



# WATER REPORT

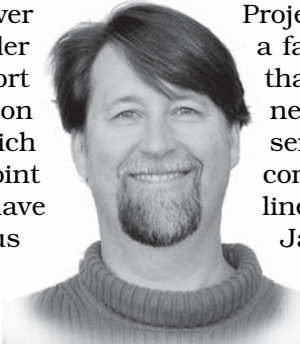
March 2005

## Infrastructure Maintenance Safeguards Sewer System

### Quick Action and New Technology Saves the Day

**S**everely corroded sections of a 24-inch sewer main and a 16-inch main running under Highway 1 near the main gate of the former Fort Ord were discovered recently during an inspection conducted by the District. The pipelines, which had degraded gradually over decades to a point where their integrity was in question, could have created a significant sewer spill with serious environmental consequences.

The normal repair process would have taken months and extended the period in which a incident could have occurred. Fortunately, District



Project Engineer Jade Sullivan (pictured) found a fast and environmentally friendly solution that didn't disrupt customer service. Using new technology, a resin-based liner was inserted into the pipes. "After the project was completed, the flow and strength of the pipelines were the equivalent of new ones," says Jade.

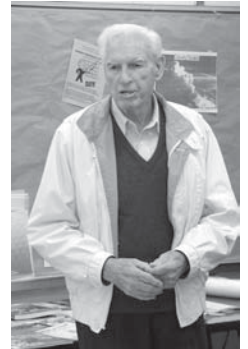
The solution was so good that if you weren't up in the middle of the night to observe the generators and portable lights, you wouldn't even know it happened.

## Water Education Workshops Continue

### Teachers Receive Information to Teach Water Conservation

**I**n January, the Marina Coast Water District and the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District jointly sponsored a water education workshop for teachers at Olson Elementary School. Kathy Machado from the Santa Clara Valley Water District led the training that was designed to assist educators teach the importance of water in our daily lives.

The Water Education Foundation and the Department of Water Resources provided materials to support the training, which is the second of four workshops to be sponsored by the District. If you have questions concerning upcoming workshops and educational activities, please call Bill Lovvoorn, Marina Coast Water District Water Education Coordinator, at 582-2656.



Teachers learn new techniques at workshop (left) in which District Water Education Coordinator Bill Lovvoorn (right) made a presentation.

## Water-Wise Plantings

### Now Is the Best Time to Plant Native Trees and Shrubs

**T**he growth cycle of Monterey County native plants matches the region's unique climatic conditions perfectly. Our seasonal rains trigger sown native seeds to germinate, while established native shrubs and trees receive the moisture and nutrients necessary for new growth enabling them to flower in February and March.

Native plantings of trees and shrubs are encouraged, because these special plants require only small amounts of supplemental water, usually only during the late months of Spring. During the driest months of Summer and Fall, established native plants "sleep"



or go dormant until Winter rains reappear.

"Native plants preserve our valuable water resources and provide an alternative to inefficient and costly irrigation practices," says District Conservation Specialist Paul Lord.

"Call me at 886-2257 if you have any horticulture questions or need advice about your landscape design or irrigation plans."

**District Board meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at the MCWD offices, 11 Reservation Rd. (Marina State Beach). The public is encouraged to attend.**

## General Manager's Corner



Today, the District provides water and wastewater collection services to two separate service areas: Marina and the Ord Community. While the two areas share geographic proximity and receive the same services from the District, we manage them separately to ensure that the customers in one area are not asked to pay for activities in the other area. However, both service areas benefit from sharing District personnel and field equipment enabling us to provide more economical services to all District customers. And, we continue to look for ways that make sense to further reduce District costs.

When we learned that Bayer Tank in Marina had developed structural problems making it difficult to reliably serve customers in upper Marina with sufficient water pressure, we immediately began looking at options to replace this reservoir. Because the Ord Community service area (literally across the fence from the Bayer Tank) has an extensive system of water storage reservoirs and higher water pressures than upper Marina, we concluded that connecting the two systems may be advantageous to Marina, as well as to the Ord Community.

The District Board of Directors reviewed and approved this concept and we are well on our way to creating this new interconnection. Marina will benefit from the Ord Community's infrastructure and it will therefore not be necessary to construct a new expensive storage reservoir in place of the Bayer Tank. The Ord Community and Marina will benefit because the interconnection will allow water to move from one system to the other, when necessary, in response to emergencies. The District will meter all water flowing from one service area to the other and assign costs accordingly. It is not intended to use water from either system to support consumption in the other. This is a win-win for all our customers that will produce savings all around.

This interconnection does not mean that the two systems will become one single system. The two separate rate systems will not change. But, through this sensible, timely, cost-effective solution to a problem in Marina, both systems and the customers of those two systems will reap the benefits. This is the type of thing that the Fort Ord Reuse Authority and the District had in mind when the District was selected to be the owner/operator of the former Fort Ord systems.

— Mike Armstrong

## Employee of the Quarter Named



Plan Check Engineer Peter Koehn was awarded the Marina Coast Water District's Employee of the Quarter award for January – March 2005 at the January 26 Board meeting. Pete, who has been with the District for five years, was recognized for his diligence and outstanding customer service.

### Water Saving Tips

## Malfunctioning Irrigation Systems Waste Water, Time and Money



**R**epairing leaks and clogged irrigation equipment assures efficient, uniform application of water and reduces water use and expense.

On your sprinkler systems check, repair or adjust these items:

- Misaligned heads and nozzles
- Leaking riser seals and pipe fittings
- Buried or low sprinkler heads
- Clogged nozzles and filters
- System application pressures

On drip and soaker hose systems, open the tubing end caps and flush your system of debris for a short period. Also clean, repair and adjust the following:

- In-line sediment filters
- Clogged, broken or missing emitters
- Kinked or cracked drip tubing

Periodic system checks don't take much time but can significantly reduce water loss...and your water bill. If you have questions, please call District Conservation Specialist Paul Lord at 886-2257.

**Mission Statement:** *Serving ratepayers with premier water, conservation, wastewater and customer services at a reasonable cost*

**Vision Statement:** *Marina Coast Water District will be the leading purveyor of innovative water and wastewater services on the Central Coast*

#### **Board of Directors**

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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.

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