



# WATER REPORT

September 2007



## Lawns: Public Enemy No. 1

### Has It Become a Dinosaur?

Over one-half of the water used in our area is for landscape purposes, with the majority of that used to water lawns. Compared to most landscape plantings, grass is very thirsty. People are beginning to question whether decorative lawn, which is sometimes referred to it as a “dinosaur,” is appropriate in our environment. The time, effort, fertilizer and water needed to maintain turf makes it an extravagant investment, especially in a dry climate, such as ours. All these in addition to the high cost of electricity (the majority of California’s electricity is used to pump water).

If you don’t want to eliminate your grass cold-turkey, water it less. For information about how to improve your irrigation system, call the District’s Water Conservation staff at 883-5905.

## Thanks to Our Volunteers

### Copper/Lead Testing Completed

We would like to extend our thanks to District customers in Marina and Ord Community who collected a water sample for lead and copper testing in June. Every three years, the District is required to analyze water coming through indoor pipes, faucet fixtures and solder materials for lead and copper levels.

As soon as this year’s sample-analysis has been completed, a report will be made available to you.

## AWWARF Desalination Research

### District to Participate in Study

The District has been selected as part of a team to play a key role in the upcoming desalination seawater intake study, funded by the non-profit American Water Works Association Research Foundation (AWWARF). The study will summarize state-of-the-science desalination intake structures and operational methods. Carollo Engineers expects to complete the research by the Fall of 2009. With a desalination plant in operation on the Monterey Bay since 1996, the District’s participation and information for the study will be invaluable.

## Water-Efficient Toilets and Clothes Washers

### Save Up to \$125 in Rebates

The Marina Coast Water District has recently increased its rebate program for retrofitting high-efficiency toilets and clothes washers. These new appliances can save thousand of gallons of water and reduce your water bill. Depending on the efficiency of the clothes washer you purchase, the District will give you a rebate of \$50, \$100 or \$125. For retrofitting an older toilet with a single or dual-flush, high-efficiency toilet having a flush volume of 1.3 gallons or less receive a rebate of up to \$125.

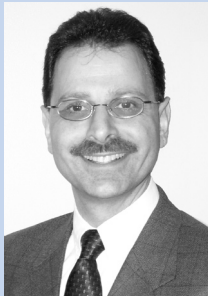
Rebates are no longer provided for older 1.6 gallon per flush toilets. For program details visit [www.mcwd.org](http://www.mcwd.org), or call the District’s Water Conservation staff at 883-5905.



*The E Reservoir (pictured above), which provides water pressure for the upper part of Fitch Park, will be replaced with booster pumps from a proposed D Reservoir. This work is part of storage-tank improvements at the site, which will serve residents in Seaside and Del Rey Oaks.*

**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.**

## General Manager's Corner



### Conserving Our Natural Resource

Water is one of our most important natural resources. Without it, we could not exist. Because of this year's low rainfall, water conservation is, once again, front and center.

At Marina Coast Water District, we maintain an active water conservation program that aims to reduce water waste through conservation programs and an education program which is unparalleled. Because of your support and efforts this year, we reduced water consumption by about five percent from the previous year. This was accomplished through large landscape audits that helped better manage irrigation practices and an active rebate program for water-efficient clothes washers, toilets and urinals. In July of this year, we expanded these programs to provide even greater incentives to use water wisely by selecting the more efficient household water using devices.

Perhaps the most unique part of our water conservation program is our participation in educating the future residents and leaders of our community. The District sponsors in-class water science programs in our local schools for grades K through 6, where students learn the water basics, beginning with the hydrologic cycle, groundwater recharge, treatment and distribution to your homes and businesses. With assistance from educational instructors, the programs are designed to deliver messages appropriate to the students' ages and fit into planned classroom activities. Through these programs students gain an understanding about the importance of water in our arid environment; a knowledge which will serve us all in the future.

With your continued efforts and support, we will be able to conserve and manage our use of water wisely. It is truly a natural resource that we are endowed to protect and conserve for future generations. Much of this fine water conservation work is performed by District staff members, Richard Youngblood and Paul Lord who are ready to help you with your water conservation questions and needs. Please feel free to contact them.

— Marc A. Lucca, General Manager

### Community Service

## Water Conservation Commission Volunteers Needed

The District's Water Conservation Commissioners volunteer their time to provide input to Board of Directors on important water conservation issues. If you are interested in becoming a Commissioner, please call Rich Youngblood, Conservation Coordinator, at 883-5928.



Operations and Maintenance Superintendent Jim Dowless (l) congratulates Joe Correa while presenting him with a 15-Year Service Award. Jim was also recently acknowledged for receiving his 10-Year Service Award.

### Fire, Flood, Earthquake and Tsunami's

## We Have It All in California

In urging people to be prepared in the event of a disaster, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services provides a wealth of information for preparedness at [www.oes.ca.gov](http://www.oes.ca.gov). The County of Monterey Office of Emergency Services also provides information at [www.co.monterey.ca.us/oes](http://www.co.monterey.ca.us/oes).

### 2006 Consumer Confidence Report

## Have You Received Your Report?

District customers in Central Marina and the Ord Community should have already received in the mail the 2006 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). The CCR presents the annual summary of the District's most recent water quality testing results including details about where your water comes from and how it compares to drinking water standards. If you have not received a copy, please call 384-6131 or visit [www.mcwd.org/doc/ccr](http://www.mcwd.org/doc/ccr).

**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  
David W. Brown, 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>

Copyright © 2007 MCWD