



MWSD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Term: 2006 - 2010

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Term: 2006 - 2008

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Term: 2004 - 2007

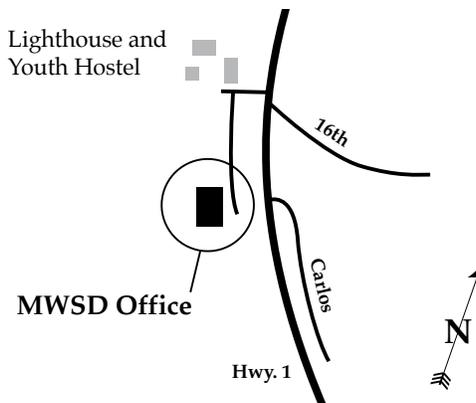
Paul Perkovic, Treasurer
Term: 2006 - 2010

Scott Boyd, Director
Term: 2003 - 2007

MONTARA WATER AND SANITARY DISTRICT

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P.O. Box 370131
Montara, CA 94037

Board meetings are held the first and third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the District Office at 8888 Cabrillo Highway, Montara, CA



Montara Water & Sanitary District
P.O. Box 370131, Montara, CA 94037

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

PENNY LITTLE

Peggy Little came to the District at the end of 2003. She was hired as a temporary replacement for a staff member on leave. When that person chose not to return, Penny happily took her place.



As District Clerk, Penny is responsible for many of the administrative issues pertaining to the operation of the sewer system. In one of her roles, she provides customer service; call and ask a question about your sewer service, and Penny will be giving you the answer. She also handles accounts payable, and assorted human resources needs, and finds these two areas of responsibility her favorites among several others.

Thanks Penny!

The Lens

Issue Number 15 Fall 2007

Montara Water and Sanitary District

WELL SITES AT THE HALF MOON BAY AIRPORT

On May 17, 2007, the District filed an eminent domain action against the County of San Mateo to acquire a fee interest in the property on which the District's "Airport Wells" are located. Subsequently, the case was removed to the Federal District Court, Northern District of California, in San Jose. The District's motion to remand the case to the Santa Clara County Superior Court and San Mateo County's cross motion to cause the United States (i.e., the Federal Aviation Administration) to be a party to the case were argued on September 7, 2007. Once decision has been made by the Court on the jurisdictional issue, the District will seek an Order of Immediate Possession of the property from whichever court has jurisdiction. An Order of Immediate Possession is considered tantamount to ownership of the property. The District's time frame for possession corresponds to DHS's loan requirements.

It is unfortunate that this action was necessary but after over three years of unsuccessfully attempting to both reduce the excessive extraction fees and obtain a long-term lease or fee title from the County, the District had no alternative. The State Department of Health Service requires the District have ownership or a long-term lease as a condition of obtaining the low interest loans and/or grants to fund District water system improvements including water storage tanks and a centralized water treatment system at the airport.

PROGRESS WITH NEW WELL

The District has completed the installation of a new well near the Alta Vista water storage tank in Montara. This involved the installation of over 1,000 feet of pipe extending from the new well to the storage tank, and installing a new pump and motor with concrete pads for small modular structures to house the chlorination system and electronic controls.

This well will undergo testing to determine its safe and reliable yield as well as the impact on the riparian areas in the valleys below. The California Coastal Commission has not yet approved the well for production, but is requiring that the District document what impact, if any, pumping the well has on the riparian vegetation below.



Inside

- Sewer Renovation
- Airport Well Repair
- Photos Needed
- Water Conservation

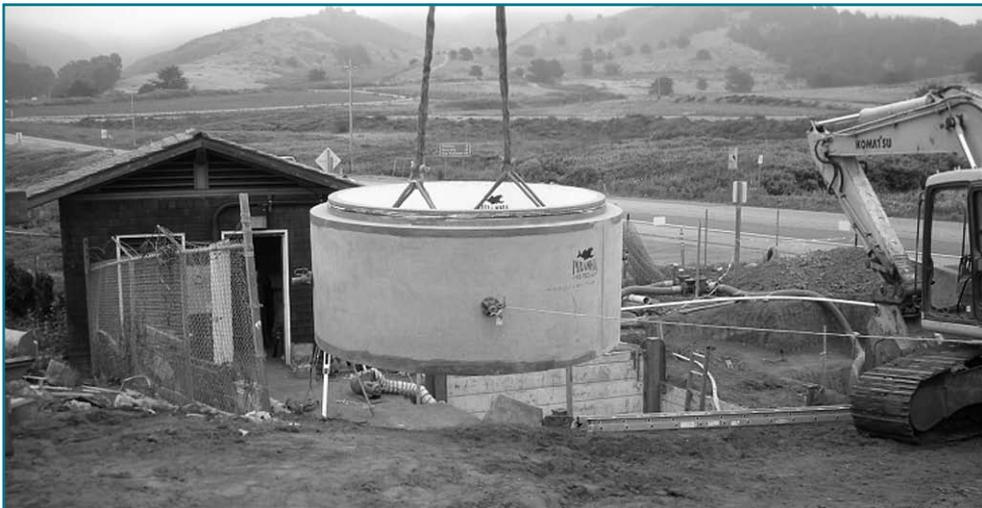
- Septic System Permits
- Outlook for Dry Spells
- Water Efficiency
- Conservation Podcasts
- Recycling Day
- Sewage Rates

- Employee Spotlight
- Contact Information

MAJOR SEWER PUMP STATION RENOVATION

The Kanoff Sewer Pump Station located on Highway 1 and Kanoff Avenue in Montara pumps most of the sewage from Montara. This project involves the removal of the existing below grade steel pump station structure and installation of a new concrete pump pit with two 30-horsepower submersible pumps. A third 30 horsepower submersible pump will be installed in the existing concrete wet well ahead of the pump station. A valve pit will be constructed to house the plug valves and check valves as necessary to tie into the double force mains which pump south along Highway 1 to the Montara pump station. The emergency generator will be replaced with a new 120 kilowatt engine generator within the existing building. New electrical equipment will be installed.

The Kanoff Pump Station must be rehabilitated and upgraded to remain operable and avoid raw sewage overflows. Its proximity to corrosive ocean air and nearby public beaches heightens the sensitivity to sewage overflows and makes its rehabilitation a high priority for the District. The Kanoff Pump Station is adjacent to Montara State Beach.



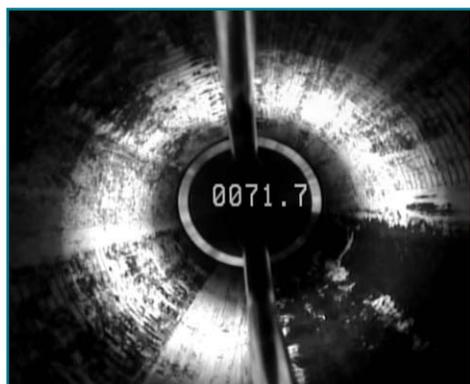
This picture shows a nearly 20 foot deep hole which required significant shoring to keep the ground from caving in. The former pump station structure was removed and the excavation was prepared for the new precast cylindrical pump station to be craned into place. The shoring has now been removed and the excavation backfilled around the new pump station. Remaining work includes topping off the pump station with a concrete deck and installing the pumps and piping and the new electrical controls.

SOUTH AIRPORT WELL RENOVATED

At the beginning of summer the District completed renovating the South Airport Well since the production of the well had fallen off.

The well was chemically treated to remove sand and other particles that restrict the inflow of water into the well casing over time. The following pictures were taken showing the well casing before and after the cleaning. The renovation increased production by 47%.

Before cleaning



After cleaning



BIOLOGIST EVALUATING IMPACT OF NEW WELL

The District has retained a biologist to evaluate the impact of the new well on the riparian areas. This is part of the evaluation process that the Coastal Commission is requiring of the District before it considers approving the District's application for a well production permit. The biologist has completed documenting the condition of the riparian areas prior to pumping the well. Once pumping begins she will evaluate the impact of the well on the plant and animal life and make a report to the Coastal Commission.



PLASTIC BAGS CAN BE DISPOSED OF IN STORES

Under the law, California requires supermarkets, pharmacies and other stores using plastic bags to make the recycling bins available if the stores have more than 10,000 square feet of retail space and \$2 million or more in annual sales. The state is encouraging consumers to use reusable products, such as canvas bags, for trips to the grocery store.

HISTORICAL PHOTOS NEEDED

The District will begin planning its 50th Anniversary which is in 2008. Please donate any historical photos or maps of the District that might be interesting to the community that is served by the District.

WATER CONSERVATION

We continue to offer rebates for low-flow toilets (\$50 per toilet) and high-efficiency washing machines (\$150 per machine).

Please go on-line www.mwsd.montara.org or call the office (728-3545) for a single-page application. The rebate program will expire in April 2008.

SEPTIC SYSTEM PERMITS REQUIRED

The District requires property owners building a septic system to obtain a Private Sewer Permit from the District. The County Health Officer retains the primary responsibility to approve a septic system and insure it complies with State law. However, the District assumes more of a complementary role to insure there is no adverse environmental impact. Please request a permit application by calling the District office (728-3545) or email to: msd@coastside.net

WATER EFFICIENCY FACTOID

Replacing a pre-1994 toilet with a new high-efficiency model can reduce water used for toilets by at least 60 percent and save about 14 percent of total indoor water use. Savings for a typical household would be more than 10,000 gallons per year--enough to fill a backyard swimming pool! A recent study found that of all the plumbing fixtures in the home, toilets without water-saving features use the most water daily (20.1 gallons per person, on average).

FREE SPECIAL ITEM RECYCLING DROP-OFF DAY

Saturday, November 10, 2007
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Farallone View School
250 Le Conte in Montara, CA

Montara and Moss Beach residents may drop-off appliances, furniture, mattresses, box springs, car parts, fluorescent bulbs, metal, tires, and electronic waste including computer and stereo components, batteries, cell phones, printers and cartridges, small copy machines, TVs and other electronic devices. One drop off per customer or truck. Only one large appliance per household.

NOT ACCEPTED: motor oil, paint and hazardous waste, painted wood, dirt, rocks, sheetrock, flower pots, carpet and padding, concrete, bricks and garbage.



FUTURE LONGER DRY SPELLS POSSIBLE

The Ventura County Star newspaper reports that to reconstruct prehistoric rainfall patterns, scientists gathered core samples from living trees and cross-sections from stumps and fallen logs to develop a climate chronology based on tree-ring width. Using those annual growth patterns to gauge seasonal precipitation, the researchers then calculated Colorado River flows dating back as far as 762 A.D. They compared those to flows recorded between 1906 and 2004.

The natural variability of precipitation patterns in the West over the past thousand years encompasses several megadroughts unlike any in living memory, and more successive years of sparse rainfall and runoff than the designers of dams, reservoirs and aqueducts ever imagined. Right around the time of the multi-decade Colorado Basin drought detected by the tree-ring researchers, an early experiment in urban living and irrigated farming came to an abrupt end in the region. The silent remnants of those cities, and the sand-buried outlines of their long-fallow fields, can still be seen in the region's canyons and washes.

WATER CONSERVATION AND YARD CARE PODCASTS

The American Public Gardens Association (APGA) has released a series of video and audio podcasts featuring award-winning landscape designer Michael Glassman. Each weekly podcast is 2 minutes in length and offers simple and easy-to-execute tips to help homeowners use water intelligently and keep their landscape areas healthy and beautiful all summer long.

Available and free to download on iTunes, the weekly podcast series addresses a wide range of lawn and garden water conservation topics such as determining soil type, setting a sprinkler timer, caring for outdoor potted plants, drip irrigation, irrigation zones, spot watering, fixing a broken nozzle, removing lawn thatch, proper lawn fertilization, eliminating brown spots in the lawn, proper mowing techniques, detecting lawn pests, choosing heat and drought resistant plants and grasses, Xeriscaping tips, applying mulch, as well as tips on making sure the lawn and garden is properly watered while on vacation and much more. Available at: <http://www.rainbird.com/iuow/resources/glassmanPodcast.htm>

HOW SEWER SERVICE CHARGE RATES ARE CALCULATED

The District uses the wet weather months, November through February, to calculate the water use for purposes of preparing the Sewer Service Charge. The water used during those months are then multiplied by the rate that is adopted by the Board every year. This means that the more water a person uses during those months, the higher their Sewer Service Charge.

The reason these four months are used is because the majority of that water will be put into the drain and treated by the sewer plant in Half Moon Bay. There is generally less water used for outside purposes such as landscape irrigation during those rainy months. The wet weather period upon which you are billed is from the water used in the prior year. This means that the water used from November 2005 through February 2006 will be used to calculate the Sewer Service Charges for the FY2006-2007 tax bill.

SOLAR CELLS INSTALLED ON MAINTENANCE FACILITY

As part of the District's energy improvement project with Chevron Energy Systems we recently installed solar panels on the District's maintenance facility. This will increase reliability during power shortages and emergencies.

