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Water board incumbents loan campaigns big money

The three Desert Water Agency incumbents are using their personal finances to help boost their campaign fundraising efforts.

The latest round of campaign finance reports show the three biggest fundraisers in the water races – Desert Water Agency’s Pat Oygar, James Cioffi and Joe Stuart – have all loaned their campaigns money.

The largest loan was by Oygar, an independent energy producer of M & G Drilling Co. who has giving herself \$20,000. That accounts for almost 80 percent of the money she’s raised this year, her report shows.

Water board races used to be low profile and inexpensive affairs.

That changed in 2007, when Craig Ewing, the then-planning director for the City of Palm Springs, raised more than \$23,000 and secured a seat on the five-member board. The two incumbents in that year’s race had initially filed forms to say they didn’t plan on raising more than \$1,000.

[The campaign finance reports, due last week, reveal the money raised and spent from Jan. 1 through Oct. 19.](#) Contributions can include money, in-kind donations and loans.

Desert Water Agency

- **Cioffi** raised \$24,880, spent \$20,697 and has \$5,588 in cash on hand. He loaned his campaign \$1,200.

- **Oygar** raised \$25,035, spent \$15,974 and has \$9,061 in cash on hand. Her \$20,000 loan is her only outstanding debt.

- **Stuart** raised \$26,932, spent \$11,654 and has \$15,278 in cash on hand. He loaned his campaign \$10,000.

- Challenger **Michael Paduano's** campaign finance forms were not available Monday from the country registrar. Forms that were postmarked before Thursday are not considered late.

Mission Springs Water District

- Incumbent **Jeff Bowman** raised \$7,675, spent \$5,220 and has \$3,017 in cash on hand.

- Incumbent **Nancy Wright** raised \$6,349, spent \$5,080 and has \$3,052 in cash on hand. She has \$4,283 in outstanding debts, including the \$2,500 she loaned her campaign.

- Challenger **Malcolm McLean** filed a form saying he would not raise or spend more than \$1,000.

- Challenger **Mary Jane Sanchez-Fulton** did not form her fundraising committee until Oct. 21, which was after this period ended.

Election Day is Nov. 5.