

MRWPCA UPDATE

MONTEREY REGIONAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY

Dedicated to Meeting Wastewater and Recycled Water Needs

Since 1977



Students are fitted with emergency safety gear.

Job Shadowing Program

North Monterey County High Students Get On-the-Job Training

On December 11, MRWPCA hosted 23 students from North Monterey County High for a job shadowing event at the regional treatment plant two miles north of Marina. The program is designed to bridge the "reality gap" between academics and the workplace. Each student is assigned a mentor from one of the plant's departments including maintenance, source control, lab and engineering.



New Office of Homeland Security

Treatment Plant's Security Program Reviewed

One area of concern being examined by the recently established U.S. Office of Homeland Security is wastewater treatment plants. "The Regional Treatment Plant is in an excellent location for security," states MRWPCA Environmental and Safety Services Manager Greg Antosz. "We're relatively far from

any population centers. In addition, we engineered out most safety hazards when constructing the tertiary treatment facility."

For example, the chlorine building is equipped with a scrubber that makes any off-site release unlikely. In addition, the chlorine tanks are equipped with automatic shut-off mechanisms.

Q How do you determine how much to charge for wastewater collection and treatment?
—Ms. T, Marina

A MRWPCA has developed standard billing categories, such as residences, commercial offices, restaurants, doctors' offices, etc. Each category was based on testing and monitoring flows and wastewater strength to the plant. Flow metering and testing is costly, so this is only done on a continuous basis for "Special Users," such as large industries. A copy of the MRWPCA rate schedule for all categories is available from the Customer Service Department (372-2385 or 449-6366).

If you have a questions that you would like answered in **Update**, please direct them to: MRWPCA Customer Service, 5 Harris Court, Bldg. D, Monterey, CA 93940.

Prepayment Discounts Offered

To save you time and money, MRWPCA is pleased to provide advance payment discounts for customers. When you prepay your bill a year in advance, you receive a 5 percent discount.

Prepayment information is printed on each bill you receive. For more information on this program, or on our automatic payment program, call Customer Service at (831) 372-2385, 449-6366 or 722-9288.

Better Safe Than Toxic

How to Clean Almost Anything

There are safe products already available in most homes that can replace many toxic commercial cleaning agents. Here are a few:

- ⌘ Soap (or vinegar) and hot water are sufficient for most household cleaning needs.
- ⌘ 1/4-cup chlorine bleach is a great disinfectant for cutting boards, for shower stalls (to prevent athlete's foot fungus) and for often damp areas (to prevent mold growth).
- ⌘ Hydrogen peroxide (3 percent solution) is effective against viruses.



Changing Wastewater Into Safe Water

Recycled Water Production Breaks All-time Record



Chemical usage has been reduced.

www.mrwpc.org

Keep Informed With the Latest News

For more news from your wastewater collection and treatment agency, visit the MRWPCA web site: <http://www.mrwpc.org>. There you'll find the latest information on water

In November, the gate to the recycled water storage pond closed for the season. MRWPCA delivered over 12,300 acre-feet (over 4 billion gallons) of recycled water last calendar year to farmlands in the Castroville area breaking all previous records.

As volume increases, costs have decreased. Since the facility began producing irrigation water in 1998, operators have continually reduced chemical costs through various enhancements. For example, for the 1998 season, chemical costs were \$98.30 per million gallons of recycled water produced. In 2001, the costs were \$38.65 per million gallons. Those reductions also have resulted in lower labor and energy costs.

recycling, plant tours, employment openings and internships, school education programs — even the Board of Directors agendas and minutes.

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. MRWPCA's facilities include a 30 million-gallon-per-day treatment plant and water recycling facility located 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 Are the Recycling Projects?

The Monterey County Water Recycling Projects (MCWRP) are the result of a partnership between the Monterey County Water Resources Agency and the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency. There are two components: a water distribution system and a recycled water treatment facility. Operations started in the spring of 1998. Recycled water is being used for agricultural irrigation, however, an urban system is being planned.

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