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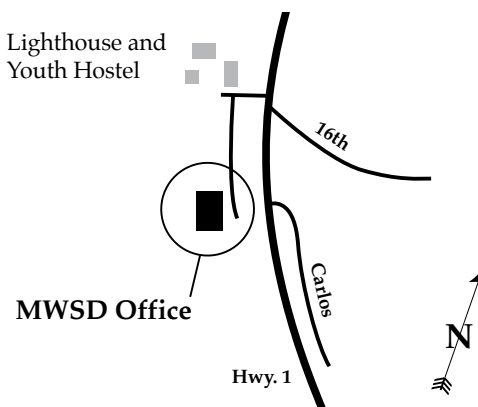
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MONTARA WATER AND SANITARY DISTRICT

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Board meetings are held the first and third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the District Office at 8888 Cabrillo Highway, Montara, CA



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Ben Voigt

A Bay Area native son, Ben is a graduate of the University of California at Santa Barbara with a degree in accounting. He was hired by the District in May of 2002 as a temporary accountant. He soon became fascinated



by the work he saw the system operator performing, and he began to contemplate a career change.

In 2004, after studying diligently to pass the state certification tests, he was hired by the District as a Water Treatment and Distribution Operator. Ben reports that he loves the ever-changing variety and the challenges of maintaining and operating our water system. He and the three other men that make up the operations crew are in constant motion assessing the status of the distribution system, and monitoring the quality of the water that we all depend upon.

Recently, Ben has put his number-crunching background to good use in leading a project to create an automated system to accurately track the entire system's production.

The Lens

Issue Number 13 Spring 2006

Montara Water and Sanitary District

Sewer Pump Station Renovations

The District has about ten sewer pump stations located throughout the District that pump sewage from certain key points to the sewer intertie along Highway 1. These stations are very expensive to maintain and because of the harsh marine climate along with the corrosive sewage that they pump, these facilities require periodic renovation. This year we are planning the following pump station improvements:

Kanoff (formerly Chart House) Pump Station Improvements - This project involves the removal of the existing below grade steel pump station structure and the installation of a new concrete pump pit with two 30-horsepower submersible pumps. A third 30 horsepower submersible pump will be installed in the existing concrete wet well ahead of the pump station. A valve pit will be constructed to house the plug valves and check valves as necessary to tie into the double force mains which pump south along Highway 1 to the Montara pump station. The engine generator will be replaced with a new 120 kilowatt engine generator within the existing building. New electrical equipment will be installed.

Vallemar Pump Station Improvements - This project involves the installation of a third 10-horsepower pump in the existing Vallemar pump station to supplement the two existing 88 horsepower pumps. The purpose of this third smaller pump will be to pump the low flows during dry weather. At the present time the larger pumps, which are intended to pump the peak wet weather flows, must also pump the dry weather flows. This is very inefficient and creates large slugs of flow at the SAM plant, disrupting their treatment process. New electrical controls including a more energy-efficient adjustable speed drive will be installed for the new third pump.

Niagara Pump Station Renovation - This station requires replacement of the pump and motor and certain other associated items to insure it remains in good working condition to serve the properties on the Vallemar Bluffs and as a backup to the Vallemar Pump Station.

Electronics Recycling

The Goodwill ReCompute program for electronic waste provides businesses and residents in San Francisco, San Mateo & Marin Counties with a free and convenient place to drop off all unwanted electronics for reuse or recycling.

The program was created in partnership between Goodwill Industries of San Francisco, San Mateo & Marin Counties, San Mateo County RecycleWorks, and the San Mateo County Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS).

This program provides a convenient network of drop off locations. Computers, laptops, televisions, networking equipment, cell phones, and other electronics, in working condition or not, can be dropped off at any Goodwill Donation site or store free of charge.

Usable electronics are data cleansed, refurbished and loaded with a licensed operating system. These systems are then distributed to Community partners and sold to individuals through Goodwill's computer store. Older electronics are de-manufactured and recycled in California. Please call 1-888-4GOODWILL for more information.

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Water Supply from Devil's Slide Tunnel

Construction on the Devil's Slide Tunnel Project by the State of California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) began in April 2005. The bridge portion of the project was recently awarded, and the actual tunnel construction itself will begin this fall. It will take about four years to complete the entire project once the tunnel work begins.

The District has met with CalTrans staff, along with representatives from CCWD, and at this stage it does not appear that the amount of water available, up to 150 gpm, is sufficient to justify the cost of about 2.5 miles of pipeline to deliver it to the MWSD and CCWD. However, the full extent of the water available may not be fully known until the tunnel excavation is completed in about four years. District staff will continue to monitor this and will attempt to obtain more information from CalTrans as it becomes available.

Disaster Preparedness

During a disaster the District will need diesel fuel to power its sewer and water backup generators. Without these generators the wells would not operate and the sewage could not be adequately disposed of. We conducted a survey of other midcoast agencies and found that the San Mateo County Harbor District, using a private vendor, has a 12,000 gallon gasoline tank and 24,000 gallons of diesel fuel which could be used by our trucks. We are attempting to negotiate a contract to insure that at least one week's supply of both diesel and gasoline is available for our use during an emergency.

Another concern is emergency communications. The County recently installed a UHF Trunk system which allows all public agencies to join the same communications network, be assigned to a subscription group, and communicate on a common frequency when required. The Sheriff's Department is interested in another antenna site at our Alta Vista Tank so we suggested an agreement in which both the County and District would benefit at no cost. This would enable the District to have a radio link which would allow us to communicate with County Communications in Redwood City as well as other emergency services.

Flooding Along Montara Creek

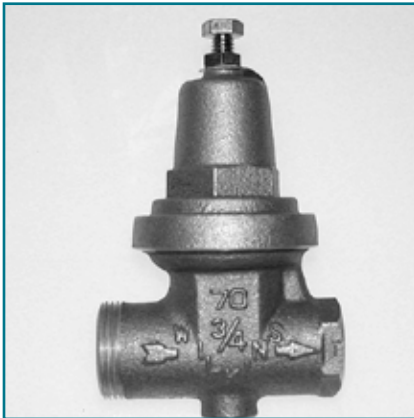
In light of the unusually large amount of rainfall that we received during this past winter, it comes as no surprise that we have had complaints about storm-related flooding from residents in the area of Date and Harte Streets in Montara. One reason appears to be that since State Fish and Game prohibited the County from clearing out Montara Creek on a periodic basis, it tends to flood its banks more often than when the creek was cleared of growth. Flood control is the responsibility of the County of San Mateo. Property owners are responsible for maintaining the drainage ditches adjacent to their property on non-County maintained roads (commonly called "private roads"). For service of county-maintained roads, and flood control issues, contact the County Public Works Department at 650-363-4100.

Water Pressure Regulators

Water mains can deliver water at pressures as high as 150 pounds per square inch (PSI). Water pressures this high can damage plumbing fixtures, valves and appliances that use water inside the home.

You can determine your static water pressure by attaching a water-pressure gauge to an outside hose bib (static pressure is measured while no water is being used on the property).

The installation of a pressure regulator (also called a pressure-reducing valve) will reduce water pressure to a desirable range of 50 to 60 PSI for inside use. The regulator utilizes a mechanism that limits pressure, and therefore protects the water pipes and water-using appliances in your home from damage. Such a regulator must be installed and maintained by the customer.



Environmental Review for New Water Tanks and Well

A Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) was submitted to the Coastal Commission after public review and incorporating public comments. The document included the following improvements to the system:

- A new well at the 11-acre parcel owned by the District at the end of Alta Vista Road.
- A 1 million gallon water storage tank on the Alta Vista site.
- Replacement of the School House Water Tank (100,000 gallons) with a 200,000 gallon tank.
- A centralized water treatment system at the Half Moon Bay Airport for all three wells.

We are expecting to begin construction of the new well this summer, contingent upon its approval by the Coastal Commission. If this well has the output we are hoping for, it will make up a large percentage of the deficit of water supply for existing customers. However, it will not be a large enough increase to allow us to remove the moratorium on new water connections. A copy of the EIR is available at the District office and on the District's web site (<http://mwsd.montara.org>).

Water Pipeline Replacement Project

Last year the District completed the replacement of the following sub-standard leaky water lines:

- 4th Street-Highway 1 to Farallone.
- 5th Street - Highway 1 to Farallone.
- 6th Street - Highway 1 to Farallone.
- 8th Street - Highway 1 to Farallone.
- East Street - 5th Street to 10th Street.
- Audubon Avenue - Harte to George.
- Franklin Avenue - Tamarind to Date.
- Acacia Street - George to Franklin.

There still remain a few streets that are located on the west side of Highway 1 that were not replaced because the Coastal Commission and the County of San Mateo require a more extensive coastal development permit process for projects within 300 feet of the ocean. We anticipate that construction will begin on these projects this summer:

- Vallemar Street Water Pipeline Replacement.
- Water Pipeline Replacement on 9th to 14th Streets west of Highway 1.

Failed Wells

The County Planning Department has been working on the Update to the Local Coastal Program. Over the last several months the District has requested the County to add as one of the priorities failed domestic wells. There is no provision in existing Local Coastal Program to address the needs of the owners of such wells. However, in view of the serious health and safety implications of failed domestic wells in addition to the economic hardship it creates, it is clearly a situation that needs to be addressed. At some point in the future if additional water meters are available, they could be allocated to well owners with failed domestic wells before being allocated to other less critical users.

Wells Owners

The National Ground Water Association recommends that water well owners have their wells checked and tested by a certified and/or licensed contractor every year to ensure water safety. Their web site can found at: <http://www.wellowner.org>



Want to Save Some Money?

New toilets and washing machines use less water, and save money. A new low-flow toilet replacing a leaky old toilet will save a lot of water and money. The District applied for and was awarded a State grant that allows us to offer rebates for the following water saving appliances:

- \$150 for high-efficiency washing machines
- \$50 for low-flow toilets.

There is very little paperwork and no hassle to this program. Just submit a one-page application with your receipts and we will send a rebate check to you within a couple of weeks. Go to MWSD.montara.org for details.

We Need Your Help

The District continues to work toward the installation of the new Alta Vista Well and additional water storage (part of Phase 1 of the Public Works Plan). We have submitted an application (including the Final Environmental Impact Report) for these projects to the California Coastal Commission.

We have worked with the Commission for over a year to ensure their expeditious review of these documents. Our hope is that we will be able to get the new Alta Vista Well in operation this summer. However, it could take many months and even years for the Coastal Commission to grant approval. This could jeopardize fire protection and could also result in severe water restrictions in the future.

It would be helpful for our customers to contact the Coastal Commission at the following address and urge them to expedite their review and approve our Application:

Chris Kern, District Manager
North Central Coast District Office
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219
(415) 904-5260 or
(415) 904-5200
FAX (415) 904-5400
Email: ckern@coastal.ca.gov

Or you may contact the elected representative at:

Mike Reilly, Supervisor
Board of Supervisors
County of Sonoma
575 Administration Drive, Rm. 100
Santa Rosa, CA 95403-2887
Email: mreilly@sonoma-county.org

District Submits Grant Requests to State

District staff recently submitted the following Concept Proposals to the State Water Resources Control Board for consideration:

Renovation of Ocean Pump Stations - This was submitted in November 2005 under the Clean Beaches Initiative Proposition 40 Phase 2 Grant Program. We applied for the cost of renovation to the Kanoff and Niagara Pump Stations for a total grant amount of \$800,000.

Coastal Marine and Marsh Restoration - This is part of the FY 2005-2006 Consolidated Grants Program. The grant request was for \$1,216,000 to establish a monitoring system as required by the Coastal Commission, abandon the County's septic system and install a sewer main to Airport Blvd., install a bio-reactive barrier along Highway 1 to reduce nitrate infiltration into our wells, monitor water quality of the Denniston and San Vicente Creeks, establish Best Management Practices for the farm operations and construction a centralized water treatment facility for the District at the Airport.

2006 Sewer Improvement Project

Last year the District replaced the following sewer lines:

- North Lake Street - California Pump Station to Nevada Avenue.
- Nevada Avenue - 230 Nevada to North Lake Street.
- Lancaster Boulevard - 521 Nevada to Etheldore Boulevard.

The District recently completed a three-year program of televising all sewer lines. This helped identify the pipe segments that are in need of repair or replacement. The following sewer lines were among the highest priority in terms of need of replacement and are included in the 2006 Sewer Improvement Project:

Main Street between Second and Third Street - The sewer on Main Street is an 8-inch pipe segment and has had three emergency repairs performed to date. It suffers from heavy root intrusion, excessive infiltration and has at least one severe offset joint which prevents cleaning. This pipe recently suffered a blockage due to roots which caused a spill that flowed down the storm drain to Montara State Beach. This sewer also runs under a private yard, making the repair difficult and expensive. It was determined that the best approach is to construct and relocate this sewer into Main Street and reconnect the laterals.

Airport Force Main - This is a 6-inch pipe over 2,000 feet long and is the discharge line for the Airport Pump Station which serves the Pillar Ridge Park and other developments. It was discovered that the last 300 feet of this pipe is in imminent danger of collapse because of sulfide corrosion of the pipe.

Kanoff Street between Acacia Street and Tamarind Street - This 175-foot segment of 10-inch pipe has several major holes and large cracks. Collapse is imminent if the pipe is not replaced. The sewer also has significant wet weather infiltration. A sag in the pipe has the propensity to collect grease which can cause a blockage.

Seventh Street between East Street and Acacia Street - This section of 6-inch pipe has holes in the pipe and a number of radial and longitudinal cracks. There are also numerous tree roots which have broken the pipe and can collect debris and cause stoppage. The pipe is too fragile to clean with root cutters.

Fir at Hart Street—This is a short 71-foot section of 6-inch pipe which has major offsets, holes and roots and may plug and overflow in a heavy rain event.

District Will Drill Additional Test Wells

The District is drilling some additional test wells on District property in hopes of identifying additional water sources that will allow us to eventually remove the moratorium. However, this will require a separate project and a separate EIR and may take several years to complete the review process before the Coastal Commission. We hope to begin drilling these test wells this summer.