MARINA COAST WATER DISTRICT
& Groundwater Sustainability Agency

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Beneath The Surface: Championing Groundwater Sustainability

Groundwater Awareness Week Highlights

Increasing, Expanding, and Protecting Our Groundwater

March 9–15 is National Groundwater Awareness Week, and groundwater is the primary water source for Marina Coast Water District (MCWD) customers in Marina, Seaside, and the Ord Community. This is an excellent time to highlight MCWD's and its regional partners' efforts to secure current and future water supplies, and to focus on what individuals can do to help.

Managing Groundwater for the Future. MCWD is the designated Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). As the local GSA, MCWD is responsible for developing and implementing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan —a long-term roadmap to ensure the basin is managed so that it does not become overdrafted or degraded for future generations. Through careful planning and investment, we are continuously expanding our understanding of the aquifer systems our communities depend on.

Expanding Our Monitoring Network. MCWD has constructed seven new monitoring wells, three of which are designed to monitor the deep aquifer system. This expanded network significantly strengthens our data collection capabilities and provides a clearer picture of groundwater conditions. As part of this effort, MCWD plans to expand monitoring to include the detection of seawater intrusion, helping protect inland water supplies. MCWD's Water Resources department oversees these monitoring activities, ensuring continuous data analysis to inform sustainable groundwater management decisions.

Recycling Water for Future Use. MCWD has completed a study on injecting recycled water into the groundwater aquifer to support long-term water availability. In addition, MCWD is actively increasing the use of recycled water for landscaping, reducing reliance on groundwater, and putting reclaimed water to productive use.

Collaborating to Protect Groundwater. MCWD works closely with regional partners to coordinate groundwater management and protection. This includes collaboration with the Seaside Watermaster, the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD), the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA), and the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability

Agency (SVBGSA). Together, these agencies are working to monitor seawater intrusion and advance regional groundwater sustainability.

Building a Diverse and Sustainable Long-Term Water Supply. The District is refitting its desalination plant, shares ownership in a water recycling plant, and has extensive groundwater rights, ensuring a resilient, multi-source water supply for the future.

How You Can Protect Our Groundwater Quality and Ensure Its Supply. Here are five simple steps you can take at home to prevent groundwater contamination and reduce overuse of groundwater, ensuring a steady supply:

- **Proper Waste Disposal:** Never pour hazardous materials like motor oil, paints, solvents, or medications down the drain, on the ground, or into storm sewers. Use local hazardous waste collection sites instead.
- **Reduce Chemical Use:** Use fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides sparingly; over-application allows these chemicals to leach into groundwater.
- **Fix Leaks:** Promptly repair leaky faucets, showerheads, and toilets, which can waste thousands of gallons annually.
- **Water Wisely:** Water your lawn only when necessary and during cooler morning hours (6 a.m. to 10 a.m.) to minimize evaporation.
- **Choose Efficient Appliances:** When replacing appliances, choose low-flow toilets and water-efficient washing machines or dishwashers.

MCWD will continue to provide customers with affordable, high-quality water, recycled water, and wastewater services through effective planning, management, and development of water resources in an environmentally sensitive manner.

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