



# Water Report

MARINA COAST WATER DISTRICT FALL 2012

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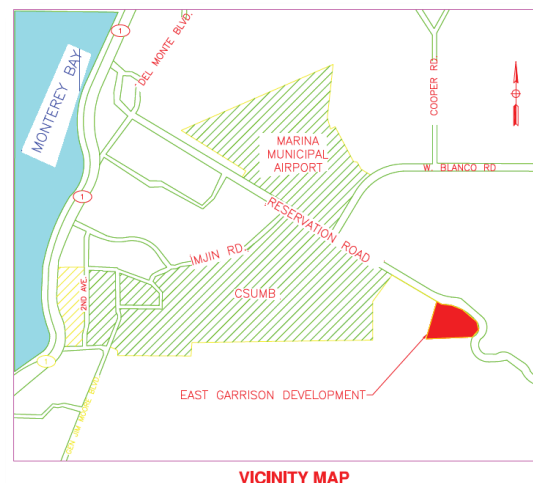
*MCWD Is Preparing to Serve*

## East Garrison Infrastructure Is Near Completion

**M**arina Coast Water District is expanding the water, sewer, and recycled water infrastructure systems to serve the growing community. The District has recently accepted the East Garrison Development infrastructure improvements from Union Community Partners. The East Garrison Development is located on the south side of Reservation Road and is a short distance east of the City of Marina.

The first occupants of the development will be living in the Manzanita Place apartment complexes currently under construction. The apartment units will provide affordable housing for low- to medium-income residents. Union Community Partners is also initiating the first phase of single-family homes, and they plan to show the first model homes during the summer of 2013.

Two new District ground water wells and their associated water transmission pipelines have been installed at the East Garrison development. The Watkins Gate Well and Well #34 will help the District maintain a clean, safe, and reliable water supply. The wells and pipelines were partially funded by a State of California Proposition 50 Grant.



VICINITY MAP

## K-3 Students Learn All About Water

**M**arina Coast Water District's 2012 In-school Water Science and Conservation Education Program has begun, with the first of three instruction sessions completed. All kindergarten through third-grade students at the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District campuses throughout the community gain knowledge about the special properties of water. They also learn practical methods of water conservation. Last year, 168 presentations were conducted in 55 classrooms, reaching over 1400 students, teachers, and school staff. Supporting the in-class curriculum, and conducted once each year, all students in the elementary schools participate in a school assembly featuring the musical group ZunZun. These special assemblies familiarize and remind the children about our limited water resources and the importance of water conservation in our lives.

## Water Conservation Commission Appointments Available

**T**he District's Water Conservation Commissioners volunteer their time to provide guidance to the water conservation staff and make recommendations to the Board of Directors on important water conservation issues. The commission is currently accepting and considering applications for two seats, available in January and April of 2013. Each appointment is two years in duration. If you are interested in becoming a Commissioner, please call us at 384-6131 or attend a monthly meeting, held at 5:30 PM at the District main office, on the first Thursday of each month.



## A Landscape That Goes All the Way

**P**lanning for a third phase of MCWD's Landscape Demonstration Garden, located at 2840 Fourth Avenue, is to be completed soon.

Gaining valuable work experience in project development and landscape design, Student Interns have worked closely with District Engineers to create a landscape plan that exceeds both MCWD's and the City of Marina's landscape standards.

Features of the garden include low-water-use plants; permeable hardscape materials; state-of-the-art irrigation equipment; a system to capture and infiltrate storm water; instructional signage; and a walking path.

The completion of the next phase will be announced once construction is complete. Meanwhile, phases one and two of the garden are open for self-guided tours. Guests are asked to visit the garden during business hours, 8 AM to 5 PM Mondays through Thursdays.



## Controlling Costs

**T**he Marina Coast Water District Board of Directors and District Managers are receptive to customers' concerns about increasing water costs and service fees. They look to control costs where possible, while striving to improve the level of services provided. Office and field staff members contribute to these efforts by working diligently each day to improve work efficiencies. In addition, and making every endeavor to do more with less, the District recently completed a staff reorganization that resulted in a reduction of three staff positions.

Due to these efforts, the District was able to avoid a substantial rate increase for a second straight year. Last year, rates increased 4.9 percent versus the previously projected, required increase of 7.8 percent. This year, District customers will only see a 5.0 percent increase, versus the previously projected, required increase of 7.8 percent.

Planning to make certain rates are set in adherence to industry standards and to ensure financial stability, the District will soon conduct a 5-year rate study to support an updated financial plan. The goal of Marina Coast Water District is to provide Central Marina and the Ord Community safe and reliable water at the lowest possible rates.

MCWD Board Meetings are open to the public and held at 6:45 PM, 2nd Tuesday of each month, at the Marina State Beach Office. Meeting agendas and minutes, as well as notices of special Board Meetings are available at our offices or on our website. Marina Coast Water District, 11 Reservation Road, Marina CA 93933-2099. (831) 384-6131 • [www.mcwd.org](http://www.mcwd.org)

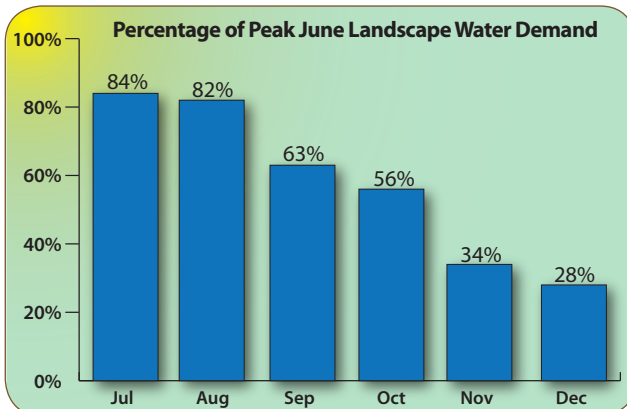
## Hot Water Recirculation System Rebates Are Available

**E**asy to find and simple to install, hot water recirculation pump retrofit kits provide almost instant hot water to your faucets. You will no longer choose to run cold water down the drain while you wait for hot water to arrive at your sink and shower. Qualify for a rebate, up to \$250, by calling our staff at 883-5905 and setting up a pre-installation inspection and the required Water Use Survey.

## Water-Wise Gardeners Adjust Irrigation Times Automatically

**A**s winter approaches and the days become shorter, the amount of water we apply to our landscapes should be reduced. Once winter rains start, most irrigation applications can be stopped.

Water-wise gardeners can save money by reducing their irrigation run times each month to a percentage of the peak June watering time. A peak summer run time of ten minutes can be adjusted to four minutes. "Smart" irrigation controllers automatically reduce or increase the watering times of all your stations based on the weather information received from a sensor. Learn more about District incentives to purchase such equipment at [www.mcwd.org](http://www.mcwd.org).



## New Water Meters Help Us Detect Leaks

**N**ew water meters installed throughout the District can alert field staff to possible water leaks. A small microchip installed in each water meter records the quantity of water used over time. If water flows continuously for 24 hours — anytime within the bill period — staff is notified of a potential leak when the meter is read. If a leak is indicated, our Customer Service and Meter Reading staff take action by verifying the leak condition and making sure you are notified. While these new meters can help us alert you to leaks on your property, please remember that it is the customer's responsibility to quickly find and repair any leaks detected. Since the new meters are replacing older water meters, the measurement accuracy is improved. Be advised that, in some cases, this improved measuring accuracy may result in a slightly higher water bill following the meter replacement. The new water meters have really made a difference in the District's ability to reduce labor and conserve water. They are yet another new, improved technology employed by the District to help reduce the overall costs of service to you.