

2019 Year in Review



MISSION STATEMENT

The Marina Coast Water District provides our customers with high quality water, wastewater collection and conservation services that are safe, affordable, reliable and sustainable, through planning, management and the development of water resources in an environmentally sensitive manner.

CORE VALUES

- **Customer Service**
- **Integrity**
- **Teamwork**
- **Innovation**
- **Transparency**





Ord Annexation and A New Day

In the history of Marina Coast Water District, one could look back at Oct 24, 2001 as maybe the most inconspicuous defining day for the District, one that put into place many significant stories that continue to unfold today. It was on that day that MCWD was deeded all of the Former Fort Ord water and wastewater systems, making it official that MCWD would be the water and wastewater service provider for the redevelopment of the former Fort Ord, a decision that was originally put into place by the 1998 Facilities Agreement between FORA and MCWD.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. M. M.', written in a cursive style.

That decision to be the water service provider for the redevelopment of Fort Ord eventually led to the approval of the Regional Urban Water Augmentation Program (RUWAP) in 2006, a hybrid project to develop both recycled water and an ocean desal plant to meet the ultimate needs of Fort Ord. The ocean desal plant portion of the RUWAP eventually became the “Regional Desalination Project”, a partnership with Cal Am, Marina Coast, and the County Water Resources Agency that fell apart in 2011 as a result of a MCWRA Board member and a decision by Calam, resulting in years of mired litigation. But the recycled water portion of the RUWAP became a separate, collaborative, project between M1W and Marina Coast that has allowed both agencies to move forward on important water supply projects with construction nearing completion following a lot of hard work over the past couple years. While the apparent ending to the story from the recycled water and desal project are very different, it is clear that both have monumentally changed the District. As a result of these two, the District has grown through challenge and is now defined by the one common thread between the two stories: MCWD must be and will be a part of providing solutions to the region’s water supply challenges.

Equal to the challenges of building the “RUWAP” augmented water supply to meet Fort Ord, on Oct 24, 2001, MCWD was given the groundwater rights to serve Ord, and with it, the responsibility to protect those groundwater supplies. In 2016, the District formed a Groundwater Sustainability Agency to do exactly that and began actively increasing its understanding of the basin. Over the last few years, MCWD has had to fight to protect our groundwater supply while simultaneously advocating for alternate solutions, especially in light of the proposed Cal Am “desal” project that is targeting to pump a massive amount of groundwater right in our own backyard. While this new, additional, chapter in the Regional Desalination Project story unfolds before us, the District once again has needed to change and grow to meet the challenge. With our new official title as a state recognized “Groundwater Sustainability Agency” MCWD has been defined as an indispensable agency in the protection of the Salinas Groundwater Basin.

For nearly 18 years now, the District has been growing and changing as a result of that fateful day in Oct 2001 when we officially became the provider for Fort Ord. This past summer, as a result of many years of work, MCWD officially annexed the Ord Community into the District. Residents of Ord will be able to both vote for and run for the Board for the first time ever. As much as the last 18 years have defined much of our character and who we are today, the annexation of the Ord Community presents a new challenge, a new story line, and likely new board members from new areas of the District that will change how we are defined in the years to come. Undoubtedly, we are, and have been, more than just the “Marina” Coast Water District for many years. With this annexation, we can now officially move as one, both Ord and Marina, as one story that is yet to be written, but I’m certain the next 18 years will be just as interesting as the last 18, and we will be ready for whatever comes our way.

01: WATER SOURCES

In 2019 the Water Resources Department which includes Conservation continued its efforts which are highlighted below:

- Worked closely with the Salinas Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SVBGSA) in compiling a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the 180/400 Foot Aquifer. The Marina Coast Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency overlies a portion of the 180/400 Foot aquifer in the northernmost portion of the MCWD Service area. Water Resources worked with the SVBGSA Staff and Consultants in development of the 11 Chapter, 50 year plan to reach sustainability within 20 years and to maintain sustainability for another 30 years.
- Conservation continued its customer service focus; conducting over a hundred Water Conservation Certification visits, high water use investigations, and continued counsel and assistance with large landscape management while continuing to seamlessly manage all Water Conservation Incentive programs. Specific Water Conservation Highlights include:
- New, revised High Efficiency Toilet (HET) and Ultra High Efficiency Toilet (UHET) and urinal rebates were approved
- This was a record year for support of large scale HET and UHET toilet, showerhead and faucet aerator retrofits:
 - CSUMB Frederick Park II, 120 apartments
 - Army Housing, Fitch Park Phase A, 213 homes
 - City Of Marina Housing, Abrams Park, 194 apartments
 - Owen Ave (Marina) Multifamily Complex, 110 toilets
 - Improved score on 2018 Water Loss Audit (conducted in 2019). The quality of data collected in the Annual Water Loss Audit was improved, raising the Data Validity Score from 59 to 68
 - Successful large meter testing project completed in November 2019
- Water Conservation Commission (WCC) reorganization and reconstitution. Originally created in 1991, the WCC was reorganized in 2019. The commission reviewed and recommended changes to the various Water Conservation Incentive programs, recommended changes to the Conservation Ordinances, and began formulating recommendations for future water conserving programs.

In 2020 Water Resources Department will turn to the development of the Monterey Sub basin Groundwater Sustainability Planning process and continue to develop programs and projects that ensure the continued reliable safe delivery of water to the District's customers while simultaneously developing plans to augment, protect, and sustain the sources of water necessary to meet our customers needs.

02: INFRASTRUCTURE (Operations & Maintenance)

2019 was a big year for the MCWD: improvements were made to our infrastructure and system, making things safer, and more reliable. Several lift stations were rehabilitated in house by the Operations and Maintenance staff with new pumps, piping and motor control centers to provide a more reliable sewer system. Updates were made to our SCADA platform system which allowed for real-time notifications and monitoring of all wells and lift stations. Reservoir 2 underwent a recoating of the interior surface and new motors and PLC programs were installed to provide more redundancy to the system and reduce the use of pumping from the groundwater wells during PG&E peak hours. The Operations and Maintenance Department hired 5 new System Operators and celebrated 6 crew members who earned higher certifications in water and wastewater. The Electrical/Mechanical Field Supervisor, and Operations and Maintenance Supervisor were promoted from within, and a System Operator for the department, received his 40-year anniversary with the District. Towards the end 2019, the District began immediate design, procurement, and installation of 7 permanent generator sets for the water and wastewater systems to keep sites online, even in times of extended power outages as part of the PG&E Public Safety Shutoff Program. Lastly, MCWD's laboratory performed special sampling for PFOA, PFAS, and TCP-123, as well as for triennial lead and copper testing to ensure safe drinking water for our customers.



02: INFRASTRUCTURE (Engineering)

Three new engineers joined the engineering department this year and one left for a net gain of 2 engineers. The new engineers are Don Wilcox - Senior Engineer, Elise Ramirez – Associated Engineer, and Alec Irwin – Engineering Technician.

Two major accomplishments for engineering were:

- Municipal Service Review and Annexation of the Ord Community Service Area
- Construction Completion of the Regional Urban Water Augmentation Project (RUWAP) conveyance pipeline and reservoir



The Municipal Service Review (MSR) provided a comprehensive assessment of the ability of MCWD to effectively and efficiently provide water and wastewater services to residents and other users. The MSR was prepared by LAFCO in response to the District's annexation application.

With favorable findings and conclusions of the MSR, LAFCo approved annexation of properties already served by MCWD or fully approved for development. This increased the District area from 3,116 acres to 8,023 acres. The annexation was completed in July 2019.

Construction of the RUWAP conveyance pipeline was substantially completed in January 2019 and the reservoir construction was completed in July 2019. The capital construction cost for the 40,000 LF 24" diameter pipeline and 2 MG Reservoir was \$23.64 M. Monterey 1 Water is close to producing advance treated water as completion of their treatment facilities leads to startup testing and production for delivery through the RUWAP conveyance facilities to the groundwater recharge wells in Seaside. Design of the RUWAP distribution mains was completed and advertised for bid with construction taking place in 2020.

Design commenced on the A1 & A2 Reservoirs and B/C Booster Pump Station Project this year. The reservoirs are critical to the fire protection water supply for the City of Marina. Other notable capital improvement projects in various stages of design and construction include the Imjin Lift Station, Ord Village Lift Station and Force Main, Imjin Parkway Water Main and Recycled Water Main, and Inter-Garrison Road Water Main.

Development was brisk with three major developments, The Dunes, Sea Haven and East Garrison producing upwards of 300 homes for the year. The District received ownership of the Dunes Phase 1B infrastructure and East Garrison 3 infrastructure. Central Marina infill development was active with residential additions, apartment buildings and new businesses bringing in project reviews and inspections.

Proposed new capacity fees based on new Sewer, Water and Recycled Water Master Plans wound their way through stakeholder meetings and the Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) Water and Wastewater Oversight Committee (WWOC). The FORA Board will be considering the capacity fee changes before the MCWD Board considers them in the new year.

03: FISCAL PLANNING

The Finance Department was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Districts' Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for FY 2017-2018 from the Government Finance Officer's Association (GFOA). This marks the eleventh straight year that the District has earned this award.

04: STRATEGIC PARTNERS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

- Made presentations to the California Coastal Commission, Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, State Water Resources Control Board, State Lands Commission, the Governor's office, and Lt. Governor's office in an ongoing effort to promote collaborative solutions to water supply challenges for the entire Monterey Bay Region.
- Coordinated with the SVBGSA to complete the GSP for the 180/400 Subbasin
- Coordinated with M1W to jointly complete the District's Regional Urban Water Augmentation Project and M1W's Pure Water Monterey Project
- Continue to work with CSUMB on developing an agreement to improve long term coordination between MCWD and CSUMB on master planning, development projects, service, and operations
- Working with the City of Seaside on their In-Lieu Water Storage project and long-term water supply needs for the Golf Course and proposed developments
- Working with the City of Marina, Del Rey Oaks, Seaside, Monterey, and the County of Monterey to make arrangements for FORA closing in 2020 and to secure long-term service to these jurisdictions within the Former Fort Ord in accordance with the Base Reuse Plan
- Working with citizen groups "Citizens for Just Water" and "Public Water Now" to support efforts that promote water supply sustainability, affordability, transparency, and collaborative solutions to water supply challenges for the entire Monterey Bay Region

05: ORGANIZATIONAL HEALTH & PERSONNEL

2019 was an eventful year! MCWD welcomed 12 new hires during the year. We also celebrated long term employee anniversaries:



Thomas Barkhurst

Lab Supervisor

20 Years



Kurt Gonzalez

Maintenance Worker

10 Years



Tony Kelsey

System Operator II

40 Years

05: ORGANIZATIONAL HEALTH & PERSONNEL (Continued)



Susan Kiefert
CS/Billing Tech
35 Years

Barbara Montanti
Customer Service
Supervisor
20 Years



06: ADMINISTRATION MANAGEMENT

The Information and Technology (IT) Department concentrated its efforts in IT infrastructure security through the migration to new network security devices that provide both intrusion detection and intrusion prevention to the District's network. In addition, the IT Department fully migrated endpoint (local computer) security to a centrally managed system.

During FY 2018-2019, the Customer Service Department diligently worked at being more green and reducing the need for paper by using electronic reports to process billing and by attaching customer related documents to their accounts within the utility billing system. This not only saves paper, but also provides efficiency in addressing customer inquiries.



LEADERSHIP

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