



# WATER REPORT

April 2003



*Kathy Machado from the Santa Clara Valley Water District works with teachers at water education workshop at Olson Elementary.*

## *Third Water Education Workshop*

### Teachers Learn About Water

The third water education workshop this year was held on February 10 at Olson Elementary School. According to Olson Principal Bob Miller, the feedback from the 19 teachers attending was very positive. The workshops, sponsored by Marina Coast Water District, are designed to assist teachers in presenting water science education to their students. Workshop materials have been designed to support the new California Framework for Science and Social Studies. In its second year, the program has benefitted over 100 teachers throughout the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District. If you would like information about this program, please call Bill Lovvorn at 582-2656.

## *For Efficiency Washers and Ultra Low Flow Toilets*

### District Offers \$50 Rebates

The District is offering a \$50 rebate for each ultra low flow toilet that is installed in place of a 3.5 gallon toilet and \$50 for each high efficiency washer that is purchased by residents of the District's service areas. All you have to do is keep your receipts, fill out a short form and schedule an inspection. If you have any questions or need a form you can visit the District's website. A list of washers that qualify for the rebate is available at [www.energystar.com](http://www.energystar.com). For more information or to schedule an inspection, please call 384-6131.

## *On Mother's Day Weekend*

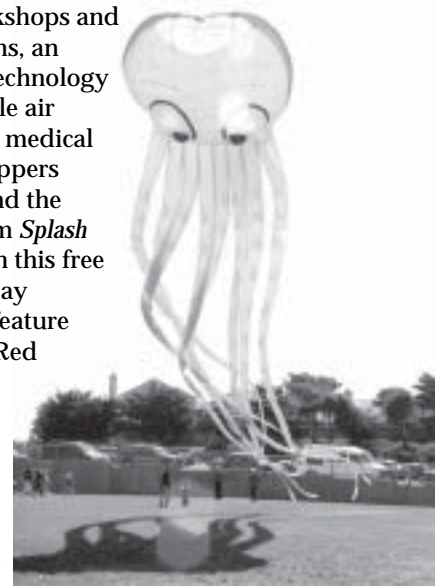
### Marina Celebrates the Wind

The 4th annual Marina International Festival of the Winds will be held on May 10 and 11 (Mother's Day Weekend) at Glorja Jean Tate Park and Marina State Beach. All of the wind-related activities that have made this Festival so popular in past years will again be part of the family fun this year.

The Festival will include kite flying, hang gliding, food, informational booths including Marina Coast Water District's, live music and entertainment, kid's crafts, kite making workshops and giant kite demonstrations, an expanded science and technology tent and a giant inflatable air park. The A.J. Robinson medical screening, the Crimestoppers child's fingerprinting and the Monterey Bay Aquarium *Splash Zone*, will all take part in this free family event. On Saturday evening, a concert will feature Eight Second Ride and Red Beans and Rice.

The Marina Volunteer Firefighters will start off the festivities with a pancake breakfast on Saturday morning from 7 to 10:00 (\$5 for adults and \$3 for kids 12 and over). All proceeds will benefit their cause.

Mark your calendar and plan on attending all or at least part of this year's Festival. For more information and updates, please visit the website at: [www.marinafestival.com](http://www.marinafestival.com) or call: 831-595-7516. The Festival is a non-profit corporation supported by the City of Marina and the Monterey County Board of Supervisors through a grant from the Monterey County Convention and Visitors Bureau.



## *Get Your Questions Answered*

### Visit MCWD's Revamped Website

The District's enhanced website includes the latest Board of Directors meeting agendas and minutes, downloadable forms, information on conservation, desalination, water quality and more. You'll also find answers to frequently asked questions about your water bill, paying your bill and other topics.

**District Board meetings are held on the 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



The winter of 2002/03 will be recorded as one of the warmest on record for the west coast. We'll have to wait to see how the total rainfall picture ends up, but it looks like we're going to be at or near normal. Normal rainfall for the Marina area is about 14 inches annually, almost five inches less than Monterey.

Learning about weather and water can be interesting, useful and even fun. Just ask the fourth graders at Olson Elementary School. They are participating in a Water and Art Program co-sponsored by the District as part of our water conservation education effort. An art teacher, provided by the Cultural Council for Monterey County, is assisting the 60 children in these classes to combine water science and art in their learning. In addition, the District sponsors several teacher workshops in cooperation with the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District to help equip our teachers with teaching tools that are useful across the curriculum. Both programs have been very successful in helping our students and teachers better understand our water situation.

We believe education is essential for people to be able to understand complex issues, draw conclusions about options for solutions and ultimately make decisions to improve our community. Few issues could be more important than making sure we have a reliable, sustainable, safe and secure water supply. Last year the District completed a comprehensive analysis of our future water needs for our two service areas: Marina and the Ord Community. This year we will complete an analysis of how best to meet those future needs. In addition to conservation and education, new water supply projects will be proposed and evaluated.

We invite you to be a part of the District's continuing education programs and the important decision making about our future water supplies.

— Mike Armstrong

**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

*Kenneth K. Nishi, President; Charles H. Scholl, Vice President; Thomas Moore, David Brown and Ron Russo*

*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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## Be Part of the Solution

### Salt from Water Softeners Poses Environmental Concern

If you have a self-regenerating water softener, it adds sodium chloride salt to your wastewater, which cannot be removed by the regional water recycling facility. (A family of four averages 40 pounds each month.) The facility produces 13,000 acre-feet of recycled water annually to irrigate farmlands around Castroville. Since recycled water does not have to be pumped from the ground, it helps in the fight against salt water intrusion into our aquifers. If you have a water softener, consider switching from sodium chloride to potassium chloride, which is easier on the environment. You can also use an exchange service that will remove the sodium chloride for proper disposal. Since recycled water is an integral part of our water resources, consider being part of the solution.

## A Job Well Done

### District Awards Five-Year Plaque to Paula Carina

Paula Carina was honored by the District with the presentation of a five-year plaque. Joining the District in February 1998, her primary responsibility was to provide customer service to those visiting the District office. In August 1999, Paula was promoted to Board Clerk/Executive Assistant.



In this demanding position, she has established an excellent rapport with the directors, general manager, employees and numerous customers and representatives of agencies and organizations. Paula has consistently been a positive and encouraging influence for the District team.

## Are You Throwing Money Away?

### Conserving Water Begins Outside

Approximately 50 percent of residential water is used to irrigate landscapes. Consequently, the most important place to start a conservation program is right outside your front door. Choosing plants that are well adapted to our climate, improving the soil with water-retaining amendments and taking advantage of good irrigation techniques help to save water.

Save money and our water by not overwatering. Automated irrigation systems are nice, but they can also waste thieves. Our sandy soils absorb excess water easily and it is wasted when it goes below the root zone. So, monitor your system regularly and reduce the amount of water used until it is just sufficient to keep the landscape in good condition.