

October 2007



Carpinteria Valley Water District

H₂KNOW

CVWD Capital Improvement Program

Not many people really think about this: Turn on the tap and out comes the water. An at-command flow of water is a staple of the American lifestyle, taken for granted on the same level as fully stocked grocery shelves or the convenience of electric washing machines and dryers. Who really gives thought to what's behind every drop from the faucet?

To meet the needs of its customers, the Carpinteria Valley Water District is always thinking about delivering a reliable source of safe drinking water. In 1999, the district adopted a Strategic and Capital Improvement Plan to meet the health requirements of its water and to make sure there would be a sufficient supply of it. At that time, district water was barely compliant with government guidelines.

In the Capital Improvement Plan the Water District developed four components to address future water needs and water quality. The four projects are the Ortega Reservoir Cover, the Carpinteria Reservoir Cover, the Headquarters Well and Filtration Plant and the 3-Million Gallon Storage Tank. Obviously, the reservoir covers and filtration plant improve water quality. The Headquarters Well has given the district a highly productive source for groundwater, which is better in quality than the surface water at Cachuma Lake, and the new Storage Tank stores the well water.

As expected, the ambitious \$27 million Capital Improvement Program (CIP) was not without its challenges. Each of the four plans had its own set of unique problems, but there was one common thread through the entire Capital Improvement Program. With already very high water bills due to the State Water Project, which was voted in by Carpinterians in the early 1990s, how would District customers feel about underwriting the improvements and seeing their water rates become some of the highest in the Santa Barbara area? As anticipated, customers were not happy, and in true Carpinteria fashion, they let the District board of directors know it. With public health reasons winning out and a renewed sense of water conservation in the community, the project moved forward. The CIP charge on customers' water bills pays off the low interest loans and Certificates of Participation (COPs) financed by the District that funded the four projects.

In 1941, when it was incorporated, the Carpinteria Valley Water District's focus was the agricultural customer. Now, to meet the challenges presented by a different customer base, the Carpinteria Valley Water District melded today's complex engineering models while navigating the obstacle course of complicated regulatory and permitting processes. To complete the projects, they built upon thousands of years of expertise (think Roman aqueducts, Moorish runnels and hillside rice terrace irrigation) to bring the Capital Improvement Plan to a successful finish.

**Article produced in conjunction with Avocado Creative*



Fred Lemere, CVWD Board President cuts the ceremonial ribbon at the District's CIP Dedication on September 19, 2007. Pictured with him from left to right are General Manager, Charles Hamilton, Vice-President, June Van Wingerden, and Directors Matt Roberts and Jim Drain. Director Bob Lieberknecht was unable to attend.

Photo by Eileen Schuler

Lagoon Monitoring at the Mouth of the Santa Ynez River

Project sponsored by CVWD and other agencies

Article by Dan Segan and Timothy H. Robinson, Cachuma Project Water Agencies

Steelhead - like salmon - live much of their life in the ocean, and then return to spawn in their natal rivers or streams. During periods of rainfall, the Santa Ynez River breaks open the sandbar along the shore that builds up from surf and tides during the dry season effectively closing off the river and enabling the lagoon to enlarge. The breached lagoon offers young steelhead reared in the tributaries and mainstem of the river the opportunity to move into the ocean and begin the anadromous (ocean) phase of their lifecycle. It also affords mature steelhead a means to return to the rivers and creeks of their youth, where they will spawn the next generation of steelhead. Lee Miller, a volunteer with the fisheries program since 2006, keeps watch over this process from Ocean Park beach area near Lompoc. He checks the sandbar two or three times a week, and more frequently when it rains. Lee reports whenever the sandbar is open, allowing fisheries biologist to more efficiently manage and monitor the steelhead population in the Santa Ynez River basin. When the sandbar has been breached and there is sufficient water in the reservoir, managers can decide to supplement river flows by releasing water from Lake Cachuma and augmenting natural flows, affording fish precious extra days to migrate to and from the ocean. In 2006, an above average rainfall year, such releases were conducted for the first time and provided migrating fish with 19 additional migration days. During these releases, eleven smolts (young ocean bound steelhead), were observed in the mainstem of the Santa Ynez River making their way towards the ocean. These smolts were the first smolts observed in the mainstem of the Lower Santa Ynez River in more than 50 years.



October Board of Directors Meeting

The Board Meeting for the month of October will be:

Wednesday, October 17th

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



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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
O&M Manager

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