

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



*Representation
of a rubber dam
diversion facility*

Salinas River Diversion Facility

Rubber Dam Construction Soon to Begin

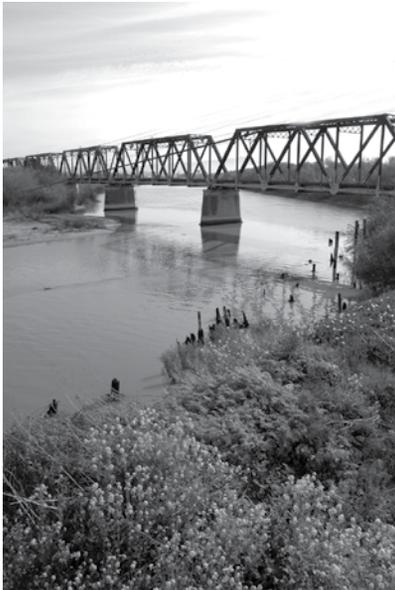
Construction is expected to begin on the Rubber Dam Diversion Facility in late April or early May with a completion date set for the end of summer 2009. The inflatable dam will create a reservoir over about 5.7 acres along the Salinas River near MRWPCA's wastewater treatment plant, two miles north of Marina. The dam will capture water from April 1 through October 31 each year and then be deflated so as not to interfere

with fish flows the remainder of the year.

"The design of the rubber dam is about 90 percent complete," states MRWPCA Engineer Bob Holden, "and currently contractors are being prequalified for the bidding process."

Once the work is completed, MRWPCA will operate the diversion facility. "We'll bring its water into the wastewater treatment plant to disinfect it, so it will be as safe as our recycled water," Bob says. "The river water will then be mixed with recycled water and held in our storage pond for distribution to the growers."

The rubber dam is part of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency's \$33 million Salinas Valley Water Project, which includes changes to the Lake Nacimiento Dam spillway. Following a groundbreaking ceremony in January, construction began on the spillway changes. Once the project has been completed, the water from controlled releases from the reservoirs at Lake Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio will be stored in the river behind the rubber dam.



Treating Wastewater

What We Do

The Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency is responsible for treating wastewater for Del Rey Oaks, Monterey, Pacific Grove, Salinas, Sand City, Seaside, Borda, Castroville, Moss Landing, Marina, the former Fort Ord, and unincorporated areas of northern Monterey County.

MRWPCA operates the 30 million gallon-per-day treatment plant and water recycling facility, located two miles north of Marina. It also maintains 25 pump stations, 35 pressure-vacuum stations and approximately 30 miles of pipeline that transports wastewater to the treatment plant. (City sewer systems are maintained independently by each city.)

After treatment, the recycled water is used to irrigate edible food crops in the northern Salinas Valley. Reducing the need to pump water from wells is part of a regional effort to slow seawater entering the underground aquifers.

MRWPCA serves approximately 250,000 people.



MRWPCA Operations crew make repairs and adjustments to the equipment at the water recycling facility before the 2008 recycled water season begins. During the growing season, the facility produces water that is used for crop irrigation in Northern Monterey County.



Source Control Supervisor Gary Weier inspects a commercial customer's wastewater discharges.

If in Doubt ... Call MRWPCA Source Control

Customers Can Help Turn Wastewater into Safe Water

Up to 30 million gallons of wastewater per day flow into the regional treatment plant. And it's up to the Source Control Division "to protect the plant and its operators by keeping hazardous materials out of the treatment process," states Source Control Supervisor Gary Weier. "We monitor and regulate our commercial and industrial businesses and reach our residential customers through education."

"Everyone can help turn wastewater into safe water," says Gary, who is celebrating his 20th year with the MRWPCA, "by doing what restaurants do — scrape grease, fats and oils from plates and pots before washing them. Then collect these wastes in a container and dispose of them in the garbage can."

"If you use a water softener, change to potassium chloride salt, use an on-demand system or consider switching to a portable exchange service. For hazardous materials, make that trip to the landfill on collection days to dispose of them."

Further information on proper disposal methods and on water softeners is available at www.mrwpc.org. "Or if in doubt about any substance or what to do with it, call MRWPCA at (831) 883-1118 or (831) 424-1108 and ask to speak with a Source Control representative."

An International Model

Visitors Gain Insights from Touring Recycled Water Facility

A full delegation from Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries made a special visit to tour the Water Recycling Facility and Treatment Plant earlier this year.

"The delegation wanted to study an advanced recycling project to determine how the technology and processes might be used in a similar national project being planned for their Shimajiri Irrigation Project in Okinawa," says MRWPCA Community Relations Representative Karen Harris.

Since recycled water was first used for crop irrigation in 1997, delegations from over 15 countries have visited the Recycled Water Facility to learn how they might incorporate the technology in their projects.



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www.mrwpc.org

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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