

MRWPCA UPDATE

MONTEREY REGIONAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY

Since 1977

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



General Manager Keith Israel fields reporters' questions during the

CNN Came But Left Without a Story

Recycled Water Proves to Be One of the Safest Water Sources for Crop Irrigation

During the recent spinach recall, CNN sent an investigative team to MRWPCA's treatment plant to see if they could find a link between the spinach contamination and the recycled water used to irrigate edible food crops in Monterey County. But after spending a few hours touring the facility and reviewing its operational procedures, the reporters left without a story.

Not one federal or state investigator made a visit to our plant during the crisis, reported MRWPCA General Manager Keith Israel. I'm sure they are aware of the extensive data and studies done over the years confirming the safety of our recycled water and showing that it has continued to exceed all of the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) requirements all of the time since the facility began operation in 1998. With the world's strictest criteria for irrigation water used for edible

crops, CDHS requires seven total coliform tests per week. MRWPCA samples 31 times per week and tests each sample for both total and fecal coliform. If the water-quality standard isn't met, the facility is equipped with a system that automatically reprocesses the water until it is met.

During the facility's nine years of operation, E. coli has never been detected and there has never been an adverse occurrence caused by the water produced. Using objective analysis, the water is far safer than most other water sources and has been approved for recreational reservoirs; it's gulpable.

The national WaterReuse Association states, "There has never been a verified illness caused by recycled water in California. In fact, recycled water has been used for at least 35 years without incident to irrigate

Thanks to You, It's Working

Sewer Grease Is on the Decrease

Since the don't pour your cooking fats, oil and grease down the drain program began several years ago, we have seen a noticeable decrease in the amount of grease coming into our wastewater pump stations, reports Lead Field Maintenance Mechanic Bret Boatman.

Cooking oil and grease, which cool and congeal on the inner walls of sewer lines, have been the leading cause of almost every recorded sewer spill into the Monterey Bay.

To safeguard the Bay against sewer spills:

Pour all cooking oil and grease into a resealable can or bag and place them into the garbage. (Garbage disposals don't remove grease.)

Scrape grease, butter and food scraps from pans and plates into the garbage.

Use sink strainers.

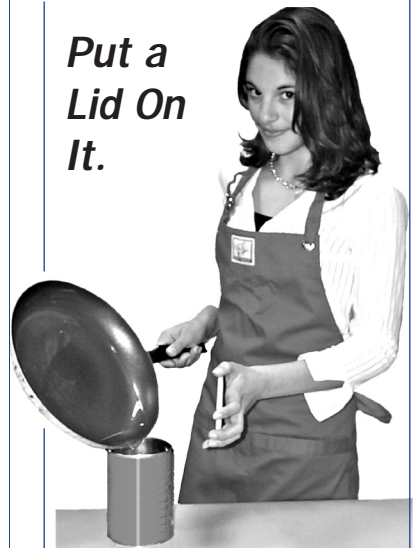
Take turkey fryer oil to your local landfill collection facility (residential only).

Tell your family and friends.

For more information about cooking grease and oil disposal, contact Community Relations Specialist Karen Harris at (831) 645-4604 or 422-1001.

GREASE

**Put a
Lid On
It.**



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