

March 2008



Carpinteria Valley Water District

# H<sub>2</sub>KNOW

## *Water Rates...Proposed Changes in the Making....*

Two proposed major changes in the Water Rates are going forward this year:

- 1) All Residential, Commercial, Industrial and Public Authority customers will have a uniformly and uniquely calculated 3 tiered conservation-oriented water rate. This is a change from what has up to now only been applied to Residential customers.

*This change puts all Residential, Commercial, Industrial and Public Authority customers on the same footing for conservation purposes. The tiers will be based on a calculation of average water use for each individual account. This is a change from the "one size fits all" approach that exists in the current tiered rate for just Residential customers. A customer will be able to see clearly how conserving water will benefit them.*

- 2) The District's safe drinking water program charge, known as the Capital Improvement Program or "CIP" charge is going to be calculated in a way to reflect the amount of water a customer actually uses, based on an average of 5 years of water consumption for each account. The current CIP charge is also a "one size fits all" charge - the same for every dwelling unit no matter how much water a customer uses.

*This change will shift costs from many, but not all, residential customers who use less water, to most commercial, industrial and public authority customers who use larger amounts of water. All multifamily residential customers living in condos or mobile home parks will pay proportionally less in CIP charges than before.*

The **proposed** water rate changes, along with preliminary rate and budget information for the next fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008, will be presented by staff to the Board of Directors in a televised meeting at City Hall on Wednesday, March 5 at 7 pm.

Please call the General Manager Charles Hamilton at 684-2816 for more information.

### *March Board of Directors Meetings*

The Board Meetings for the month of March will be:

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>March 5</b>	<b>7 pm</b>	<b>City Hall</b>	<b>5775 Carpinteria Ave</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>March 26</b>	<b>4 pm</b>	<b>District Boardroom</b>	<b>1301 Santa Ynez Ave</b>

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.

## Lake Cachuma Spilled!



As February H2Know went to print, managers at Bradbury Dam anticipated an inflow of water from January storms and began to release water into the Santa Ynez River. With this spill event, the reservoir is at capacity - 193,871 acre feet as of February 20th.

The inflow of water during January introduced a great deal of total organic carbons (sediment). In order to clean the water for consumption, managers at the William B. Cater Treatment Plant in Santa Barbara have replaced the granular activated carbon in the filter vessels.

## Spring Conservation

Spring is right around the corner and many will be preparing their gardens and landscaping with new plantings. It is a good time then to also implement the following water-efficient irrigation practices:

- Visit the District's Water Conservation Garden for ideas of low water use plantings that will stay healthy and beautiful throughout the spring and summer. For your convenience a map of the garden and listing of plants can be obtained from the District office.
- Check sprinklers and drip irrigation systems for leaks and replace.
- Increase irrigation potential from rainfall by redirecting downspout gutters toward trees, plants and other landscaped areas.
- Encourage deep root growth of your lawn by delaying regular lawn watering during the first cool weeks of spring. Deep roots keep a lawn healthy in the summer.
- Install a Smart Irrigation Controller which uses weather, plant and soil type to determine a watering schedule. If you are interested in replacing your time-based controller with a smart "weather-based" controller, contact Rhonda (805) 684-2816 or rhonda@cvwd.net.
- Use the **landscape watering calculator** to find how much water is needed to keep your landscape healthy and the **watering index** to adjust your watering percentage due to changes in the weather. These tools can be accessed at [www.sbwater.org](http://www.sbwater.org).



Visit our website at [www.cvwd.net](http://www.cvwd.net) for new and updated information.

## 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*

Jon Macias  
Justin Martinez  
Anne Mounce  
Danny Rada  
Daniel Rodriguez  
Greg Stanford