

## OVERVIEW

*Increasing the water supply while protecting the environment is the challenge for the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District and provides the framework for the District's future direction.*

### The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District

The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (the District) regulates the water resources of 40 distribution systems and over 900 private wells. The largest system, operated by California-American Water Company (Cal-Am), provides water to 95 percent of the residents and produces about 80 percent of the total supply within the District. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) regulates most of Cal-Am's water production. The other smaller water suppliers in the District operate under varying rules and conditions.

### District Promotes Environmental Protection

The District protects the Carmel River habitat and threatened species, such as the California red-legged frog and steelhead trout, monitors stream flow and its effects on these species, and measures groundwater levels in the Seaside and Carmel River basins to assess water quantity and quality. The District has constructed rearing facilities for steelhead and rescues up to 40,000 fish during dry months.

The District has developed a comprehensive monitoring program, which provides a solid environmental baseline and better understanding of the relationships between weather, hydrology, human activities and the environment. This knowledge empowers decision-makers to further the District's mission of benefiting both the community and the environment.



MPWMD large woody debris project (see page 11)

### State Imposes Limits on Water Production

Water production within the District remains under careful state scrutiny since SWRCB Order WR 95-10 (Order 95-10) was issued in 1995. Order 95-10 requires Cal-Am to reduce the water pumped from the Carmel River by 20 percent now and up to 75 percent in the future, if no action is taken to replace unlawful diversions. Also, any new water that is developed must first completely offset previous unlawful diversions from the Carmel River, an estimated 10,730 acre-feet (AF), before any water can be used for new construction or remodels that intensify water use. In order to keep water use within established limits, the District developed innovative water conservation measures and adopted strict limits on the amount of water available for new building and remodel projects.

### Board Seeks New Water Sources

The District has been seeking ways to increase the water supply since its inception in 1978. The proposals currently being evaluated include capturing excess winter stream flow and redirecting it from the Carmel River to the Seaside Basin for injection and storage, constructing a desalination plant, and reclaiming wastewater to use for irrigation. No new water source was approved during 2002 to serve Cal-Am customers within the District. About 163 AF of water remains available for new construction and remodel projects within the Cal-Am service area.