



# WATERWAYS

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## Tracking Contaminants

In the past few months, you may have noticed water well drilling taking place within the Carmichael Water District Service Area, especially near Grant, Hollister, and San Lorenzo Way. The purpose of the water well drilling is to monitor for potential contaminants, such as N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA).

As part of its environmental remediation activities, Aerojet installed a monitoring well in Rancho Cordova at Rossmoor Bar. Rossmoor Bar is located in the American River Parkway directly across the river from the end of Landis Avenue. Samples from the test well detected the presence of NDMA in the range of 200-300 ng/l (nanograms per liter or parts per trillion). Because of this,

Aerojet has been directed by the regulatory agencies overseeing their environmental cleanup to install additional monitoring wells within the Carmichael Water District service area.

The purpose of these monitoring wells is to determine if NDMA or any other contaminant has crossed under the American River into Carmichael.

NDMA is a contaminant of recent concern by drinking water regulators

“Since 2000, Carmichael Water District has tested its ground water wells and surface water supply for NDMA and to date has had zero detections.”

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## Updated Website

The district has updated its website at [www.carmichaelwd.org](http://www.carmichaelwd.org). The goal of the site is to provide pertinent information to district customers. The site offers district news, billing information, water quality information, water conservation/

efficiency tips, financial information, updates and news. Please visit our site often as staff will be adding more tools and information in order to keep you updated on upcoming projects, activities, financial information and events. ■





### Letter from the General Manager

Over the past nine months many changes have taken place at the District, beginning with the adoption of the Master Plan—which is the first true in depth planning document for CWD. The Master Plan incorporates infrastructure requirements and addresses available resources to fund these activities.

The District launched its web site which contains information for CWD customers on financial activity, conservation, special projects, water quality and much more. In addition District staff has brought previously out sourced services in-house resulting in savings of over \$100,000/year without increasing staff. The District has also completed a joint project with the Carmichael Recreation and Park District (CRPD) for the installation of over 14,000 ft. of new water main that service CWD customers as well as replacing the aged infrastructure at CRPD. The joint project saved CWD and CRPD over \$1,000,000.00 in capital constructions costs.

Over the next few months the Board will be discussing the annual budget, Phase 2 of the water metering program, and focusing on the tracking of groundwater contaminants (NDMA) that have been recently identified in Aerojet monitoring wells located in the District's service area.

Steve Nugent  
General Manager, CWD

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because of its discovery in ground-water supplies. NDMA is identified as a carcinogen by Title 22, California Code of Regulations (22CCR), Section 12000 pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65), Health and Safety Code Section 25249.5, et al. In April 1998, the California Department of Health Services (DHS) established a drinking water action level (AL) for NDMA of 10 ng/l (nanograms per liter or parts per trillion).

The United States Environmental Protection Agency also evaluated the health effects of NDMA, and classifies it as a probable human carcinogen. The California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) has evaluated NDMA's cancer risk. OEHHA established in 22CCR 12705(b)(1) a

0.04ug/l per day exposure level for NDMA for "no significant risk", for purposes of Proposition 65's warning requirements and discharge prohibition. This equates to 20 ug/l (parts per billion) in drinking water, using a 2-liter daily consumption for 70 years. This corresponds to a theoretical risk of up to one excess case of cancer per million people drinking 2 liters of water daily for a 70-year-lifetime.

Since 2000, Carmichael Water District has tested its ground water wells and surface water supply for NDMA and to date has had zero detections. In 2001, Carmichael Water District completed its new Surface Water Treatment Plant. The new plant has the capacity to deliver up to 90% of the District's water supply needs.

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## FY 2004-2005 Budget

FY 2004-2005 Budget Public Hearing Scheduled

**When:** May 10, 2004  
7:00 p.m.

**Where:** District Meeting Room  
7837 Fair Oaks Blvd.  
Carmichael, CA

The Carmichael Water District has scheduled a public hearing to receive input from customers regarding the proposed 2004-2005 budget prior to taking action on this item.



Attend the public hearing to learn more about the 2004-2005 budget plan.

## Conservation – Spring Tune-up

Spring is upon us and it is time for a water conservation tune-up. As the weather and seasons change, here are some tips to help

- Check your sprinkler heads and drip systems for clogging, leaks and malfunctioning heads. Clean and repair them.
- Adjust your controllers to the odd/even water schedule.
- Add or replace mulch (one of the quickest, easiest and most cost effective ways to save water).
- Sprinkler systems should be run when it's not windy and when it's cool (midnight to early morning) to reduce evaporation.

Keep in mind that watering at the right time of day can save water, energy and money.



Before you begin your next irrigation/gardening project, pick up a brochure titled "Rules of Thumb for Water-Wise Gardening" at the District office. In it you will find helpful tips and resources. ■

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Last month the District requested from USEPA that Aerojet allow CWD to collect and analyze samples from Aerojet's monitoring wells. That request has been granted. Aerojet has also requested permission to perform dual analysis of CWD's production wells. CWD has granted Aerojet permission.

On 3/2/04 the District was notified by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) that one of the monitoring wells located on Grant Avenue tested positive for NDMA. The level of NDMA detected was 93 parts per trillion which is above the action level. SWRCB has directed Aerojet to install additional monitoring wells in the CWD service area.

These wells will be sampled and analyzed by Aerojet and CWD.

CWD is presently working on an action plan that will include elements such as expansion of the water treatment plant and groundwater treatment. The District's plan will also focus on the financial requirements of these upgrades and cost recovery.

The District will continue to monitor the results from Aerojet's groundwater investigation activities and conduct its own testing for NDMA in its drinking water supplies, ensuring that its drinking water meets all state and federal standards for water quality. ■

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## Did you know . . .

The district's website has a water conservation children's connection section. Visit this section for some fun water saving activities.

7837 Fair Oaks Boulevard  
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[www.carmichaelwd.org](http://www.carmichaelwd.org)

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## Phases of Metered Billing

In 1997 the District formed the water rate Structure Committee. The committee was made up of representatives from residential, commercial, business, multi-family, schools, parks, two District directors and a rate consultant. After nine months of meetings the committee developed the rate structure that we use today and the key recommendation that the most effective way to bill for water service would be by metered rate. The report recommended the District should bill on metered rates as soon as possible with a goal of 10 years. The District is currently in Phase II of the metered billing program.

Phase I included the completion of meter installation and transition to metered billing for all commercial,

schools, parks (July 1, 2000) and apartments (July 1, 2001).

Phase II includes the completion of meter installation and transition to metered billing for the following categories: all new construction (January 2004); duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes and mobile homes (July 2004); and condominiums (July 2005).

Phase III includes large residential parcels 1-acre and larger (July 2006).

Phase IV includes residential parcels between 0.5 acre to 1-acre (July 2007).

Phase V includes residential parcels under 0.5 acre (July 2013).

In addition Carmichael Water District will install up to 50

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residential water meters per fiscal year for single family residential property owners who request to be billed on a metered basis. ■