



May 2008

Carpinteria Valley Water District

H₂KNOW

What Are We Doing About the High Rates?

A message from the General Manager.

A customer recently asked me what the District is doing about its high water rates compared to other agencies in Santa Barbara County. I first gave a short answer about why they keep going up: It just costs a lot of money to build new and replace old waterworks facilities.

But then I started telling him about steps the District has taken and is taking now that will significantly improve the financial outlook for the District and greatly reduce the upward pressure on the water rates. These steps have to do with the sale or transfer of some of the District's 2,000 acre feet of State Water allocation. It is now evident that the District overinvested in 1991 in State Water as a backup source of supply.

Plains Exploration and Production (PXP)

The Board agreed in 2006 to sell up to 400 acre feet of State Water allotment to PXP. This option-to-buy agreement currently brings in \$300,000/year that would otherwise have to be collected from Carpinteria Valley customers to help pay down the District's annual \$3 million State Water debt obligation. If the agreement is consummated, the annual benefit jumps to \$600,000, and the District may also receive as much as \$2 million in cash as an equity buy-in.

City of Guadalupe

The District has begun formal negotiations to sell up to 500 acre feet of State Water Allotment to the City of Guadalupe. Such a sale would benefit the District greatly, in the same manner as the PXP sale.

Other parties have also inquired about the District's State Water and may soon begin formal discussions with the District as well.

In the meantime, the District this year also secured participation in a unique water banking opportunity in Kern County to store unneeded State Water for later use – for up to five years. This agreement with the Irvine Ranch Water District involves a multi-agency network including the Central Coast Water Authority, the Kern County Water Agency, the Rosedale Rio Bravo Water Storage District, and the California Department of Water Resources.

Please call me if you would like to know more.
Charles B. Hamilton

Proposed Water Rates

The Board of Directors has revised the proposed rate schedule, beginning with the July 2008 billing period. Six (6) units of water is now the proposed minimum for the first tiered rate for all customers. This action will lower projected water bills for customers with a low Base rate (less than 6 units).

Please contact the District with any questions.

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.

May Board of Directors Meetings

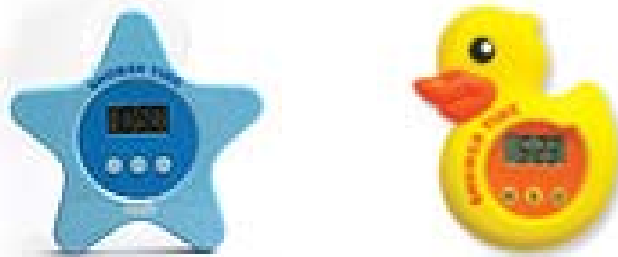
The Board Meetings for the month of May will be:

Wednesday	May 14	4 pm	District Boardroom 1301 Santa Ynez Ave
Wednesday	May 28	7 pm	City Hall –<i>Televised</i> 5775 Carpinteria Ave



For years water conservation has been a way of life for many Carpinteria Valley and Santa Barbara County residents and as always it continues to be important. If every person saved 20 gallons of water a day that will significantly help the region by allowing more water to stay in storage to meet future demands. Saving water is easier than you think. A few simple changes such as fixing leaking faucets and fixtures, not letting the water run as you rinse dishes or brush your teeth, and choosing water-wise or native plants for your garden can make a big difference in your water usage. Visit www.sbwater.org to take the 20 gallon challenge pledge and find out ways you can reduce your water usage.

In addition, the District has water saving tools to help you reach your water saving goals. You can purchase, at cost, low-flow showerheads and garden nozzles as well as the digital shower-timers, pictured below, from the District. Reducing your shower by two (2) minutes can save 5 gallons of water.



New Payment Options

In an effort to provide convenient payment methods, the **District is now able to accept payment by Visa or Mastercard.** For security reasons, payments must be made in person at the District office.

In addition, a new payment box has been placed closer to the parking lot for easy drop off.



Visit our website at www.cvwd.net for new and updated information.

Carpinteria Valley Water District Board of Directors

Frederick Lemere
President

June Van Wingerden
Vice President

James W. Drain
Robert R. Lieberknecht
Matthew T. Roberts

Board Meetings

CVWD's Board of Directors regularly meets on the 3rd or 4th Wednesday 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 on the meeting schedule, 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
Sarah Strassburg-Salas