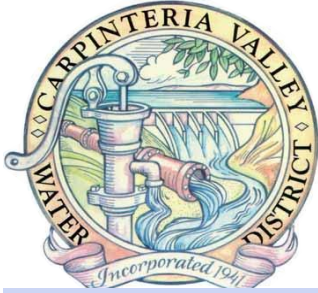


January 2009



Carpinteria Valley Water District

H₂KNOW

An Unexpected Tea Fire Aftermath

This is a reprint of an article by Tom Mosby, General Manager, Montecito Water District published in The Montecito Journal, 18-25 December 2008, Vol. 14 Issue 50:

On Thursday morning, December 4 at about 9:10 AM, three weeks after the Tea Fire, the unthinkable happened on the western boundary of the Montecito Water District (MWD). A contractor working for the City of Santa Barbara on Tea Fire erosion control measures hit and ruptured the Cachuma Project 30-inch South Coast Conduit (SCC) water transmission main serving the communities of Montecito, Summerland and Carpinteria. The SCC provides MWD and the Carpinteria Valley Water District (CVWD) with up to 80% of their daily water needs. This vital water pipeline, bringing Cachuma and State water into our communities, has never been out of service since its installation in the mid 1950s.

Treated water from the City of Santa Barbara Cater Treatment Plant, being delivered to Montecito and the Carpinteria Valley Water Districts through the SCC, was immediately shut off, with deliveries not expected for a minimum of five days.

MWD and CVWD managers were at the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) conference in Long Beach at the time of the incident, being briefed on future State Water supply reliability and other matters. Due to the severity of this water service outage, the managers returned from the conference early to determine water delivery impacts to our respective communities.

Both MWD and CVWD implemented special operational procedures to continue water service to our communities without the normal delivery of Lake Cachuma water. MWD was fortunate to have sole use of the 23-million-gallon Ortega Reservoir, which by Friday mid morning had a remaining storage capacity of about 15.9 million gallons. MWD also maximized water deliveries from its Jameson Lake water supply on the Santa Ynez River.

To extend the water supplies available to the Carpinteria community, CVWD maximized water production from its refurbished Headquarters Well and utilized its new 3-million-gallon Foothill Reservoir. Without these new facilities and system improvements at CVWD, it was estimated that the Carpinteria community had only two days remaining of normal water service deliveries to its customers. With these new facilities in operation, CVWD estimated it had about seven days of water remaining for its service area.

MWD, CVWD and Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board (COMB) managers met Friday morning to assess current customer water demand trends, and determine the impacts to the available water supply for the expected outage period. It was calculated by MWD staff that a minimum water supply of approximately five days was left for normal service to its customers.

The contractor that broke the pipeline was well qualified to fix it and immediately took on the responsibility of the repair under the supervision of COMB. The new 30-inch pipe required for the repair had been located and delivered by the close of the work day on Friday. Pipe of this type and size can be difficult to procure, however a pipe supplier had the pipe in stock and ready for delivery.

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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.

The repair consisted of cutting out 16 feet of the existing 30-inch pipe and replacing that portion of pipe with the new section of steel pipe. Highly skilled welders performed this special repair. The contractor worked through the weekend, and completed the repair by midday Sunday. Actual water service to the pipeline from the Cater Treatment Plant began Monday morning; however a disinfection and flushing procedure had to be completed prior to taking normal water deliveries. The disinfection procedure was completed by 5:15 pm Monday, allowing MWD and CVWD to resume water service from the SCC.

This incident is one that we plan for, but we hope to never experience. Due to extenuating circumstances that were in the Districts' favor, water service outages to District customers did not occur. Reservoir water storage levels throughout the five-day outage of the SCC were kept stable by using our other sources of supply and new system improvements. In the final analysis, the Districts came through this incident very well.

A question that needs to be answered is, could the SCC break have been averted? Normal safeguards that are in place should never have allowed a break under these circumstances to occur. Both the contractor and COMB will need to answer some serious questions to determine what went wrong. This break, however, did give MWD, CVWD, and COMB valuable experience in response, repairs and impacts to our water systems. Information gained will be used for the future operation and maintenance of the SCC and our own water supply and distribution systems.

**Carpinteria Valley
Water District
Board of Directors**

Frederick Lemere
President

June Van Wingerden
Vice President

James W. Drain
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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



January Holiday Schedule

The District Office will be closed **Monday, January 19th** in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. The District will reopen for business on January 20th.

January Board of Directors Meetings

The Board Meetings for the month of January will be:

**Wednesday, January 21st
Wednesday, January 28th**

The meetings will be at 4 p.m. in the District Boardroom located at 1301 Santa Ynez Avenue.

Staff

Charles Hamilton
General Manager

Alex Keuper

Engineering
Bob McDonald
District Engineer

Brian King
Rhonda Gutierrez

Business
Norma Rosales
Business Manager

Esperanza Barbosa
Suzie Lara
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

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