

Press Release

Montecito Sanitary District Board Meeting Highlights

At their meeting on September 17th, the Montecito Sanitary District (MSD) Governing Board received a report from their Public Information Committee, Director Bob Williams and Jeff Kerns. The Public Information Committee had met on September 14th to discuss concerns regarding information that has been in the press and in paid ads that make it appear that Montecito Sanitary District has not been treating wastewater properly.

The Public Information Committee requested MSD staff give a presentation regarding the levels of treatment for wastewater and the compliance record of the District. At Monday's Board meeting MSD staff provided information demonstrating the excellent compliance record of the District in fully treating the community's wastewater. MSD Board members want their constituents to know that the wastewater treatment plant is fully functioning and meeting all requirements of their State Water Board issued NPDES permit. Members of the community are invited to come and witness the treatment process and see the "before and after" of the treated water. Interested individuals should call 805-969-4200 to schedule a personalized tour of the wastewater treatment plant.

The Board also heard a report regarding an interesting arrangement for water reuse that is being successfully carried out in the Carmel area. Director Bob Williams and General Manager Diane Gabriel recently visited the treatment plant site of a water reuse project that is operated by the Carmel Area Wastewater District and funded by seven golf courses in the Pebble Beach area. The seven golf courses are irrigated solely with recycled water created through a treatment process very similar to the pilot project that MSD is undertaking. Each 18-hole golf course in California uses an average of 200,000 gallons of water per day for irrigation. In Pebble Beach, the golf courses are required to use recycled water as mandated by the state and their local water agency. The golf courses are not allowed to use ground water and they are not allowed to use drinking (potable) water to irrigate. When asked by Director Jeff Kerns if such an arrangement could work in Montecito to serve the two private golf courses, Birnam Wood and Valley Club, General Manager Gabriel stated that it might be a very viable option for the community.

MSD staff and Administration and Operations Committee members, Bob Williams and Warner Owens, will attend the Strategic Planning Committee meeting on September 20th at 1:00 at the Montecito Water District. On the agenda for the MWD Strategic Planning Committee is an Update on the Recycled Water Feasibility Study. The MWD study looks at 27 different options for the reuse of wastewater in the community.

For more information please contact MSD General Manager Diane Gabriel at 805-969-4200 or email dgabriel@montsan.org