

*Marina Coast Water District Upgrades Infrastructure***Monterey Peninsula Landmark Takes Her Final Bow**

Last week, Marina Coast Water District (District) successfully demolished an elevated 100-foot tall reservoir overlooking the Monterey Peninsula from one of the highest knolls on the former Fort Ord. The reservoir was removed from operation and drained of water earlier this year because of deterioration and seismic concerns. In March, a new booster pump station was completed on the site to replace the reservoir. Included in the \$8.5 million project will be the replacement of an aging, 2-million gallon, cement reservoir with a 2.25 million-gallon, welded-steel reservoir, which is scheduled to be in operation by late 2009. “When completed, the new facility will be safer in the event of an earthquake,” states Project Manager James Derbin, “and provide customers with a reliable water supply and consistent pressure for years to come.”

The refurbishment of the pump station is part of the District’s master plan to upgrade its service area’s water and sewer infrastructure. Over the past three years, the District has spent over \$20 million on such projects. Several sewage lift stations have been upgraded and 2 outdated stations have been replaced with a single station of greater capacity and better reliability. All of the District’s lift stations are currently equipped with the latest monitoring and control technology and have backup power supplies. The water systems of Marina and the Ord Community have been connected and expanded, benefiting all of its customers with improved water pressure and access to water supply sources. The District has also been constructing a distribution system that will provide reclaimed water for future use; while the pieces of that distribution system are not yet connected, the District will be well positioned to take advantage of that valuable water resource when it becomes available. “The projects have been completed within their planned budgets due to successful partnering relationships with project designers, contractors and customers,” reports Interim District Engineer Brian True. “Customers can rest assured that our infrastructure is increasingly modern, safe and reliable.”

The District is also positioning itself to serve its ratepayer by securing multiple water sources. With that vision to the future, the District has been a primary pioneer of *Water for Monterey County*, a regional water supply project that includes aquifer storage and recovery in the Seaside Basin; recycled water; water from the Salinas River diversion project; and regional desalination facilities along with storm water recovery and conservation. For more information about the project visit www.waterformontereycounty.org.

Formed by a citizens group in 1958, the Marina Coast Water District is a municipally owned water district serving residents, businesses and organizations throughout Marina and the Ord Community. The District supplies water to over 8,250 water connections and maintains and operates 105 miles of pipeline, 7 reservoirs, 5 booster pump stations and 6 wells. It is also responsible for maintaining the service area’s sewer system, which includes 20 lift stations and 110 miles of pipeline.