Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency Turning wastewater into safe water since 1977 • Fall 2011



The new green-power solar array at the Regional Treatment Plant significantly decreases PG&E power consumption and carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels.

MRWPCA Honored With 2011 Clean Air Award

At the 2011 Clean Air Awards ceremony held June 30 at the Monterey Plaza Hotel, Breathe California of the Central Coast recognized MRWPCA for "making environmental stewardship a very high priority" and for "recycling valuable resources such as water, power, and biosolids, and preventing harmful emissions and discharges whenever possible."

At the Regional Treatment Plant, located two miles north of Marina, two alternative energy sources now provide 9,353,000 kilowatt hours of electricity per year (enough to power 1,220 average homes). The co-generation facility, which harvests methane gas produced from the anaerobic digestion of biomass, and the new 1.12 megawatt solar power facility have decreased PG&E power consumption by 80 to 90 percent. In 2010, use of co-generation prevented the emission of 73,000,000 cubic meters of methane into the atmosphere. Over the next 30 years, the solar power system will prevent 60 million pounds of carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels.

Further information on the Clean Air Awards program is available at Breath California of the Central Coast, www.breathecentral.org, and California Environment Association, http://wp.cwea.org/?p=4417.

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The 2nd Annual Water Awareness Day Celebration at Del Monte Shopping Center on May 14 offered information and activities for all ages. MRWPCA's exhibit included general and rate information, as well as pollution prevention tips utilizing the Wheel of Water Recycling.

More News ... In Brief

For additional information on any of the stories in this issue of *Update*, visit www.mrwpca.org or call (831) 372-3367 or (831) 422-1001.

- MRWPCA Special Awards Presented at Monterey County Science Fair. The two annual awards support science development and projects that highlight water recycling and pollution prevention issues. The Junior Division recipients were Ms. Lauren Mendoza and Ms. Brenda Melano, Santa Catalina Lower School, for their project, "Irrigation: What Kind of Water Is Best to Irrigate Crops If Well Water Is No Longer Available?" The Senior Division winner was Ms. Casie Guido, York School, for "Toxic Waters," a study of the detrimental effects of urban runoff pollutants.
- 2011-2012 MRWPCA Budget Report Available Online. The report details agency revenues and expenditures and provides an overview of the various agency operating departments. (See the "Financial Information" section of the website.) Also Available: Current Commercial and Residential Rate Schedules, including City Charges, and Sewer Capacity Charge Determination forms.

Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency

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