



# 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 and Moss Beach. Over 6,000 residents rely on our services for their homes and businesses.

February -  
March 2022

**News for You: MWSD Statement on Half Moon Bay Lawsuit Preliminary Ruling; Elected Community Service Academy No. 2 Recap**

### **Montara Water and Sanitary District Statement on Preliminary Ruling: Court Supports Montara Water & Sanitary District, Granada Community Services District; City of Half Moon Bay Must Pay Its Share of Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside Costs**

On Friday, January 14, 2022, the Santa Clara County Superior Court issued a preliminary ruling supporting Montara Water & Sanitary District (MWSD) and Granada Community Services District's motions against the City of Half Moon Bay's frivolous 2017 lawsuit. Half Moon Bay (HMB) has spent almost five years attempting to renege on the Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside (SAM) contract and shift its financial obligations onto its northern neighbors. When this ruling becomes final, it will be clear that the City of Half Moon Bay has always been and will continue to be obligated to pay its fair share.

The SAM agency was formed in 1976 under a Joint Exercise of Powers Authority (JPA) contract between GCSD, HMB, and MWSD, and is tasked with protecting public health and our beautiful coastal environment. The court affirms that the JPA contract is clear.

In order to serve all three communities, the partners of SAM chose to construct, own, and operate wastewater infrastructure, including the Intertie Pipeline System (IPS) and a single consolidated treatment plant. The IPS conveys wastewater from Montara and Granada (including a portion of the City of Half Moon Bay inside Granada's boundary) to SAM's Treatment Plant in Half Moon Bay. During heavy rain events, when increased wastewater flows can overwhelm the treatment plant, the IPS provides essential storage capacity to prevent releases of untreated sewage into the ocean.

For more than 45 years, SAM has operated and maintained constantly aging infrastructure. Throughout the years, we have seen the benefit of three agencies working together to share staffing, maintenance, and repair costs.

### **VIEW OUR ELECTED COMMUNITY SERVICE ACADEMY NO. 2**

MWSD is celebrating our community's commitment to public service, especially those serving in elected roles.

Take a look at our second academy where we walk through the process (candidate filings and campaign guidance) to win an elected office. Easy to understand overview and tips to help.

**View Online at/Ver por linea en:**

**[MWSD.MONTARA.ORG](http://MWSD.MONTARA.ORG)**

In 2017, the City of Half Moon Bay abruptly sued in an attempt get out of paying its share of the millions needed to maintain and repair the IPS, disregarding 45 years of financial partnership and the clear contractual language of the JPA. This action would have doubled costs for Granada, Princeton, and Montara/Moss Beach.

MWSD and GCSD have stood firm throughout these last five years – all JPA parties must pay their fair share to operate and maintain the system. Should the preliminary ruling prevail, the Districts are poised to move forward on critical repairs needed to protect our coastline.

"For decades, MWSD, GCSD, and Half Moon Bay jointly carried financial responsibility for, and cared for this crucial wastewater system. Half Moon Bay's ploy has cost us five years of squandered time, money, progress, and trust. It is time to get back to work, together as partners, to operate and care for the wastewater system the entire Coastside relies upon. The City's 2017 deeply flawed lawsuit undermined key working relationships and wasted millions. Let's get back to work, together," said MWSD Board President Scott Boyd.

**As our community continues its recovery from COVID-19, MWSD is committed to providing safe public access via ZOOM teleconference for our regularly scheduled public meetings for the foreseeable future.**

**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](mailto:mwsd@coastside.net)**

**Visit: [mwsd.montara.org](http://mwsd.montara.org)**