



## **MONTEREY REGIONAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY**

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### **SUMMARY OF RECENT ACTIONS**

#### **Report for September 2016**

##### **Regional Inspection Services**

At our August Board meeting, the Agency voted to approve a Memo of Agreement with the Seaside County Sanitation District and the cities of Monterey, Sand City, and Pacific Grove to provide inspections services regarding fats, oils, grease, and storm water.

The MRWPCA had been approached by the Seaside County Sanitation District and the Cities of Monterey, Pacific Grove, and Sand City to identify a regional solution to perform Inspection Services for Fats, Oil, and Grease (FOG) Inspections and Storm water Inspections. This regional approach will take advantage of economies of scale and develop a consistent and cost effective approach to meet requirements under each of the entities' respective Grease Source Control and Storm Water Permit programs.

The MRWPCA is already performing FOG Inspection Services on behalf of the Cities of Pacific Grove and Salinas, utilizing members of the Agency's Source Control Division. The proposed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) will continue the efforts for the City of Pacific Grove while adding additional members to the Agreement and introducing Storm water Inspections to the contract. The City of Salinas will continue to be served under its existing Agreement.

Under the terms of the Agreement, MRWPCA Staff will be authorized to perform Inspection Services on behalf of member entities, completing a standard checklist of inspection items as agreed to by all parties, meeting respective program requirements. MRWPCA staff will then report findings to member entities, which are solely responsible for any follow-up enforcement measures.

This brings an additional \$95,000 per year in revenue to the Agency but, as a result of this agreement, the other entities do not now have to develop solutions either in-house or through the use of outside consultants.

## **Regional Storm water Resources Plan.**

We authorized the General Manager to enter into a financial assistance agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board for planning, design, and development of a Monterey Peninsula regional storm water resources plan.

Earlier this year the Agency was successful in pursuing a \$300,637 Prop 1 Planning Grant on behalf of the Monterey Regional Storm water Management Program (MRSWMP) toward the development of a regional Storm water Resource Plan (SRP). To receive the funds to pursue this project, the MRWPCA will now enter into a Financial Assistance Agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).

Since 2006, the MRWPCA has facilitated the Monterey Regional Storm water Management Program, a regional collaboration intended to implement local Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Phase II Storm water Permit Requirements in a consistent and cost-effective manner.

In September 2014, Governor Brown signed into law Senate Bill 985, a bill requiring a Storm water Resource Plan (SRP) as a condition for public agencies to receive funds for storm water and dry weather runoff capture projects from any bond approved by voters after January 2014. This requirement applies to Proposition 1, the water bond measure approved by voters in November 2014, which authorized \$200 Million in grants for multi-benefit storm water management projects (Storm Water Grant Program).

The State Water Resources Control Board allocated \$20 Million of the \$200 Million Prop 1 Storm water Grant Program toward planning grants intended for the development of these SRP's. This represents a collaborative watershed based planning document that views storm water and dry weather runoff as a resource, and prioritizes projects based on regional multi-benefit objectives, while promoting water quality protection.

Due to a Prop 1 Planning Grant 50% match requirement, the \$300,637 grant is part of a projected \$659,389 effort. The remaining matching funds toward the effort include:

- A. The City of Monterey is pursuing a Neighborhood Improvement Project (NIP) allocating \$85,000 to analyze storm water capture potential of lakes and infrastructure regionally.
- B. The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) recently awarded an \$85,000 match toward this study of regional capacity.
- C. The MRSWMP program has spent considerable staff time toward the development of a quantitative modeling program that will assist with Planning Grant requirements,

### **Action on the Agency's Zero Waste Anaerobic Digester**

The Agency has for some time used the gas produced by a Zero Waste Anaerobic Digester for producing and exporting more power than our agreement with PG&E allows. As a result, late last year PG&E demanded we take one of our (non-conforming) generators off-line. Since we already produce the gas this generator uses, this action was a waste, and we have been negotiating with PG&E to change the agreement to allow us to send more power to the system in future. Though it will still take 9-12 months to implement all of the terms of this agreement, we are working cooperatively with PG&E to amend the original Power Purchase Agreement.

## Source Control Outreach

The agency is conducting a thorough review of water quality problems for the Monterey Peninsula. Companies and individuals have always discharged (dumped) waste products into the Agency's system and those substances were dealt with.

That discharge is still occurring but, because of conservation efforts, the Agency is getting less overall flow into the system; meaning that the potentially harmful substances are more noticeable. For instance, at one time Culligan was discharging waste salts from water softening units into the Agency's system. We long ago worked with them to take these salts separately so that we can process them differently and separately and use the Agency's waste drying beds for these compounds. The Agency is also looking into grant opportunities so as to encourage the use of potassium salts instead of chloride salts for these units.

Potassium salts are much less harmful and easier to deal with. Others still discharge similar items, however, and we thus have more concentrated salts. The chemicals used by municipalities are also more noticeable because of reduced overall wastewater flows.

Staff will review what substances are being put into the system and provide city Public Works Departments and others a list of substances which can be used and those that should not be discharged into the wastewater system.

## Pacific Grove Pump Station Number 13

The sewage leak that occurred last year was at Pump Station number 13, and at that time the MRWPCA cleaned everything up; returning the station to normal use. This fiscal year the agency will start a project to replace some valves in this pump station and upgrade the supporting infrastructure to further improve pump station reliability.

This work will include:

1. Replace main header valve and the manual actuator that failed to properly close inside the pump station with a new valve and manual actuator.
2. Install a vault structure and isolation valve (a backup station isolation valve) on the force main just outside the pump station. The vault will house the isolation valve so that maintenance personnel can have full access to the valve for maintenance purposes. A new emergency pump around connection will be provided just downstream of this new valve.
3. Provide seismic flexibility at the force main discharge from the pump station structure.
4. Provide an external electrical disconnect (new meter/main) along with a new transfer switch for the pump station so that the Agency staff can shut down all electrical components at the pump station from outside the structure. The current electrical disconnect and transfer switch are located inside the pump station so staff was unable to enter the pump station to immediately disconnect the power due to the flooded drywell during the sewage spill on May 18, 2015. By locating the new meter/main outside the pump station, this will ensure that the Agency staff can shut down all electrical components at the station and begin recovery operations without having to wait for PG&E to disconnect at their transformer.
5. Provide a portable generator receptacle so that the Agency can run one (1) pump in an emergency in the event there is a power failure at the pump station, and the permanent emergency generator located at the pump station does not start.

The above are the main tasks that will be undertaken, though the Agency will also do other work while there. It was also brought up that a better scrubber system at this location would provide a

more efficient and effective means of controlling odors in this public area and ~~for the~~ surrounding homes. While Pump Station 13 is situated on Agency property, however, it would require access to city owned property in that area to make any modifications.

This work is giving the Agency an opportunity to also review other pump stations in Pacific Grove. Some of these locations may pose future problems for the City of Pacific Grove as well as the MRWPCA. That is because many of the pump stations are located in low lying areas right along the coast, which makes them susceptible to damage during storm surges, high tides, and related flooding.

Because of sea level rise and the intensification of local storm events, it has also been noted that the Coral Street Station and others are also susceptible to operational failures during major storm events. Since the costs to move the equipment and build new facilities would be between \$1.5 and \$2 million for each location, however, building new stations is not feasible. The Agency will continue to look at other alternatives to protect the equipment in its pump stations from high tides and related flooding.

Anyone having questions should contact me. I will try to either answer or – if I don't know the answer – get the information for you.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rudy Fischer".

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Councilman Rudy Fischer