



# UPDATE

Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency

Turning Wastewater into Safe Water Since 1977 • Fall 2013



*Supervising Operator Richard Gilliam adjusts air blower output to maximize biological treatment.*

## Your Funds at Work Saving Power

**A**s the regional wastewater treatment plant infrastructure ages, we try to replace it with more energy and cost efficient equipment. For example, three Capital Improvement Projects are helping to conserve energy while ensuring reliability and treatment performance:

- **Bioflocculation Aeration System.** Using recommendations from a 2009 study, the existing air blowers and fine bubble diffusers were replaced and a control system added, allowing for more efficient oxygen transfer to biological treatment organisms, and improved blower control.
- **Digester Mixing System Upgrade.** Construction was completed on the last of 3 digesters to be equipped with an efficient sludge mixing pump.
- **Sludge Thickening Rehabilitation.** This construction project began in the summer to replace air compressors and pressurization pumps.

## What Do Disposable Wipes and Pharmaceuticals Have in Common?

**D**isposable wipes, unused pharmaceuticals, and many other products should never be poured or flushed down the drain.



Most items labeled “flushable” are not! Dispose of the following in the garbage, not in the sewer: rags, paper towels, food scraps (garbage disposals don’t remove grease; they add clog-inducing solids to the sanitary sewer collection system), disposable diapers, condoms, nursing pads and baby wipes, hair, tampons and pads, dental floss — and many other items! Old pharmaceuticals, as well as hazardous waste products, require even more care.



### Visit ‘Green Tips’ Online

The redesigned — and tablet/smart phone friendly — MRWPCA website offers additional information, including the following free, downloadable publications (also available by calling or writing us):

- **Household Hazardous Waste Chart** (proper disposal methods and locations)
- **Pharmaceutical Take-Back Locations** (where to dispose of outdated prescription meds)
- **Household Solutions** (from cleaning to insect control — scores of practical, inexpensive alternatives to potentially harmful products)

**Monterey Regional Water  
Pollution Control Agency**  
Administrative Offices

5 Harris Court, Bldg D, Monterey, CA 93940  
(831) 372-3367 or (831) 422-1001

Visit Us on the Web at [www.mrwPCA.org](http://www.mrwPCA.org)