

MARINA COAST WATER DISTRICT

11 Reservation Road Marina, CA 93933 www.mcwd.org phone: (831) 384-6131 fax: (831) 384-0267

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CONTACT: Keith Van Der Maaten (831) 384-6131

MCWD Receives \$1 Million Prop. 1 Grant Funds Used to Manage Groundwater Resources

Marina, CA – The Marina Coast Water District (MCWD) has secured a \$1 million grant through state Proposition 1 funding that will be used to bolster management of the Monterey and 180/440 foot Aquifer Subbasins which are the primary sources of water for the Marina and Ord Communities.

During the height of the recent drought, the State passed legislation (Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014) to implement management plans for all groundwater basins to ensure their sustainability. Under the terms of that law, MCWD has become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) in the Monterey and 180/440 Foot Aquifer Subbasins and is responsible for achieving groundwater sustainability within these subbasins in the next 20 years. MCWD will work collaboratively with other entities responsible for groundwater management and other GSA's, including the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, to create Groundwater Sustainability Plans and carry out this critical initiative.

"We are very pleased to have the confidence and support of the State behind us which will allow us to better understand and manage this precious resource," said Keith Van Der Maaten, General Manager. "The creation of Groundwater Sustainability Plans is an important project for our region's long-term water supply solution and we're excited to engage the community through this process," he continued.

The interconnection between the various subbasins that supply the Monterey Region are not completely understood. The grant funds will be utilized to generate the data, technical studies, analysis, and obtain community engagement to provide scientifically-based solutions to address seawater intrusion, decreased reliance on groundwater, potential impacts of climate change, and future demands including the redevelopment at the former Fort Ord Army Base.

The Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the 180/400 Subbasin must be submitted for state approval by 2020 and by 2022 for the Monterey Subbasin.

About the Marina Coast Water District

The Marina Coast Water District serves more than 30,000 customers in the Monterey Peninsula's fastest growing and most diverse communities – the City of Marina and the Ord Community. They are dedicated to providing high quality water, wastewater and recycled water services through management, conservation and development of future resources at reasonable costs. For more information please visit <u>www.mcwd.org</u>.