



WATER REPORT

October 2008

Many Ways to Pay Your Water Bill

Introducing New Payment Option

The District has made arrangements with Rabobank in Marina and Salinas to receive water bill payments. If you choose to pay your bill at the bank, remember to bring your bill with you. District customers can also pay their water bill online at www.mcwd.org. This web service provides a fast, secure and easy way for customers to perform a variety of tasks online, including: (1) viewing account balances and payment history for 12 months, (2) making online payments, (3) printing bill information and (4) entering service requests. Debit and credit card payments are also accepted.

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



Each of us in customer service aim to help our customers pleasantly, professionally and as quickly as possible. We look forward to answering customer questions and providing the information they request.

—Ernest Pons
Customer Service Supervisor

Using Water to Wash Hard Surfaces Wastes Water

Mandatory Restriction on Water Use

Because water is a limited resource, state law prohibits wasting it. District Code restricts irrigation between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. except for drip irrigation and hand watering using hoses with an automatic shut-off device. In addition, water cannot be used to hose off hard surfaces, such as sidewalks, roadways or parking lots. (Exceptions are made in the interest of public health or safety, and the use of water in a bucket for cleaning food, grease, oil, or other stains or spillage on hard surfaces.)

Save water by using a broom to sweep material off sidewalks and driveways. If you have any questions call, the District's Water Conservation Coordinator at 883-5928.



Collection Operator Martin Rosales (right) and System Operator Tuan Nguyen operate the District's new jetter that uses 2,000 pounds of water pressure to remove obstructions, such as grease build-up, from the sewer mains. With 200 miles of sewer mains beneath our streets, the work is ongoing.

Fat, Oil and Grease Are Potential Hazards

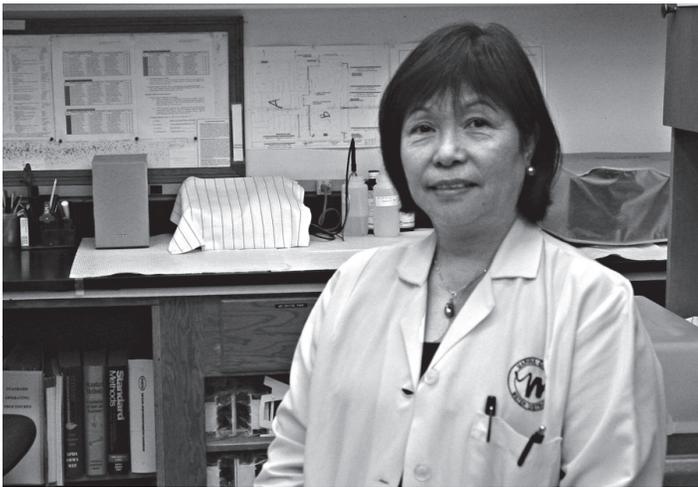
Sewer Backups Can Be Avoided

The District needs your help to keep fats, cooking oils and grease (FOG) out of the sewer. FOG can build up in sewer laterals (the pipe extending from your house to the street) and the District's sewer mains (the pipes connecting lateral pipes to the pump station). This buildup in the pipes is the primary cause of wastewater overflows, which can cause much damage and create a potential health threat.

The state mandates that FOG removal devices in food establishments be inspected regularly. At home, residents are expected to scrape plates and pour cooking oil/grease into containers for the garbage.

When the sanitary sewers are flowing freely, your household and the environment are protected from potentially harmful waste. So, it's important for each of us do our part in properly disposing of FOG.

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



Maintaining the Highest Quality Drinking Water Lab Keeps Pace With Expanding Water Quality Regulations

Before water reaches your tap, samples from wells, water treatment plants and point-of-use locations have been collected and tested in state certified laboratories. This ongoing water analysis and monitoring ensures that your drinking water is of the highest quality. "Our water meets or surpasses both state and federal standards," states District Water Quality Manager Evelina Adlawan.

The Board of Directors recently presented Evelina with an award for thirty years of outstanding service to the District. During her tenure, she has managed, maintained and expanded the laboratory's environmental analysis capabilities. Known for her attention to detail, efficiency and reliability, Evelina has kept the District in compliance with the ever-evolving water quality standards of the state, federal and local regulatory agencies.

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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End of the Irrigation Season

It's Time to Cut Back on Watering

As the days get shorter, it's time to cut back on your landscape irrigation. Many plants don't require water once the rains begin, and will be healthier for the next growing season if they don't receive additional water.

Did you know that more than 50 percent of the water used by households goes to maintaining landscapes? You can reduce your water use, keep your landscape attractive and save on your water bill by upgrading your sprinkler system with a controller that automatically adjusts your irrigation schedule to the weather conditions. Visit irrigation.org to learn more about these controllers and for other ways to improve your water efficiency. Soil moisture devices and rain shut-off switches can also help you avoid unnecessary watering. To learn more about these devices, call the District's Water Conservation Specialist at 883-5928.

If you are planning on improving your landscape and want to reduce your water bill, visit www.mcwd.org and learn about the District's new Landscape Incentive Program. If your project reduces your water use, you might be eligible for an incentive. To determine whether your project qualifies, call the District at 883-5905.



Converting your irrigation system to drip irrigation, could qualify you for savings in the District's new Landscape Incentive program.

Water Conservation Commission Volunteers Needed

The District's Water Conservation Commission needs members of the community to provide input to the District's Board of Directors on water conservation issues. If you're interested in volunteering some of your time and expertise, please call Water Conservation Coordinator Rich Youngblood at 883-5928.