

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MPWD • WINTER 2015-16

## ABOUT MPWD

MID-PENINSULA  
WATER DISTRICT

A Green Business

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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Matthew P. Zucca  
President

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

## OFFICERS

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District Engineer

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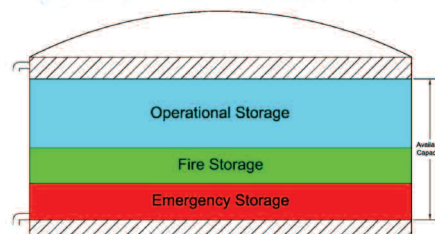


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## Delivering the Highest Quality Water During Challenging Times



The mission of Mid-Peninsula Water District (MPWD) is to deliver a safe, high-quality, reliable supply of water for current and future generations in a cost-effective, environmentally-sensitive, and efficient manner. Our staff works hard to maintain your water system and ensure the delivery of high quality water straight from the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in Yosemite to your home. Maintaining a water system has its challenges, but during drought conditions, water quality becomes more crucial to maintain. When there is plenty of rain, snow, or high water demand, it is easier to keep the water moving because it is being used up at a rapid pace. As a result, fresh water is introduced into the system. This faster turnover keeps the water age to a minimum. Water age is one of the primary factors related to water quality. Another factor is water temperature. When your drinking water is not moving due to a drought and much-needed conservation efforts, in conjunction with warmer weather, the water quality can begin to decline. Due to the need to maintain emergency and fire protection storage, it is necessary to *(continued on p. 3)*



Storage tank levels



## MPWD Proudly Part of Belmont National Night Out

National Night Out (NNO) is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. On August 4th, the City of Belmont – along with more than 16,000 communities in the U.S. and Canada – participated in this year's NNO. Participating Belmont neighborhoods were asked to turn on outdoor lights, lock their doors, and spend the evening outside with



Belmont's Alexander Park Welcomes MPWD



neighbors and various community sponsors. Neighborhoods hosted a variety of events ranging from small potluck gatherings to larger, full-scale BBQ block parties. Representatives from MPWD shared drought outreach and public education materials. ■

## MPWD Q&A: Rain Barrels

Rain barrels are a creative and effective method to conserve water. More and more, Californians are discovering the benefits of installing a rain barrel system at their homes. Recently, we interviewed Mary Arnold, a Belmont resident and MPWD customer, to hear thoughts on her own rain barrel system. Mary is self-taught in rain barrel installation and has been using rainfall water to irrigate her landscape, which is composed of trees, plants, shrubs, and flowers.

**MPWD:** How would you describe your rain catchment system?

**Mary:** It's a DIY project. My husband and I bought barrels ranging in size and shape from 50 to 500 gallons and installed them on all down spouts in both the front and back yards of the home. Some barrels reside solo, while others are linked together to form a storage chain.

**MPWD:** What led you to explore an alternative water source?

**Mary:** Inspiration was drawn from a cabin purchased in the Santa Cruz Mountains whose sole source of potable water came from a well. Because they were presented with such a limited resource, alternatives had to be explored to maintain the landscape and they installed a 500-gallon water tank to serve as a non-potable outdoor water source.

**MPWD:** How long have you been harvesting rain?

**Mary:** 3 years.

**MPWD:** How big is your yard in Belmont?

**Mary:** Property is approximately ¼ acre in size.

**MPWD:** What is your method for application of the water captured?

**Mary:** Strictly hand-watering method. Barrels have a fixed water tap at the bottom where we mainly fill water cans for use. However, a three-foot hose is kept in the backyard and used sometimes.

**MPWD:** What are some pros and cons?

**Mary:** Water savings is obviously the biggest pro. No cons spring to mind.

**MPWD:** Do you have any concerns about the quality of the water?

**Mary:** None. Water is for outdoor use only and not intended for potable purposes.

**MPWD:** How hard is it to keep the barrels clean?

**Mary:** To date there has been no need to clean as all stored water typically gets used up, leaving the barrels to dry prior to the start of the new year's winter weather events.



Rebates for purchase and installation of qualifying rain barrels are available through Mid-Peninsula Water District. Please visit [www.MidPeninsulaWater.org/rebates](http://www.MidPeninsulaWater.org/rebates) for more information and discover how easy and fun rain barrels can be.

## Reinvesting in Our Infrastructure

As committed stewards of your water rate dollars, and to ensure you safe and reliable water delivery, MPWD budgets money specifically to enhance water service and to replace or rehabilitate aged water infrastructure. For MPWD's Fiscal Year 2015-2016, the Board of Directors appropriated \$1.57 million for capital projects. These capital projects include:

- Replacement of the water main on Alameda de las Pulgas Avenue (Cipriani Blvd. to Arbor).
- Replacement of the water main on Karen Road.
- Continue with the AMI meter change-out program.
- Conduct structural and seismic evaluations of the Dekoven and Hallmark Tanks.

- Rehabilitation and replacement of the water system's Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system.
- Comprehensive replacement of the financial management system.



With funding from a previous fiscal year's capital project process, MPWD recently completed a comprehensive system-wide hydraulic analysis and modeling which identified long-term water system improvements. Project prioritization and sources of funding for these improvements will be discussed during upcoming Board meetings. ■

(continued from p. 1)

keep our storage tanks close to 50% at minimum (see diagram on page 1). For current demand or operational storage, our tanks are filled and drawn down as customers use it.

MPWD has six tank sites and eleven storage tanks within its system. Under normal operating conditions, our largest tanks at the top of the system are filled first. As the downstream tanks need to be filled, they draw water progressively from the uphill tanks. This process increases water age through the system as the water is moved from tank to tank. During non-drought conditions, this process has no negative impact on water quality as the demand is high and water moves through the system quickly. Due to the drought and warm weather, our Water Quality Operator, Rick Bisio, routinely samples all tank sites and eleven sample stations throughout the system on a weekly basis to monitor water quality.

We have been able to improve water quality by manually starting pumps and opening regulators at night, when power costs are less. This operational change provides two benefits. First, instead of water being delivered from one tank to the next all tanks are filled simultaneously from the top of our system to the bottom. This way, the system is transferring the same fresh water that's being pumped into the first tanks straight through the grid to the last tanks in line, drastically reducing water age. Second, the tanks are being filled when temperatures are at their lowest, allowing that cold fresh operational storage water to mix with and drop the temperature of the fire and emergency storage water already in the tank. Implementing these operational changes has resulted in maintaining the desired water quality in our storage tanks.

MPWD staff would like to thank our customers for continuing to conserve water during these extreme drought conditions. Our staff will continue to maintain your water system in order to serve you the highest quality water possible. ■

## Safety at MPWD

At Mid-Peninsula Water District, our objective is a safety and health program that will not only reduce the number of injuries and illness to a minimum, but also obtain a goal of zero employee accidents and injuries.



As an employer, Mid-Peninsula Water District accepts the responsibility for leadership of the safety and health program and providing the safeguards required to ensure safe working conditions.

Supervisors are responsible for developing proper attitudes toward safety and health in their crews and for ensuring that all operations are performed with regard for the safety of all personnel involved.

Employees are responsible for following the safety and health program including compliance with all the rules and regulations. Safety meetings are held twice a month and include participation by the employee in presenting a safety topic as well as meeting two other elements in the safety incentive program, including monthly safety observations and attendance at safety meetings. ■

**DID YOU KNOW?** The drinking water provided by MPWD is among the purest in the world.



## Welcome, Rene A. Ramirez!

Rene comes to the Mid-Peninsula Water District from California's Central Valley with almost 30 years of municipal utility management experience. He has served the public in very large and small cities managing municipal water treatment facilities and distribution systems, wastewater collection infrastructure and treatment plants, solid waste collection and diversion programs, and natural gas distribution systems. While serving the public, he has earned state certificates in water treatment operations, wastewater treatment operations, and has become a skilled practitioner in budget development and implementation, capital improvement plan development and project management, asset management, and fostering employee growth.

When asked about joining MPWD, Rene said, "I'm looking forward to working with the Board of Directors, General Manager, and the dedicated District staff to operate and maintain the investment our customers have made in our water system and provide the best service we can to our customers." ■



## Celebrating Employee Service Anniversaries

**Jon "JT" Tscharner** has served MPWD customers for 25 years. His position is Maintenance Technician and he assists his operations team co-workers with water main repairs and system maintenance. He can be found managing traffic control and hauling materials away in the dump truck. JT has long enjoyed being involved in the Belmont community and likes to spend time with his family.



**Henry Young** has served our community for 15 years. As MPWD's Lead Field Operations Supervisor, he is responsible for maintaining the District's 99 miles of water main and service lines that supply homes and businesses, fire hydrants, valves, and emergency connections to our neighboring water systems. Other duties include supervising a four-man operations team, coordination of construction projects, as well as emergency response actions. Henry has been married to Jennifer for ten years and they have two dogs. In addition to traveling, Henry enjoys spending time with his family, golfing, and cooking. ■



## Conservation Corner



MAKE IT A  
**5-MINUTE SHOWER**

Shorter showers save hundreds of gallons of water per month.



MPWD Customers, claim your **FREE** Shower Timer.\*  
Just bring this newsletter to the District office during business hours to redeem and start saving time in the shower.

\* While supplies last.