



# Monterey Peninsula Groundwater Replenishment Project

*Providing A Safe And Sustainable Water Supply*

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## MRWPCA GROUNDWATER REPLENISHMENT PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency (MRWPCA) operates a regional wastewater treatment plant, maintains 25 wastewater pump stations, and in partnership with Monterey County, operates a water recycling facility and manages the recycled water distribution system that provides irrigation water to 12,000 acres of farmland. The Agency serves Del Rey Oaks, Monterey, Pacific Grove, Salinas, Sand City, Seaside, Boronda, Castroville, Moss Landing, Marina, former Fort Ord, and unincorporated portions of northern Monterey County.

MRWPCA is a regional joint powers authority with a Board of Directors whose members represent each city, the County and special districts in its service area. This Agency manages, treats and disposes of over 20 million gallons of wastewater per day from 250,000 residents. MRWPCA, along with the Monterey County Water Resources Agency, is the joint developer of a world-renowned recycled water agricultural program. MRWPCA has a strong history of cost-effective, safe and reliable wastewater and recycled water services, and has won numerous awards that reflect the agency's professionalism in providing these services.

MRWPCA is studying ways to fully reuse its wastewater, the goal being zero discharge into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The Monterey region is faced with critical water shortages, over drafted water basins, court-ordered aquifer pumping reductions, and periodic droughts. Conserving and reusing the water resources that we have is the most sustainable way for our communities to have reliable and cost-effective water for now and the future.

MRWPCA started planning for the Monterey Peninsula Groundwater Replenishment Project (GWR) in 2006. Its Board of Directors and management believe that it's important for Monterey Peninsula to have *numerous* viable water supply options. Studies have already been conducted that conclude that GWR can bring high quality, safe water to the Peninsula, and more studies are underway. The GWR Project is part of the overall Regional Water Program and the program-level environmental review has already been completed.

The Monterey Peninsula Groundwater Replenishment Project can supply an estimated 2,700 acre feet of water that will recharge the Seaside Groundwater Basin and blend with natural groundwater before being extracted. The highly treated recycled water will be further purified using state-of-the-art microfiltration, reverse osmosis, and oxidation with ultraviolet light and hydrogen peroxide, resulting in water that is purer than bottled water. The purified water will then be returned to the natural groundwater. This same technology is used at the highly successful Orange County Water District's Groundwater Replenishment System, which is on track to produce over 100 million gallons per day of highly purified water.

The benefits of the Monterey Peninsula Groundwater Replenishment Project include:

- Energy efficiency
- Provides up to 2,700 acre feet
- Enough water to supply 10,800 homes per year (¼ acre foot per home)
- Cost effective at \$2,000-\$3,000 per acre foot
- Reliable, sustainable, local water supply
- Preserves the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

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- Helps prevent seawater intrusion in the Seaside Groundwater Basin
  - Program-level environmental review as part of the Regional Water Program
  - Strong support from environmental groups and community leaders

The Monterey Peninsula Groundwater Replenishment Project process and technology produces high quality water that is safe enough to be introduced into the local water supply. There are strict regulatory controls and oversight by the County and State Department of Public Health. The water purification technology removes harmful bacteria, viruses, and pharmaceuticals to levels of non-detection. The GWR treatment process is *proven* technology and has been used for 35 years at the Orange County Water District and numerous other public agencies nationally and internationally. In addition, there is an independent panel of renowned experts who review and guide the project every step of the way.

Over the next couple of years, MRWPCA will continue pilot plant and injection well studies, seek funding from various sources, and implement a public outreach and involvement program. It is estimated that the GWR Project can be completed by late 2016, or early 2017. The cost of this highly purified water is in the range of \$2,000-\$3,000 per acre foot.

For more information contact:



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