

MRWPCA UPDATE

MONTEREY REGIONAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY

Dedicated to Meeting Wastewater and Recycled Water Needs

Since 1977

Finding Ways to Increase Capacities and Reduce Costs

Three-year Filtration Study Could Benefit Countries Around the World

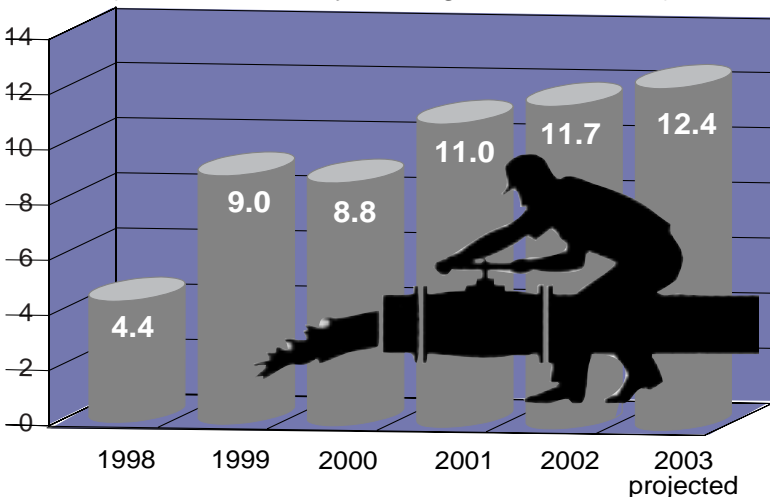
Work has begun on a three-year Tertiary Filtration Study at MRWPCA's Regional Treatment Plant located two miles north of Marina. If the study reveals that a significantly higher filter loading rate can be established as feasible and acceptable to the regulatory authorities, the statewide capacity for production of tertiary recycled water will be increased by 40 to 100 percent with minimal investment of resources.

Because many states and foreign countries model their operations after California's water recycling criteria, the results of the study will potentially have international impact.



"The findings of the research could immediately benefit our operations," explains MRWPCA Tertiary Plant Supervisor James Dix, "by increasing recycled water production at a minimal cost."

MRWPCA Recycled Wastewater Produced (Annualized Daily Average Flow in MGD)



Q Why can't our storm water be recycled?

—L.T. Aktins, Seaside

A Normal dry weather flow through the regional treatment plant is over 20 million gallons per day. In order to treat the seasonal storm water flow, the plant would need to be expanded many times its current capacity and build holding areas to contain large quantities of water before and after treatment.

MRWPCA's long-range plans, however, include proposals to recapture, treat and reuse this precious resource.

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's facilities include a 30 million-gallon-per-day treatment plant and water recycling facility located two miles north of Marina, as well as community pumping stations and transport piping to the treatment plant. (City sewer systems are maintained independently by each city.)

What Goes Down Your Drain?

Paints, pesticides, and many household-cleaning products have adverse effects on the wastewater treatment process. "If you are the least

bit unsure about the safety of a product," says Environmental Manager Greg Antosz, "it's best to call MRWPCA Source Control at 883-1118 or 424-1108.



"Ultimately, it is the responsibility of each of us to protect our environment by not pouring harmful products down household and storm drains. Motor oils, oil-based paints and especially cooking oil and grease are the cause of many plumbing and treatment plant problems.

Instead of pouring cooking grease down the drain, collect it in a resealable container that can be thrown away in the garbage."

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How You Can Protect the Environment

- Use non-toxic cleaners and household products.
- Dispose of hazardous wastes including used motor oil, antifreeze and solvents at your local household hazardous waste collection center.
- Use kitty litter to absorb outdoor spills of oil and cleaners.
- Use pesticides and fertilizer sparingly and only according to instructions.

Third Year in a Row

Recycled Water Production Sets New Record

When the Salinas Valley Reclamation Projects (SVRP) shut down last November, they had broken their previous record by providing 13,078 acre-feet (4.3 billion gallons) of recycled wastewater to growers in North County. (The previous record was 12,334 acre-feet in 2001.) The goal for 2003 is approximately 13,900 acre-feet (4.5 billion gallons). The equivalent of the daily water recycled would fill a football field 62 feet deep.



Legal Residential Requirement

Simple Device Could Prevent Household Disaster

A clogged or damaged sewer overflow prevention device can mean costly repairs in the event of a sewer main backup. These simple devices are easy to spot — or should be. Usually set in the front yard, the small apparatus consists of a pipe, a floating ball and a mushroom or pancake-shaped cover.

Sewer overflow devices prevent sewage from backing up from the lateral lines into residences. To make sure yours is working properly, check to see that it is not buried, corroded or damaged. Regular maintenance of the device is required by law. If you have questions about your overflow device, call your city's public works department.

Save Time and Postage with Our Automatic Payment Service

If you would like to take advantage of MRWPCA's automatic payment service:

- Sign and return the coupon below with your payment.
- 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

