

# THE Waterline

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MPWD • 2022

## ABOUT MPWD

### MID-PENINSULA WATER DISTRICT

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

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Kirk R. Wheeler**  
*President*

**Louis Vella**  
*Vice President*

**Matthew P. Zucca**  
*Director*

**Catherine M. Jordan**  
*Director*

**Brian Schmidt**  
*Director*

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

### OFFICERS

**Rene Ramirez**  
*Interim General Manager*

**Kat Wuelfing**  
*Assistant General Manager*

**Monique Madrid**  
*Administrative Services Manager  
Board Secretary*

**Tammy Rudock**  
*Management Advisor*

**Julie A. Sherman**  
*District Counsel*

**Joubin Pakpour**  
*District Engineer*

**Sheldon Chavan, CPA**  
*District Treasurer*



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## Leadership Transition at the MPWD



At its Regular meeting on July 28, 2022, the Board of Directors for the Mid-Peninsula Water District (MPWD) approved a reorganization and management transition. Several long-term MPWD employees will retire in the coming year, including current General Manager, Tammy Rudock. “It is great to see the succession plan come full cycle after more than a year in process,” stated Board President, Kirk Wheeler.



*Left: Rene Ramirez, MPWD’s Interim General Manager. Right: Kat Wuelfing, MPWD’s Assistant General Manager*

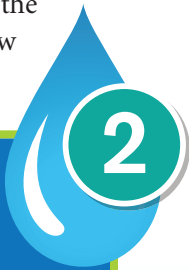
Vice President Louis Vella was the first to congratulate Mr. Rene Ramirez on his appointment as Interim General Manager. Mr. Ramirez has served the MPWD as Operations Manager since 2015.

Kat Wuelfing joined the MPWD as Assistant General Manager on July 28, 2022. The transition plan includes the Board’s consideration of her potential appointment as General Manager next year. Director, Matt Zucca, welcomed Kat saying, “I’m sure you will hit the ground running and be kept very busy.”



*Left: Tammy Rudock, Management Advisor. Right: Monique Madrid, Administrative Services Manager*

Tammy Rudock transitions to Management Advisor until her retirement in 2023. Director Zucca expressed his appreciation for Ms. Rudock’s vision for the succession planning and the steady follow through during the last (continued on page 7)



## WATER SHORTAGE LEVEL 2 ACTIONS

In June 2022, the MPWD mailed notices to MPWD customers announcing that it has moved to Water Shortage Level 2, as outlined in the Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) of 2020. The action was necessitated by the continuing drought conditions in the State of California. Level 2 response actions seek to further reduce outdoor water usage in an effort to reach the voluntary water savings goal requested by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) and consistent with State law.

A summary of key response actions that are now in effect are available on the MPWD website at [MidPeninsulaWater.org/save15](http://MidPeninsulaWater.org/save15)

MAKE WATER USE EFFICIENCY YOUR CALIFORNIA WAY OF LIFE!



## Monitor Your Water Usage Online!

Take control of monitoring and maximizing your water usage during the statewide drought today! MPWD's **Water Watch** provides valuable online tools to improve your water efficiency. Setting up a Water Watch account gives customers the ability to monitor their water usage on a daily basis and set up text or email usage alerts.

**BONUS!** MPWD is offering (1) free bonus gift to each active customer who signs up for Water Watch. Customers may choose one of the following:

- California Way of Life T-shirt
- 100% Jute Personal String Bag
- Free Basic Car Wash Coupon
- Tile Mate Bluetooth Tracker



It's easy! First step is to set up your Water Watch account at [MidPeninsulaWater.org/water-watch](http://MidPeninsulaWater.org/water-watch). When finished, or if you

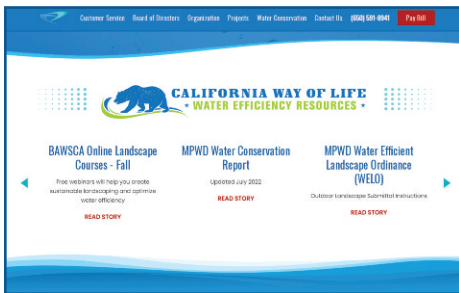


## Water Watch

*It's Your Water... Watch It!*

- Access to your daily water usage alongside outside temperatures for those days.
- Set up notifications for excessive water usage or potential leaks.
- Check your billing cycle usage and data, including totals and daily averages.

already have a Water Watch account and have not previously claimed a gift, go to [MidPeninsulaWater.org/claim-gift](http://MidPeninsulaWater.org/claim-gift) to submit your free gift claim. MPWD will contact you by phone or email after the validation is complete. Supplies are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. ■



## California Way of Life Dashboard

MPWD recently launched a new enhancement to its website homepage to provide timely updates and information about the statewide drought, water conservation measures, and available resources to increase our water efficiency. Just go to [MidPeninsulaWater.org](http://MidPeninsulaWater.org) and scroll down to our new dashboard to view our latest water conservation content. Also, keep an eye on the return of our Water Efficiency Tracker Tool in December 2022. ■

## Save Water, Save \$\$\$ with Rebate Programs

You can still access many rebate programs to help you save money while saving water on your landscaping and irrigation. MPWD provides customers access to the following programs:

- **Lawn-Be-Gone Rebate:** Get paid to transform your landscape! Our rebate amount is \$4.00 per square foot of converted lawn. Add a Rain Garden to your project and earn an additional \$300 rebate! Available through BAWSCA.
- **Rain Barrel Rebate Program:** BAWSCA and MPWD are offering rebates of up to \$200 per rain barrel for the purchase and installation of qualifying rain barrels.
- **Smart Irrigation Controller Instant Rebate Program:** MPWD customers can receive a premium smart watering device at a discounted price of \$100 + tax until supplies run out. Available through BAWSCA and Rachio.
- **Irrigation Hardware Rebates:** Rebates are available for select, high-efficiency sprinkler nozzles, spray bodies with pressure regulation, and large rotors! Available through BAWSCA.



Go online today to get more details and links to rebate program applications at [MidPeninsulaWater.org/rebates](http://MidPeninsulaWater.org/rebates) ■

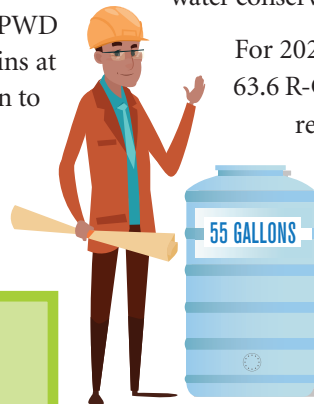
# Thank You! SAVE 15%

MPWD customers are responding to the call to voluntarily save water during the statewide drought by making water efficiency their **California Way of Life!** The District would like to express thanks to our water customers who have been meeting or exceeding voluntary goals over the past year and taking advantage of the many programs, rebates, tools, and other measures offered by the MPWD under the California Way of Life conservation campaign. Due to the continued drought conditions, the MPWD voluntary reduction goal for indoor and outdoor water usage remains at 15%. The District will continue to provide resources and information to help the MPWD community continue to meet our targets.

To learn more, please visit [MidPeninsulaWater.org/save15](http://MidPeninsulaWater.org/save15) or contact the MPWD at [info@midpeninsulawater.org](mailto:info@midpeninsulawater.org) with any water conservation questions you may have. ■

# What's a R-GPCD?

Residential Gallons Per Capita Per Day (R-GPCD) is a measurement of residential per capita water use calculated by dividing the total volume of water sold to residential accounts by the number of people being served. It is frequently used as a measurement for determining water conservation goals and performances.



For 2022, MPWD has recorded an average 63.6 R-GPCD. For comparison, the average residential per-person use in the Bay Area Region is 72 gallons\* per day, and the average in California is 105 gallons\* per day. At left is a depiction of what 55 gallons of water looks like!

MPWD makes monthly and annual average R-GPCD data available on its website with the **Water Efficiency Tracker Tool** that pops up from the bottom of the homepage at [MidPeninsulaWater.org](http://MidPeninsulaWater.org) ■

\* SF-Bay Region per SWRCB Drinc Reporting as of August 2022.



## KID'S CORNER

Find and circle these water conservation words and have fun!

*Find words up, down, sideways, diagonally, forwards, backwards,*

- |            |         |           |
|------------|---------|-----------|
| CONSERVE   | GOALS   | REDUCE    |
| DISHWASHER | LAUNDRY | SAVINGS   |
| DRIPPERS   | LEAKS   | SHOWER    |
| DROUGHT    | MPWD    | WATER     |
| EFFICIENT  | RAIN    | XERISCAPE |
|            | RECYCLE |           |

X F A C J N T Y O Q L E A K S  
 R A I N G O I D J E U K S S L  
 B N S E V R E S N O C J K H E  
 L L M A V V K K X L T U N O G  
 A S X A V C Z J N K N G D W Z  
 U Z R E R I G T C D E O H E J  
 N P W E R Z N K H J I A M R R  
 D S S T P I Q G G K C L E E R  
 R C D R H P S D S N I S E J O  
 Y R M E B G I C O G F F D P S  
 C D U C H P U R A V F A W N L  
 L D V Y K V W O D P E M P I B  
 B S G C W A T E R N E K M W Z  
 G L K L H Y C T Q D I N M I L  
 D K Y E R E H S A W H S I D Z

Word search answers can be found at [MidPeninsulaWater.org/save15](http://MidPeninsulaWater.org/save15)

# Imagine a Day Without Water

On October 20, 2022, the MPWD joined elected officials, water utilities, community leaders, educators, and businesses from across the country in supporting the seventh annual **Imagine a Day Without Water**, a nationwide day of education and advocacy about the value of water. Imagine a Day Without Water is a national education campaign that brings together diverse stakeholders to highlight how water is essential, invaluable, and in need of investment.

We invite customers to support the mission of Imagine a Day Without Water by signing the **#OneWaterPledge**, and commit to take immediate, measurable action to increase their water knowledge and learn how to ensure all members of their community have access to drinking water and sanitation. Start today by visiting: [imagineadaywithoutwater.org/pledge](http://imagineadaywithoutwater.org/pledge) ■

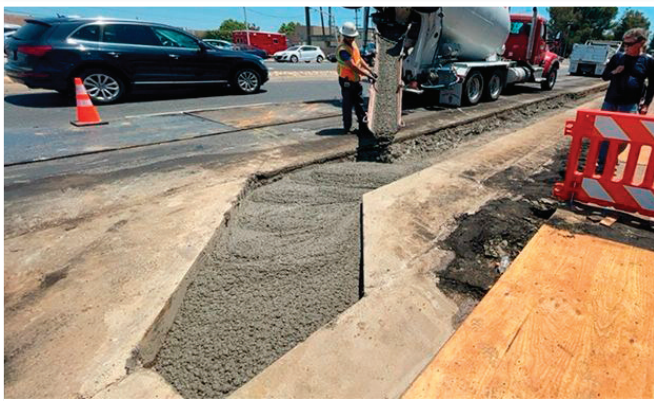
# 5-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

## RECENTLY COMPLETED PROJECTS

### El Camino Real Improvements

The MPWD's El Camino Real Water Main Improvements consisted of replacing approximately 3,600 linear feet of 8-inch cast iron (CI) water main constructed in the 1950s with 8-inch ductile iron (DI) along the southbound El Camino Real between Ruth Avenue and Middle Road. The project included installation of pipe, fittings, gate valves, fire hydrants, new copper domestic service laterals, and reconnection of fire services to the new water main.

As of February 2022, Mitchell Engineering completed all work related to the El Camino Real project and finished restoration of sidewalks and roadway pavement. The MPWD would like to extend gratitude to the local businesses, residents, and commuters for their patience and working with us as this critical improvement project was completed. ■



### Hastings Drive / Vine Street / Belmont Canyon Road Water Main Improvements

The water system improvements on Hastings Drive, Vine Street, and Belmont Canyon Road were awarded to C2R Engineering in late 2021. Supply chain challenges delayed the start of construction until April 2022. By the end of August 2022, C2R Engineering completed all project work including final trench paving, road resurfacing with a slurry seal, and striping.

The Hastings/Vine/Belmont Canyon Project is another successful reinvestment of ratepayer dollars through the ongoing **Capital Improvement Program (CIP)** that will serve the community for the next 50-75 years. For more information about this, and other active projects, please visit [MidPeninsulaWater.org/cip](https://MidPeninsulaWater.org/cip) and click on **Project Progress Reports**. ■



### TRAFFIC ADVISORIES

MPWD's Capital Improvement Program may temporarily create traffic delays or detours, sometimes in your own neighborhood. When a planned project is determined to impact traffic, a traffic advisory will be issued online with details on the location and duration. Active traffic advisories will be posted on the MPWD homepage and made available at the following link: [MidPeninsulaWater.org/traffic](https://MidPeninsulaWater.org/traffic)

# 5-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

## UPCOMING PROJECTS FOR 2023

### Dekoven Tanks Replacement

Constructed in 1952, the 48-foot-tall Dekoven water storage tanks are currently the oldest tanks in the MPWD water delivery system. MPWD determined that these tanks be demolished and reconstructed in sequence to supply sufficient water supply during peak season, provide adequate fire protection, and provide seismically-sound structures for the future. The total estimated and budgeted cost for this project is \$4 million.

The MPWD conducted a community outreach campaign to the residents in the area surrounding the Dekoven Tank site to discuss landscaping, screening considerations, and exterior options for the new water tanks.

Construction bids coming back on the construction project were 35% higher than the engineer's estimates due to construction material market conditions. As a result, the Board rejected the bids and staff are evaluating options. Residents will be notified of any change in status.

### 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 engineering design phase. Early estimates for construction cost is currently \$5.0 million. OCR will be bid in winter of 2022/23 with award in the Spring of 2023. See overview map at right.

Old County Road has approximately 5,000 linear feet of various 4-, 6- and 8-inch cast iron (CI) and asbestos cement (AC) water mains installed in the 1930s/1940s. In addition, approximately 3,100 linear feet of 10- and 12-inch polyvinylchloride (PVC) and polyethylene (PE) water mains in steel casings were installed in the late 1980s. There are approximately 111 service connections, 15 fire service connections, and 11 fire hydrants along the water mains. This project will abandon 6,475 linear feet of various-sized parallel water main and replace the remaining pipe with 3,700 linear feet of 8-inch PVC and 1,800 linear feet of 20-inch PVC.

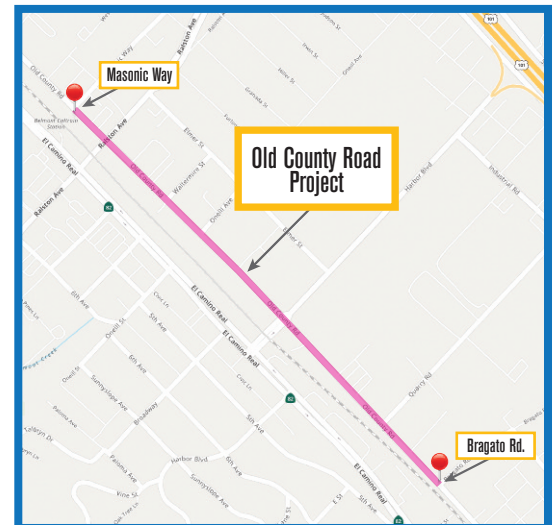
MPWD and its Construction Manager will seek to meet with businesses and residents in the affected area to discuss the project, answer customer questions, and introduce project contacts to customers. Most work will take place over night to minimize daily traffic and business impacts. The project is scheduled to break ground in Spring 2023.

### The following projects will be constructed during 2023:

- Harbor Blvd. Water Main Replacement from SR101 to Old County Road and replacement of plastic water services along the length of Hastings Dr.
- Engineering is underway for water system improvements on Dekoven Ave., Lincoln Ave., Newlands Ave., and Oak Knoll Dr.



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



## OPERATIONS UPDATE

Over the past year, the MPWD has completed and filed timely updates and met filing deadlines for the following: Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP), Risk and Resiliency Assessment, and Emergency Response Plan. These important documents serve as system guides in response to natural disasters, human-caused hazards, or other emergencies that affect the area we serve. The intent of these measures is to mitigate the level of injury, property damage, and community disruption during an emergency event. ■

Look for regular updates on the MPWD ongoing Capital Improvement Program by visiting [MidPeninsulaWater.org/cip](https://MidPeninsulaWater.org/cip)

# MPWD IN THE COMMUNITY!



Courtesy of Facchino Photography.

## Having Fun at Belmont Water Dog Run

“Having Fun, Building Community, Doing Good!” That’s what more than 1,000 people did at the Annual Belmont Water Dog Run at Twin Pines Park on October 8, 2022. Run participants turned out for the 5k, 10k, and 1 mile Kids and Fido Run with neighbors and volunteers cheering them on throughout the day. Hydration for the run participants was sponsored and provided by the MPWD!

The MPWD is proud to be one of many community sponsors of this year’s Belmont Water Dog Run. We look forward to seeing you all there next year! For more information about this fun community event, please visit [BelmontWaterDogRun.com](http://BelmontWaterDogRun.com) ■

## Spooky Things at City Hall

The first Belmont City Hall Halloween Trick or Treat Open House was held on October 31 to celebrate a good-humored Halloween (not scary) and provide trick or treat for kids of all ages (and doggies, too!). Hundreds of all ages came out in costume to enjoy the fun, fright-less haunted hallways and picking up lots of treats along the way. Join MPWD next year in celebrating this new community tradition! ■



## National Night Out

City of Belmont celebrated its 38th National Night Out on August 2, 2022. Nine events were scheduled across the city, with the MPWD hosting its booth at the Belmont Library from 5:30 - 8:00 pm. MPWD staff were glad to share the importance of water conservation with visiting community members while offering free water conservation promotional items and raffling off a gift bucket filled to the rim with lots of water savings goodies. Plus, our water system model (*see photo at left*), which is a hit with the students on field trips to the MPWD, made an appearance! To learn more about National Night Out, please visit [natw.org](http://natw.org) ■

## Public Works Open House

The 2022 City of Belmont’s Annual National Public Works Open House was held at the Twin Pines Park on Thursday, May 19 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The MPWD was represented by several operations and office staff displaying the capabilities of the District and goals for the near future. The City of Belmont, Recology, and RethinkWaste also participated in the public works showcase. ■

### MPWD in the Community: A Look Ahead to 2023

**EVENTS:** Earth Day, National Night Out, Public Works Day, City of Belmont’s Halloween Celebration, Belmont Farmer’s Market.

**SPONSORSHIPS:** City of Belmont’s Summer Movies in the Park Series, Belmont Water Dog Run.

**SCHOOLS:** Assemblies, Water-Wise Outdoor Education Program, Field Trips, Poster Contest.



# Employee News



**Ron Leithner**  
Water System Operator  
*25 years of dedicated service*



**Tammy Rudock**  
Management Advisor  
*10 years of dedicated service*



**Brent Chester**  
Retired in 2022  
*28 years of dedicated service*



**Stan Olsen**  
Lead Operator -  
Facilities & Resources  
*20 years of dedicated service*



**Candy Piña**  
Retired in 2021  
*9+ years of dedicated service*



**Laura Ravella**  
Retired in 2022  
*10 years of dedicated service*

## WELCOME TO...



**Victor Fung**  
Operations Project Coordinator



**Adrian Mederos**  
Maintenance Technician



**Ryan Gomes**  
Water System Operator



**Isaac Fineaso**  
Maintenance Technician



**Jonathan Anderson**  
Promoted to Lead Operator



**Ron Okada**  
Promoted to Administrative Specialist

## BIG MOVES IN 2022...

### *Leadership Transition at the MPWD (continued from page 1)*

few years. Directors, Cathy Jordan and Brian Schmidt, echoed those sentiments. Vice President Vella further added, “Tammy, we appreciate your care for the District beyond your retirement.”

The MPWD management team is completed with Monique Madrid coming on board full time as an Administrative Services Manager. Ms. Madrid has worked at the MPWD in temporary,

part-time capacity since 2020. “She is a great, final addition to the leadership team,” Tammy Rudock complimented.

Mr. Ramirez expressed his appreciation for the Board’s support and looks forward to leading the organization.

MPWD Employee Association President, Michael Anderson, shared, “Employees are supportive of the leadership transition plan and appreciated the process.” ■

## 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, MPWD operates as a separate entity independent from local governments

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

- **Email:** [MPWD@MidPeninsulaWater.org](mailto:MPWD@MidPeninsulaWater.org)
- **Phone:** 650-591-8941
- **Online:** [MidPeninsulaWater.org/contact](https://www.MidPeninsulaWater.org/contact)
- **Office:** 3 Dairy Lane, Belmont, CA 94002  
\*Monday - Thursday, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Closed Fridays and holidays



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## Pass-Through Rate Increase

On July 1, 2022, the MPWD implemented its first rate increase since 2020. The increase of \$0.65 per unit is a direct pass-through of SFPUC wholesale water rate adjustments to fund its costs of providing water service, pay for wholesale water supplied by the SFPUC, and recover costs of providing service during periods of drought and reduced water sales.

On May 26, a public hearing was held to discuss the proposed rates and any written protests submitted by property owners and customers. The MPWD sent notification to all customers 30 days prior to implementing the adjustments. To minimize the impact of the pass-through rate increases, customers are encouraged to continue conserving and to further reduce indoor and outdoor water use where possible. ■

## MPWD Puts Wellness First

The MPWD's Employee Wellness Incentive Program was adopted to enhance employee wellbeing, promote a healthier lifestyle, prevent lost time or delays in MPWD operations, encourage positive participation, and keep our workplace environment safe. Created together by management and staff, this voluntary program is focused on promoting physical fitness, emotional wellness, and preventative healthcare exams and measures through a combination of reimbursements and other incentives. ■



## A New Way to Elect

During its March 24, 2022 Regular Board Meeting, the MPWD Board of Directors adopted Ordinance No. 122 which establishes an electoral system with division-based elections for the election of its Board members commencing in November 2022. The Board's goal was to encourage the fullest voter participation in elections of Board members so as to provide confidence to our customers that the MPWD continues to represent their interests to the fullest extent possible. For more info about the MPWD's new division-based elections and a map of the five divisions, please visit [MidPeninsulaWater.org/elections](https://MidPeninsulaWater.org/elections) ■

## Still Using Your Bank's Bill Pay for Your Water Bills?



Consider signing up for **MPWD's Civic Pay** to pay your bills, instead. It's simple and you won't have to worry about any delays in receipt of your payment. Go to [MidPeninsulaWater.org/billpay](https://MidPeninsulaWater.org/billpay) to sign up or sign in.

If you choose to continue using your bank's bill pay service, please verify that the mailing address for our payment remittance is updated. Our payment remittance address has changed from a lockbox in San Francisco to a lockbox in Los Angeles. Please check that our remittance address is listed as:

**LOCKBOX #0133474**  
**PO BOX 883474**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90088-3474**

Payments that are received in San Francisco will continue to be forwarded to Los Angeles through September 2023. After this time, any payment received in San Francisco will be returned and your account may become in jeopardy of any and all late fees if payment is not received on time.

## 2023 Calendar

The MPWD Water Conservation Poster Contest is back! This year's theme is "**Make Water Use Efficiency YOUR California Way of Life.**" The contest is open to local school students and the calendars will be made available to customers by mid-January 2023.

