

MRWPCA UPDATE

MONTEREY REGIONAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY www.mrwpc.org Since 1977
Dedicated to Meeting Northern Monterey County's Wastewater and Recycled Water Needs

Proper Disposal of Unused Pharmaceuticals

Federal No-Drugs-Down-the-Drain Campaign Set to Begin

Recent reports of trace levels of pharmaceutical compounds in our nation's drinking water supplies have raised awareness of water quality protection. State and federal agencies are now recommending that medical wastes should not be flushed down the toilet.

Residents are being asked to properly dispose their old medications. The Monterey County Health Department, Monterey Regional Waste Management District, Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority and MRWPCA agree the best solution is to take unused and expired medications back to a participating local pharmacy. If your pharmacy is not currently participating in a take-back program:

- Monterey Peninsula residents can safely dispose unused or outdated pharmaceuticals at the landfill's



household hazardous waste collection facility.

- Salinas Valley residents may dispose medications in the trash by removing the medicines from the original container and mixing them with a waste material, such as used kitty litter, ashes or coffee grounds.

Then place the mixture in an impermeable container such as a sealable bag before discarding in the trash.

Later this year, MRWPCA will be participating in a public education and outreach program sponsored by the US Environmental Protection Agency and the California State Water Resources Control Board to "keep drugs out of the drains." You can find more information about the program at www.nodrugsdownthedrain.org.



Operator takes water sample from storage pond in which recycled water is held before it is used to irrigate farmlands in northern Monterey County.

Recycling Season

More Records for the Books

More than halfway through the 2008 water recycling season, the equipment is running well and "we continue to better ourselves," according to Plant Manager James Dix. In March, the facility delivered over 1,600 acre-feet of water to Castroville area growers. The previous record was approximately 1,200 acre-feet in 2003. In April, the facility was able to capture 100 percent of wastewater for 20 consecutive days. Previously, the record was 12 consecutive days.

Financial Reporting

Agency Awarded for Excellence

For the third consecutive year, the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada has awarded MRWPCA's Accounting Department the "Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting." The certificate is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting and also indicates that the recipient demonstrates "a constructive 'spirit of full disclosure' to clearly communicate its financial story."

Statewide Wastewater Treatment Fees



MRWPCA is able to keep its customer fees far lower than the statewide average of wastewater treatment facilities of similar size because of its operational efficiency and cost-savings management system.

Why Does MRWPCA Place So Much Importance On Community Education?

Less than a decade ago, the emphasis of MRWPCA community outreach was on name recognition. Many people in the community were confused about what the agency was or what it did. With the opening of the water recycling facilities in 1998, the focus shifted. "Today the goal is to gain public support about protecting recycled water as a valuable resource," states Community Relations Specialist Karen Harris.

"Keeping grease out of drains, disposing of household wastes properly, reducing or eliminating sodium salt from our water softeners, and other 'preventive' measures protect the environment, improve recycled water quality and safeguard the treatment plant," Karen says. "Information on these topics can be found on the agency web site at www.mrwPCA.org."

Karen is also available to lead facility tours, speak to civic clubs and conduct interactive classroom presentations for local fifth grade classes. She also coordinates the exhibits at community events, such as the booth that was a popular destination at the Monterey County Fair in August.

In November, Karen will mark her 23rd an-

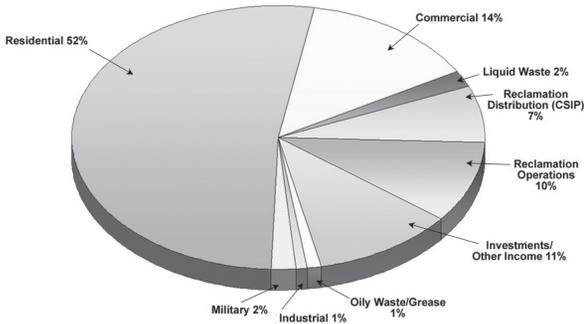


Community Relations Specialist Karen Harris (center) gives water demonstration to school children during a recent Farm Days event.

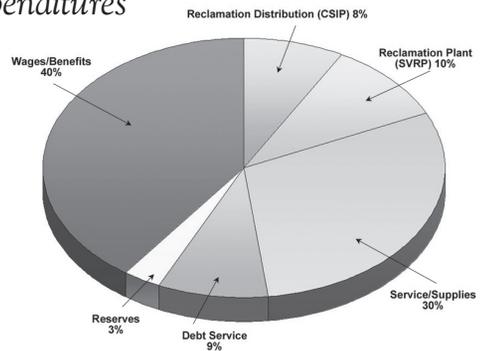
niversary with the agency. Prior to assuming her current position, she worked in the Lab and later in the Source Control Division, working with businesses and industries. An avid scuba diver, you might see her on a Sunday in the Kelp Forest of the Monterey Bay Aquarium performing underwater feeding shows.

MRWPCA Fiscal Year 2008/09 Approved Budget Summary

Revenues



Expenditures



Save Time and Postage with Automatic Payment Service

If you would like to take advantage of MRWPCA's automatic payment service: 1) Sign and return the coupon below with your payment. 2) Pay with a check from the account to be used (with this, we can instruct your bank to automatically deduct your payment every two months). If you have any questions, give us a call at 372-2385 or 449-6366.

I authorize MRWPCA and my financial institution to initiate entries to my checking savings account for wastewater fees. This authority will remain in effect until I notify you of cancellation in writing. I can stop payment of any entry by notifying my financial institution three days before my account is charged. I can have the amount of an erroneous charge immediately credited to my account up to 15 days following issuance of my financial statement or 60 days after posting, whichever occurs first. This amount deducted will equal the balance owed.

Signature _____

Date _____