

MRWPCA UPDATE

MONTEREY REGIONAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY

Since 1977

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



Learning the Ropes

High School Students Receive On-the-Job Training at Treatment Plant

Through the years, MRWPCA has frequently provided job shadowing training for local high school students. Recently, 19 employees mentored 27 students from North Monterey County High School at the regional wastewater treatment plant located two miles north of Marina. The program is designed to help bridge the "reality gap" between academics and the work world.

During the training, each student was assigned a career mentor from one of the plant's departments. After having their

resumes reviewed by their mentors, the students learned the fundamentals of the position they shadowed and asked questions regarding the skills and training required.

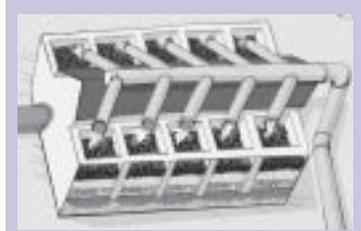
"Since the kids wanted to learn, they were enthusiastic and got a lot out of the training," reports mentor/Field Maintenance Operator Steve Rodewald.

"The students were great," says mentor/Engineer Jennifer Gonzalez. "They had their questions ready and had practiced looking people in the eyes when speaking."

Q Why is my sewage bill higher than my water bill?

A In the Monterey Peninsula and Salinas Valley areas, drinking water is supplied mostly from deep wells, which requires little, if any, treatment to meet drinking water standards.

In contrast, wastewater must undergo extensive treatment to meet wastewater discharge standards. Wastewater pollutants must be removed through a series of treatment processes, which are far more complicated and costly than well water treatment.



Did You Know?

Recycled water produced at MRWPCA's recycled water facility is "gulpable." That means it meets swimming pool standards.

To meet this standard, water is flocculated with chemicals to clump contaminants, then filtered through 26,000 cubic feet of sand, gravel and anthracite coal (this volume would fill 20 large dump trucks) and finally disinfected with chlorine.

ATTENTION WATER SOFTENER USERS

You can use up to 50% less salt and save time by simply readjusting the setting on your water softener.

Lower the salt level setting on your water softener down by one notch. If you don't notice a difference in the softness of your water in one week, turn it down another notch and continue each week until hardness is detected. Then, turn it up one notch and leave it there.



**Halt the Salt
to Protect Our Water**

Get all the information at
www.mrwpc.org or call
(831) 645-4604 or 422-1001 ext. 604.



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 Are the Recycling Projects?

The Monterey County Water Recycling Projects are the result of a partnership between the Monterey County Water Resources Agency and the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency. The recycled water produced is currently being used for agricultural irrigation. Urban reuse projects are planned for the future.

Guardians of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary and the Salinas River

With No Sewage Spills for 10 Years

"Our main job is to prevent sewage spills from entering the Monterey Bay and Salinas River," says Lead Field Maintenance Mechanic Bret Boatman, who oversees the maintenance and upgrading of MRWPCA's 28 pump stations from Pacific Grove to Moss Landing and Salinas. "And we've been able to do that successfully for the past ten years."

While city public works departments are independently responsible for piping wastewater within their cities to the pump stations, MRWPCA is responsible for maintaining the stations that pump the wastewater to the treatment plant north of Marina.

"Since all of our pump stations



are at least 25 years old, it's our job to continually upgrade them to keep pace with current technology," Bret reports. "It's also been important for us to have the support of management, which allows us to succeed."

"Our agency mechanics are a highly skilled group

who share the commitment of protecting our environment and providing excellent service to our customers."

For vacations, Bret and his wife enjoy camping with their two sons. He also coaches his younger son's baseball team and is the assistant coach for his older son's team. "I enjoy seeing the kids have a good time and try to instill the value of good sportsmanship in them."

Try www.mrwPCA.org

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information on facility tours, community educational offerings, connection charges and ordinance information, employment openings, the latest on the important grease and salt reduction programs or driving directions to the administration offices, chances are you can find it online. Visit today: www.mrwPCA.org

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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.

Payments Can Be Made Online

Now you can pay your MRWPCA bill online. Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express cards are accepted. (A small convenience fee is charged for the service.) For information, visit www.mrwPCA.org.

For more information about either of these programs, call Customer Service at (831) 372-2385 or from Salinas 449-6366 or 722-9288.