

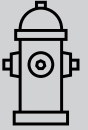
Montara Water & Sanitary District

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.

January 2025

MWSD Fact Sheet: Water for Firefighting in Our Community



Water for Public Health and Firefighting in Montara and Moss Beach

Montara Water and Sanitary District (MWSD) is fully prepared to deliver drinking and firefighting water for our community.

MWSD operates and maintains Montara and Moss Beach's community-owned public drinking water – and firefighting – system. This system is designed and operated to not only supply drinking water for public health and sanitation, but also adequate water to fight house and property fires in our local community. We have more than 4 days of reserve water storage on-hand – that means 4 times what our community uses in a day (on average). We meet and exceed the industry standard for firefighting water supplies. Our local firefighters - the Coastside Fire Protection District - know and confirm that we are prepared, and work with us on all aspects of fire preparedness.

MWSD is an independent water system with our own secure sources of water, which guarantee quick recovery after an emergency. We do not rely on imported water

or nearby reservoirs operated by the Hetch Hetchy Regional Water System.

In 2003, our Board of Directors adopted stringent criteria for emergency storage, above and beyond the single firefighting storage required by the Fire Code. The emergency storage amounts to 2 full days of the District's daily demand.

This means that this very significant amount of storage can be utilized in case of a disaster to supply water to fight multiple fires and supply the District's customer homes with drinking water. The amount of emergency storage is nearly three times the single "design" fire storage and is available to the District to serve its customers.

Our Critical Infrastructure MWSD 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

Wildland/Forest Fires, Fire Hydrants and Public Drinking Water Systems

Fires have devastated communities throughout California in the last decade. Disastrous combinations of high winds, low humidity, and dry/drought conditions have contributed to significant fire events with tremendous loss of homes and businesses. MWSD and our community are saddened to see this loss.

It's important to understand that wildland/forest fires are not fought, managed, or extinguished solely with water.

Wildland and forest fires frequently require a combination of ground based fuel reduction and fuel break operations, in combination with aerial firefighting efforts utilizing fire retardant and some limited amount of water. These efforts are aimed at slowing the progression of the fire and reducing ignitions. However, in high winds and dry conditions, embers and sparks can spread rapidly, resulting in enormous areas of fire needing suppression.

Unfortunately, no drinking water system, associated fire hydrants and water storage can stop a wildland fire. No water system is designed to stop the wildfires that have raged across California. There simply is not enough water storage – nor would this type of water storage be cost effective – to combat wildland fires.



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: info@mwsd.net

Visit: mwsd.montara.org