



# Montara Water and Sanitary District

# WATER NEWS

## SPECIAL 60TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

### Serving Our Community Since 1958

*Your Water and Sanitary District was formed in 1958, but the modern story of water and sanitary service is more than a century in the making...*

We are blessed here on the Coastside with a bountiful water cycle: the ocean evaporates and fills the clouds, which rain down on the mountains, and feed our underground water supply.

While this water cycle has repeated itself for ages, water service in our area only began in 1907, when real estate sales first took off. It wasn't until 1958 that community-minded residents formally founded Montara Sanitary District to provide affordable and secure sanitary service.

However, the District's links to community history go back much further: our headquarters building was originally a radio compass station built by the Navy in 1920, and later used as part of a secret training facility in World War II.

Today, we are proud to celebrate 60 years of building and modernizing our facilities, using and distributing water wisely, and treating the wastewater—completing the water cycle by sending it back to nature.



Montara Water and Sanitary District

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE PROUDLY  
**CELEBRATE  
60 YEARS  
OF SERVICE**  
TO OUR COMMUNITY  
(est. 1958)

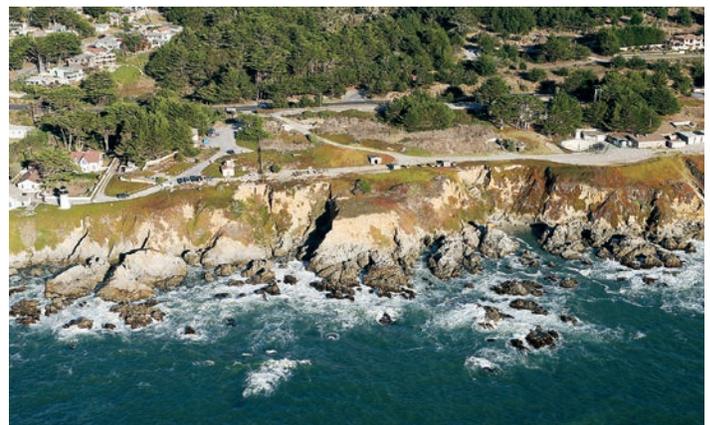
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2018**  
**12:00 – 3:00 pm**

Point Montara Lighthouse Hostel  
8800 Cabrillo Highway – Montara, CA 94037

For more information visit:  
[MWSD.montara.org](http://MWSD.montara.org) or call 650-728-3545  
RSVP by October 29, 2018 – space is limited



*Point Montara in 1934 (left) and how it looks today.*



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# YOUR WATER AND SANITARY DISTRICT IS ROOTED IN OUR COMMUNITY'S HISTORY

Take a brief tour showing how our community and District have grown together over the years.

## 1920s

### District Offices Were Originally a Radio Compass Station



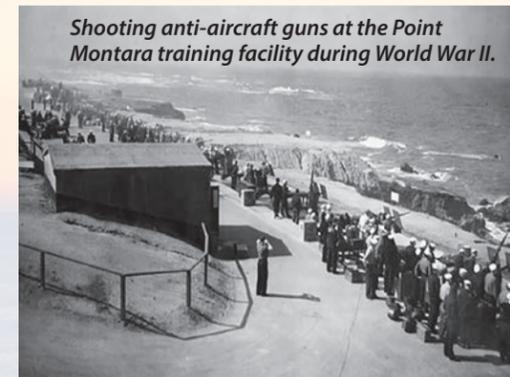
This magazine carried the story of the radio compass stations.

In 1920, nineteen radio compass stations were commissioned by the Navy. The stations would be instrumental in assisting aircraft as well as merchant and naval vessels entering ports—particularly in fog. In the San Francisco area, stations were erected at Point Reyes, Bird Island, Farallon Islands and Point Montara. The average cost per station was \$10,000 (approximately \$121,000 today).

## 1940s

### The District Headquarters Was Used as a World War II Training Facility

Between 1942 and 1945, Point Montara was home to a secret U.S. Navy facility that trained 320,000 sailors and merchant marines during WWII. It had 48 permanent structures and trained on the latest technology in anti-aircraft weapons systems. The training facility used radio-controlled drones for live-fire training and was home to many Women Air Service Pilots—known as WASPs—who served at the facility.



Shooting anti-aircraft guns at the Point Montara training facility during World War II.

#### Thank you to our sponsors:

Andreini Bros., Bartle Wells, JMB Construction, Maze & Assoc., Pacific Trenchless, Nute Engineering, Rauch Communication Consultants, Recology of the Coast, SRT.

## 1960s

### District Actions Prevented Garbage Dump at Gray Whale Cove

In 1966, a proposed garbage dump at Green Valley brought the community together to fight for environmental protection. Montara Sanitary District moved quickly to block the proposal by passing an ordinance establishing sanitary standards for solid waste disposal within the district. The garbage dump was stopped, and the area was established as Gray Whale Cove State Beach later that year. Its beach, cliffs, and marine conservation area are protected thanks to the District and committed local citizens, and are still enjoyed by the public today.



## 2003-2018

### Major Investments and Actions to Improve Water and Sanitary Service

Since taking over a worn-out water system from a private water company in 2003, Montara Water and Sanitary District has been systematically improving the water and sewer systems by:

Investing about \$3 million each year in recent years in ongoing upgrades and repairs.

Replacing many sewage pipes and facilities originally constructed in the 1960s.

Upgrading wells, and replacing aged pipelines and pumps.

Building 1.3 million gallons of water storage, ready to meet customer water needs—including fire and emergency needs—any time, day or night.

Adding new local water supplies, providing long-term water self-sufficiency even during droughts.



The Alta Vista Water Storage Tank, shown under construction here, was completed in 2016.

## 2009

### Silicon Valley Water Conservation Award

MWSD won the conservation award in the small government agency category for its aggressive water main replacement program, online drip calculator, use of smart meters, and other initiatives. In presenting its award, the organization wrote: "Small water systems ... tend to have very few staff members to implement programs, and a limited rate base... This makes the accomplishments of MWSD all the more remarkable."



# Montara Water and Sanitary District

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## DIRECTORS

Dwight Wilson, President  
Scott Boyd, President Pro Tem  
Kathryn Slater-Carter, Secretary  
Bill Huber, Treasurer  
Jim Harvey, Director

P.O. Box 370131

Montara, CA 94037

Voice: 650-728-3545

Email: [mwsd@coastside.net](mailto:mwsd@coastside.net)

Web: [mwsd.montara.org](http://mwsd.montara.org)

## GENERAL MANAGER

Clemens Heldmaier

You Are Invited to Our 60th Anniversary Celebration on Nov 4, 2018. See Front of Newsletter for Details.

## How Your Water and Sanitary District Has Grown With the Community

**1958 – The District Is Formed.** During the 1950s population growth exceeded the capacity of the ground to safely manage septic tank flows, prompting community leaders to establish the Montara Sanitary District.

**1960s – Bonds Fund First Modern Sewage Treatment Plant.** With the passing of a \$300,000 bond issue in 1962 to start work on a new sewage treatment plant and build sewers to transport the sewage, local newspapers declared it “a new era” for the Coastside.

**1976 – Single Sewer Treatment Plant Established for Montara, Moss Beach, El Granada, and Half Moon Bay.** Under pressure from the State, the District was forced to abandon its own treatment plant and pay to join and build Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside (SAM).

**1970s – Former Private Water Company Imposes Moratorium.** Local supply problems were being investigated by the State; the private water company serving the area requested a “temporary” moratorium on new connections.

**1980s – Private Company Fails to Invest in Water.** Coastside residents in the 1980s endured water shortages, moratoriums, and higher water bills.

**1990s – Local Citizens Take Action in the Face of Poor Water Service.** Tired of getting brown water from their faucets and fighting a substandard private utility company, residents moved forward with the support of Montara Sanitary District. After a long legal and political battle, 1991 legislation by State Senator Quentin Kopp allowed the Sanitary District to offer water service.

**2003 – Water Services Added.** In 2001, an 82% majority of voters approved a \$19 million water bond issue. In 2003, the District finally acquired the private utility, becoming the Montara Water and Sanitary District.

**2000s – The District Gets to Work Making Improvements.** With the support of the community, the District fixed wells, added efficient motors, built a water treatment plant, and replaced leaky pipes, along with many more improvements.

**2011 – With Improved Water Supplies and Quality, the District Repealed the Moratorium.** With new, high-quality wells and a long-range Water Master Plan in place, the District can ensure 100% local water supplies into the future. The longstanding state-mandated moratorium on new connections under the old private utility was repealed in 2011.

**2015 – The District Purchases Pillar Ridge Community Water System.** MWSD acquired the private Pillar Ridge water system and integrated its resources, adding flexibility, redundancy, and economies of scale.



*The District's first treatment plant under construction in 1963.*