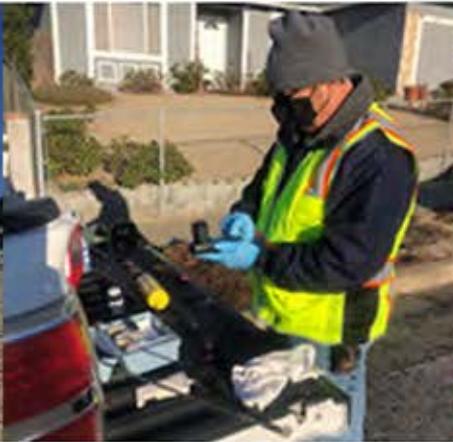




# 2020 Year In Review



**Securing Our Water Supply**

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# Message from the General Manager



Keith Van Der Maaten  
MCWD General Manager

Where does one start when looking back on 2020? Has there ever been a year like the last one? Without exception, we all have our stories, both personal and professional, about this incredible year. For MCWD, the 2020 story is about strength of character and persistence.

Regardless of the circumstances, MCWD staff did not shrink, did not fail, and did not give up in the face of these, and many other, challenges. As the phrase goes, "A river cuts through rock, not because of its power, but its persistence". In 2020, MCWD staff held strong and persisted through, and this "2020 Year-in-Review" presents the results of those efforts. From the completion of the District's Master Plans and Capacity Fees for the Water, Recycled Water, and Wastewater systems, to the recommended denial of the Desal Plant by Coastal Commission staff, to many other accomplishments too numerous to list here, this has been a historic year in many areas.

When we turned the page on 2019, it was anticipated that we would continue to move straight ahead in meeting our goals in serving our customers in 2020. Our path was set, and direction known, like a river flowing smoothly along. As such, we would continue to safeguard and prepare for sustainable long-term water supplies, to effectively manage and improve our infrastructure, to continue to build a solid fiscal foundation, and to continue supporting and developing our employees to best serve our customers.

But 2020 would be nothing like we had envisioned, instead, 2020 ushered in some of the most significant challenges in the District's history. First, there was COVID-19, which threatened the health and well-being of our employees, disrupted our customer relations, constrained our ability to manage and improve our infrastructure, and impacted our customer's ability to continue to pay their water bills. Then, Cal Am, with its bulge of high-priced attorneys, relentless lobbyist efforts, and seemingly endless resources, went into a full-scale misinformation campaign and escalated efforts on all fronts to move ahead on getting Coastal Commission approval for its desal plant, a

While there is hope that 2021 will be less challenging than 2020, I am confident that MCWD staff will find a way to prevail, regardless of the challenges ahead. The character that makes up this District is special. It is one of strength and persistence that will allow us to move ahead in smooth or turbulent times. I'm so proud to be a part of this District and its successes in 2020 and look forward to another successful year in 2021!



**Patrick Breen**  
Water Resources Manager

## Water Resources



Water Conservation Commissioner Phil Clark and Water Conservation Specialist Paul Lord manning the Water Conservation Booth at the "Cars in the Park" event

The Conservation Department made changes to the District's Landscape Incentive Program including:

- Large projects over 8,000 square feet may apply, and be considered, with unique landscape project criteria that varies from those established.
- ET Controller Incentive

For Multi-Family, Commercial, Institutional, Industrial, and Large Landscape accounts only, increased the ET Controller incentive from \$20 to \$40 for each additional irrigation station beyond six stations (doubles the incentive for larger sites)

- Rain and Soil Moisture Shut-off Switch Incentive

Increased the Rain Shut-off Switch Rebate incentive from a maximum payment of \$50 to \$100.

- Master Shut-off Valve Rebate

Added a new incentive for the modification of an irrigation system to include an approved master shut-off valve. The incentive will be equal to the net purchase price of the valve, up to \$100.

- Flow Sensor Rebate

Added a new incentive for the modification of an irrigation system to include an approved flow sensor that alerts the user of leaks and unauthorized water flow. The incentive will be equal to the net purchase price of the sensor, up to \$100.

- Lawn Replacement Incentive

Established that when replacing lawn with low water use landscaping, varying amounts the lawn area renovated may be replaced with new mature tree canopy area, synthetic grass, decorative rock, or organic mulch.

Increased the lawn replacement incentive from \$0.25 to \$1.00 per square foot for the first 5,000 square feet of lawn and replaced.

*To find out more about MCWD's conservation and rebate programs, click on the link below:*

[Conservation and Rebates](#)



For Multi-Family, Commercial, Institutional, Industrial and Large Landscape accounts, raised the maximum rebate amount for lawn replacement and sprinkler conversion to drip irrigation from \$2,000 to \$5,000 per site or area served by a metered connection. The maximum incentive for single-family homes would remain at \$2,000.

Established that at least one existing or new tree per ten thousand square feet of project area be present/installed in the converted landscape.

The Water Resources Department continued its Marina Coast Water District Groundwater



*To conserve water and improve the appearance of his residence, this customer replaced irrigated lawn with artificial grass. A District landscape incentive payment helped offset the cost of the materials needed.*

Sustainability Agency (MCWD GSA) work including: Adoption and submission to the Department of Water Resources of the 180/400 Sub-basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan in coordination with the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability

Agency (SVBGSA) establishing a plan to achieve sustainability within the 180/400 Critically Overdrafted sub-basin of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin. The plan outlines how the basin will achieve sustainability within 20 years and maintain that sustainability for an additional 30 years.

The MCWD GSA also began development of the Monterey Sub-basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan. The plan is also being developed in coordination with the SVBGSA. The MCWD GSA is developing the plan for area of the Monterey Sub-basin generally North of Highway 68 while the SVBGSA is developing the plan for the areas generally South of Highway 68. Each agency is meeting to incorporate these plans into one Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Monterey Sub-basin to be turned in to Department of Water Resources by the deadline by January 31st 2022. Staff and Consultants will be conducting Stakeholder, Steering Committee, and Board Meeting meetings and presentations throughout the 2021.

The Water Resources Department also completed a Three Party Planning process between the former Ft. Ord Reuse Authority, Monterey One Water, and the District to investigate Water Supply Augmentation Alternatives for the District to meet future water demand. The resulting study recommended an Indirect Potable Reuse (IPR) project as the preferred alternative. IPR involves injecting treated water into an aquifer to augment supply within the aquifer to be extracted to meet demand.

Following the Alternatives Study Water Resources has commenced a follow on study to determine what source waters may be available to be treated for the conceptual IPR project. This Study will be complete in Spring of 2021.

*For more information about MCWD Groundwater Sustainability Agency click on the link below:*

[MCWD Groundwater Sustainability Agency](#)



**Marina Coast Water District**  
**MCWD Ground Water Sustainability Agency**



**Derek Cray**  
Operations & Maintenance Manager

## Infrastructure : Operations & Maintenance

- Completed a large Generator project in response to PG&E Public Safety Shutoff Programs. This included installation of 7 new permanent generators, replacement of 2 non functioning generators, purchase of a new tow behind generator, and the integration of 24 existing pump stations into the district's Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system for the power status, and generator status feedback.
- SCADA underwent major improvements to include full redundancy during extended outages to allow control and alarm feedback uninterrupted.
- All the District's well sites and water pump stations got painted. This included epoxy painting all piping, and exterior and interior painting of all buildings.
- All the District's well and pump stations pump control valves were rebuilt.
- The District replaced its 17 year old Vactor truck.
- Crescent lift station underwent a full rehab done by O & M- new Motor Control Center (MCC), new pump bases, new discharge piping and new pump controls.
- Neeson lift station rehab was completed in house which included: new MCC, new pump bases, new pumps, new discharge piping and new

pump controls, as well as integrating the site into SCADA.

- The RUWAP transmission line, and Blackhorse tank went online to serve Pure Water Monterey in February 2020.



*Crescent Lift Station before rehabilitation.*



*The Crescent Lift Station after rehabilitation.*

- The District hired a new Operations and Maintenance Administrative Analyst.
- The inside of the District's potable water tanks were cleaned and inspected.
- All of the District large chemical tanks were replaced with double wall safety tanks.
- The District's two flume meters were replaced and integrated into SCADA.
- Human Machine Interfaces (HMI's) installation has begun and is slated to be finished by the end of the year. This will place touch screen operator panels at all the water and sewer pump stations to allow complete control at each site.
- 4 Operators got their certification in Wastewater Collections





**Mike Wegley**  
District Engineer

## Infrastructure : Engineering

Two major accomplishments for engineering were:

- Sewer, Water and Recycled Water Master Plans
- Sewer and Water Capacity Fees

The sewer, water and recycled water master plans determine the future facilities needed for the projected development within the District. The master plans also

evaluate the capacity adequacy of the existing sewer and water systems and recommends improvements to mitigate existing deficiencies as well as servicing future growth. The master plans were prepared for full build out and the capital improvement program costs were determined for the intermediate term planned development (through 2040).



*The RUWAP Recycled Water Pipeline and Black Horse Recycled Water Reservoir.*



New connections to the sewer and water systems pay capacity fees to recover their cost share for existing facilities and capital improvements benefiting future users. The updated capacity fees are designed to recover the cost of facilities that benefit new growth including a share of existing water, wastewater and recycled water system facilities and assets as well as the cost of system upgrades and expansions needed serve growth through the intermediate term horizon. The sewer and water capacity fees were adopted to replace the capacity fees that had not changed since 2013.

With completion of the Regional Urban Water Augmentation Project (RUWAP) conveyance pipeline in 2019, construction moved into the next phase for the distribution mains in 2020. The RUWAP distribution main project includes five branch connections to the conveyance main. Four of the pipeline branches are in Beach Road, Carmel Avenue, Ninth Street and Coe Avenue. The fifth branch will connect Research Drive and

Inter-Garrison Road with new pipelines in Abrams Drive, Imjin Parkway, Blanco Road and Reservation Road. The distribution pipelines will include pressure reducing stations and will tie-in existing irrigation systems that will be converted from potable water service and existing irrigation systems already plumbed for recycled water use.

Design of the A1/A2 Reservoir and B/C Booster Pump Station continued with construction slated for 2021. Construction was completed on the Inter-Garrison Water Main and reconstruction of the the Imjin Lift Station is underway.

Phase I of the Dunes development was built out and building continued in East Garrison while Sea Haven development was in full swing only pausing momentarily for the Covid-19 pandemic. Central Marina continues to remain active with infill development.



For more information about RUWAP, please click on the link below:

[RUWAP](#)

*Imjin Lift Station Capital Improvement Project: Crews installing the 12' diameter precast concrete wet well.*



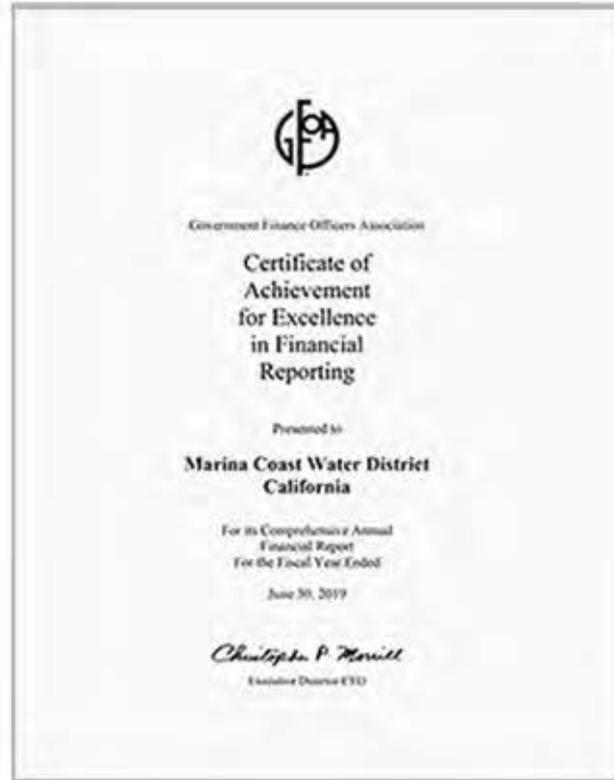


**Kelly Cadiente**  
Director Finance and Administration

## Fiscal Planning

The Finance Department was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Districts' Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for FY 2018-2019 from the Government Finance Officers' Association (GFOA). This marks the twelfth straight year that the District has earned this award.

On December 19, 2019, the District issued \$17.725 million of Enterprise Revenue Certificates of Participation at a premium and with an all-in TIC (True Interest Cost) of 2.999%. At closing, the District received funding in the amount of \$19.500 million for a number of capital improvement projects and capital equipment replacement.



## Strategic Partners and Public Affairs

This past year, MCWD worked extensively with our strategic partners on securing sustainable long-term water supplies for the Region. Those efforts were specifically in support of furthering groundwater sustainability, ensuring the availability PureWater Monterey supplies and its further expansion, and in supporting the Coastal Commission staff by providing the truthful and accurate information they needed in evaluating Cal Am's proposed desalination project. Those Strategic Partners included Monterey One Water,

the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, the City of Marina, Citizens for Just Water, Public Water Now, and the Salinas Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

The major accomplishment this past year was successfully preventing Cal Am from moving ahead on getting Coastal Commission approval for its destructive Desalination Project. Through dozens of meetings with regulators, commissioners, politicians, State Agencies, local agencies, Citizen



groups, Environmental groups, and District staff and consultants, MCWD, along with the team of Strategic Partners, was able to inform the Coastal Commission of the many issues with the Cal Am project and to enable the Coastal Commission staff to see through the many Cal Am's misstatements and Cal Am's huge misinformation campaign. In the end, the Coastal Commission staff recommended denial of the Cal Am desal plant based on strong findings of fact on many issues. As a result of this staff report, and the likely

inability that Cal Am would be able to obtain approval for its project, Cal Am withdrew its application from the Coastal Commission in September 2020. It is expected that Cal Am will resubmit its application to the Coastal Commission in late 2020 or early 2021 and to start the process all over again. We stand ready to continue to fight to protect our groundwater resources from Cal Am's self-serving, destructive, goals.

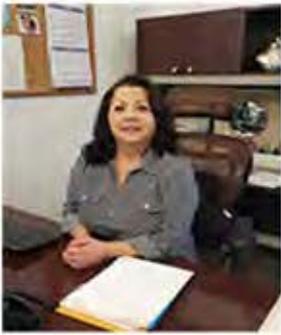


*MCWD's customer service team.*

## Customer Service is still our priority

Throughout the pandemic, Customer Service staff continue to provide outstanding service to our ratepayers despite the office being closed to the public. There have been no interruptions in billing, payment processing, or new account set up during this time despite the logistic challenges due to the office closure. This is a testament to the CS staff's determination and dedication to the District's ratepayers.





**Rose Gill**  
HR / Risk Administrator

## Organizational Health & Personnel

2020 was a challenging year for all due to COVID-19. A lot of the year was filled with communication about COVID-19. We developed a COVID Response Plan, which was distributed to all employees. The document was updated throughout the year and re-distributed every time there were updates from the Federal, State and local County.

### 2020 ANNIVERSARIES



**Kelly Cadiente**  
10 Years



**Candace Cuisinier**  
5 Years



**Paul Lord**  
15 Years



**Mike Wegley**  
5 Years



**Keith Van Der Maaten**  
5 Years



**Stephenie Verduzco**  
15 Years



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Dr. Thomas P. Moore  
President

Jan Shriner  
Vice President

### Board Members

Herbert Cortez • Peter Le • Matt Zefferman

### MCWD Management

Keith Van Der Maaten  
MCWD General Manager

### Administration & Customer Service

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