

Water Matters

Groundbreaking set in May for Pure Water Monterey project

The Water Management District and the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency (MRWPCA) will celebrate the groundbreaking for construction of their jointly developed Pure Water Monterey advanced water purification facility on May 5, 2017 in Marina.

This event marks the first phase of Pure Water Monterey construction, completion is scheduled for fall of 2018. The project will produce 3,500 acre-feet per year of drinking water for delivery to California American Water (Cal Am) customers, and up to 5,000 acre-feet of water for crop irrigation in Salinas and Castroville.

Wastewater from several sources and crop irrigation runoff will be purified to drinking water standards through established microfiltration, reverse osmosis, and advanced oxidation technologies. The purified water will be injected into the Seaside basin and remain there for six months before it is available for customer use.

(See Pure Water page 2)



A tour of the Pure Water Monterey demonstration facility is conducted by Mike McCullough of the MRWPCA. Groundbreaking for the advanced water purification facility is scheduled for May.

The mission of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District is to promote or provide for long-term sustainable water supply, and to manage and protect water resources for the benefit of the community and the environment.

Water produced by ASR project more than doubles this year

Record high rainfall received this winter on the central coast created optimal conditions for operation of the Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) project. As of April 16th, 1,777 acre-feet (AF) of excess streamflow from the Carmel River was injected underground in the Seaside area. This is 1,078 AF more than was injected last year and represents 18% of annual water consumption.

It is expected that injections will continue into mid-May and the total will exceed 2,200 AF. The previous record, 1,117 AF in 2011, was only half of this year's target. The water will be delivered to California American Water (Cal Am) customers in summer and fall when streamflow must remain in the river to benefit fish and wildlife.

The Water Management District coordinates the operation of four ASR injection/recovery wells along General Jim Boulevard in Seaside, and is authorized to store over 5,000 AF of water each year via ASR if conditions warrant. Achieving full potential will be aided by a new water delivery pipeline currently under construction by Cal Am. In a wet year similar to 2017 conditions, almost 3,000 AF of water could be delivered to the ASR site with the new pipeline.

Actual rainfall received since October 1, 2016 was 31.6 inches, approximately 170 percent of long-term average. However, above average rainfall does not solve the region's water woes. Even with ample rainfall and increased production from ASR, the State's Cease and Desist Order issued against (See ASR Water page 2)



Left - ASR backwash pit - wells are backflushed regularly to maintain efficient operations. Above - Recently installed sign at the ASR facility on General Jim Moore Blvd.



Carmel River Lagoon -- District staff monitor water level and temperature to assess conditions for migrating steelhead fish.



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Grants issued to enhance local public gardens

Thanks to a grant from the Water Management District, two community demonstration gardens will be enhanced to showcase drought tolerant and native landscaping, and educate the public on water conservation practices.

At Garland Ranch Regional Park, interpretive signage will be situated at the rainwater catchment system installed by the District in 2016. Native plant garden interpretive panels and plant identification placards will also be installed.

In addition, Lagunita Mirada Park in Monterey will benefit from a facelift. The park's existing landscaping will be replaced with drought tolerant plants, drip irrigation, decomposed granite walkways and interpretative signage.

The District awarded grants of \$10,718 to the Monterey Regional Park District and \$9,000 to the City of Monterey to fund the improvements.



One of the interpretive signs to be installed at Garland Ranch Regional Park with a grant from the District.

District receives award for excellent financial reporting

The District received an award for excellence in its accounting procedures from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). The District's Chief Financial Officer, Suresh Prasad, prepared a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. The CAFR is an in-depth annual audit that includes financial statements that comply with the accounting requirements of the Government Accounting Standards Board. The GFOA reviewed the CAFR, determined that there were no material weaknesses or deficiencies in the report and awarded the District with a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. Prasad has submitted the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 CAFR for recognition by the GFOA in 2017.



Suresh Prasad, Chief Financial Officer, displays the Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting award the District received for the quality of its 2014-2015 annual audit.

ASR water production doubled Continued from page 1

Cal Am limits the amount of water it can take from the Carmel River and deliver to its customers. Cal Am's moratorium on setting new water meters is also still in effect.

Maximizing operation of the ASR project, in combination with timely completion of the Pure

Water Monterey Project currently in process, are the means toward achievement of the main objective - to meet community water needs while decreasing diversions from the Carmel River in the timeline established by the State.

Pure Water Monterey groundbreaking Continued from page 1

Cal Am is currently constructing a new pipeline through Seaside, Monterey and Pacific Grove to facilitate conveyance of the purified water throughout its distribution system. This project will provide one-third of Cal Am's potable water

deliveries within the District's boundaries, and is intended to operate in conjunction with Aquifer Storage and Recovery and Cal Am's proposed seawater desalination project.

