



Water Report

MARINA COAST WATER DISTRICT SPRING 2012

Smart Water Use

CSUMB Housing Upgrades Its Old Irrigation Systems

Gone are the days of inefficient landscape watering. Alliance Property Management has taken steps to reduce overwatering the landscape. With help from Marina Coast Water District's Landscape Incentive Program, they have upgraded the irrigation controllers at parks throughout the CSUMB housing community.

The large ball fields receiving the new equipment are spotted throughout the Frederick Park and Schoonover Park Communities. By installing simple soil-moisture sensors and linking multiple park areas together with a single communications cable and a central controller,



the system now automatically monitors when water is needed, and then applies only the amount of water required for

healthy turf.

"Many of our customers are amazed when they see the water cost savings achieved by upgrading to new irrigation equipment. They not only see the cost savings, they also see the positive impact their actions have towards the sustainability of our water resources," MCWD Water Conservation Specialist Paul Lord says.

District customers can request assistance for projects that improve landscape water use efficiency. Please contact our Water Conservation Specialist at 883-5905 to learn more about

the landscape incentives available and to schedule the required water use survey.

Conserving Water, Reducing Treatment Costs

New Projects Utilize Greywater

Stepping out of the box and trying something new can make you feel uncomfortable and can be risky. Working closely with and receiving support and encouragement from the District, developers of new projects are now more comfortable, attempting to achieve unprecedented levels of water use efficiency and long-term water cost savings, by designing Greywater re-use into their projects.

Greywater is the water collected after use from residential showers, bathroom sinks, and certain commercial applications like laundromats, car washes or restaurant dishwashers. Greywater is most often used to irrigate landscaping, but the treated and disinfected water can also be used in other applications, such as flushing toilets.

Several new building developers propose, or have begun, designing greywater use into their projects. These projects include a Live and Work Sustainable Community, the Monterey Bay Bus Operations and Maintenance Center, the Shell Gas Station on Del Monte Avenue and the newly renovated military housing in the Lower Stilwell Park.

What do these and future projects with greywater facilities mean to you the rate payer? Greywater use translates into a reduction in the amount of wastewater that needs to be treated and it conserves potable water.



Please, Collect Your Fat, Oil and Grease



The Marina Coast Water District Operations and Maintenance staff works diligently to prevent sewer spills through routine hydro-jetting of the sewer mains to remove roots, debris and grease. The District has been operating a "Fats, Oils and Grease" (FOG) Source Control program since 2005 to prevent restaurant grease from getting into the sewer collection system and subsequently causing blockages and sanitary sewer spills. This program requires the installation and regular maintenance of grease traps to remove grease and oils from restaurant and food preparation facilities wastewater before it enters the sanitary sewer system.

District customers can help minimize the residential grease and oil entering the wastewater collection system by not pouring kitchen grease and oil down the drain. The oil and grease should be poured into a disposable container and placed in the garbage. Cooking fat, oil and grease (FOG) is a leading cause of sewer pipe clogs. FOGs cool and congeal on the inner walls of sewer lines and on tree roots that grow in them, much like arterial sclerosis in our bodies. The resulting clog restricts sewage flow, which can back up in your home or property, or even in the street. In fact, kitchen grease is a leading cause of sewer spills into the Monterey Bay.

Conservation Commission Volunteers Needed

The 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. If you are interested in becoming a Commissioner, please call us at 384-6131 or attend a monthly meeting, held at 5:30PM at the District main office, on the first Thursday of each month.



Team Recognized For 20 Years of Service

Two lead staff members are working through their twentieth year with the District. On December 13th, 2011 the Marina Coast Water District Board of Director's adopted a resolution recognizing Dale North, System Operator III, for his twenty years of service. And to be recognized this May 2012 for his twenty years of service is Joe Correa, the Assistant Operations and Maintenance Superintendent. Both Dale and Joe have worked closely together in the Operations and Maintenance Department performing a broad scope of duties, each utilizing his certified training in water treatment, water distribution, sewer collections, and wastewater treatment to bring you the best quality water and service possible.

MCWD Board meetings are open to the public and held at 6:45 p.m., 2nd Tuesday of each month, at the Marina State Beach Office, 11 Reservation Rd. Meeting agendas and minutes, as well as notices of special Board meetings, are available at www.mcwd.org.

MCWD Student Internship Opportunities

A Partnership With Local Colleges

For the past several years, Marina Coast Water District has partnered with the local community colleges such as MPC and Cabrillo, as well as the California State University at Monterey Bay (CSUMB), to develop a very successful student internship program.

Much of the credit for the program's success goes to Professor Doug Smith at CSUMB. Professor Smith teaches the capstone and pre-capstone classes in the Environmental Science Program, where students focus on science, technology and policies related to marine, coastal and watershed systems.



The internship experience at MCWD has proven to be a valuable stepping stone for the interns. All have been exposed to a broad scope of district work, allowing each of them to later confidently pursue great careers in the water industry.

Currently, MCWD employs three interns, working in the Laboratory, the Engineering Department and the Operations and Maintenance Departments. Students must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 units of school classes, and each intern works a maximum of 16 hours weekly during the Fall and Spring semesters.

Mission Statement

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

Vision Statement

MCWD will be the leading public supplier of integrated water and wastewater services in the Monterey Bay Region.

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

Address all comments and inquiries to:
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MCWD Web Site: <http://www.mcwd.org>

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