

# Water Matters

Fall 2016

## Water Permit Applications No Longer Accepted for Some Projects

The Water Management District no longer accepts water permit applications for construction projects that require a new water meter. With some exceptions, this affects California American Water customers in areas subject to water supply limits mandated by the Cease and Desist Order (CDO): Carmel, Del Rey Oaks, Monterey, Pacific Grove, Sand City, Seaside and some portions of Carmel Valley.

Water permit applications are accepted for remodel projects that take advantage of on-site water credits.

The Board of Director's August 15, 2016 decision to suspend receipt of certain water permit applications complies with the Public Utilities Commission 2009 ruling that curtails Cal-Am's ability to set water meters for new projects that would increase withdrawals from the Carmel River. The decision also signals to the State Water Resources Control Board that the community is serious about meeting the water supply limits specified in the modified CDO adopted in July 2016.

(See Water Permits page 2)



As of August 15, 2016 the District will not accept water permit applications that require a new water meter in most areas served by California American Water. There are some exceptions.

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.

## State Eases Water Supply Cutbacks

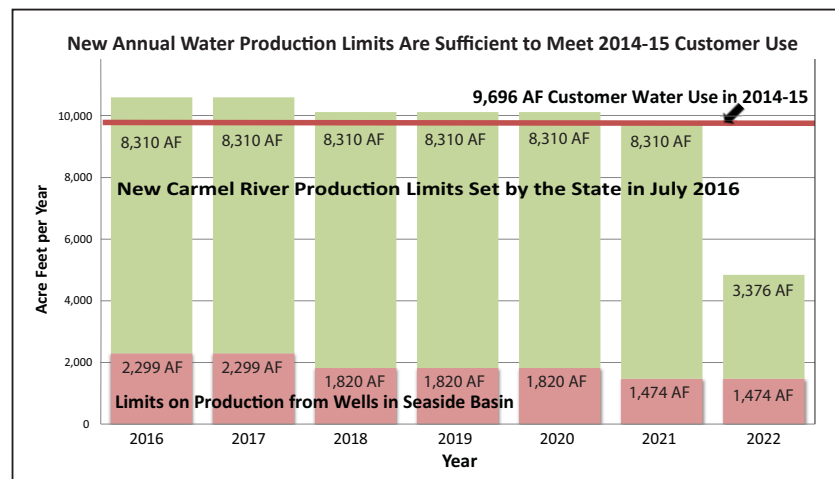
In July, local community groups and public agencies joined forces with the District and convinced the State to abandon the 52% water supply cut back due to take effect on January 1, 2017. The State Water Resources Control Board agreed to reset production limits from the Carmel River to achievable levels through 2021 when new water supply projects should be in operation.

The Cease and Desist Order adopted by the State in 2009 mandated annual reductions in withdrawals from the Carmel River. For 2017, the limit would have been 4,803 acre-feet, well below the 2016 limit of 10,066 acre-feet. Even when combined with water from wells in Seaside, California American Water customers could not conserve enough water to comply with the reduced limit. Expensive fines for overuse of water could have been levied against Cal-Am.

In response to this situation, Cal-Am and the District asked the State to grant an extension of the time period allowed for taking water from the Carmel River. The State agreed and settled on an annual production limit from the Carmel River of 8,310 acre-feet through 2021. Combined with water from Seaside wells, the new supply limits are sufficient to meet actual 2014-15 Cal-Am customer water use, but conservation efforts must be continued to ensure adequacy of supply in the future.

The State also set milestones related to construction of the Pure Water Monterey and Cal-Am Desalination projects. If any milestone is not achieved, the production limit will be reduced by 1,000 acre-feet and fines could be assessed.

(See Water Supply Cutbacks page 2)



In July the State extended the time period for withdrawals from the Carmel River. Combined with production from wells in Seaside, these new annual water supply limits are sufficient to meet actual 2014-15 customer use in the California American Water system. The proposed Cal-Am desalination project should be operational before 2022.



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



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## Cool Summer Weather Good for Steelhead Trout

In the summer of 2016, conditions in the Carmel River for steelhead trout are the best they have been since the start of the drought in 2012. Water temperatures were colder than in past years, due to cool summer weather and the removal of San Clemente Dam. Areas in the upper river that typically remain wet year-round provided good conditions for young steelhead,

The number of adult steelhead that migrated from the ocean into the river over the past two years has increased. This was evidenced by the presence of 42 Redd's (nests where steelhead lay their eggs) observed by District staff during spring surveys. In the fall, District staff will monitor the number of fish in the river to determine how well the young steelhead survived over the summer.



Carmel River steelhead trout swimming in shallow water.

District staff rescued 917 fish from downstream areas of the river, fewer than had to be rescued in previous years. Many of those fish are being raised at the District's Sleepy Hollow Steelhead Rearing Facility. They'll be tagged and released back into the river during the winter when the river flows to the Carmel River lagoon so the fish can begin their natural migration cycle.

## The Future of Water is Closer than Ever

Pure Water Monterey, the advanced water purification and recycling project headed by the Water Management District and the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency, continues to make steady progress toward providing a safe, sustainable and economically beneficial supply of water for Monterey County. Most recently, the California Public Utilities Commission unanimously approved a water purchase agreement and the construction of a pipeline to convey the water to the Monterey Peninsula.

The approval, which allows Pure Water Monterey to become eligible for funding at a special interest rate through the State Water Resources Control Board will significantly reduce the cost of the project. With additional application and permit approvals expected during the fall and the awarding of design/build

contracts shortly after, groundbreaking on the construction of this critical piece of the region's water supply portfolio is tentatively scheduled for February of 2017.



The State issued approvals for Pure Water Monterey Project.

## Water Supply Cutbacks Continued from Page 1

The Pure Water Monterey Project is set for completion in March 2018. Cal-Am's desalination project is expected to be in operation by March 2020, prior to the year 2022 when Carmel River production must be reduced to 3,376 AF. Community support for these water supply solutions is crucial to ensure timely completion of construction milestones established by the State.

## Water Permits Continued from Page 1

Applications will be accepted for new construction served by water systems that do not take water from the Carmel River such as Ralph Lane, Chualar, Bishop, Ambler Park, Ryan Ranch, Hidden Hills and Toro. Applicants may also be eligible to

purchase water from Malpaso LLC., local recycled water projects, and other specific sources. Contact the MPWMD office at 831-658-5634 for more information.

purchase water from Malpaso LLC., local recycled water projects, and other specific sources. Contact the MPWMD office at 831-658-5634 to determine if your project qualifies.