

THE Waterline

MID-PENINSULA
WATER DISTRICT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MPWD • SPRING 2013

ABOUT MPWD

MID-PENINSULA WATER DISTRICT

A Green Business

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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
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Candy Pina
District Secretary

Joan L. Cassman
District Counsel

Joubin Pakpour
District Engineer

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Meet Your New General Manager

Out of a field of 45 applicants from around the country, the MPWD Board selected **Tammy Rudock** as its new general manager. She brings more than 21 years of experience managing municipal water and sewer utilities and also holds an MBA from Louisiana Tech University and a law degree from Concord Law School.

“I feel honored to be at the helm of an organization that has an 80-year tradition of providing quality water and service to its customers,” says Rudock. “I plan to focus my efforts on developing the most reliable and efficient water distribution system available. Replacement of the Buckland tanks and installation of automated water meters are two projects now underway that play a major role in realizing this goal.” Rudock also notes that enhancing the personalized service customers have come to expect from MPWD is high on her list. “We will continue to stay highly engaged with you, our valued customers, and to implement systems and procedures that make your water service more convenient and cost effective.”

Automated Meters Making a Difference

MPWD maintenance crews have installed more than 1,000 new automated meters. And according to Customer Service Representative **Misty Malczon**, the meters are already helping customers find leaks more quickly. “We’ve been able to notify several customers that were unaware of leaks within their plumbing because of alerts we’ve received from the new automated system. This will translate into important cost savings for our customers.”

The new technology transmits water consumption data to the District’s billing system via a wireless network. When the new system is completely installed, customers will be able to log on to the MPWD website anytime and monitor their water usage on an hourly basis. “So far, customers are excited to have this type of continuous access so they can modify their water use before the end of the billing period and potentially save money, says **Brent Chester**, MPWD Engineering Technician. Meters are being installed on a zone-by-zone basis with a projected completion date of 2015. **For more information, please contact Brent Chester at 650-591-8941.**



Making Every Day Earth Day

We are proud to hold a green certification from the **San Mateo County Area Green Business Program**, recognizing our commitment to environmental sustainability. As part of its ongoing “green” efforts, MPWD participated in the **City of Belmont’s Earth Day** celebration held at Twin Pines Park on April 22nd. Along with other local companies and utilities, MPWD staffers were on hand to educate the public on water conservation programs and products, including rebate applications for EPA-approved Water Sense high-efficiency toilets, qualified clothes washers, and the “Lawn Be Gone” program. Toilet tank banks, simple water saving devices for larger capacity toilets, were a big hit with the public.



MPWD Earth day booth. L to R: Jeanette Kalabolas, Brent Chester, and Tammy Rudock

Conservation Coordinator **Jeanette Kalabolas** says this event allows MPWD to learn about new conservation ideas from other participants and educate the public on ways to save water. “But the real test is when people go home. Our hope is they will monitor their water use more carefully, change out old water-guzzling appliances, and consider swapping turf for water-thrifty landscaping.” **For more information on MPWD’s water conservation tips, go to www.midpeninsulawater.org.**

Locals Learn About Smart Landscaping

Twenty local residents got their hands dirty at this year’s **Water Efficient Landscape Class** offered on April 27th at MPWD’s Belmont facility. The half-day event was part of the San Francisco Bay Area’s Annual Spring landscaping program and included a 30-minute hands-on demonstration and lecture style discussion. Topics included, attractive yet efficient lawn alternatives, soil prep, drip irrigation design, installation and maintenance, and other related issues. “There’s nothing like a hands-on experience to really learn about landscaping techniques,” notes Conservation Coordinator **Jeanette Kalabolas**. “Plus everyone had fun and left with lots of information on how to create attractive landscapes while saving water.”

PEACE OF MIND WITH AUTO BILL PAY

Many MPWD customers are now paying their water bills through automatic bank account withdrawal each month. Why? It eliminates the possibility of late payments, piles of paper, and the hassle of writing and mailing a check each month. And it’s simple to initiate. Simply call one of our customer service representatives at 650-591-8941 and ask them to send you an Automatic Withdrawal form to complete. Then sit back and enjoy the peace of mind.

Buckland Tank Project Progresses

For more than a year, MPWD has been working with its engineering firm, **Pakpour Consulting Group, Inc.**, to remove and replace two water tanks in the Buckland Avenue area.



These tanks provide the only water storage in that area. The project design is now 60% complete with a target completion date of late 2014. The two 100,000-gallon tanks are more than 50 years old, seismically unstable, and beyond repair. The project requires demolishing and hauling off the old tanks and constructing and installing the new ones. It also includes building new foundations, a retaining wall, fencing and piping. The replacement must be done in two phases, as one tank has to stay in operation at all times. According to General Manager **Tammy Rudock**, “The project is very challenging because the location is extremely tight and MPWD shares the driveway with two neighbors who are less than 50 feet from the tank site. Our engineering staff has had ongoing meetings with the neighbors in the area, and we will continue to keep them informed during the entire process.”

“**Sprinklers 101**” was recently launched by the California Dept of Water Resources and Association of California Water Agencies to help residents cut their outdoor water use. It offers online, printed and video materials on water-efficient irrigation for homeowners and landscape professionals, including installing and converting existing systems to drip irrigation and information on smart controllers. Small changes can translate into major water savings. **For more information, go to www.saveourh2o.org/sprinklers101.**