



July 2011

Carpinteria Valley Water District

# H<sub>2</sub>KNOW

## ***New Budget and Rates Approved on June 8, 2011***

The Board of Directors at their regularly scheduled Board meeting on June 8, 2011 approved the 2011-2012 fiscal year budget and new schedule for water rates and charges (posted on the District's website). The new rates will first be reflected in customer bills mailed out in early August for water used in the July billing period.

**Two major important actions** taken by the District in the last 20 years, one providing for **water supply reliability** and the other providing for **safe drinking water**, have contributed to the District's significant debt burden and upward pressure on the rates. **The first**, a result of a vote of the public in 1991, during a time of severe drought, was the former Board's decision to contract for 2,000 acre feet of State Water entitlement through the Central Coast Water Authority. **The second** was the Board's decision in the late 1990's to embark on a major Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to address evolving drinking water standards as set forth and regulated by the California Department of Public Health and the United States Environmental Protection Agency. CIP projects now completed include construction of the massive Carpinteria and Ortega Reservoir covers, a buried 3 million gallon reservoir, two wells and a filtration plant. A new project introducing ozone into the water treatment process for the District's Cachuma water passing through the City of Santa Barbara's Cater Treatment Plant is now underway. The District must pay about 20% of this \$20 million project cost.

**Today, as a result of these actions, the District is in better shape than ever to 1) address another major drought, and 2) stay ahead of increasingly stringent safe drinking water standards and deliver safe drinking water.**

**Looking forward**, the challenges facing Carpinteria Valley Water District are no different from most other water utilities. The District is now tasked with repairing and rebuilding an aging infrastructure of transmission and distribution pipelines, pumps, motors, treatment facilities, reservoirs, including those of the Cachuma Project constructed in the early 1950's, upon which the District relies for well over half of its annual water supply. And the District's High School Well needs to be re-drilled. Of course, **repairing, rebuilding and replacing infrastructure costs a lot of money, and creates an inescapable ongoing upward pressure on water rates.**

The District receives no property tax revenue. Future water rate increases related to these on-going costs are therefore more than likely, and will vary depending upon the availability of grant and loan funds available from State and Federal sources. Dedicated to meeting its customers' vital public health and safety needs with a safe and reliable drinking water system, the Board of Directors remains committed, more than ever, to keeping its customers informed and seeking their support and understanding for necessary capital improvements and related future water rate increases.

### **Questions About the Fairness of the District's Water Rate Structure?**

The Board's Rate & Budget Committee (Directors Ducharme and Roberts) is just beginning a 3-month long Rate Structure review process. Customers are encouraged to attend their Committee meetings as well as the Board meetings when this matter is discussed, and should call the District to obtain future meeting dates and information. The next Rate & Budget Committee meeting is now scheduled for Wednesday, July 13, 2011 at noon at the District Offices on 1301 Santa Ynez Avenue. The matter will also be addressed at the Board meeting that evening at Carpinteria City Hall at 5:30 pm.

## **Correction to 2010 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)**

The District recently mailed out its 2010 Annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). The values for barium in groundwater in the CCR were mistakenly reported in parts per billion, and not parts per million. The correct "range detected" should have read ".0384 - .0561" (milligrams per liter (mg/l) or parts per million) with a "reporting value" of ".0561" (mg/l), well below the "maximum contaminant level" of 1.0 mg/l or part per million.



**You are Invited!**

### **CVWD is hosting a Sustainable Garden Workshop**

**Saturday, July 23, 2011**

**9 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

**CVWD District Office**

**1301 Santa Ynez Avenue, Carpinteria**

The workshop will include a motivating PowerPoint presentation by Corey Welles, Plant Health Care Coordinator at Lotusland. Topics to be covered include garden ecology, water-saving techniques, lawn care (or replacement) ideas, proper plant selection, pest management, hands-on activities, and samples of safe and effective organic garden products.

To sign up, contact Rhonda, rhonda@cvwd.net or (805) 684-2816 ext. 116. Sign up early, space is limited to 25 participants.

### ***Board of Directors Meetings***

Regular Board meetings may be held on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month at 5:30 pm at Carpinteria City Hall, 5775 Carpinteria Avenue. The Board may also hold regular Board meetings other Wednesdays of the month at 5:30 pm at the District Offices at 1301 Santa Ynez Avenue.

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.

### **Carpinteria Valley Water District Board of Directors**

June Van Wingerden  
*President*

Matthew T. Roberts  
*Vice-President*

Lynne Durcharme  
Robert R. Lieberknecht  
Alonzo Orozco

### **Staff**

Charles Hamilton  
*General Manager*

Business  
Norma Rosales  
*Assistant General  
Manager*

Esperanza Barbosa  
Alex Keuper  
Suzie Lara  
Tootie Maier  
Patty Rodriguez

Engineering  
Bob McDonald  
*District Engineer*

Rhonda Gutierrez  
Brian King  
Mike Shaffer

Operations and  
Maintenance  
Omar Castro  
*O&M Manager*

Lance Edmondson  
Jon Macias  
Danny Rada  
Greg Stanford  
Sarah Strassburg

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