

MRWPCA UPDATE

MONTEREY REGIONAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY

www.mrwPCA.org

Since 1977

Dedicated to Meeting Northern Monterey County's Wastewater and Recycled Water Needs

Largest Biosolids Screw Presses in North America

Recycling Project Produces 'Cake'

A \$4.7 million biosolids dewatering facility, producing up to 20 tons of dewatered sludge per day, is in its final stages of construction at the regional treatment plant, located two miles north of Marina. The end product, known as "cake," can be composted and used for fertilizer or other beneficial land applications.

Mechanically simple, the system utilizes two screw presses, each running at about 0.07 revolutions per minute, that slowly squeeze the liquid from the sludge. The process takes about four hours from start to finish. Methane gas reclaimed from the sludge will provide the required energy to operate the system.

"This facility is drawing much

interest from other wastewater agencies across the country," says MRWPCA Lead Engineer Ed Oyama. The screw presses are the largest biosolids dewatering screw presses operating in North America, each approximately 50 inches in diameter and 30 feet long. "Not only will the facility allow us to operate the treatment plant more efficiently, the cake it produces can be recycled. And that's something we can all celebrate."



Q I recently read that your residential wastewater treatment rates are only \$10.75 per month. So, why am I being charged \$42.32?

—Edwin G., Monterey

A MRWPCA's fee for residential customers is \$10.75 per month and is billed every two months for \$21.50. Since 1991, monthly increases have totaled only \$1.75, and MRWPCA residential rates remain considerably lower than those of similar-sized wastewater treatment plants.

As a billing service for the City of Monterey, MRWPCA includes the city's sewer maintenance and stormwater fees on your bill. The City of Monterey's bimonthly fee is \$20.82, bringing your total bill to \$42.32.

The bimonthly city fee for customers living in Salinas is \$7.53; in Pacific Grove, \$43.00; and in Del Rey Oaks, Sand City and Seaside, \$12.36. Castroville, Marina and the former Fort Ord customers are billed for these services by their water districts.

Water Recycling

Another Successful Season Closes

The 2007 wastewater recycling season came to an end on October 31. Though no overall records were set this year, July's production did break a one-month record — 639 million gallons.

The total production in 2007 was 4.31 billion gallons of recycled water.

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 _____



Reducing Grease, Salt and Hazardous Materials

Three Simple Steps for a Cleaner Environment and a Healthier Home

What goes down the drain in your home affects not only our environment and the costs of wastewater treatment, but also can have a major impact on your family's health — and pocketbook, according to MRWPCA Environmental Services Manager Greg Antosz. "We rely heavily on customers to take responsibility for what goes down their home drains and into the wastewater system," he says.

Greg, who began working with MRWPCA 28 years ago, says, "There are three areas in which residents can make a significant, positive impact on the environment and on their own health immediately."

- 1.** Small amounts of cooking oils, fats and grease may be collected in a container, allowed to solidify and disposed of in the garbage. Large amounts, such as from turkey fryers, must be taken to your local household hazardous waste facility.
- 2.** If you have a home water softener system, consider switching to a demand-type system. Also, use potassium chloride rather than sodium chloride (salt damages plants and cannot be extracted from wastewater using the normal processes), or use a portable exchange service.
- 3.** Use environmentally friendly cleaning products and dispose of hazardous materials, such as household cleaners, paints, pesticides and motor oil, at the household hazardous waste collection center at your local landfill facility. Hazardous waste of any kind may not be put in your trash can or poured down your drain.

Further information on these points is available at www.mrwPCA.org. "We also welcome your telephone calls," Greg says. When you have questions, contact MRWPCA Source Control at 883-1118 or 424-1108.



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, Boronda, 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.)

Visit Us at www.mrwPCA.org

Learn About Grease Disposal, Salt Reduction, Public Meetings, Current Ordinances ...

... and much more. Visit the MRWPCA web site for current news and announcements, as well as educational materials, current and future project descriptions and recycled water quality information. You can even make your MRWPCA payments online.