



THE Waterline

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MPWD • 2021

ABOUT MPWD

MID-PENINSULA WATER DISTRICT

3 Dairy Lane
Belmont, CA 94002
650-591-8941
www.MidPeninsulaWater.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brian Schmidt
President

Kirk R. Wheeler
Vice President

Dave Warden
Director

Louis J. Vella
Director

Matthew P. Zucca
Director

The Board of Directors meets every fourth Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at 3 Dairy Lane, Belmont.

OFFICERS

Tammy Rudock
General Manager

Candy Piña
Administrative Services Manager

Rene Ramirez
Operations Manager

Julie A. Sherman
District Counsel

Joubin Pakpour
District Engineer

Vacant
District Treasurer



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Saving 10% Can Go a Long Way

MEETING THE WATER CONSERVATION CHALLENGE FOR 2021



The MPWD has adopted a long-term vision of water conservation – inline with the State of California’s own road map – to ensure we will all have enough water now and in the future. Since 2015, the MPWD has taken important steps to manage water loss through program management, water audits-data sources, validation, and report preparation. This is in addition to consistent water conservation messaging and resources that have helped MPWD customers meet past conservation goals.



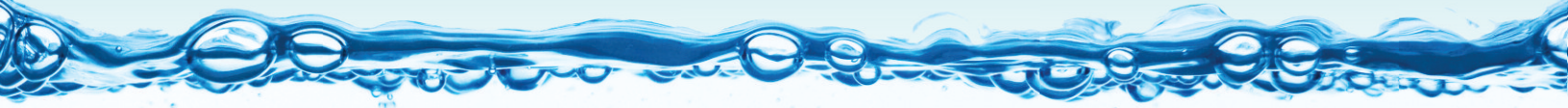
After two, consecutive dry winters, the MPWD is setting forth a new challenge to keep the momentum going. Customers are encouraged to continue their part in voluntary water conservation by reducing water usage by 10% or more, which will go a long way to forestalling state-mandated conservation during non-drought years. Let’s make it a “California Way of Life.” For more information, please visit MidPeninsulaWater.org/save10 and learn about all the water conservation resources available to you through the MPWD, including:

- Home Water Use Report: Monitor your water usage online and set up alerts.
- Valuable rebate programs, including the new, smart controller irrigation rebate.
- Water saving tips and resources.
- Leak Detection Tool: Step-by-step, online tool to help detect possible water leaks in your home.
- Free online landscape workshops compliments of BAWSCA: covering various topics like water-efficient gardening, harvesting rainwater, and natural pest repellents.
- Free water conservation kits.

DO WE HAVE YOUR UPDATED INFO?

In order to help MPWD staff contact you in the event of an emergency – such as a water issue in or around your property while you are not home – please provide the best phone number and/or email where MPWD can reach you by going online to MidPeninsulaWater.org/contact or contact our friendly staff at (650) 591-8941 during business hours.





Questions? Concerns? Contact Us!



MPWD is dedicated to providing outstanding customer service in a timely fashion. In order to efficiently address any questions or concerns you might have regarding your water service, please contact MPWD directly! As a California Special District (*see below for more info*), MPWD operates as a separate entity independent from local govern-

ments to provide safe, quality water to our community. You may reach MPWD Customer Service directly at:

- **Email:** MPWD@MidPeninsulaWater.org
- **Phone:** 650-591-8941
- **Online:** MidPeninsulaWater.org/contact
- **Office*:** 3 Dairy Lane, Belmont, CA 94002
Mon.-Fri. (non-holiday), 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

*When the District office reopens. Look for updates on the MPWD website.

Being a Special District... Why it Matters

Special districts are independent public agencies created by the people of a community to deliver core local services such as water, wastewater, fire protection, parks and recreation, healthcare, sanitation, mosquito abatement, ports, libraries, public cemeteries, and more. Districts are established by voters and their funding is approved by voters to meet specific needs through focused service. They can be specially molded to serve large regions or small neighborhoods depending on the need.

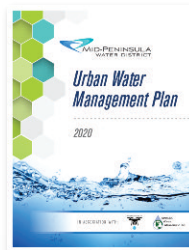
More than 30,000 special districts across the country provide a wide array of specialized services to millions of Americans. The Mid-Peninsula Water District (formerly Belmont County Water District) was formed in 1929 under the County Water District Act of California as a special district. The MPWD is proud to be a California Special District dedicated to self governance by its rate payers and serving as an independent utility focused on providing sustainable water for today and future generations. For more information about California Special Districts, please visit CSDA.net



2021-2022 Strategic Plan

The Mid-Peninsula Water District (MPWD) Board of Directors held a special meeting on January 14, 2021 to create the MPWD 2021-2022 Strategic Plan. The plan's strategic goals and framework were reviewed, and minor revisions were made. Strategic items were classified as either "A" (Very Important, Must Do) or "B" (Should Do) priorities and identified in the plan. A few operational items were added to Basic Measures for Success. There were no changes for the MPWD Vision and Mission Statements, and Strategic Goals. However, director assignments were updated. The new Strategic Plan is available for download from the MPWD homepage at MidPeninsulaWater.org ■

2020 UWMP Progress Report



MPWD staff and its consulting team are making progress on the District's 2020 UWMP Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP). The UWMP will be effective for five years through 2025. The plan also includes an updated Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP). Once the draft copy is released, both documents will be made available to the community for review and a virtual public hearing will follow. Regular public updates are available at MidPeninsulaWater.org/UWMP. The UWMP is a state requirement and prepared in response to the UWMP Act. The intent of the UWMP is to provide the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the general public with information on present and future water supply and demand and to provide an assessment of water resources needed. It also serves the purpose of helping ratepayers better understand our water system, service area, water reliability and contingency planning. ■

MPWD Customer Portal Highlights

In 2020, the MPWD launched its all-new Customer Portal online to provide customers with a one-stop landing page linking to MPWD's most commonly accessed info and tools. In addition to online bill pay, access to Board meeting documents, newsletters, and calendar of events, customers will find:



Home Water Report

Monitor your water usage on a daily basis and set up text or email usage alerts.

SIGN UP TODAY!



Water Quality Tool

Troubleshoot your home's water quality and determine possible causes and solutions to typical water quality issues.



Leak Detection Tool

Follow this handy, step-by-step tool to detect possible water leaks in your home. Handy for water conservation.



NovusAgenda

MPWD Board Meetings can now be accessed more easily! Search through past Board agenda or minutes using keywords or dates.

Meeting Date	Meeting Type	Meeting Location	Online Agenda	Download Agenda	Legal Minutes
02/05/21	Regular Meeting		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
01/26/21	Regular Meeting		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
01/14/21	Special Meeting		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12/17/20	Regular Meeting		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

MidPeninsulaWater.org/portal

5-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

ACTIVE PROJECTS FOR 2021

El Camino Real Improvements

The MPWD's El Camino Real Water Main Improvements consist of replacing approximately 3,600 linear feet of 8-inch cast iron (CI) water main constructed in the 1950s that scored high for replacement in the MPWD's Capital Improvement Program with 8-inch ductile iron (DI) along the southbound El Camino Real between Ruth Avenue and Middle Road, and abandoning a separate 300-foot section in front of Safeway. The project includes installation of pipe, fittings, gate valves, fire hydrants, new copper domestic service laterals, and reconnection of fire services to the new water main. Although a large portion of construction work will take place during the daytime on weekdays, a portion of work is scheduled to take place overnight from 9:00 pm to 5:00 am (Sunday night to Friday morning; NO work on Friday night or all of Saturday) in order to minimize inconvenience during the day to affected businesses.

Old Folger Pump Station Demolition

Due to deteriorating conditions and foundation failures, the existing pump station located at the Folger Drive facility is scheduled to be demolished. This pump station (*seen at right*) originally serviced as the Zone 2 pump station for the District before it was abandoned and replaced by the Hannibal Pump Station. A pre-demolition study was performed detailing the type of materials to dispose of as well as hazardous materials that may be encountered. ■



5-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

RECENTLY COMPLETED PROJECTS

SR101 Crossing – PAMF Improvements

In January 2021, the contractor completed Phase 1 water main improvements for this project which included trenching, pipe laying, and installation of an end-of-main, project-specific 4-inch blow off assembly along PAMF's looped road. A final walkthrough with PAMF staff was conducted on February 12. PAMF staff agreed all items were satisfactorily addressed and had no further comments. Roadway slurry seal and striping operations are scheduled for May.

Phase 2 of this project, which includes tunneling under SR101 and a new water main along Shoreway Road, is scheduled to begin after the Silicon Valley Clean Water – Joint Powers Authority complete their sewer system improvements along Shoreway Road.



Above: The 4-inch blow off assembly at the end of the new water main at the SR101 Crossing at Palo Alto Medical Foundation (PAMF) site.

UPCOMING PROJECTS 2021-2022

Dekoven Tanks Replacement

The 48-foot-tall Dekoven water storage tanks have respective capacities of 1,000,000 and 800,000 gallons. Constructed in 1952, they are currently the oldest tanks in the MPWD water delivery system. A structural analysis identified potential seismic vulnerabilities and coating failures that the MPWD determined required replacement of the tanks. This option best serves MPWD customers by maintaining sufficient water supply during peak season, providing adequate fire protection, and providing seismically-sound structures. Each of the proposed replacement tanks would be 48 feet in height, 55 feet in diameter, and have 800,000 gallons of water capacity. The existing water tanks would be demolished and reconstructed in sequence to maintain water service during the project. The total estimated and budgeted cost for this project is \$4 million.

The MPWD is currently communicating with residents in the area surrounding the Dekoven Tank site to discuss landscaping, screening considerations, and exterior options for the new water tanks.



Above: Simulation of possible new Dekoven landscaping and exterior painting.

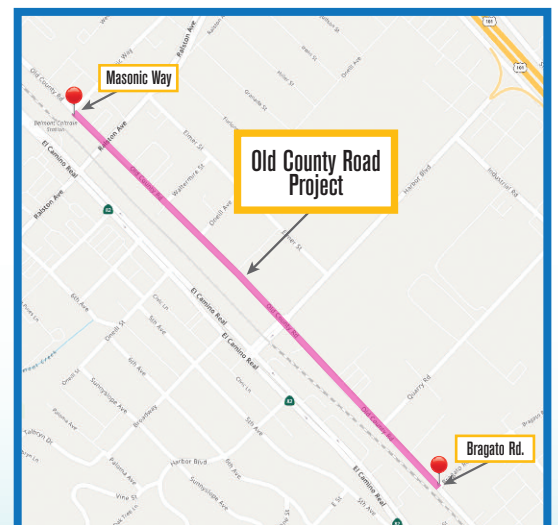
Old County Road Improvements

Replacement of a water main line on Old County Road (OCR) between Masonic Way and Bragato Road is currently in the design phase. Early estimates for construction is currently \$2.7 million. See overview map at right.

Newly Awarded Projects for Engineering

The following projects are in the early phases of engineering and are expected to commence construction work in 2022.

- Harbor Blvd. Main Replacement
- Hastings Dr. Main Replacement
- Belmont Canyon Rd. Main Replacement
- Vine St. Main Replacement



Look for regular updates on the MPWD 5-Year Capital Improvement Program by visiting MidPeninsulaWater.org/cip



Employee News



The MPWD would like to thank **Mr. Rick Bisio** for 22 years of service to the MPWD. At a retirement luncheon held in his honor in October 2020, Rick officially retired from professional life as MPWD's Lead Operator – Water Quality and Safety. He holds multiple certifications in water distribution and treatment, and was responsible for MPWD's

water sample reporting, state public water system electronic annual reporting, and annual consumer confidence reports. Rick was never shy to lend a helping hand out in the field when needed. His dedication and attention to details were key to MPWD's continued commitment to delivering high quality water safely and consistently. Rick and his wife moved out of the Bay Area to be closer to their son and grandchildren and to enjoy various outdoor activities. ■



The MPWD would like to thank **Mr. Brad Burwell** for 16 years of service to the MPWD. Originally hired as a maintenance worker, he finished his career with MPWD as customer service representative. His main duties were to facilitate the office staff with verifying meter readings, following up with customers when they

had concerns, fielding customer service calls, and completing work orders. He quickly became well known within the community and built a great rapport with MPWD customers out in the field. Brad has a robust laugh that anyone can pick out in a crowd. He loves NASCAR and frequents the race tracks in Sonoma and Calistoga. Brad and his wife, Diane, plan on spending retirement traveling the states in their RV. ■

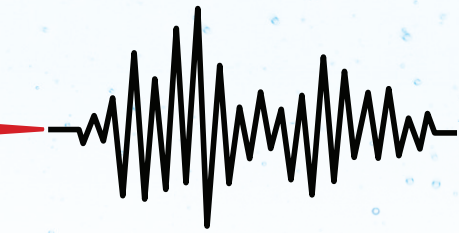
IN LOVING MEMORY Robert T. Piccolotti

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of one of our MPWD family, Water System Operator, Robert "Robby" Piccolotti. Robby served the MPWD with distinction for 18 years.

Robby grew up in Pacifica, California, in a large family who talked fondly of his young life. He was a good man and a proud father who clearly loved his two children. He also had a taste for fine cuisine, enjoyed listening to classic rock, and was a longtime fan of football and our SF 49'ers! He had a work ethic like no other and really cared about serving the MPWD community with such an essential service. He enjoyed the opportunities to engage with MPWD customers out in the field. At all the annual school field trips hosted at the MPWD, Robby was affectionately known as the "Turn the sink off while brushing your teeth" booth demo guy! Robby set a good example for the newer employees and his shoes will be hard to fill.

Our friend and colleague was laid to rest on December 23 by way of a small, private motorcade procession. Family and friends who paid their respects visited the Pacifica coastline and other places around the city that were familiar to, and favorites of, Robby such as the golf course where he met his brothers every Sunday, his high school, family home, and local surf spots. The police escort was led by Robby's best friend. Upon arrival at Cypress Lawn Cemetery, the escort was greeted by a motorcycle officer brigade participating in the ceremony.





Earthquake Warning California

Natural disasters, like earthquakes, happen unexpectedly and can create major disruptions that last long after the event is over. Emergency situations may force individuals and families to quickly find shelter or evacuate from their homes, workplaces, or other settings. By being prepared and planning ahead, Californians can quickly take life-saving actions to keep them safe in an earthquake. It's important for all households and businesses to prepare a disaster plan; identify safe spots to take cover in places where they live, work, and play; identify emergency escape routes; develop a communication plan; and have an emergency supply kit readily available.

To ensure all Californians are earthquake prepared, the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) developed **Earthquake Warning California**, which is the nation's first statewide earthquake warning system that provides several seconds of warning to mobile device users in the area before shaking occurs. Earthquake Warning California offers no-cost earthquake warning resources, including:

- **MyShake App:** A mobile app that can be downloaded for mobile devices at no-cost from Google Play or the Apple App Store. App location services must be set to "always on" so that ground sensors can alert those in the nearby area when shaking is detected.

- **Android Earthquake Alerts:** An earthquake warning system available to any new or updated Android devices that uses that same technology as the MyShake App.
- **Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs):** Text-like messages from the government during emergency situations. This includes: Presidential, Imminent Threat (fire, earthquake, floods, etc.), and AMBER alerts.



Earthquake Warning California resources are designed to notify users to quickly take protective action such as to drop, cover, and hold on. These earthquake warning tools can help protect lives and prevent damage to properties in the areas hardest hit during an earthquake. In serious shaking situations, individuals may be knocked down to the ground, so sheltering prior to shaking is the prudent thing to do.

To learn more about Earthquake Warning California, the no-cost warning alert tools, and additional resources available to the public, visit earthquake.ca.gov

A community that prepares together can diminish the catastrophic impact of a major earthquake. Subscribe to *Earthquake Warning California* newsletter online to receive campaign toolkits, graphics, and the latest news and updates, or email earthquakeinfo@caloes.ca.gov



EMPLOYEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS



- **TAMMY RUDOCK** (*General Manager*) earned SHRM-SCP Certification (Society of Human Resource Management – Senior Certified Professional) in 2020.
- **RENE RAMIREZ** (*Operations Manager*) completed the ACWA JPIA's Leadership Essentials Program in January, 2021.
- **JEANETTE KALABOLAS** (*Administrative Specialist – Water Conservation*) earned CSDA Board Secretary – Clerk Certification in October, 2020.
- **CONOR KILLIGREW** (*Maintenance Technician*) earned Water Distribution Operator Grade 1 (D-1) Certification in December, 2020.



5-Year Rate Study

GOOD NEWS!
NO RATE INCREASE ON JULY 1, 2021

The MPWD is currently working on a new 5-year water rate plan and has enlisted an outside consultant. With prudent spending, investment, and planning the MPWD has not needed rate adjustments for 3 of the last 5 years in the current rate plan, including this upcoming fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021. The MPWD's efforts to control spending and prudent investment and planning has helped its customers and the financial burdens caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The current 5-year rate study is using a 10-year financial model that takes into account water system reinvestment, maintaining water quality and service, water conservation and supply reliability, and taking care of its employees, too. Before the Board considers a new rate plan, all property owners will receive a notice and have an opportunity to comment on a proposed rate plan. ■

MPWD Makes Workplace Safety a Priority

The MPWD takes workplace safety seriously and works closely with employees to anticipate and address a wide range of measures to protect the health and safety of everyone working at, or visiting, the District office. In 2020, the MPWD conducted the following initiatives:



- Routine safety and risk control compliance inspections are conducted by qualified professionals (EEAP, ACWA JPIA).
- Required annual safety training (CPR, defensive driving, forklift certification, etc.).
- Supervisor field drive-by and crew checks.
- OSHA compliance.
- Safety incentive program.
- Reporting: Risk-Resiliency Assessment, Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, and Emergency Response Plan.
- Involved with San Mateo County Office of Emergency Services.
- Labor law posters and messaging throughout our buildings.
- Use of PPE equipment during COVID-19 emergency.

SEDIMENT IN YOUR WATER?



When a water main is being repaired or flushed of sediment in your neighborhood, you may experience some brown or yellow discoloration in your water. Despite its appearance, this does not indicate that the water is unsafe or that the integrity of the water main has been compromised. A disinfectant residual is maintained at all times to ensure that the water is safe for household use, including cooking and drinking. For aesthetic reasons, you should avoid doing laundry until the water clears up. To diagnose your water quality and for directions to purge your water line, please visit:

MidPeninsulaWater.org/qualitytool

NEWS FLASH

Stay informed when there is an urgent or emergency message from MPWD to residents and businesses in its service area, including alerts about water main disruptions, road closures due to MPWD-related construction, and advisories as a result of an earthquake or fire. **MPWD News Flashes** are posted as a scrolling red banner across the top of the MPWD website. You may also sign up for News Flashes to be pushed to you via text or email by visiting the Customer Connect page at:

MidPeninsulaWater.org/connect