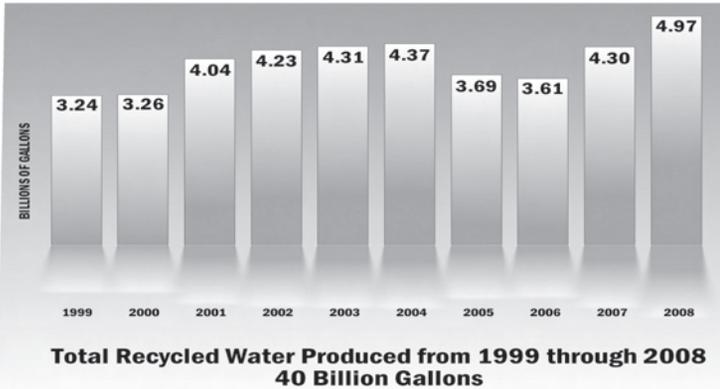


# MRWPCA UPDATE

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



## Records Fall

### Recycling Season Stretches to December

The 2008 water recycling season was the longest ever, beginning February 16 and ending December 15. The latest shut-down date in previous years was November 15 in 2006. Production for the year was 15,263 acre-feet – that’s approximately 5 billion gallons of water – nearly 1,000 acre-feet more than the

most productive previous season (2004).

According to MRWPCA Operations Manager James Dix, “We recycled all of our water for 26 of 31 days in August. In July, we recycled all water 27 of 31 days – and the other 4 days we were at 99 percent.”



Completing its 10th year of recycled water operation, MRWPCA’s recycled water facility has a proven record of producing safe, reliable water for Monterey County. The water is currently being used to irrigate edible food crops, but projects are being studied to expand the use of this valuable resource to fill other needs in the County.



*Become Part of the Solution*

### Help Protect the Monterey Bay

To protect our beautiful coastline and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary from sewer spills, we need to put a lid on grease and dispose of it in a garbage can rather than down the sink.

Did you know that cooking oil and grease cools and congeals on the inner walls of sewer lines and can clog them up? When Monterey County residents were polled during a recent survey, 82 percent said they knew that kitchen grease is the leading cause of sewer spills into the Bay. Here’s what you can do to help reduce the cause of spills:

- Pour cooking oil and grease into a resealable can or bag and place it into the garbage. (Garbage disposals don’t remove grease.)
- Put solidified grease, butter and food scraps from pans and plates into the garbage.
- Use sink strainers.
- Do not flush diapers, baby wipes and other large items down the toilet.

To learn more about how to avoid sewer backup problems visit [www.ClogBusters.org](http://www.ClogBusters.org).

## Pump Stations Keep the Water Flowing

When wastewater leaves your home, it travels through your community's sewer system to one of 28 pump stations maintained and operated by MRWPCA. The stations, located throughout the peninsula, from Pacific Grove to Moss Landing and east to Salinas, are connected by 32 miles of pipeline to the regional wastewater treatment plant north of



Marina. "In the field, two people are dedicated, full time, to ensuring that the stations are operating properly," states David Duncan, electrician and instrumentation technician who has been with the agency for nearly 30 years. "Over the years, we have also developed a computerized monitor-

ing system in the treatment plant's control room."

While not a substitute for "eyes on the ground," the sophisticated monitoring panels in the plant can detect the smallest changes in station flow rates, pump speeds, water levels and pressures, even generator temperatures. "Not only can we adjust numerous pump station operating variables from within the control room, but the equipment often allows us to foresee and correct potential problems," David says.

The larger pump stations also serve as mini-treatment facilities. "Wastewater undergoes chemical treatment for odor control," David explains. "But the primary need for the stations is to get the water 'up-hill' from their locations along or near the bay—close to sea level—to the treatment plant."

David's interest in water extends beyond his job. Along with his wife, who serves as First Mate, and three other crew members, he can often be found on Monterey or San Francisco bay, racing his Schumacher 28 custom sloop, which was built by his father-in-law. "We won a number of races this past year," he says proudly.



*Streams and creeks can carry pollutants into the Bay.*

### Winter Season Alert

## What You Can Do to Clean Up Urban Runoff

Everyone can help minimize the affects of storm water pollution and help protect wildlife and the Monterey Bay Sanctuary. Here's how:

- Recycle used motor oil at the landfill rather than pouring it down storm drains or into the soil.
- Take unused chemicals, such as paint and pesticides, to a hazardous waste collection site.
- Use organic gardening techniques whenever possible, choosing nontoxic alternatives to pesticides.
- Pick up animal wastes and dispose of them in a toilet or garbage can.
- Pick up trash, such as plastic, glass and paper waste, on streets or sidewalks and throw them in a garbage can.

### Turning Wastewater into Safe Water

## 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 28 pump stations, 35 pressure-vacuum stations and approximately 32 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.

*Visit Us on the Web*

**[www.mrwPCA.org](http://www.mrwPCA.org)**

For current news and announcements, educational materials, current and future project details and information about recycled water quality information, come to [www.mrwPCA.org](http://www.mrwPCA.org). You can even make your payments online.