

July 2007



Carpinteria Valley Water District

# H<sub>2</sub>KNOW

## *Your Safe Drinking Water Projects: A Race Against Time, Uphill, with a Handicap*

A little over 12 years ago, I started my career at Carpinteria Valley Water District with the admonition that anything I tried to do here would be very difficult because of the projected impacts on the water rates due to the high cost of State Water. How true this has been.

Within six months of my arrival, it became clear to me that major expensive capital improvements were going to be necessary to modernize our 1950's constructed water system to meet the ever more stringent safe drinking water standards mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the California Department of Health Services. I realized that, like it or not, we were in a race against time to build the projects to enable the District to stay ahead of boil water orders and mass mailings to customers about unsafe drinking water and failure to meet disinfection byproduct standards.

To make a long story short, your Board of Directors, making the difficult decisions, in 1998 embraced the necessity of new expenditures adding to the water rates, on top of already steep State Water rate hikes. It has been difficult to convince many members of the public of the necessity. With one recent exception of a public notice about a disinfection byproduct standard failure, there have been no bad experiences to allow the public to realize or experience the gravity of our safe drinking water problem. There has been no issuance of a boil water order. And notices about "long term adverse health risks" caused by "disinfection byproducts" just do not seem to resonate as a serious public health issue.

Please know that the District remains committed to reach out to you, customers of the District, to help you understand what you need to know about the District's costly and successful efforts to ensure that your water is safe to drink. I believe you can and should be confident in the performance of your water district. Accordingly, **the District is planning a major public outreach event about the completion of its safe drinking water projects in late September.** In the meantime, please call me directly at (805) 684-2816 with concerns or questions and without hesitation, I will make whatever time is necessary to respond.

Charles Hamilton, General Manager

### **NOTE: 2006 Consumer Confidence Report - High Aluminum Detected Range.**

The high aluminum read was associated with a water sample from a well undergoing rehabilitation. No water from this sample source entered the water distribution system. The actual reporting value for aluminum within the distribution system is "non-detect (ND)". We apologize for any confusion this may have caused. If you have any questions about the Consumer Confidence Report, please contact the District at (805) 684-2816.

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.

## *July Board of Directors Meetings*

The Board Meetings for the month of July will be:

**Wednesday, July 18th**  
**Wednesday, July 25th**

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

## *CVWD and Fire Protection*

Although summer brings fun-filled days at the beach and backyard barbecues, the recent Angora Fire in South Lake Tahoe and, closer to home, the Rancho Wildland Fire in the Los Padres Forest are reminders of the importance of fire protection. Carpinteria Valley is in a high fire zone and susceptible to the ravages of fire. Summer is also fire season.

Carpinteria Valley Water District (CVWD) plays a major role in fire suppression through the installation and maintenance of approximately four hundred fire hydrants within its jurisdiction. The CVWD Operations and Maintenance department has been working diligently to remove old dry-barrel fire hydrants installed in the late 1950's and early 1960's. These older hydrants were identified as potential hazards during fire fighting due to inoperable valves and weak parts that could break during operation. Between 2005 through June 2007, the District has removed approximately forty dry-barrel hydrants using adapters and installed modern wet-barrel hydrants. Another eight dry-barrel hydrants will be replaced during fiscal year 2007-2008.

## *Best Wishes to Joey Mendoza*



Best wishes to Joey Mendoza, who after 14+ years is leaving the District to pursue other career goals. Joey's dedication and positive attitude have made him a valuable employee of the District. In addition, his prompt response to emergency calls and readiness to provide quality customer service to the residents of the Carpinteria Valley are a testament of his strong work ethic. Joey will be missed by his co-workers at the District.

*Have you visited our web site lately?*

New information is added and updated frequently.  
Be sure to visit the website at [www.cvwd.net](http://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  
*O&M Manager*

Joel Cox  
Jon Macias  
Danny Rada  
Daniel Rodriguez  
Greg Stanford

