

WATER WAYS

INSIDE >>>

Letter from the
General Manager

Tracking Contaminants
Update 5

Lead and Copper
Testing Results

Construction Update

New Options for
Paying Your
Water Bill

Conservation Reminder

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

Phase 3 Metered Billing

Effective July 1, 2007 all customers that have property 1/2 acre or larger, a connection size larger than 1", additional single family units, and irrigation connections will be billed on metered rates.

Prior to July 1, 2007 each customer that will be transitioning to metered rates will receive 12 months of comparative bills. The water bill will show you what you are currently paying on the flat rate and what you would have paid if you were on metered water rates based on your individual usage.

In addition those customers that have a higher than normal usage will be contacted by CWD to see if they would like to have a water audit performed at their residence. The goal of a water audit is to help identify water saving measures that customers can do to lower their individual water use, thus lowering their water bill.

Many customers ask why the District is installing water meters. The history is as follows:

1). In March of 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. In 1997 CWD established the Water Rate Structure Committee

(WRSC) which was composed of District customers representing residential, commercial, schools, parks, 2 CWD Board members and a rate consultant. The findings of WRSC included the flat rate structure that we have in place now and the recommendation that all District customers should be billed on water meters within the next ten years.

2). CWD is a participant in the Sacramento Water Forum. The Water Forum is a diverse group of water agencies, environmentalist, cities, counties, business

The goal of a water audit is to help identify water saving measures that customers can do to lower their individual water use, thus lowering their water bill.

continued on page 3



Letter from the General Manager

Conversion from flat rate billing to metered rate billing is certainly one of the important topics on the minds of CWD customers. The big question is will I pay more than I paid on the flat rate billing? To answer that question CWD has reviewed the water usage from existing customers that are billed on metered rates. What CWD has found is that 32% are likely to save 15%-20% when switched to metered billing. Another 35% will be within 5%-10% of what they currently pay on flat rate and 33% will see an increase in the bill.

In order to help those customers that may have an increase in their water bill CWD will start offering free water audits to assist customers with conservation measures that could lead to reduced usage and a reduced water bill.

Fixing leaking plumbing fixtures will lower your water bill. Pay close attention to leaking/running toilets. Not repairing leaking fixtures can waste thousands of gallons of water per month and double your bimonthly water bill.

For additional water efficiency suggestions and metered billing versus flat rate billing please check out the District website at www.carmichaelwd.org under meter program and conservation.

Steve Nugent
General Manager, CWD

Tracking Contaminants – Update #5

Groundwater Remediation Project

Carmichael Water District and Aerojet signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for a groundwater remediation project in July 2005. The goal of the MOU is to capture, remediate and prevent migration of Aerojet's contaminant plumes of groundwater from reaching CWD's groundwater supply, without any financial impacts to CWD customers.

N-Nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) was detected in an Aerojet monitor well located near Grant Avenue and Hollister in February of 2004. NDMA is a byproduct of combustion from liquid rocket fuel and is believed to be a possible carcinogen. Since that time Aerojet has installed seven monitor wells within the CWD service area to identify the extent of the contaminant plume. Of the seven monitor wells, four are free of contaminants and three wells located at Amy Avenue, Ancil Hoffman Park and Grant Avenue have detections of NDMA ranging from 2 ppt to 93 ppt. Since 1999 CWD has been testing all District supplies for NDMA and to date no NDMA has been detected in any of CWD's drinking water supplies.

The groundwater remediation project will consist of installing groundwater extraction wells, pipelines and a treatment plant to remove NDMA. Once the water supply has been treated for NDMA it will be discharged into the American River or it could be used as an irrigation supply for the Ancil Hoffman Golf Course or for other environmental restoration projects.

The goal of the MOU is the capture, remediate and prevent migration of Aerojet's contaminant plumes of groundwater from reaching CWD's groundwater supply, without any financial impacts to CWD's customers.

The schedule for the project is:

Pre-design completed by
December 2005

Environmental Document completed by March 2006

Final Design May 2006

Construction beginning July 2006

Plant Startup January 2007

Why is CWD working with Aerojet on this project and what is the benefit to CWD? In the past, remediation projects in other parts of the county have been slowed down or even stopped for various reasons such as litigation, obtaining permits and environmental concerns. Working together will ensure that the project moves forward on schedule and is the first step in protecting the groundwater basin from further contamination. Protection of the valuable groundwater resource is vital to our community. In addition CWD's MOU ensures that Aerojet pays the bill for the groundwater cleanup not CWD's customers. ■

Lead and Copper Testing Results

Thank you to the District customers that participated in the lead and copper testing program. This sampling program is required by the Environmental Protection Agency's Lead and Copper Rule. The Rule requires CWD to collect samples from 30 residences. The number of samples are determined by the population of the system. The number must be split equally between homes that have lead service lines and homes that have copper pipes with lead solder which were installed between 1983 and 1986.

A total of 35 residences were tested. The maximum contaminate level (MCL) for copper is 1.3 mg/L and the MCL for lead is 0.015 mg/L.

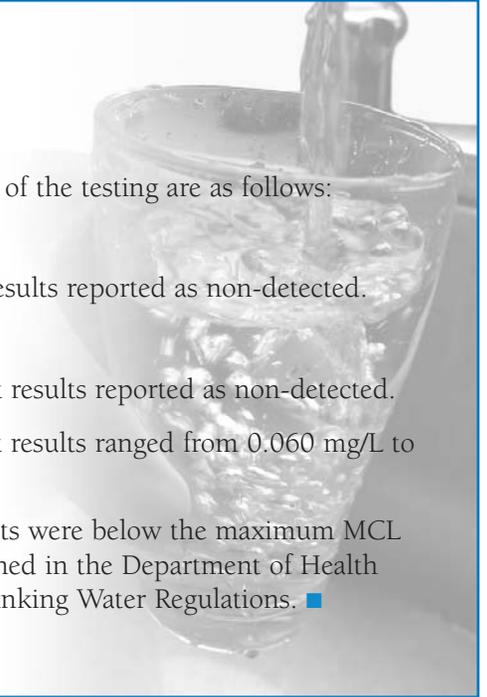
The final results of the testing are as follows:

Lead:

- All 35 test results reported as non-detected.

Copper:

- 24 of 35 test results reported as non-detected.
- 11 of 35 test results ranged from 0.060 mg/L to 0.310 mg/L
- All test results were below the maximum MCL level as defined in the Department of Health Services' Drinking Water Regulations. ■



<<< Phase 3 Metered Billing continued from page 1

- and public representatives that drafted an agreement that will provide reliable and safe water supply for the region's economic health; planned development through to the year 2030 and preservation of fisheries, wildlife, recreational and aesthetic values of the lower American River. As part of being a signatory to the agreement each water agency agreed to install water meters within a certain period of time. CWD agreed to installed water meters and bill on metered rates by 2017.
- 3). In 2004 the State of California signed into law that water meters are to be installed on each water line connection and water agencies were to charge metered water rates by 2025.

- 4). In November of 2004 CWD adopted resolution 11152004-1 that required all customers that have property 1/2 acre or larger, have a connection size larger than 1", have additional single family units, irrigation connections will be billed on metered rate.
- 5). In January of 2005 CWD adopted resolution 01102005-2 that required meter installation and transition to metered rates on all single family connections on less than 1/2 acre. The installation will be completed by section with two sections per year for a total of twelve sections with a final completion date of 2012.

To date all commercial property, apartments, schools, parks, fourplex, triplex, duplex and condominiums have been converted to metered rates. In addition the District has a voluntary residential metered billing program for customers who are interested in volunteering to be billed on a metered rate.

If you would like further information on the District's meter program or for helpful information to transition from a flat rate to a metered rate, please visit our web site at www.carmichaelwd.org or call the office at 483-2452. ■

Did you know...

CWD offers a one time free service downsizing. Check it out at www.carmichaelwd.org or call the office for more information.

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Construction Projects

During this budget year CWD will be replacing 4,460 feet of water main on Ava Way, Renner Way, Tarro Way, Gibbons, and Boyer/Sarah Ct. Prior to construction, surrounding customers will receive written notification of the scope and length of the project. All work will be performed between 7:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

CWD staff will be installing 750 meters for the Phase 3 meter retrofit program and an additional 220 meters through the service line replacement program. If you have any questions regarding CWD construction activities please call the District Office. ■

New Options for Paying Your Water Bill on the Horizon

Carmichael Water District will be introducing a variety of payment methods during December. Besides the traditional cash, check and money order, payments will be accepted through **Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)**. This service will be a free, easy and convenient way to pay your water bill. Also for your convenience, the District will be accepting Visa and MasterCard credit card payments.

Watch for an EFT authorization form and informational insert in your December or January billing statement. ■

