



WATER WAYS

INSIDE >>>

Letter from the
General Manager

Tracking Contaminants
Update 3

Donovan Drive Main
Line Project

Watch for the
Fluoride Survey

General Election
November 2, 2004

Conservation Reminder

Don't forget to adjust your sprinklers for the fall/winter seasons. For helpful conservation/water efficiency tips visit the District's website.

Water Meters

Gov. Schwarzenegger signed a bill at the end of September that includes water meter legislation which requires meter installation and metered billing. With forethought and planning the Carmichael Water District implementation plan is well under way.

In March 1997, CWD conducted a water rate structure study to assist the District in revising its flat rates and to address how metered water rates could be instituted in conjunction with a meter implementation program. The water rate structure committee (WRSC) included a mix of participants generally reflective of the District's customer base (i.e.: residential, commercial, schools, parks, Board). The findings regarding implementation of a metering program were unanimous support of water metering for all District customers; equitable charges for water service; and voluntary residential metering.

As recommended by the WRSC and outlined in the District's Master Plan, the District has taken a systematic approach to District wide metering through phases. Phase 1 consisted of

completion of meter installation and transition to metered billing for commercial, schools, parks and apartments and implementation of the voluntary residential metering program. Phase 2 includes the completion of meter installation and transition to metered billing for condominiums, duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes, mobile homes and all new construction. The Phase 3 recommendation consists of residential metering and billing of all parcels larger than 0.5 acres, all connections larger than 1 inch, extra single family homes and irrigation connections. Completion of Phase 3 will eliminate all flat rates with the exception of single family 1 inch connections on less than 0.5 acres. The remaining residential connections would then have meters installed systematically through the District as Phase 4. ■

The water rate structure committee (WRSC) included a mix of participants generally reflective of the District's customer base.



Letter from the General Manager

During the past quarter the District main line crew has completed the water main replacement project on Marshall Avenue and has nearly completed the Donovan Dr. water main replacement project. Combined these projects have replaced nearly 1 mile of old water line.

The meter installation crews have completed phase two of the meter installation program with the exception of condominiums and will be installing meters on those during this year.

The District has begun the replacement process of the District's billing and financial software programs. By the end of this fiscal year the District will be able to provide more information to District customers on individual water usage patterns and offer additional payment options.

Over the next few months the District will be discussing Aerojet remediation efforts and adopting an action plan to prevent potential groundwater contamination from entering our drinking water supply.

In closing, please attend a CWD Board Meeting. Your participation is needed and appreciated.

Steve Nugent
General Manager, CWD

Tracking Contaminants – Update #3

This is the third update on the potential ground water contamination. Since the beginning of this year Aerojet has installed five multi-layer monitoring wells within the CWD service area and are locating a sixth well in the Ancil Hoffman Park Area. The monitoring wells allow Aerojet to collect samples from different elevations to help determine the extent of the groundwater contamination. During the last round of sampling perchlorate was detected at 4 parts per billion in the monitoring well that is located on Grant Avenue near Hollister.



A typical monitoring well

Recently Aerojet completed its initial investigation of the Carmichael Area. Aerojet's investigation suggests that the extent of NDMA and perchlorate detected is relatively limited. Both constituents were reported in one monitoring well located on Grant Avenue near Hollister. The other Aerojet monitoring wells as well as Carmichael Water District's wells have had no detections of either NDMA or Perchlorate.

In February 2005, Aerojet will be submitting a plan to USEPA and the Regional Water Quality Control Board for remediation of the groundwater supplies within the Carmichael Area. The Aerojet remediation plan will include groundwater well extraction and treatment facilities as well as pipelines and a disposal method.

Since the notification of potential groundwater contamination CWD has been working on two fronts. The first front was to identify actions

CWD has been working on the Groundwater Contamination Committee through the Sacramento Groundwater Authority in association with the Water Forum.

CWD will need to take to prevent district customers from consuming drinking water contaminated with NDMA and/or Perchlorate. The second front is to raise the level of concern with local, state and federal officials on the growing regional groundwater contamination issue and what effects it would have on future drinking water supplies.

In June CWD staff presented a bid to the Board of Directors recommending expansion of the Bajamont Way Surface Water Treatment Plant. This would reduce the use of groundwater in the CWD by 20% and potentially slow the progress of the NDMA and Perchlorate plume under the CWD service area. In addition, staff recommended purchasing additional land next to the District's 3 million gallon reservoir on La Vista Drive in order to have enough space to provide groundwater treatment for NDMA at that facility. The Board approved the property purchase and requested that staff look at additional alternatives in protecting CWD customers.

In September staff presented an NDMA Risk Assessment that reviewed 10 alternatives to meet the needs of the District. The risk assessment

continued on page 3

Donovan Drive Main Line Project

As part of the Carmichael Water District's Planned System Maintenance Program (PSMP) the District is replacing the existing 6 inch steel water main on Donovan Drive with new 8 inch Ductile Iron Pipe (DIP). Replacing the old 6 inch steel water main will combat a number of issues related to aging facilities: reduce the number of water main and water service lateral leaks; increase fire flow demand to the surrounding homes; eliminate the dead end water main at Eric Road; improve water quality; and increase pressure.

The DIP being installed as the current District standard should provide a reliable 100 years of service and is part of the District's Master Plan strategy. The District is also replacing the water service laterals from the water main to the point of connection at the customer's property and installing new fire hydrants which should see a reliable service life of 20 years or more.

District forces are in the final stages of the main line installation from Walnut Ave. to Knapp Way. After the water main testing is complete, crews will tie in the new water main to existing mains located on Marie Way, Knapp Way and Eric Road. The project is expected to be complete by mid November. ■



Trench backfill



8" DIP main installation

<<< Tracking Contaminants *continued from page 2*

identified two alternatives that provided the most protection and the least risk. The first alternative is to expand the Water Treatment Plant at Bajamont. The second alternative is to expand the Water Treatment Plant at Bajamont and work with Aerojet and Sacramento County to site a groundwater extraction and treatment facility near Ancil Hoffman Park which would use the treated groundwater as an irrigation source for the golf course and for use at the duck pond restoration project.

The second alternative would accomplish several objectives: provide protection to CWD customers; reduce the District's demand; provide Aerojet a way to use the treated groundwater rather than discharging it into the American River via the storm drain; and reduce the County

of Sacramento water bill. During the next few months staff will bring the preferred alternative to the Board for approval.

CWD has been working on the Groundwater Contamination Committee through the Sacramento Groundwater Authority in association with the Water Forum. The committee goal is to:

1. Raise the level of awareness of the regulatory agencies to our concerns.
2. Insist that the responsible parties fully delineate and contain all contaminant plumes.
3. Ensure that the responsible parties expeditiously proceed with cleanup efforts.

4. Have the responsible parties develop a plan for alternative water supplies in advance of contamination being detected in public water supply wells.

To date the committee has met with USEPA, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Department of Toxics, and the staff from Deborah Ortiz's Office. The committee is in the process of setting up additional meetings with State and Federal Officials. ■

Did you know...

CWD has a voluntary meter program? Check it out @ www.carmichaelwd.org or call the office for more info.

7837 Fair Oaks Boulevard
Carmichael, CA 95608
(916) 483-2452
www.carmichaelwd.org

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 2310
Sacramento, CA

Board of Directors

Dodie Backus, President
Sanford Kozlen, Vice-President
Mark Emmerson
Paul Selsky
John Wallace

General Manager

Steve Nugent

 Printed on
Recycled Paper

Watch for the Fluoride Survey

Carmichael Water District does not add fluoride to its water; however, fluoride occurs naturally in water. CWD's average fluoride level is 0.4 (mg/L). The Department of Health Services would like each California water system to fluoridate its water if the District has the means to pay for it. To implement a fluoride program the installation and operational costs over a 5 year period are estimated to be \$470,000.

CWD is interested in your input. A survey form is included with your October or November mailed statement. If you haven't already done so, please take the time to complete the survey and return it to the District office. ■

General Election – November 2, 2004

The Board of Supervisors, per Elections Code 10515, will appoint the following unopposed candidates to the Carmichael Water District Board of Directors:

- Sanford "Sandy" Kozlen – Division 1
- Mark Emmerson – Division 2
- Dodie Backus – Division 4