Board member since 1987, Hugh was also a homebuilder for 20 years and owned a lube and automotive shop. Hugh was also a Board member with North of the River Municipal Water District from 1992-2000.