



# Water Report

MARINA COAST WATER DISTRICT SUMMER 2011

## *MCWD Rates Remain Among the Lowest in Area*

### Budget Pruning Helps Minimize Rate Increases

**M**arina Coast Water District is currently conducting its annual budget process for Fiscal Year 2011–2012. The goal is to provide Central Marina and the Ord Community safe and reliable water at the lowest possible rates.

During the process, the District establishes rates based on the costs of providing service and all other requirements in meeting the financial obligations of the District. MCWD also conducts multi-year rate studies and relies on the results in calculating rates.

On March 29, 2011, staff presented the proposed rate increases to the Board of Directors at the annual Board Budget Workshop. This year, a 7.8 percent increase was proposed based on projected costs and the 2008 Rate Study and Financial Plan completed by Bartle Wells Associates. The Board determined that the increase was too high due to the current state of the economy and requested a reexamination of the proposed budget.

Staff worked diligently to reduce costs and has presented a revised FY 2011–2012 Draft Budget that includes a substantially

lower increase of 4.9 percent. To achieve this, funding for new hires was reduced, and staff will continue to absorb the work with existing personnel without filling vacancies due to retirement. Cuts also were made throughout the budget, resulting in an overall decrease of \$357,300.

The Board of Directors will be presented with a final version of the proposed FY 2011–2012 budget for approval on June 14, 2011.

With the revised 4.9 percent rate increase, MCWD's rates remain among the lowest in the Monterey Bay area.

## *New Well Ensures Reliable Water Supply, Helps Reduce Seawater Intrusion*

### Well Replacement on Schedule for Early 2012 Completion

**T**his spring, the Marina Coast Water District commenced drilling of a 1,100 foot-deep replacement municipal well located near the East Garrison area. Driving eastward along Reservation Road, travelers may have noticed the ongoing work just west of East Garrison. The drilling was done by the local firm of Maggiora Brothers Drilling. The new well replaces an existing, inoperable well originally drilled by the Army in 1984.

The replacement well will help ensure that MCWD customers continue to receive safe, reliable drinking water. It also will help reduce seawater intrusion by lessening the need to extract water from coastal wells.

The well project is on schedule and all site work and testing should be complete by early 2012.

MCWD successfully worked with the California Department of Water Resources; Monterey County Water Resources Agency; and the State Water Resource Control Board to obtain grant funding. While this well helps ensure an adequate supply of clean water, the State of California also recognized its value in fighting seawater intrusion. By qualifying this project for matching funds, the District reduced the cost about 38 percent.



## Replacing Outdated 'Wharf' Hydrants in Central Marina

# MCWD Begins Fire Safety Improvement Program

**M**arina Coast Water District is helping improve the community's safety in the event of a fire by replacing 12 old-style fire hydrants — called "wharf" hydrants — with modern fire hydrants that provide greater water flow rates.

The 12 wharf hydrants currently located throughout central Marina have only a single outlet that is too narrow to provide the fire protection flow rates at the level specified by the latest California Fire Code. The wharf hydrants were installed long ago when the neighborhoods they serve were first constructed.

To minimize the cost, the District's Operations and Maintenance Department will replace the hydrants in a phased program over the remainder of calendar year 2011.



The new hydrants will have multiple, larger-diameter outlets to accommodate flow rates dictated by the Fire Code.

Those portions of the work that will impact the public right-of-way are being performed under an Encroachment Permit from the City. All streets, curbs and sidewalks impacted by the work will be repaved and repaired.

The replacement program is supported by the City of Marina Fire Department, which will be notified when a wharf hydrant is being taken out of service so that fire personnel can maintain their high-level of fire protection vigilance during the brief service outtages for a particular hydrant.

MCWD Board meetings are open to the public and held at 6:45 p.m., 2nd Tuesday of each month, at the Marina State Beach Office, 11 Reservation Rd. Meeting agendas and minutes, as well as notices of special Board meetings, are available at [www.mcwd.org](http://www.mcwd.org).

## MCWD Valve Exercising Program Helps Ensure System Integrity

**T**he MCWD Operations and Maintenance Department supports multiple programs that focus on maintaining the integrity and continued efficient operation of the water and wastewater systems that serve the Marina and former Fort Ord communities.

One of our most important programs is our water valve exercising program.

Water valves require exercising to comply with California Department of Health regulations and to ensure these vital assets operate when needed. During emergencies, it can be necessary to turn off the water to prevent damage and to facilitate repairs. The water valves are the critical component to accomplish this quickly and efficiently.

To ensure proper functioning, periodically the valves are exercised by slowly opening and closing them using a machine that collects data on valve characteristics, such as torque required to turn the valve, condition and location. The data is saved so that the condition and performance of the valves can be tracked over time.

This program saves you money by ensuring that the water infrastructure continues to operate in good condition and by reducing costly valve replacements. The District's Operations staff is

continually focused on preserving and improving the condition of the valuable water and wastewater infrastructure that serves our community.

**Mission Statement:** Providing high quality water, wastewater and recycled water services to the MCWD's expanding communities through management, conservation and development of future resources at reasonable costs.

**Vision Statement:** MCWD will be the leading public supplier of integrated water and wastewater services in the Monterey Bay Region.

### Board of Directors

William Y. Lee, President | Dan Burns, Vice President  
Howard Gustafson, Kenneth K. Nishi and Jan Shriner

The Water Report is published quarterly for MCWD customers. MCWD is governed by an elected board of directors, which holds public monthly meetings.

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