



Water Matters

April 2012

Last quarter at the water district

The District has been busy during the last quarter focusing on water supply projects and the proposed water use fee. In addition to those efforts, here's just a few things we accomplished from January to March:

- Hosted two rainwater harvesting courses
- Promoted leak detection and repair during 'Fix a Leak' week
- Co-hosted a public forum on water supply at the Oldemeyer Center
- Coordinated with Cal Am to increase flows from Los Padre Reservoir in an effort to increase fish passage in the river
- Issued 137 water permits
- Began injecting excess winter water into the Seaside Basin as part of aquifer storage and recovery
- Reduced annual water use by an estimated 2.086 acre-feet as a result of ultra-low flow retrofit requirements



this issue

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Proposed fee to benefit new water supply for Monterey Peninsula

The Monterey Peninsula needs a new water supply in order to comply with state-ordered cutbacks. With a cease and desist order deadline on illegal pumping of the Carmel River set for December 31, 2016, there is little time to get a new supply project, or projects, online in time.

There will be much attention given to viable water supply projects and related costs in these coming months. California American Water will unveil its new plan for a water supply project on April 23. In concert with Cal Am and the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency, the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District needs to move forward with water supply projects – aquifer storage and recovery and groundwater replenishment.

Aquifer Storage and Recovery, or ASR, is already underway and should double in capacity by its estimated completion date of 2016. This project, jointly with Cal Am, will provide capacity for 3,000 acre feet of water per year.

The groundwater replenishment project, or GWR, is being led by the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency. The District has committed to funding 50 percent of the costs of the project and plans to implement a wholesale water sales agreement with Cal Am. This project, with an estimated completion date of 2016, will provide up to 3,300 AFY.

The costs of these and other water supply capi-

tal projects are over and above the District's existing resources. Hence, the District is proposing a new water use fee to support water supply projects.

The largest source of revenue for the District has traditionally been a user fee collected in the Cal Am bill. Budgeted at \$3.7 million each of the last few years, the user fee made up approximately 46 percent of the District's overall budget. The District lost this revenue source in 2011 with a decision from the California Public Utilities Commission. While the CPUC did not dispute the District's ability to charge such a fee, it did prevent it from continuing to collect the fee through the Cal Am bill.

The District's new proposed water use fee seeks to raise the \$3.7 million lost from the old user fee, collected through a new collection mechanism. The new fee is being proposed as a flat rate based on allocated water usage by parcel type and category. The District plans to collect the fee either by placing it on the County Assessor's bill or through direct billing.

To help balance the budget, the District proposes to reduce expenditures for other activities where possible, but without disrupting any legal mandates. Additionally, the District is seeking to have Cal Am directly pay a greater share of mitigation costs – at least \$1.6 million

See WATER SUPPLY, on page 4

Annual report now available

Each year, the District publishes an annual report detailing present and future water requirement, revenues and expenditures, and District accomplishments. The following is an excerpt from the report:

In Water Year 2011, California American Water produced 12,251 acre-feet of water to satisfy water demand, comprised of 8,559 AF from the Carmel River (includes 1,111 AF diverted for injection into and recovery from the Seaside Basin), 3,418 AF from the Seaside Basin and 276 AF from the Sand City desal plant.

Presently, in Water Year 2012, approximately 13,124 acre-feet per year of water are available in the Carmel River and Seaside Groundwater Basins to serve CAW customers within the District. Similarly, approximately 4,710 AFY of water are assumed to be available to serve non-CAW users in the District.

Based on actual water usage during the 2007-2011 period, District staff now estimates that approximately 6,000 to 8,000 AFY on average of new supplies are needed to be developed to replace existing unpermitted unlawful diversions from the Carmel River and production in excess of adjudicated rights in the Seaside Groundwater Basin.

To view the whole report, visit www.mpwmd.net and click on 'Annual Reports' under the document library.

Water Conservation & Standby Rationing

District reminds users of stages, looks to revise non-residential plan

In March, the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District began holding stakeholder meetings with public authority and commercial property representatives to examine the District's Expanded Water Conservation and Standby Rationing Plan. The District plans to facilitate meetings with these stakeholder groups over the coming months in an effort to develop a new rationing plan for non-residential water users.

Rationing is not expected to happen in the immediate future; the intent is to develop a revised plan before rationing is actually needed.

While non-residential users are examining their current rationing plan, the District wants to take the time to remind all users about the various conservation stages.

The Monterey Peninsula has a seven stage Expanded Water Conservation and Standby Rationing Plan. This is a joint program administered by MPWMD and California American Water. As water shortages intensify, higher conservation stages are initiated, however the basic water conservation measures in Stage 1 are always in place. Each category of customer — residential, commercial, golf course, etc. — is asked to conserve an amount proportional to their overall use.

Stage 1 Water Conservation Requirements should be followed at all times.

- Customers complete confidential surveys to implement the tiered rate structure (num-



ber in household, lot size, etc.). Those who use more, pay more.

- Landscape budgets are established for large residential water users (i.e. >32 units average per month), irrigated areas of three acres or more, and all dedicated irrigation meters.

- Water before 9 a.m. or after 5 p.m. unless using drip irrigation or hand water with an automatic shut-off nozzle.

- Even numbered houses (North or East in Carmel) water on Sundays and Thursdays.

- Odd numbered houses (South or West in Carmel) water on Saturdays and Wednesdays.

- Use automatic shut-off nozzles when hand washing a car.

- Fountains and ponds must recirculate water.

- Keep water from wetting streets and sidewalks.

- Potable water should not be used for washing buildings, driveways, patios, parking lots, tennis courts or other hard surfaces.

- Water used for dust control must not be wasted.

- Drinking water must be served only upon request in food service facilities.

- Hotels and motels must meet water efficiency requirements.

- Property managers must inform tenants of water conservation requirements.

- Report changes in use of non-residential property to California American Water.

Stage 2

- Landscape water budgets are enforced.

Stage 3

- Landscape water budgets are enforced.

- Emergency conservation rates initiated.

Stage 4

- Landscape water budgets are enforced.

- California American Water users are asked to cut back further and are notified that rationing is imminent.

- Large residential water users (>12 units per month or >8,976 gallons per month) and irrigators (three or more acres or dedicated irrigation meters) will be asked to immediately reduce watering.

- Non-California American Water users are surveyed to determine rations and California American Water customers are sent surveys again to obtain updates.

- Owners of private wells are asked to reduce water use and are notified that restrictions are imminent.

- Water waste enforcement efforts are intensified

Actual water rationing begins in Stage 5 and continues through Stage 7 with further restrictions.

To view requirements for the remaining rationing stages as well as the full text of the Expanded Water Conservation and Standby Rationing Plan, listed as MPWMD Regulation XV, visit the District's website at www.MPWMD.net.



SLOW THE FLOW Your Quarterly Conservation Tip

The average household's leaks can account for more than 10,000 gallons of wasted water each year. Sometimes you may have a leak and not even know it. The best indication will be a high bill compared to past use.

The first step is to determine whether you actually have a leak, or are just using more water than you expected. Many customers are surprised how much water can be used for activities such as watering the lawn.

There are often two reasons for mysterious water leaks: a household leak or a leak between the meter and the house. Most household leaks such as worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets and leaking showerheads are easily correctable. MPWMD can help locate such common leaks and offers free low-flow replacement showerheads and faucet aerators.

External leaks can be harder to locate. If you and/or a plumber are unable to locate any leaks, yet you continue to see unexplained high usage on your water bill, you should address the issue with California American Water at 831-646-3287.

If you have followed these steps and have not reached a satisfactory conclusion on the reason for high water usage, you may contact the California Public Utilities Commission consumer affairs branch at 1-800-649-7570 or write to:

CPUC Consumer Affairs
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Data check at mid-point of water year

The first six months of water year, October through March, typically provide 90 percent of the rainfall for the year. For the Monterey Peninsula, the average rainfall is 21.45 inches. To date, this water year has been drier than normal.

March rains gave a beneficial boost, providing 3.94 inches of rain – 118 percent of the average March rainfall. Those rains brought the year-to-date total 11.42 inches of rain. That's 60 percent of the 18.99 inch average for this period.

People may wonder how rainfall relates to available water supply. While rainfall is needed, runoff is usually a better indicator of water supply. Carmel River unimpaired runoff for the October-March period at San Clemente Dam totaled 11,235 acre-feet, which represents 21 percent of the 53,701 AF of runoff expected for the period. Based on runoff statistics from 1902-1996, an

additional 3,250 AF of runoff (or more) is expected with a 75 percent reliability over the next six months. This expectation would finish the year at 14,485 AF and would classify Water Year 2012 as 'Dry,' the second lowest of the seven-tiered water supply index that ranges from 'Critically Dry' to 'Extremely Wet.'

One dry year does not indicate a drought. A hydrologic drought for the Monterey Peninsula is defined as two or more consecutive 'Dry' or 'Critically Dry' years. Based on this definition, it would take a 'Dry' or 'Critically Dry' Water Year 2013 to create physical drought conditions.

With a dry year, conservation becomes more important. Peninsula residents are encouraged to take steps to be 'water wise.' Visit www.monterey-waterinfo.org for information on how to conserve.

In the field ...



February 2012: Staff checks water quality at the District's phase one site for aquifer storage and recovery. The water is tested for certain

field parameters and collected for further lab analysis. The water quality monitoring is done as part of ASR permit requirements and to document how Carmel River water interacts with native Seaside groundwater.





WATER SUPPLY

continued from page 1

	Budgeted Amount	Available From New Fees
Direct Capital per CIP	\$2,959,000	\$2,488,000
Staff, Supplies, Services - Water	1,618,000	1,212,000
Total	4,577,000	3,700,000

of the annual program cost. This will allow the District to allocate the full \$3.7 million collected from water use fees to costs directly related to water supply. Approximately \$2.5 million would go directly to capital projects, with the remaining \$1.2 million allocated to staff, supplies and services related directly to water supply, water resources and water demand functions.

In the coming months, the District will undergo a Proposition 218 Public Hearing on the proposed water use fee.

Proposition 218, passed by voters in 1996, gives taxpayers the right to vote on all local taxes and requires taxpayer approval or property related assessments and fees. Prop 218 requires agencies to put all assessments, charges and user fees out to a vote prior to creation or increase. However, express language of Prop 218 specifically exempts proposed fees for water, sewer, and refuse collection services from the voter approval requirements, instead

calling for a protest vote. Ratepayer rights are still assured through the required noticing and public protest hearing. The Proposition 218 process will give ratepayers in the District ample opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns. The key dates moving forward are:

April 16:

- District Board to consider adoption of rate study
- First reading of proposed rate ordinance
- District Board to consider approving Prop 218 hearing notice
- District Board to consider approving Prop 218 "Rules of the Road"
- District Board to receive draft resolutions on alternative collection methods

June 12:

- Prop 218 protests to be calculated
- District Board to hold Prop 218 hearing
- Second reading of proposed rate ordinance and consideration of adoption
- Board to consider approval of resolution for collection method
- Board to consider approval of CEQA waiver
- Board to consider adoption of annual budget

CONTACT US

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Upcoming Events

- **April 16: Board Meeting**
Regular Board Meeting
7 p.m.
Hyatt Regency Monterey
1 Old Golf Course Road,
Monterey
- **May 21: Board Meeting**
Regular Board Meeting
7 p.m.
MPWMD Conference Room
5 Harris Court, Bldg G,
Monterey
- **May 14: Special Board Meeting**
Regular Board Meeting
7 p.m.
MPWMD Conference Room
5 Harris Court, Bldg G,
Monterey
- **June 12: Board Meeting**
Regular Board Meeting
7 p.m.
Hyatt Regency Monterey
1 Old Golf Course Road,
Monterey

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www.facebook.com/MPWMD

Speak Up

Want to know more about water issues? MPWMD has qualified staff available to speak at your next community event or group meeting. Common topic requests include conservation measures, water supply issues, and environmental factors on the Carmel River. To request a speaker, call (831) 658-5653

