



WATERWAYS

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Be sure to read the
Carmichael Water District's
Consumer Confidence
Report for 2003, inserted
in this newsletter.

Tracking Contaminants – Update

This is the second update on the potential groundwater contamination. Since the last newsletter many activities have been moving forward. Carmichael Water District (CWD) has begun taking split samples with Aerojet. What is a split sample? In this case it simply means both Aerojet and CWD are taking independent water samples from the same location at the same time and then sending the samples to two separate state certified labs for analysis. The first round of sampling showed an increase in NDMA concentration from 93 parts per trillion (ppt) to 130 ppt at the monitoring well located on Grant Avenue near Hollister and the other monitoring well located off Palm Drive had none detected. Aerojet and CWD are also taking split samples at all of CWD's sources of supply and that analysis shows CWD's sources of supply are still clear of NDMA.

Aerojet is also in the final stage of installation of three monitoring wells. The locations of these wells are Landis Avenue between Marshall

and California; Marshall Avenue south of Fair Oaks Blvd; and Castleglen Way. The location of these monitoring wells is to assist Aerojet in identifying the leading edge of the plume.

On June 2, CWD including co-sponsors Carmichael Chamber of Commerce, Carmichael Creek Neighborhood Association, Carmichael Colony Neighborhood Association, USEPA, Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and Aerojet hosted a Town Hall Meeting. Approximately 275 people were in attendance including local officials from the County of Sacramento and the State Department of Health Services. The public listened to four presentations from USEPA, RWQCB, Aerojet and

"Aerojet and CWD are taking independent water samples from the same location at the same time and then sending the samples to two separate state certified labs for analysis."

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Letter from the General Manager

The past three months have been very busy for CWD. In April the District main line crew completed the Abraham Way water line replacement project and began the Marshall Avenue water line replacement project which is on schedule for completion on June 30th. Phase 2 of the water metering program is in the final stages and will be completed by the end of August 2004.

I am proud to announce that on May 5th CWD received the prestigious Clair A. Hill award for excellence for the District's membrane filtration plant. The Clair A. Hill award presented by the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) is the highest honor water utilities can achieve in California. CWD was one of six finalist selected out of 55 projects throughout California.

On May 10th the Board of Directors held the public hearing for the annual budget. The Board listened to the public and answered their questions regarding this year's budget. Prior to the public hearing the Board of Directors conducted four regular session budget meetings for budget presentations from staff. The Board concluded the budget process with the adoption of the District's budget on May 24th.

CWD and co-sponsors the Carmichael Chamber of Commerce, Carmichael Creek Neighborhood Association, Carmichael Colony Neighborhood Association, USEPA, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and Aerojet conducted the first Town Hall Meeting on Groundwater Contamination on June 2nd. The meeting had over 275 people in attendance who listened to presentations from USEPA, RWQCB, Aerojet and CWD. The meeting lasted about three hours and was covered by Channel 3 and the Sacramento Bee.

In closing, I wanted to say thank you to all of you that gave up your evenings to attend one or more of CWD's Board, Budget or Town Hall meetings. Your participation helps make Carmichael a better place to live.

Steve Nugent
General Manager, CWD

<<< Tracking Contaminants *continued from cover*

CWD. The information presented addressed actions USEPA has mandated; the record of decision from RWQCB; the actions Aerojet has already taken and the further steps still ahead; and the steps CWD continues to take to ensure its customers a safe reliable drinking water supply. The public then had an opportunity to ask the presenters questions. Over forty individuals asked over 150 questions of the presenters. The quality of the questions from the public was excellent.

Aerojet's next steps will include continued water quality monitoring; potentially more monitoring wells installed; and groundwater extraction wells, pipelines and treatment facilities constructed, owned and operated by Aerojet to halt the progression of the plume.

In between newsletters, continue to keep updated by attending a CWD Board Meeting or visit CWD's web site at www.carmichaelwd.org. Links to Aerojet, RWQCB and USEPA have been added to CWD's web site making information gathering easier for CWD customers. ■

FY 2004-2005 Budget Adopted

The Board of Directors adopted the five-year water rate schedule (FY 2003-2004 through FY 2007-2008) at the June 23, 2003 board meeting. As per the schedule, the FY 2004-2005 rate increase will be 8% with the new rates effective July 1, 2004. The five-year water rate schedule demonstrates the District's commitment to its budget projection.

The annual budget process continues to be maintained. Monthly budget meetings were held February – April and the FY 2004-2005 Budget Public Hearing took place on May 10, 2004. Fine tuning and modifications were made along the way with the budget being approved by the Board of Directors on May 24, 2004. ■

Carmichael Water District Wins ACWA's 2004 Clair A. Hill Award

The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) presented its prestigious Clair A. Hill Water Agency Award for Excellence to Carmichael Water District on May 5, 2004 at the ACWA conference luncheon. CWD was selected from among six finalists to receive the award for its innovative microfiltration water treatment plant.

The plant was custom designed to be compatible with its residential setting. The District chose the membrane filtration technology because of its size and capability to treat the American River water.

Steve Nugent, General Manager, was project manager of the water treatment plant project which was completed four months ahead of schedule and was three percent under budget.

Nugent said, "The District couldn't have done this without the community's support. They made us look at all the alternatives, demanded that we do it the right way and made sure we made it the best it could be." ■

Front Row: President Dodie Backus, Former GM LaNell Little, General Manager Steve Nugent, Vice-President Sandy Kozlen
Second Row: MWH Engineer Don Spiegel, Director Mark Emmerson, Former Director Curt Spencer, MWH Engineer Scott Boettcher



"The District couldn't have done this without the community's support. They made us look at all the alternatives, demanded that we do it the right way and made sure we made it the best it could be."

—Steve Nugent

Cross Connection Control Program

The Carmichael Water District Board of Directors adopted the Cross Connection Control Program procedures and Fees to further decrease the vulnerability of our public water supply. Starting July 1, 2004 the annual testing of backflow prevention assemblies within the District boundaries will be performed by certified testers employed with the District.

A cross-connection is a point in a plumbing system where the potable water supply is or can be directly connected to a non potable source (water either unfit for drinking or that could damage the distribution system). All commercial, schools, parks, licensed daycare or care facilities are required to have appropriate protection.

If you own a backflow prevention assembly you will receive a test due notice 30 days prior to testing. An annual fee has been set at \$42.95. For more information regarding the program visit the District website at www.carmichaelwd.org under the heading projects/construction – backflow/cross connection. ■

Did you know...

If we conserved 10% of the District's water supply, we would save \$125,000 in electrical costs.

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Phase II of Metered Billing

Phase II of metered billing will include the completion of meter installation and transition to metered billing for the following categories: condominiums, duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes, mobile homes and all new construction.

Phase II of metered billing is under way.

- As of January 1, 2004, all new construction has a meter installed and is on metered billing.
- All duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes and mobile homes will begin metered billing July 1, 2004.
- Condominiums will have meters installed at the connection points to the District's system (master metering) during July 2004 – December 2004 and metered billing will be effective for the condominiums July 1, 2005. ■



Typical meter installation

"Water conservation continues to be an important element in meeting the District's goals. Use water wisely. Wasting water increases energy costs. Water is our most valuable resource."