



WATER REPORT

March 2008

Marina Landmarks Come Down

Removal of Outdated Water Tanks Make Way for Improvements

The 500,000-gallon Bayer Tank, constructed in 1969, was demolished in January. The tall green tank, located on Bayer Avenue at one of the highest points in the District, was visible for miles in all directions. The new connections made from the Ord water system had eliminated the need for the tank.

In January, the 300,000-gallon Fritzsche Elevated Reservoir (pictured) at Marina Airport (former Fritzsche Army Airfield) was also demolished. Constructed in 1959, the age, seismic concerns and inadequate storage capacity of the tank



made its removal necessary. The orange and white reservoir, which towered 281 feet above sea level, had been seen from as far away as Salinas and Monterey. The water service pressure and emergency fire flow that the tank had provided was replaced by connections made to the Ord Community water system.

The District's upgraded distribution system has improved the service reliability and flow capacity required during emergency situations.



Free Service for Customers

District Offers Water-Use Surveys

You can save water and reduce your monthly water bill by requesting a trained District water conservation auditor to check for hidden water leaks in your home, recommend fixtures to reduce water use and calculate a water budget for your use. This service, which could cost hundreds of dollars, is provided at no cost to District customers. To schedule an appointment, call Water Conservation Specialist Paul Lord at 883-5905.

New Customer Service

Pay Your Water Bill Online

District customers have the flexibility of managing their own accounts and paying their monthly bills online with a service called *UBPayments.com*. This new web service, offered on the District's web site www.mcwd.org, provides a fast, secure and easy way for customers to perform a variety of tasks online, including:

- viewing account balances and billing history for up-to 12 months
- making online payments
- printing utility bill information
- entering service requests

UBPayments.com provides flexible payment options, including debit or credit card payments. The District also offers Automated Clearing House options, such as direct debit from checking or saving accounts.

Customers have the option to pay their monthly bills by mail, in person or online with a paperless billing option by receiving an e-statement instead of a paper bill.

If you would like to set up an online account or need assistance with a forgotten password, a District Customer Service representative is always ready to assist you. The District is pleased to offer these additional services to make it easier for you to manage your account.

District Board meetings are held at 6:45 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at MCWD offices, 11 Reservation Rd. (Marina State Beach). The public is encouraged to attend.



Water-Wise Landscape Renovations

Garden Cash Incentives Offered

The District is currently offering customers incentives that help pay for landscape and irrigation system upgrades that improve water efficiency and reduce your water bill. Earn up to \$50 for installing a rain shut-off switch to your sprinkler system, up to \$1,500 for replacing standard irrigation controllers with new evapotranspiration-based irrigation controllers and up to \$2,000 for replacing an irrigated lawn with low water-use plants and a drip irrigation system.

Learn more about the program and eligibility requirements at www.mcwd.org. Before you begin a landscape project, call the District's water conservation department at 883-5905 to learn if your project qualifies and schedule a landscape site survey, which is required prior to application approval.

Water Commissioners Needed

The District's Water Conservation Commission needs volunteers to provide input to the District's Board of Directors on water conservation issues. If you are interested, please call Conservation Coordinator Rich Youngblood at 883-5928.

Mission Statement: Providing high quality water, wastewater and recycled water services to the District's expanding communities through management, conservation and development of future resources at reasonable costs.

Vision Statement: The Marina Coast Water District will be the leading public supplier of integrated water and wastewater services in the Monterey Bay Region.

Board of Directors

Howard Gustafson, President – Kenneth K. Nishi, Vice President
Dan Burns, Bill Lee and Thomas P. Moore

Water Report is published quarterly for the customers of the Marina Coast Water District. MCWD is governed by an elected board of directors, which holds public monthly meetings.

Address all comments and inquiries to:
Marina Coast Water District, 11 Reservation Road,
Marina, CA 93933-2099 or call (831) 384-6131

MCWD Web Site: <http://www.mcwd.org>

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Toilets and Clothes Washers

Water Conservation Cash Rebates

High-Efficiency Clothes Washers

The District is offering rebates to customers wanting to reduce their water bills by replacing their old clothes washers with high-efficiency washers. Besides saving thousand of gallons of water, high-efficiency washers save on electricity, according to the California Public Utilities Commission. Depending on the efficiency of the washer, the District is offering \$50, \$100 or \$125 rebates.

High-Efficiency Toilets

The District offers rebates of up to \$125 for the retrofitting older toilets with single or dual-flush toilets having a flush volume of 1.3 gallons or less. To qualify for the rebate, you must provide the original receipt. Be sure to read the product description carefully before you buy to make sure that you are getting a high-efficiency toilet. If you have any questions, please call the District at 384-6131.

Caution: Don't Overwater!

Maintain Healthy Garden Plants

Spring rain showers normally provides the water needed for this area's landscape. To maintain healthy plants, wait until the rains have ended before turning on your automatic irrigation systems. And before you turn on your irrigation system again, check it thoroughly and make necessary repairs. For assistance in answering your irrigation repair questions or help in programming your controller call a District conservation staff at 883-5905.



Water-Smart Garden Books and CD's

Free Garden Information Available

Before you start your spring garden projects, stop by the District office at 11 Reservation Road in Marina and pick up your free garden booklets from Sunset Publishing and the Water-Wise Gardening CD produced by the Water Awareness Committee of Monterey County. These informative guides feature landscape design ideas, plants suitable to our climate and irrigation tips to help you manage your own water-smart landscape.