

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 27, 2013**

CONTACT: Karen Harris  
Community Relations Specialist  
(831) 645-4604  
(831) 645-4606 Fax  
(831) 915-0078 Cell  
karenh@mrwpca.com

### **Monterey County Science Fair Participants Recognized by MRWPCA Board**

On March 10 at the Monterey County Science Fair at California State University Monterey Bay, two student projects were selected by Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency staff for special recognition.

The awards, one Junior Division project and one Senior Division project, are presented each year to support science development and projects that highlight water recycling and pollution prevention issues.

In addition to announcing the awards at the Science Fair, the winners received award plaques at the March 25 MRWPCA Board of Directors meeting.

The Junior Division award went to Ms. Jamie Maniulit, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, Harden Middle School, Salinas, for "Rice Water or Regular Water." Her project studied the effects of rice rinse water and tap water on radish seedlings. The project highlights the value of water recycling for home irrigation. In fact, national studies show more water is used *outside*

than *inside* the typical American home. The safe reuse of home waters for landscape irrigation can significantly reduce potable water demand.

Mr. Alexander Dieguez, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade, Salinas High School, Salinas, won the Senior Division for "The Effect of Desalinated Ocean Water on Plants." His innovative project studied the effects of solar distilled seawater on romaine lettuce plants versus tap water. One remarkable aspect of his research was a homemade desalination evaporator powered by solar panels. Water treatments, especially seawater desalination, are energy intensive. This project addressed both energy and water resource conservation.

MRWPCA is dedicated to providing cost effective, reliable wastewater collection and treatment and producing safe high-quality recycled water for food crop irrigation.

MRWPCA was formed as a joint powers public entity in 1972 to provide regional wastewater collection, treatment and recycling for Pacific Grove, Monterey, Del Rey Oaks, Seaside, Sand City, the former Fort Ord, Castroville, Moss Landing, Boronda, Salinas, Marina and unincorporated areas of northern Monterey County. The recycled water is used for food crop irrigation in the northern Salinas Valley. Reducing the need to pump water from wells is part of the regional effort to slow seawater intrusion.

MRWPCA serves approximately 250,000 people.



***Science Fair 2013 Special MRWPCA Award Winners Jamie Maniulit and Alex Dieguez***

###