

MONTEREY PENINSULA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

DRY YEAR TRIGGERS EXPANDED WATER CONSERVATION EFFORT

“Critically Dry Year” was the official description of Water Year 2007. Streamflow in the Carmel River at San Clemente Dam totaled only 12,500 acre-feet or 18% of the long-term average, the lowest in 20 years. Under these conditions, the lower eight miles of the river dried up and California American Water (CAW) customers were asked to curtail their use. In response, the District and CAW united to launch a joint conservation message and program for the community. Monthly status reports reached the community at large through the televised Board meetings. District and CAW staff met regularly to coordinate conservation efforts, resulting in a successful combined conservation effort.

The community remained below the annual water use targets despite little rain. Conservation outreach included activities with the Water Awareness Committee of Monterey County such as Water Awareness Day at the Monterey County Fair and a successful Landscape Symposium. Interactive water conservation software, “Water-Wise Gardening in Monterey County,” was produced and distributed. The software features examples of water-efficient landscaping and plants, including detailed descriptions for more than 1,000 plants and a “gardening guide” with a virtual encyclopedia of water-wise landscape design, irrigation and maintenance tips appropriate to the Monterey Peninsula.

During 2007, the District enhanced its public outreach and water waste enforcement. The joint MPWMD/CAW rebate program was expanded to include new devices and increased rebate amounts. Saving water through outdoor retrofits was the focus of the conservation program as the year came to a close. Future conservation activities will concentrate on further reducing outdoor irrigation.

At the beginning of Water Year 2008 in October 2007, the District was preparing for the possibility of water rationing. The Contingency Implementation Plan for Water Rationing was accepted by the Board on January 24, 2008 and includes estimated costs and staffing of a rationing office. Fortunately, winter rains in late December 2007 helped to reduce the likelihood of drought-related water rationing in 2008.

Photos

1) Los Padres Dam
(Low level)

2) Conservation Dial



Financial Update

Total revenues received in Fiscal Year (FY) 2006-07 were \$5,257,855 while expenditures totaled \$5,267,900. The difference of \$10,045 was funded from general operating reserves set aside in previous years. As of June 30, 2007, a balance of \$1,381,019 remained in the general operating reserves account.

The adopted budget for FY 2007-08 anticipates revenues of \$8,685,300 and expenditures of \$8,522,500, with the difference of \$162,800 being used to replenish general operating reserves. The budget includes approximately \$1,700,000 of one-time expenditures to fund work towards completion of the District's Phase I Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Project. The budget anticipated that these ASR costs will be funded by a debt issuance, so the revenue portion of the budget contains an offsetting amount of anticipated bond proceeds.

The FY 2007-08 budget was prepared using a series of strategies developed by the staff and adopted by the Board in 2004 for balancing the budget and discontinuing the use of general operating reserves.



Water Rights for Seaside Basin Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project

In November 2007, seven years after filing for permanent water rights for the Seaside Basin Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Project, the District received a permit from the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) for Phase 1 of the project. Prior to filing for a permanent permit, the District submitted annual applications to the State Board for temporary permits for testing of the project starting with the 1997-1998 injection season. In October 2001, the District filed a Petition for Change to existing District-held permits. Because of the time-consuming process for addressing our petition, the District continued to annually file for and receive temporary permits to continue testing and operation of the project through the 2006-2007 injection season. In 2006, the District agreed to joint ownership with California American Water (CAW) of the permit for the Phase 1 ASR Project.

In late 2007, negotiations among California Department of Fish and Game, National Marine Fisheries Service, the District, and CAW were concluded successfully, and on November 30, 2007 the State Board issued Amended Permit 20808A for the Phase 1 ASR Project. This permit allows CAW and the District to divert up to 2,426 acre-feet per year from the Carmel River and its associated alluvial aquifer from December 1 of each year through May 31 of the succeeding year. The water is diverted from CAW wells in Carmel Valley, treated and routed through the CAW distribution system, and injected into the two District-owned wells in former Fort Ord. Water pumped from the District's wells from June 1 through November 30 of each year and delivered to the CAW system offsets the amount that would otherwise be pumped from Carmel River sources, thereby benefiting the Carmel River.

Accomplishments and Milestones



Water Supply

- Completed construction of second full-scale ASR well in the Seaside Basin.
- Obtained permanent water right for Phase 1 ASR Project.
- Provided technical services to the Seaside Basin Watermaster including groundwater quality monitoring.
- Facilitated a Community Advisory Committee for evaluation of seven water supply project concepts. The projects include land-based and offshore (ship-based) desalination, aquifer storage and recovery in the Seaside Groundwater Basin, wastewater reclamation, and purified recycled water.
- With Peninsula cities, Monterey County, and other water and wastewater agencies formed the Monterey Bay Regional Water Solutions Task Force to develop regional water supply solutions. Participated in the Public Utilities Commission's Division of Ratepayer Advocates process to identify an alternative to the Coastal Water Project proposed by CAW.
- Provided technical support to MRWPCA Groundwater Replenishment Project.



Environmental Protection

- Counted approximately 220 adult steelhead at the San Clemente Dam fish ladder.
- Collected groundwater and surface water quality data from the Carmel River and Seaside groundwater Basins.
- Conducted aquatic insect sampling at five Carmel River locations as an indicator of habitat quality.
- Rescued over 12,000 juvenile steelhead from drying reaches in the lower 9 miles of the Carmel River.
- Monitored wildlife habitat along the Carmel River.
- Planted 385 native riparian trees along the Carmel River for erosion protection and habitat enforcement.
- Irrigated riparian vegetation in Carmel Valley to off-set impacts associated with groundwater extraction.
- Inspected 15 miles of the Carmel River for vegetation encroachment, and cleared vegetation at three sites.
- Assessed long-term channel changes along the lower 15 miles of the Carmel River.
- Facilitated regular meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee formed to manage the Carmel River Lagoon and State Beach.



Conservation/Permitting

- Approved 815 rebate applications for a total of \$107,815 resulting in annual savings of 15.5 acre-feet.
- Issued 1,094 water permits and performed 1,399 inspections resulting in annual water savings of 20.9 acre-feet.
- Partnered with California American Water Company (CAW) on a mailer detailing the water conservation and rebate programs.
- Coordinated development and printing of conservation messages for towel and water usage with the Hospitality Association, CAW and AMBAG.
- Arranged for a display of drought-tolerant plants and a landscaping slide show at the District's annual Open House.
- Distributed water saving equipment at Monterey County Fair and Del Rey Oaks Home Owners Association.

Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

District staff led the effort to complete an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) for the South Monterey Bay and Carmel Bay area. Working with consultants, non-profit groups, and local public partners, MPWMD and stakeholders identified a suite of 11 projects that address regional water resource management priorities. The MPWMD Board of Directors approved the plan in November 2007. Completion of the IRWMP will enable the area to compete for funds approved by California voters under Propositions 84 and 1E to improve water resources.

2007 Board of Directors

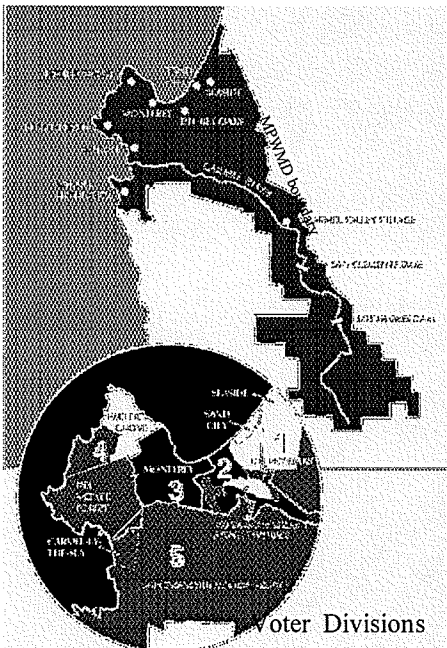
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We Want To Hear From You

If you found the information in this report useful or have questions about water supply, conservation or other topics in this report, please contact Henrietta Stern at henri@mpwmd.dst.ca.us or at 658-5621.



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