



WATER REPORT

November 2004

Conservation Campaign Launched

'Retire Your Turf' to Save Water

Limited water resources and higher water costs are two excellent reasons to conserve water. Approximately half of the District's residential water supply gets used for landscape irrigation with the greatest portion applied to lawns. Since Marina's annual rainfall of only 15 inches qualifies it to be a desert, we need to conserve our water by taking such measures as "Retiring Your Turf" and replacing it with drought-tolerant native plants.

Currently, the Water Awareness Committee of Monterey County is promoting water conservation with an educational "Retire Your Turf" campaign. To help you determine the right amount of water to use on your landscape, pick up a free soil moisture meter at the District offices at 11 Reservation Road. For more information visit www.waterawareness.org (Water Awareness Committee), www.mcwd.org and www.cuwcc.org (California Urban Water Conservation Council) or call Water Conservation Coordinator Rich Youngblood at 582-2652.

Lead and Copper Samples Taken in Marina

Residential Testing Completed

The District recently completed testing water samples taken from selected customers' indoor taps in Marina. The purpose of the test, which is conducted every three years, is to determine whether significant levels of lead and/or copper are leaching into drinking water from corrosion in residential plumbing systems.

In June 2004 samplings from homes and businesses in Marina revealed that lead and copper in Marina's drinking water is not a problem.

The District would like to thank the volunteers who participated in this year's test, and it looks forward to working with you again in 2007.



Water Quality Chemist Thomas Barkhurst checks samples in the District's water quality laboratory.



As part of the District's conservation education workshop program, Kathy Machado of the Santa Clara Valley Water District made a presentation at Marshall Elementary School about Marina's limited water resources.

New and Continuing Water Conservation Programs

Educational Programs Expanded

The District has joined with the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District (MPUSD) again this year to present the Water Conservation Education Program. The new principal at Olson Elementary School, Ron Allen, is the Program's Principal-Leader.

The Cultural Council for Monterey County, MPUSD and the District are working together to provide water and art instruction to elementary schools throughout the District's service area. The program uses art as the medium to teach students about water.

A new science program is providing assistance to classroom teachers in science education with an emphasis on water. Susan Goodman, the science resource teacher from Olson Elementary School, has offered her classroom to be the resource center for the elementary schools. The program provides instruction, curriculum and materials to support classroom teachers. The District, MPUSD and the Chapman Foundation are organizing this program.

Additionally, the District will conduct four teacher workshops this school year that focus on teaching water conservation. The workshops will feature presentations from the Water Education Foundation, Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency and the District.

If you have any questions about these programs, please contact the District's Water Conservation Coordinator, Bill Lovvorn, at 582-2656.

District Board meetings are held on the second and 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

If you were asked what water supply project would provide new water to our communities, in the least amount of time, for the least amount of money, what would you say? An expanded

District desalination project? A regional recycled water project? A Moss Landing regional desalination project? The Salinas Valley Water Project? Additional groundwater from the Salinas groundwater basin?

While one or more of these projects may one day contribute to our District's mix of water supply sources, there is another source that can be developed sooner and at a fraction of the cost. What is this source of water? Conservation. Conservation of the water the District presently produces and delivers to your homes and businesses. Because, every unit or acre-foot of water we conserve means one less unit or acre-foot of water we must develop through new, expensive, time-consuming capital projects.

Our District has known this truth for decades and made the conservation of our water a top priority. Our mission statement includes a commitment to providing our customers premier water conservation services. Now, more than ever before, it is important that we all make a commitment to take water conservation more seriously.

Working with the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District and our local schools, we have developed a water education program that is second to none in our region. Our young students are learning valuable lessons and they are taking this information home to their families. Our retrofit and rebate programs, our water survey programs, our water monitoring programs, our tiered pricing programs, and our excellent educational programs all share a single objective: to encourage customers to conserve our water resources.

While we can point to past water conservation program successes, we are re-doubling our commitment to make conservation a top priority. We ask each of our customers to examine your monthly water bills, understand how much water you use on a daily basis, and join us to reduce our present use levels. Reducing our demand for water translates directly into a decreased demand for new, expensive water supply projects.

— Mike Armstrong

In the Spotlight

Two District Employees Honored



The District has named Systems Operator Tony Kelsy as Employee-of-the-Year. Tony has served the District for 25 years.

Customer Service Representative Susan Kiefert has



recently been acknowledged for 20 years of outstanding service to the District.

It's Time to Turn Off the Timers

Irrigation Season Officially Ends

As the days shorten, its time to cut back on landscape irrigation by resetting your irrigation timers until spring. Watering this time of year can cause fungal soil problems and mildew. By continuing to use the same amount of water that kept your plants healthy in the summer, you're not only wasting water, but potentially damaging your plants. Save water, it's a precious resource.

Water Saving Tips for Indoors

- Repair leaks quickly
- Run washing machines and dishwashers only with full loads
- Scrape and wipe dishes instead of rinsing
- Don't thaw frozen food under running water

Water Saving Tips for Outdoors

- Make sure that you aren't over watering
- Mulch around plants to retain moisture
- Choose drought tolerant landscape plants and eliminate lawn areas
- Use a broom or rake instead of a hose to clean hard surfaces
- Use a sponge and bucket to wash your car

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

Charles H. Scholl, President Thomas Moore, Vice President
David Brown, Kenneth K. Nishi and Robert D. O'Brien

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:
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