



Montara Water & Sanitary District

Staying Ahead of our Local Community Needs

Montara Water and Sanitary District (MWSD) works every day to deliver water, garbage and sewer services for the residents of Montara, Moss Beach, and adjacent areas north of El Granada. Over 6,000 residents rely on our services for their homes and businesses.

December 2019 -
January 2020

News for You: Power Outages, Emergency Prep, and Keeping the Water Flowing; Our Water Sources

Prepared for Power Outages and Emergencies

As coastside residents lived through the confusion and worry of prolonged PG&E power outages, MWSD moved into action, shifting from normal operations to emergency activation. As a critical service, we always have a plan for emergency and disaster response, and the power shutoffs proved our preparations were spot on.

As many coastside residents experienced, switching to back-up power is not a simple task. As each shutoff approached, our seven staff members shifted gears, reorganized and reprioritized work to ensure water would continue to flow.

Our staff secured and placed into operation generators at well sites, including relocating and rewiring one generator, while securing and installing another large capacity rented generator, all while also securing additional fuel supplies to maintain operations through any long outage.

Our staff also shifted schedules to ensure overnight, 24-hour onsite coverage to inspect and refuel generators. They ensured all systems were switched to backup power systems, and adjusted our online monitoring systems to maximize stored water and generator fuel efficiency.

To help our local private well owners - whose pumps may not be operating, we set up a courtesy water fill station accessible and free to any local resident.

Throughout the shutoffs, we kept in close contact with the San Mateo County Office of Emergency Services, PG&E, Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside, Granada Community Services District and the City of Half Moon Bay. This included assisting with an emergency contract to pump critical sewer sumps.

We thank each staff member who kept the water flowing and always ensures our community is ready when emergencies strike.

Our Water – which we each rely on every day for washing, cooking, sanitation, and firefighting – comes from 12 local wells and Montara Creek right here on the Coast. We treat all water at the source prior to delivery to you.

All our water sources are consistently fed by clean, coastal rainfall, which flows into local streams and percolates into the aquifers from which we draw water. We are fortunate to have such a high-quality, well-protected, sustainable and 100% locally-controlled water supply.

We protect this Coastside water cycle – the ocean evaporation and rainfall that feeds our creeks and underground water supply – by collecting and cleaning our used water and returning it to the ocean.

To continue serve current and future generations here, we continue to investigate additional water sources available to the local community.

Our Critical Infrastructure Water System

- 12 groundwater wells and Montara Creek
- 4 water treatment plants
- 7 storage tanks
- 8 pressure zones served by 14 valve stations and 6 booster pumps
- 22 miles of pipelines

Wastewater System

- 24 miles gravity-flow sewers
- 3 miles pressurized sewers
- 13 major pumpstations
- 21 grinder pumps

Board Meetings on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at 8888 Cabrillo Highway, Montara.

Call: (650) 728-3545

Email: mwsd@coastside.net

Visit: mwsd.montara.org