



## Next Up: Alternatives to the Regional Project

With the announcement that the Regional Desalination Project would not move forward, many readers wonder, "What are the alternatives?" Revisiting the Water Forum held in Monterey last October, the following projects were identified that in combination might satisfy the water needs of the Peninsula:

- Desalination – Either a different project in Marina, a smaller project on the Peninsula, Deepwater Desal or People's Desal in Moss Landing
- Groundwater Replenishment – Advanced treatment of wastewater and injection to the Seaside Groundwater Basin
- Aquifer Storage and Recovery – Expansion of the current project where winter flows are diverted from the Carmel River to the Seaside Basin for recovery in the summer
- Acquisition of Water Rights – Either surface water from the Salinas Basin or additional "Table 13" rights from the Carmel River
- Conservation – Additional aggressive conservation programs

## this issue

- Water Governance **P.1**
- Update on IRWMP **P.2**
- ASR Progress **P.2**
- Rainwater Harvesting **P.3**

## The General Manager Looks Back: Governance for Peninsula Water

In light of the recent initiative by the Peninsula Mayors to form a Joint Powers Authority to ensure timely development of water supply projects, to provide governance that represents city residents, and to undertake additional related or ancillary actions, I am reminded of our past history of frustration over progress and governance as it relates to water, and thought it might be worth taking a look back. The past has shown that more layers of governance are not always the best solution.

In 1973, the California Public Utilities Commission for the first time declared that the Peninsula water supply was insufficient to meet future Cal-Am service area demands, and under case 9530 directed Cal-Am to find a long term solution.

With a pending drought, in 1975 the Peninsula Mayors and the County joined to form a joint powers authority, the "Monterey Peninsula Water Management Agency," to administer water rationing and to examine water supply solutions. In 1976, the JPA itself recognized the shortcomings of its powers and suggested formation of a Peninsula-wide water district with greater powers and revenue raising capacity.

In 1977, state legislation was passed to form the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District and the mayors' JPA voluntarily dissolved. In his May 1978 testimony to the

CPUC, then Supervisor Sam Farr, who was also Chairman of the JPA said, *"it is evident that effective administration of the development and utilization of water resources in the Carmel Valley will become mandatory as the stage of full water development is approached. Presently we do not have the legal tools for that management."* And, *"There are different organizational approaches to basin management. If the voters approve the MPWMD Law ... we will have more legal means to manage the ground water basin and prevent unreasonable use of water supplies."*

That began the long history of MPWMD working towards augmenting water supply, preventing degradation to the Carmel River environment and groundwater basins, making the greatest use of current water production, managing water demand through permits and conservation, and promoting water reclamation. Successes were many on most fronts, but water supply was always lagging.

In 1989, the community called into question the District's progress and discussions were held on the fate of the District. Yet, in a five-hour public hearing sponsored by State Senator Henry Mello and Congressman Leon Panetta in May 1989, Senator Mello reinforced the District's mission saying, *"Nothing can compete, in my opinion, as well as the Water Management District."*

See **GOVERNANCE**, on page 4

## MPWMD leads regional agencies in update of water management plan

The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District has officially begun an update of the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan for the Monterey Peninsula, Carmel Bay and Southern Monterey Bay region. The District is the lead agency facilitating project components totaling \$1.6 million, of which nearly \$1 million will be reimbursed from Proposition 84 funds through the California Department of Water Resources.

Several local agencies, including the Cities of Monterey, Pacific Grove, Seaside and Del Rey Oaks, the County of Monterey, and the Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District will benefit from funds for projects to improve management of near shore water quality, groundwater quality in the Seaside Basin, and storm-water in the Canyon del Rey watershed; assess steelhead habitat in Carmel River tributaries and San Jose Creek; investigate flood protection at the Carmel River lagoon; and analyze the feasibility of protecting Scenic Road in Carmel from erosion. The work is expected to be completed by late 2013 and will position the region to apply for additional funds to implement construction of projects identified in the IRWM Plan update.



The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District has been very busy during 2011 with implementation of two Aquifer Storage and Recovery projects in the Seaside Groundwater Basin. Both projects are being developed and operated in a coordinated effort between MPWMD and the primary municipal water supplier on the Monterey Peninsula, California American Water.

ASR entails the diversion of “excess” Carmel River Basin water, as allowed by state and federal resource agencies, which is then treated to potable standards and transmitted via the Cal-Am distribution system to specially-constructed injection wells in the Seaside Basin. Available storage capacity in the Seaside Basin serves as an underground reservoir for the diverted water, which is then extracted for municipal uses during the summer and high-demand season. This conjunctive use of local water resources helps to improve the reliability of the community’s water supply while reducing the environmental impacts in the Carmel River and Seaside Basins. Water is diverted from the Carmel River Basin only when it is plentiful and is used to recharge the historically-

overpumped Seaside Basin in wet winter periods. When the injected water is recovered in dry periods, it reduces the amount that needs to be pumped from the Carmel River Basin when river flows are at their lowest levels of the year.

Currently, there are two ASR projects under development. “Water Project 1” is located on former Fort Ord land near the intersection of General Jim Moore Boulevard and Eucalyptus Road in Seaside. It is near completion and is designed to store a maximum of 2,426 acre-feet in a wet year, with an average annual supply yield of approximately 920 AF per year. This amount is equivalent to the annual use of approximately 3,700 peninsula residences. At this site, there are two ASR wells that operate together during the winter injection season. While some of the site ancillary facilities are still under construction, the project has been operating on a permanent basis since 2008, and storage of excess Carmel River Basin water has exceeded the estimated annual average project yield

## Saving on a rainy day

Aquifer storage and recovery projects continue to save winter water for summer use

during the last two years, totaling 1,111 AF and 1,117 AF in Water Years 2010 and 2011, respectively (a water year extends from October 1 to September 30 of the indicated year).

Nearby at the Seaside Middle School, a second ASR project, “Water Project 2,” is in an earlier stage of development. The first of two ASR wells at this site has been completed, with additional facilities planned for construction in the coming months. This site, when fully operational, is expected to store up to 2,900 AF in a wet year, with an average annual supply yield of 1,000 AF per year.

Water Project 1, in operation since 2008, yielded 1,111 AF of water in 2010 and 1,117 AF of water in 2011.

With planned completion of this project in 2013, it will effectively double the storage capacity in the basin.

In addition to these important water supply projects, the District is planning for further expansion of the ASR program in the Seaside Basin in order to take maximum advantage of this local water resource that has proven water supply and environmental benefits for the community and the environment.







## Learn to catch the rain this winter season

Rainwater harvesting is an easy way to reduce outdoor water use. A rainwater harvesting system can be as simple as a bucket or a barrel, or much more elaborate with tanks above or below ground. Whichever choice you make, collecting rain from your roof is smart.

The American Rainwater Catchment System Association will be at the Monterey Youth Center on Feb. 26 from noon to 4 p.m. to provide basic information on designing your own rainwater harvesting system. This presentation is FREE. Come learn the basics of rainwater catchment and have your questions answered by the professionals.

ARCSEA will also be presenting a Level 200 Rainwater Harvesting Accreditation Course at Seaside's Oldemeyer Center Feb. 24 and 25. This workshop is open to the public and any industry professional interested in pursuing a greater understanding of rainwater harvesting, and is required for those seeking ARCSEA Accredited Professional designation. This two-

day course provides an in-depth review of rainwater harvesting design and installation; outdoor and in-home rainwater use; sanitation for potable uses; rules, regulations, guidelines and restrictions; business management; project planning; site and installation safety; and system construction and maintenance. For information about the Level 200 course, visit the ARCSEA website at <http://www.arcsea.org>.

In addition to using rainwater, low water use plants and an efficient irrigation system will save you money. Reduce your water bill by replacing high water use plants with beautiful plants that use little water. Place mulch over the root zone to maximize soil moisture, and install and maintain a drip irrigation system that includes a rain sensor. Visit the Landscaping tab at [www.MontereyWaterInfo.org](http://www.MontereyWaterInfo.org) for a link to Water-Wise Gardening in Monterey County where you can find photographs and plant lists appropriate for our area.

## SLOW THE FLOW Your Quarterly Conservation Tip

A rain sensor is an irrigation shutoff device that prevents an automatic irrigation or sprinkler system from turning on during and after a rain storm. Rain shut-off sensors are available in several designs, and are usually wired to an irrigation system controller. These devices override a scheduled irrigation when a water collection cup or sensor on the shutoff device detects water. When the collected rainwater has evaporated from the device, scheduled irrigations resume.

Rain shut-off sensors work best for short off periods. For extended periods, it is more accurate to have the sprinkler timer in the "off" position.

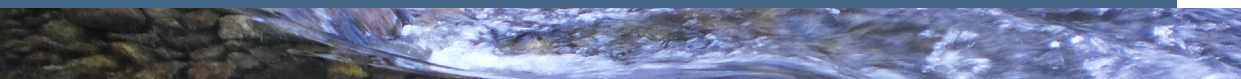
Rain shut-off sensors are simple, economical and useful tools for preventing irrigation that would be wasteful and costly. Inquire at the District about obtaining a free rain sensor.

## DID YOU KNOW? Facts & Info from the MPWMD

- An acre-foot of water is equal to 325,851 gallons of water, or enough to supply about four Monterey Peninsula homes with water for a year.
- District staff has rescued more than 366,000 Steelhead from the drying Carmel River since 1989.
- There are more than 1,000 registered wells within MPWMD boundaries.

## From the Archives ...

**September 2007:** A bridge crosses a dry Carmel River near DeDampierre Park below Carmel Valley Village. The 2007 Water Year brought only 11.81 inches of rain, as measured at San Clemente Dam. While 2007 may have been a critically dry year, 2010 and 2011 were wet years, allowing the Carmel River to flow continuously to the lagoon in 2011 for the first time since 1998.





# GOVERNANCE

*continued from page 1*

*This District has its own set of laws for itself and has the flexibility of managing groundwater ... it can manage water resources; it can levy standby charges; and it can do multiple functions to bail the managed water resources in this area... many other districts in the state copy the language in this Act here to form their own district because it is very workable."*

Board which was to include representatives from the Supervisors, the cities, Fort Ord Reuse Authority, MPWMD, Marina Coast Water District, Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency, Castroville Water District, and Pajaro Sunny Mesa and staffed by a joint management team from the city managers, MRWPCA, MPWMD, and MCWD.

Despite the Districts' success in expanding the capacity of the Peralta Well and financing the joint reclamation project in the early 1990s, large-scale projects for desalination and a new dam were defeated by voters. Federal direction in the late-1990s to seek water supply alternatives away from the river created more confusion and frustration.

It was hoped the regional board would transition to a full-fledged JPA. However, in the end, it was determined that such a governance structure would be cumbersome and not nimble enough to address the water supply issues, and the concept was abandoned. Shortly thereafter, the Regional Desal Project took center stage and the frustration took a short timeout.

At the same time as MPWMD began planning its aquifer storage and recovery project in the early 2000s, it also began participating in regional discussions with the cities, County, and other agencies to develop a regional governance structure. What was known as the "Managers Meetings" in late 2003 and 2004 sought to "Develop governance alternatives for management of an urban water supply project working with all land use organizations and within existing general plan parameters." That process birthed in 2005 the proposed Regional Urban Water Supply

With the announcement that Cal-Am has withdrawn from the Regional Project, a project in which the Peninsula had no representation, there is a fresh opportunity to work jointly on new alternatives where the Peninsula is an active participant. The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District has the tools and the leadership to partner with Cal-Am, other agencies, and the cities on new water supply. The District looks forward to coordinating with the new JPA to secure a reliable water supply for the Peninsula.

## CONTACT US

Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday thru Friday.  
5 Harris Court, Building G  
Monterey, CA 93940  
Phone: 831-658-5600  
Fax: 831-644-9560  
outreach@mpwmd.net  
www.mpwmd.net  
www.facebook.com/MPWMD

## MPWMD Board of Directors

*Chair*  
David Potter  
*Vice Chair*  
David Pendergrass  
*Division 1*  
Brenda Lewis  
*Division 2*  
Judi Lehman  
*Division 3*  
Kristi Markey  
*Division 4*  
Jeanne Byrne  
*Division 5*  
Robert S. Brower, Sr.

*General Manager*  
David Stoldt  
*Community Relations Liaison*  
Rachel Martinez

## Upcoming Events

- **Feb 23: Board Meeting**  
Regular Board Meeting  
7 p.m.  
MPWMD Conference Room  
5 Harris Court, Bldg G,  
Monterey
- **Feb 26: Rainwater Harvesting Public Workshop**  
FREE public workshop  
12 p.m. - 4 p.m.  
Monterey Youth Center  
777 Pearl St, Monterey
- **Feb 24-25: ARCSA Level 200 Rainwater Harvesting Course**  
Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Oldemeyer Center  
986 Hilby Ave, Seaside
- **March 19: Board Meeting**  
Regular Board Meeting  
7 p.m.  
MPWMD Conference Room  
5 Harris Court, Bldg G,  
Monterey

Follow us on Facebook for the latest events and updates -- [www.facebook.com/MPWMD](http://www.facebook.com/MPWMD)

## Speak Up

Want to know more about water issues? MPWMD has qualified staff available to speak at your next community event or group meeting. Common topic requests include conservation measures, water supply issues, and environmental factors on the Carmel River. To request a speaker, call (831) 658-5653

