

# CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Mesa Water District





## ABOUT THE DISTRICT

Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) is an AAA-rated special district that provides water service to 110,000 customers in an 18-square mile area covering the City of Costa Mesa, parts of the City of Newport Beach, unincorporated sections of Orange County and John Wayne Airport. Mesa Water® is governed by a five-member Board of Directors elected by divisions to serve four-year staggered terms. Mesa Water is supported by a budget of more than \$33 million in operating revenue for Fiscal Year 2017 and has 58 employees.

The agency is organized among seven functional areas: Administrative Services, Customer Services, Engineering, External Affairs, Financial Services, Public Affairs and Water Operations. Mesa Water commenced operations as California's first consolidated water agency in 1960 through the acquisition of assets and debts of the Fairview County Water District, Newport Heights Irrigation District, Newport Mesa County Water District and the City of Costa Mesa's Water Department.

Mesa Water has 100 percent local water reliability, meaning the District is able to serve all of its customers' water needs with local water supplies. From its wells, groundwater is pumped from Orange County's groundwater basin, which underlies north-central Orange County from Irvine to the Los Angeles County border and from Yorba Linda to the Pacific Ocean. It is replenished by water from the Santa Ana River. Every year, approximately 5.5 billion gallons of water is produced and serviced to 110,000 customers.

Beginning in the early 1980s, Mesa Water became the first purveyor in Orange County to treat and distribute amber-tinted water. The award-winning Mesa Water Reliability Facility (MWRF, pronounced MERF) is a state-of-the-art nano-filtration technology facility that treats amber-tinted water, sourced from a deep underground aquifer, and makes it clear. The tint in the source water is caused by a buried ancient redwood forest.

For additional information about Mesa Water, please visit our website at [MesaWater.org](http://MesaWater.org).

## MISSION AND VISION

### Mission Statement

*"Dedicated to satisfying our community's water needs"*

### Vision

*To be a top performing public water agency*

### Strategic Goals

1. Provide a safe, abundant, and reliable water supply.
2. Practice perpetual infrastructure renewal and improvement.
3. Be financially responsible and transparent.
4. Increase public awareness about Mesa Water and about water.
5. Attract and retain skilled employees.
6. Provide outstanding customer service.
7. Actively participate in regional water issues.

### Service Standards

- Positive attitude
- Professionalism
- Respect
- Communication
- Teamwork
- Responsiveness

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## THE COMMUNITY

The area served by Mesa Water offers an incomparable quality of life that includes a diverse selection of neighborhoods, numerous community parks, golf courses, unlimited recreational opportunities, libraries and highly regarded schools. Residents of the area enjoy Southern California's ideal mild climate and close proximity to the ocean. The location provides easy access to major attractions including beaches, mountain areas, high and low deserts, Disneyland, professional sports venues including Angel Stadium and the Honda Center. The City of Costa Mesa has established itself as the "City of the Arts" in Southern California and draws globally recognized talent to the Orange County Performing Arts Center including Segerstrom Hall and South Coast Repertory.

In addition to having highly desirable neighborhoods, the area is also home to retail trade, light manufacturing, finance/insurance and real estate service industries. South Coast Plaza is one of the nation's premier retail destinations. Local industrial centers have also become a location for cutting edge youth apparel and sporting goods manufacturers.

## THE FINANCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The Financial Services Department is responsible for long-range financial planning, budget development and management, accounts receivable, accounts payable, payroll, purchasing, general accounting and reporting, debt administration and monitoring and directing the District's investment portfolio. This work is accomplished by a staff of six full time employees who are supported by outside consultants, as necessary.

## THE POSITION

The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) plans and directs the full range of finance and accounting services for Mesa Water. He/She develops budgets, oversees multi-year planning processes, and develops comprehensive fiscal policies. In addition, the CFO monitors and implements Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements, produces and reconciles the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), and assesses future fiscal impacts to the organization. This individual also presents information to the Mesa Water Board of Directors and members of the community and represents Mesa Water at meetings with other agencies.

### Opportunities and Future Projects

- Implementing recommendations from a recently completed District-wide Business Improvement Process Plan.
- Designing and implementing processes, as well as checks and balances, to strengthen financial operations.
- Expertly explaining financial matters to a knowledgeable and actively engaged community.
- Mentoring and coaching both new and existing staff while fully developing their skills.
- Proactively addressing long-term needs by evaluating rate structures, including water rates, service fees, and debt-refinancing.
- Selecting, developing and implementing a new Payroll system.

## THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

The new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) will be a strong, innovative leader who inspires staff, brings vision and clarity to the organization, and ensures the department's work is completed in an accurate and timely manner. This individual will be a collaborative, strategic problem solver who generates ideas to move the organization to the next level and provides alternate solutions when challenges arise. He/She will have superior team building and communication skills combined with a high level of financial expertise.

The ideal candidate for this high-profile position will be excited about the opportunity to lead a fast-paced Finance Department in a highly respected agency. This person will be open, honest, and direct and will exercise a high degree of common sense and sound judgement. He/She will also be discreet and respectful when dealing with confidential and sensitive matters. In addition, this individual must be comfortable making frequent public presentations. Finally, the CFO will have a strong track record of working cooperatively with other managers and the public.

### Education and Experience

A Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with major coursework in accounting, finance, or related field is required. MBA is preferred.

This position requires eight years of increasingly responsible financial management experience including five years of management and administrative responsibility. Financial management in a utility/government agency is desirable.

### Skills and Knowledge

Knowledge of current trends, issues, and legislative matters including pension reform, tax implications, and other topics that affect and influence the water industry.

Advanced use of Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Access, etc.). Advanced use of Microsoft Dynamics GP (Great Plains), financial applications including Forecaster, SQL Server Reporting Services (SSRS), Smartlist, etc. is desirable.

### Licenses and Certificates

Possession of a current Certified Public Accountant License is required.

Possession of, or ability to obtain, certification by the California Municipal Treasurers Association, the Association of Public Treasurers of the United States and Canada, the Association of Government Accountants, or the Government Finance Officers Association is desirable.

Possession of a valid driver's license and a satisfactory driving record are required.

## COMPENSATION

The annual salary for the Chief Financial Officer is highly competitive with the range from \$143,292 to \$197,532. Placement within the salary range will be dependent on the successful candidate's salary history and professional track record.

**Retirement** – New members 2% at 62 defined by the Public Employees' Pension Reform Act; "Classic" members 2% at 55. Employees pay 7% contribution to CalPERS, Social Security and a voluntary Deferred Compensation Plan (Section 457 Plan) is available.

**Health Insurance** – Monthly "flex credit" allocation of \$1,400 per employee for medical, dental, and vision insurance. The District offers CalPERS medical plans including Blue Shield Access+, Anthem HMO, United Healthcare HMO and Kaiser HMO plans, as well as CalPERS PPO plans. Dental coverage is provided through Guardian Dental Prepaid and PPO plans. Vision insurance is offered through Vision Service Plan (VSP). Mesa Water funds an Employee Assistance Plan for employees and household members, and offers the opportunity to participate in Flexible Spending Accounts (Section 125 Plan) for Health Care and Dependent Day Care expenses.

**Life Insurance** – Mesa Water pays the premium for \$100,000 of group term life and accidental death and dismemberment insurance.

**Disability Insurance** – Mesa Water covers 100% of the premium for long-term disability insurance which replaces 2/3 of salary up to \$12,000 per month. Employees also participate in the California State Disability Insurance (SDI) program, and have the option of participating in supplemental insurance programs on a pretax or aftertax basis.

**Auto Allowance** – Mesa Water provides \$250 per month.

**Officer Pay** – Mesa Water provides \$285 per month for the CFO, if assigned as the District Treasurer.

**Holidays** – Mesa Water observes 10 holidays and one floating holiday.

**Annual Leave** – 88 hours each year, with additional accruals based upon continuous years of employment.

## HOW TO APPLY

Please apply on-line by **Wednesday, May 10, 2017** at [www.alliancerc.com](http://www.alliancerc.com). For questions and inquiries, please contact Cindy Krebs or Sherrill Uyeda.

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