

June 2007



Carpinteria Valley Water District

H₂KNOW

Steelhead Habitat Restoration Efforts

As a member of the Cachuma Project, Carpinteria Valley Water District contributes about \$100,000 per year for steelhead habitat restoration efforts.

In 1997, the southern steelhead was listed as an endangered species by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Since 1993, Cachuma Project Biology Staff have gathered data on the seasonal geographic distribution, migration, and general abundance of steelhead in the Lower Santa Ynez River and its tributaries. This data was used to develop the Lower Santa Ynez River Fish Management Plan (Plan) in 2000. NMFS approved the Plan as a way to help increase steelhead populations in the lower Santa Ynez River and then wrote a Biological Opinion for the Cachuma Project that incorporated all of the projects presented in the Plan.

Subsequent contributions to the CVWD newsletter will describe these projects and research results with more detail. Overall, these projects have steadily increased the number of stream miles for steelhead migration and over-summer rearing in the lower watershed with 2006 being the best year since the Project's inception with over 3000 adult and juvenile steelhead/rainbow trout observed in the basin.

Fish habitat projects are implemented by the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board (COMB). This is a joint powers agency consisting of representatives from five agencies. They are Matt Loudon—Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, ID#1, Chuck Evans-Goleta Water District, Das Williams-City of Santa Barbara, Jan Abel-Montecito Water District, and Robert Lieberknecht-Carpinteria Valley Water District. COMB holds monthly board meetings typically on the 4th Monday of each month immediately after the Cachuma Conservation Resource Board meetings at 2:15 p.m. The meetings are held at 3301 Laurel Canyon Road, Santa Barbara. For more information call Kate Rees, Interim General Manager at (805) 569-1391.

June Board of Directors Meeting

The Board Meeting for the month of June will be: **Wednesday, June 20th**

The meeting will be held at 4 p.m. in the District's Board Room located at 1301 Santa Ynez Avenue.

El Distrito es bilingue. Favor de llamar (805) 684-2816 con cualquier pregunta sobre su cuenta o el uso de agua, estamos aqui para asistirlos.

Water Rates Increases Approved

The Board of Directors on May 23, 2007 approved the proposed increases in the water rates as noticed in the March 29 public notice. About 600 protest letters out of 6,000 parcels in the District were received at the District by the close of the public hearing on May 23. A majority protest would have required over 3,000 protests.

Efforts are underway by the District to reduce its State Water allotment and costs. If successful, customers will see some relief from the continued high water rate increases. Another large cost that is now being passed along in the rate increase is related to safe drinking water regulations. To meet the ever more stringent safe drinking water regulations the District has nearly completed \$25 million of capital improvements. These costs are allocated to all dwelling units and structures in the District equally. For more information please contact Charles Hamilton @ 684-2816.

Water Awareness High School Video Contest



Congratulations to local high school students who participated in the 7th annual Water Awareness High School Video Contest. Cate School was awarded 3rd place and \$500 for their video titled "One Drop at a Time". Pictured with teacher Julie Garrison and CVWD General Manager Charles Hamilton are Cate School students, Lizzy Roberts, Lily Nguyen, Becca Grossman, Anu Atre, Aliya Weiss, and Karla Casariego. Carpinteria High School students, Michael Stetson and Christopher Connor received the Highest Honorable Mention Award and \$200 for their video titled "Conservation Practices".



Have you visited our web site lately?

New information is added and updated frequently.
Be sure to visit the website at www.cvwd.net

Carpinteria Valley Water District Board of Directors

Fred Lemere
President

June Van Wingerden
Vice President

Jim Drain
Bob Lieberknecht
Matt Roberts

Board Meetings

CVWD's Board of Directors meets on the 3rd and 4th Wednesdays of each month. Regular meetings begin at 4 p.m., are open to the public, and are held at 1301 Santa Ynez Ave., Carpinteria. For more information, phone (805) 684-2816

Staff

Charles Hamilton
General Manager

Suzie Lara
Alex Keuper

Engineering
Bob McDonald
District Engineer

Brian King
Rhonda Gutierrez

Business
Norma Rosales
Business Manager

Esperanza Barbosa
Tootie Maier
Patty Rodriguez

Operations and
Maintenance
Omar Castro
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