



NEWSLETTER

Your Water Company Since 1919

Fall 2022 • Volume 26



AN EXTRAORDINARY CAREER CLOSES A SUCCESSFUL CHAPTER

On a June day in 1974, Oildale Mutual hired a young man just out of college, to work for the small company that provided essential water for the people north of the river. This fall, Oildale Mutual general manager Doug Nunneley will segue out of the various roles he's held for the company over the last 48 years and pursue a much-deserved change of pace.

"I feel very good about retiring," stated Nunneley when asked about the end of a nearly five-decade run. He has previously stated that there hasn't been a day that he didn't look forward to coming to work. And leaving the company in the very best shape of its more than a century of existence, gives him a solid assurance that the people of Oildale will have a bright future where clean, affordable water is concerned.

What started in June of 1974 as a pretty typical "first job out of college", quickly turned into a long career managing what would become one of the largest mutual water companies in the state of California.

Nunneley considers himself a very blessed man both personally and professionally. He married his wife Judy in that same pivotal month in 1974, and together they have three grown sons and three grandchildren. While at work, he has had the good fortune to serve with many of the best professionals and

business owners in Kern County, directing the company as members of its governing board.

As a current Oildale Mutual board member who started prior to even Nunneley's tenure, Don Wattenbarger has seen the entirety of the General Manager's career unfold and evolve. As he told this publication many years ago regarding Nunneley, "It's not just a job for him, he's always had the community at heart."

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When asked what he is most proud of, Nunneley struggles to highlight any one accomplishment of the Board and its general manager over such a long period of time. There have been many challenges for the company to overcome during that half century, including the replacement of miles of aging cast iron mains, to the acquisition of treated water from the Kern County Water Agency to ensure the future water supply for the people of Oildale. And many difficult decisions in between.

Importantly the company battled for decades with their water wholesaler, North of the River Municipal Water District, to stop the duplication of services and equipment, a waste of ratepayers' resources, and successfully forced the integration of operations, which resulted in a savings to the customers of over \$1 million dollars per year.

Pivotal accomplishments like this, and an overall commitment to extreme fiscal responsibility, have kept the company finan-

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lonny Boller
President

Don Wattenbarger
Director

Ross Johnson
Director

Jason Wattenbarger
Vice President

Staci Allison
Director

Doug Nunneley
General Manager

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cially sound throughout his tenure, and the costs to the ratepayers remarkably low. In fact, since Nunneley's appointment as GM in 1977, the company has had only ten rate increases, and remains one of the most affordable water supplies in the region.

The new housing developments in the service territory, which extend into Shafter, are all sporting a "dual distribution" system, thanks to a requirement by Oildale Mutual which preserves high quality groundwater for domestic use, while using only less expensive, untreated water for outside irrigation and fire protection. The arrangement is not only smart but the \$13 million-dollar dual water system is entirely paid for by the businesses constructing the new housing developments.

Though one could rightly become wistful, emotional, or proud of such a storied career, Nunneley is typically humble in his assessment when asked, and replies in a grand understatement, "I was just doing my job."

The company is incredibly grateful to Doug Nunneley for his commitment to Oildale for so long, and for the content of his character which redounded positively to everyone in the community. Whether you had the pleasure of meeting him or not.

Best wishes, thank you, and congratulations on such an extraordinary achievement.

THE BEST WAY TO AVOID INSECURE THIRD-PARTY SITES?

SET UP AUTOMATIC ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS VIA ACH!

ACH PAYMENT PROCESSING FAQ

WHAT IS ACH (OR AUTOMATED CLEARING HOUSE) PAYMENT PROCESSING?

Your water bill is automatically paid each month by a deduction from your checking account until you cancel your enrollment in the program.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS AND BENEFITS OF USING ACH PAYMENTS?

There is no charge to Oildale Mutual Water Company customers for the program. Customers save time by avoiding fuel or postage costs and they will never experience late charges – the bill will always be paid on time.

For additional Frequently Asked Questions and to sign up, visit our website:

WWW.OILDALEWATER.COM/PAY-YOUR-BILL/

and you will see "ACH Payment Processing Application".



PLEASE KEEP ON USING WATER WISELY



As we've noted previously, Oildale Mutual relies on water from multiple sources and has carefully prepared to weather this unprecedented water shortage, we nevertheless continue to remind customers that responsible water conservation is extremely important for our region.

Please plan for the fall and winter months by reducing watering times as the weather cools. Bermuda lawns are incredibly resilient, and we should all aim for no run-off in establishing the proper watering amount. **In addition, please consider not planting winter rye this year, in order to conserve more water through the cooler seasons.**

Thank you for your continued assistance in making conservation a way of life, preserving our most precious natural resource. We are grateful to all of our customers for their continued wise water use.

BE ON THE LOOKOUT

Our hardworking crews are continuing to upgrade services throughout the community, preparing for meter conversions, with meter installations to begin in 2024. State of California regulations require all water services in the State to be metered by Jan. 1, 2025. In addition, we are replacing the final segments of our cast iron mains, thanks to the financial reserves the company has saved up for these purposes.



We will accept payments through our online portal or through our drive-up window. Due to limited staff, we are unable to take payments over the phone. **To pay your bills online, visit our website at:**

WWW.OILDALEWATER.COM

PLEASE NOTE, there are currently no third party sites that are authorized to collect payments for Oildale Mutual Water Company. Please ensure you are using only the website listed above.