



February 2016

Montara Water and Sanitary District

WATER NEWS

Someone is Painting District Fire Hydrants Pink, Changed Hydrant Color is Dangerous and Costly to Fix



Someone is painting fire hydrants in the Montara area pink.

While it may seem like a harmless prank, changing the color actually causes a threat to public safety and a costly expense to repaint.

Hydrants are color coded with information needed to fight fires. Painting a hydrant covers up that critical information and wastes valuable time in an emergency.

The typical re-painting of a hydrant is \$162, according to MWSD Superintendent Julian Martinez. Whoever is painting the hydrants pink is urged to stop.

District Dirt Will Help Hikers, Park Service and Public

Some of the excess dirt from the new tank excavation – clean native soil – will be used to improve trails on the Rancho Corral de Tierra portion of Golden Gate National Recreation Area. This saves the District disposal costs and provides free dirt needed for trail building.

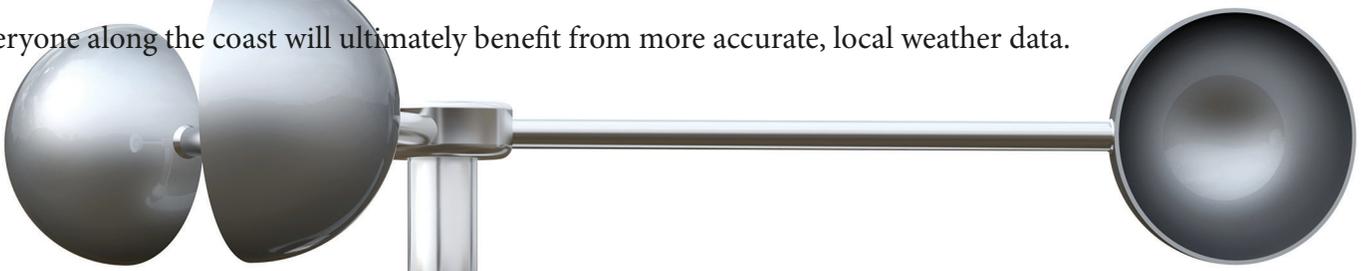
MWSD to Host Beneficial Weather Station

Did you know that the Coastside area hasn't had a weather station for the past three years? Wind sensors at Pigeon Point Lighthouse and at Pillar Point have been out of operation and not replaced. Instead, our weather forecasts are based on stations as far away as the Farallon islands.

To help remedy the lack of local weather stations, MWSD agreed to provide a space on the cliff west of its offices for a weather station at no charge under a 20-year agreement with the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Operated by NOAA, the weather station is expected to be in operation soon. NOAA originally planned to only install a wind sensor, but the District requested a full weather station so that there would be official rainfall data available to help in District planning and operations.

Everyone along the coast will ultimately benefit from more accurate, local weather data.





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WATCH SHORT VIDEO OF ALTA VISTA CONSTRUCTION

The largest single construction project ever built by the District is essentially complete and in service. The almost \$3 million, 500,000-gallon tank will improve storage for firefighting, meet customer water demand during emergencies, and enhance water quality. We have a three-minute video on our website that shows how the tank was constructed. Check it out at MWSD.Montara.org



Visit our website at mwsd.montara.org for more information covered in this newsletter and other topics.

Take Advantage of Many Solid Waste and Recycling Services

MWSD provides solid waste and recycling services through an agreement with Recology of the Coast. In addition to regular garbage, recycled material and green waste pickup, customers are encouraged to take advantage of additional programs at no additional charge:

- **Quarterly recycling drop-off service** within Montara city limits, including: green waste, appliances, carpets, computers, mattresses, scrap metal, electronics, unpainted wood and more.
- **Four free bulky item curbside pickups a year** on a collection day for one item up to 200 lbs., or five 30 gallon bags. Call Recology in advance to schedule.
- **Drop-off at Recycling Yard in Pacifica:** 5 gallons of motor oil, 5 gallons of latex or oil based paint, unpainted lumber, metal, large blocks of styrofoam, e-waste, white goods, furniture, mattresses, car batteries and fluorescent tubes.
- **Christmas tree pickup** free of charge thru January 31st.

Visit RecologyOfTheCoast.com for more information.

Switch to a Smaller Cart to Save Money and Help the Environment

By switching from a 32-gallon garbage cart to a 20-gallon cart, your new monthly collection fee charge would be \$23.87 instead of \$29.35.

To Help Fit Your Trash into a Smaller Cart Take Advantage of Free Bulky Goods Collection (see left).

By accumulating and disposing of extra items four times a year, customers may be able to go down to a 20-gallon cart and save money.

By increasing recycling and reducing garbage, MWSD customers may reduce future increases on their bills. Approximately 50 percent of neighboring Pacifica residents have decreased their collection charges by switching to 20-gallon carts. Currently, only 10 percent of MWSD customers use 20-gallon carts.

