

MRWPCA UPDATE

MONTEREY REGIONAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY

Since 1977

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



One Water Source That Keeps Expanding

Monterey County Water Recycling Production Reaches All Time High

At the close of the agricultural growing season this year, recycled water production at MRWPCA's treatment plant just north of Marina topped 4.4 billion gallons, which is higher than all previous years. Since beginning operations in the spring of 1998, the Monterey County Water Recycling Projects (Projects) have produced over 25 billion gallons of recycled water.

This year's 4.4 billion gallons production is the equivalent annual amount of water used by

approximately 45,000 households. Though not intended for home use, the recycled water is used to irrigate over 12,000 acres of prime coastal agricultural land, which is the area suffering most from seawater intrusion. Instead of drawing water from the already overstressed Salinas aquifer, agribusinesses in the northern Salinas Valley use recycled water to irrigate their crops.

Benefits Local Economy

Dale Huss, Vice President of

Artichoke Production for Ocean Mist Farms, states, "We've been using recycled water since 1998 without any adverse effects to our product or our soils. In fact, our yields of artichokes, lettuce, spinach, celery and fennel are as high or higher than ever before."

The Projects were preceded by 10 years of extensive research and testing conducted by MRWPCA. Today, they are the largest producer of recycled wastewater for irrigating edible food crops in the United States.

Reduces Seawater Intrusion

Reducing the need to pump water from wells is part of a regional effort to slow seawater entering underground aquifers. It was hoped that the Projects would slow the intrusion by up to 40 percent. Recent measurement of the 400-foot aquifer in the Salinas Valley has shown that the water level has actually increased for the first time in recorded history.

New Uses Planned

The recycled water is used only during the agricultural growing months of the year.

"This last May and June, 98 percent of the wastewater received at the treatment plant was recycled," states MRWPCA



General Manager Keith Israel. "If we had the

storage capacity, we could reclaim all of it. We're currently developing plans for urban use of the recycled water."

Save Time and Postage with 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). For information call 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 _____





It Just Makes Good Sense

Reducing Salt Helps the Environment

Lower salt content in wastewater flowing into the treatment plant improves recycled water quality for our local environment.

What You Can Do

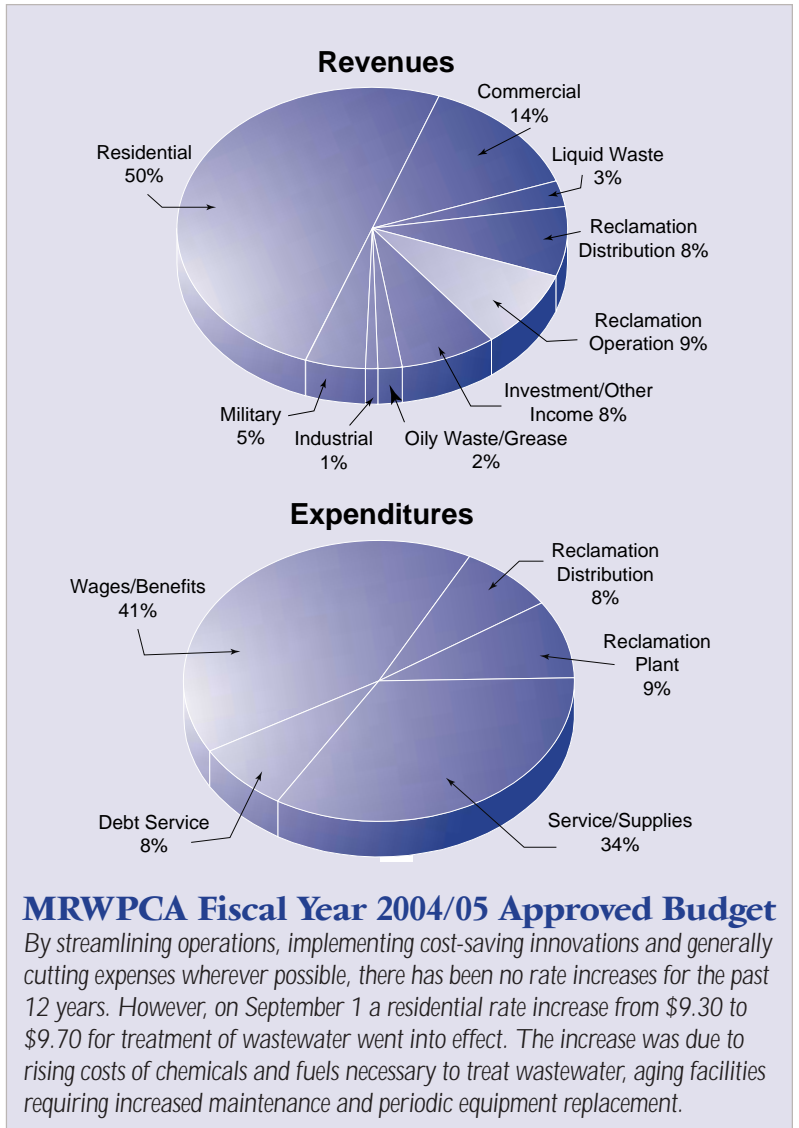
Customers who have water softeners can switch from sodium chloride, which has been commonly used, to potassium chloride. To learn which retail outlets near you sell potassium chloride visit our website at www.mrwpc.org or call Source Control at 883-1118 or 424-1108.

Exclusively for 5th Graders

School Program Begins This Spring

A new educational program for 5th graders in schools within MRWPCA's service area will feature interactive demonstrations, hands-on experiments and a tour of the facility all in one visit to the treatment plant. This new program aligns with California State Science Content Standards for 5th graders.

Grant funding for field trip transportation costs is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Simply go to www.mrwpc.org to obtain the application form. Reservations are required two weeks in advance. Tours can handle up to 60 students and are available Tuesday through Thursday. Adult chaperones are required. Call Karen Harris at 645-4604 or 424-1001, extension 604 for more information.



MRWPCA Fiscal Year 2004/05 Approved Budget

By streamlining operations, implementing cost-saving innovations and generally cutting expenses wherever possible, there has been no rate increases for the past 12 years. However, on September 1 a residential rate increase from \$9.30 to \$9.70 for treatment of wastewater went into effect. The increase was due to rising costs of chemicals and fuels necessary to treat wastewater, aging facilities requiring increased maintenance and periodic equipment replacement.

Community Outreach Programs

Customers Win Drawings at the Fair



For the past 12 years, MRWPCA has provided community education at many local events including the Monterey County Fair. At MRWPCA's booth this year, customers learned how they can help maintain a healthy local environment by keeping grease and salt out of their drains. Customers completing a quiz were eligible to enter dinner-for-two drawings. The two winners were Ms. Joy Lucido of Seaside and Ms. Marione Browning of Salinas.

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.)

Visit MRWPCA on the World Wide Web at www.mrwpc.org