

MRWPCA UPDATE

MONTEREY REGIONAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY

Dedicated to Meeting Wastewater and Recycled Water Needs

Since 1977



Water Recycling Update

Storage Pond Holds Its Own

With the late rains, the 80-acre-foot storage pond for recycled water is at high risk of algae accumulation. This situation often requires that its water be drained back through the primary treatment facility at a significant expense.

According to MRWPCA Engineer Bob Holden, "During the recent unseasonably late rains, the pond level has been meticulously monitored and regulated. Consequently, we haven't needed to drain it."

Curbing Seawater Intrusion

Aquifer Is Reported on the Rise

The recycled water projects were designed to slow seawater intrusion by up to 40 percent in the northern Salinas Valley. Measuring the 400-foot aquifer in the Salinas Valley last summer showed that the water level had increased for the first time in recorded history.

The recycled water distribution system serves 12,000 acres of prime, coastal agricultural land—the area suffering most from seawater intrusion.

Internet Educational Program

National Association Features MRWPCA

The American Public Works Association (APWA) recently selected MRWPCA as one of the nation's outstanding water recycling projects and featured it on its educational internet program.

The program was reported to be viewed by a large audience from across the nation.

Q Are we subsidizing agricultural growers in northern Monterey

County by giving them our recycled water?

— J. Didone, Pacific Grove

A No, growers using recycled water and landowners who directly benefit from the project have borne 100 percent of the cost to build and operate the water recycling facility. There is no part of MRWPCA's wastewater bill that goes toward the costs of recycling water.

Did You Know?

More water is produced at MRWPCA's Regional Water Recycling Facility in nine months than Cal-Am pumps all year from the Carmel Valley Aquifer. (Over 13,000 acre feet of recycled water was produced in 2002).

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.



Translation Service

MIIS Students Lend Their Expertise

MIIS student interns have recently taken on the assignment of translating MRWPCA's outreach video into Russian, Chinese and Japanese. The educational video is used for tours, community events and classroom presentations. Pictured above (left to right) are Polina Mashnik, Judy Tsai and Junko Igarashi.

Correction Notice

Sewage Backflow Devices Could Prevent a Disaster

In the previous issue of *Update*, the device that helps prevent sewage backup was misnamed; it should have been sewage "release" (rather than "prevention") valve. A backflow prevention valve is a one-way valve that allows sewage to flow from your house to the city sewer, but will not allow flow from the sewer to backup into your house.

If you have any questions about this, please contact your city's public works department.

Visit
MRWPCA
on the World
Wide Web at
mrwpc.org

Treatment Plant Tours

Funds Available to Schools

The Water Awareness Committee has made available funds to reimburse schools for transportation costs for field trips to the Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant and Water Recycling Facility. To take advantage of this program, which typically saves up to \$200, call MRWPCA Community Relations Coordinator Karen Harris at 645-4604.



Dear Mr. Oyama
Thanks for showing everything
of the laboratory. And for doing a
experiment I learned that you can
recycle the water. Bianca Lopez

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.)

Job Shadowing Program

Students Receive On-the-Job Training

On April 9, MRWPCA hosted 13 students from Seaside High's ROP Computer Office Technology Class for a job shadowing event at the RTP. Each student was assigned to a career mentor.

The four-hour event provided opportunities for the students to observe their career mentors at work and to interview them about their jobs. Job preparation and career exploration are an integral part of the high school program.

