

Water Ways



INSIDE:
Important information about
the quality of your water!

First Rate Report Details High Quality of Water

Carmichael Water District is proud of its excellent water quality. That's why we're pleased to present the consumer confidence report, which demonstrates that the district's water meets all federal and state drinking water health standards.

Each year, Carmichael Water District

(CWD) and other water providers are required to produce and distribute a consumer confidence report (CCR) that provides customers with detailed information about the sources and quality of your drinking water. Inserted into this newsletter is the district's CCR identifying water quality in 2002.

The CCR summarizes testing of contaminants in drinking water during the past year and includes a comparison of the district's water quality to standards set by the California Department of Health Services (DHS) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Steve Nugent Takes Helm as New General Manager

Steve Nugent, the district's assistant general manager for the past eight years, became general manager on July 1, succeeding LaNell Little who retired after 17 years with the district. Little served as the general manager for the past eight years.

"I think the district's greatest achievement in recent history was the building of our water treatment plant on the American River," said Little. "Thanks to that treatment plant, we are

able to provide our customers with some of the purest water in America."

Nugent served as the project manager during the construction of the district's water treatment plant and major pipelines. The board voted unanimously to promote him to general manager.

"LaNell will be greatly missed. I'm looking forward to building on her foundation of providing excellent service and high-quality, reliable water to our customers," said Nugent.



Steve Nugent, the newly appointed general manager, says he will continue to maintain the highest standards of water quality and customer service.



Members of the Sacramento Groundwater Authority and Regional Water Authority fill the district's board room to near capacity at the organizations' joint meeting in May.

District Builds Regional Alliances

Making efficient use of the region's groundwater and surface water supply, participating in Proposition 13 programs and promoting water conservation – these are just a few of the activities on which the water district collaborates with other water agencies throughout the Sacramento Valley. As a member of the Sacramento Groundwater Authority, the Regional Water Authority and its Water Efficiency Program, CWD has had a busy year of participation in regional activities. Board members and district staff have represented the water district at monthly meetings of all three organizations.

In May, the district hosted nearly 60 representatives from 20 public and private water agencies for a joint Regional Water Authority and Sacramento Groundwater Authority meeting. Former Senator Jim Costa presented a briefing on the status of several water supply issues facing California.



- The **Sacramento Groundwater Authority's** primary focus is to protect the region's groundwater basin.



Regional Water Authority
BUILDING ALLIANCES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

- The **Regional Water Authority** seeks to help its members protect and enhance the reliability, availability, affordability and quality of water resources.
- The **RWA Water Efficiency Program** helps water suppliers comply with water conservation goals and obtain grant funding for water efficiency projects.

Metered Billing

Phase II Public Hearing Scheduled

When: Monday, September 15
at 7 p.m.

Where: Carmichael Water District
7837 Fair Oaks Boulevard

Why: To receive public comment
on Phase II of metered billing

Who: Phase II customers

Phase II affects:

- Condominiums
- Duplexes
- Triplexes
- Fourplexes
- Mobile homes

Attend the public hearing to learn more about the metering implementation plan.

Conserving Water Saves Energy and Money

A majority of your water use — and water waste — occurs outdoors, especially during the hot summer months. That's why being water efficient is especially important this time of year.

Carmichael Water District, SMUD and other Regional Water Authority water providers are urging customers to water outdoors only between midnight and 10 a.m., and avoid the peak demand times of 5 to 8 a.m. Scheduling your sprinkling times during these time periods helps two ways: you increase your water efficiency by reducing water loss through evaporation and you help save energy by putting less strain on the power grid during peak demand times.

THE WATER-ENERGY CONNECTION

Each year, the district spends more than \$1 million on electricity for operating the water treatment plant and other district facilities and distributing water to customers. By practicing water efficiency, customers can help reduce the amount of electricity required for distribution.

Updated Site Coming Soon

The district is updating its Web site and aims to have it completed within the next few months. This fall, visit www.carmichaelwd.org for district updates and news, billing information, water quality information, upcoming events and more!



Board Gives OK to Master Plan, Rates and Budget

The district's 100-year master plan is expected to be given final approval at the September 15 board meeting. The plan aims to sustain district facilities and infrastructure over the next century as well as maintain our commitment to programs such as water meter retrofitting, water efficiency and regional planning. On May 19, the board gave preliminary approval to the plan.

The board also unanimously adopted the 2003-04 budget and a new five-year rate structure at its June 23rd meeting. As part of the new rate structure, water rate increases are planned each year for the next five years to help the district meet more stringent federal regulations and some of the needs assessed in the master plan. The first of the board-approved five-year rate structure is a 10 percent increase, which was effective July 1. Rate increases for the next four years will be implemented as follows:

- 8 percent in 2004
- 5 percent in 2005
- 4 percent in 2006
- 4 percent in 2007

The budget increases reflect the board's commitment to long-term budget projections.



This section of the Carmichael Community Garden is already in full bloom. The district helped lay the "groundwork" for the new garden.

Cooperation Blossoms at Community Garden

Carmichael now has its first community garden, thanks to a joint effort by the Carmichael Recreation and Park District, the Sacramento Area Community Garden Coalition and some help from the district. Located at Sutter Park, the garden will be tended by many individuals and community organizations.

The district's garden plot will feature water-efficient plants and irrigation systems. To help prepare the garden, the district pitched in to spread wood chips in pathways, rake the perimeter of the garden for weed and fire control and weed other parts of the garden.

"The community participation and

cooperation that has gone into this garden is phenomenal," said Anne Berner with the Carmichael Community Garden planning committee. She invites all interested individuals and organizations to take part in the garden.

For more information on the Carmichael Community Garden, contact Anne at (916) 944-1042, Sharon Doughty at (916) 944-3628 or Diana Iriguchi at (916) 489-6174.

A community garden is an open plot of land where local residents can grow food, plants and flowers for personal use. Each member can rent an individual garden plot while sharing tools, resources and knowledge with other local gardeners.

Carmichael Water District

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**Look inside for
information about the
quality of your water.**

Snapshot of Water Efficiency



Carmichael Water District boasts drought-tolerant plants and landscaping at its offices at 7837 Fair Oaks Boulevard. Next time you're visiting the district, take a moment to enjoy the beautiful examples of water efficiency.

District Takes on a Little Q & A

The district believes in educating its younger customers-to-be, not only about where water comes from, but about a career in the water world. In honor of Water Awareness Month in May, Steve Nugent made his annual presentation on groundwater aquifers to the 4th and 5th grade classes at two Carmichael elementary schools.

In addition to sharing information about groundwater aquifers, Nugent spoke to the students about the hydrologic cycle and benefits of a career in the water industry.

