

INCREASING THE WATER SUPPLY

The District's priority is to identify and evaluate options which have the potential to increase the water supply within the District. Cal-Am applied to the District in 1996 to construct the Carmel River Dam and Reservoir Project. The District proceeded to evaluate both the Cal-Am dam proposal and non-dam alternatives in year 2002. The primary goal is to comply with SWRCB Order 95-10.

Board Directs Staff to Proceed on Water Augmentation Initiative

The District Board and Staff have conducted a series of Strategic Planning Workshops, most recently in November 2002, which identified the following priorities to augment the Peninsula's water supply:

- Proceed with the Seaside Basin Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) project while simultaneously evaluating other long-term water supply options, including the proposed Cal-Am Carmel River Dam and Reservoir and the storm water management plan;
- Develop a work plan to implement the Seaside Basin Groundwater Management Plan.

Seaside Basin Aquifer Storage and Recovery Program Tested

District staff completed their fifth season of testing the Seaside Basin Aquifer Storage and Recovery initiative. The Seaside Basin ASR, also known as the Seaside Basin Injection/Recovery Program, has the potential to improve drought protection for existing consumers and protect the Seaside groundwater basin aquifer from overdraft and seawater intrusion. The plan is to divert excess winter flows from the Carmel River through existing Cal-Am facilities

and inject the water into specially-designed injection wells in the Seaside Basin. This excess water would then be available for use during summer months.

The District previously constructed two test wells, one shallow pilot well and a 720-foot full-scale test well in the Santa Margarita Sandstone on former Fort Ord property. The SWRCB issued the District a temporary permit that allowed staff to divert water from the Carmel River between December 1, 2001 through May 31, 2002 as long as minimum flow standards were maintained in the Carmel River. A total of 310 AF of water was injected into the pilot and full-scale test wells. An injection rate of 6.6 AF/day was achieved.

District staff prepared permit applications to conduct expanded testing in year 2003 and began testing the recovery phase and completed design modifications to increase well efficiency in Summer and Fall 2002. In January 2003 the SWRCB approved a District application to resume diverting excess water to the wells during the 2002-2003 winter season.

District begins Water Supply Project Environmental Impact Report/Statement

District staff continued work on a comprehensive Water Supply Project Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to evaluate various proposals to augment the water supply within the District.

These alternative water projects include:

- Seaside Basin Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR);
- local seawater desalination;
- storm water reuse;
- off-stream storage;
- reclamation;
- the Cal-Am reservoir proposal; and
- the non-dam contingency plan known as "Plan B" (desalination at Moss Landing plus ASR).

All proposed scenarios, including the "No Project" scenario, must conform to the production limits imposed by SWRCB Order 95-10. The District Board, as well as other local, state and federal regulators, will use the EIR as a decision-making tool to evaluate the Cal-Am reservoir project application and the other options for the District to augment water production.

The Board in March 2002 authorized the Phase 1 EIR scope of work to be performed by Jones & Stokes Associates (JSA) and their engineering services subcontractor Camp, Dresser & McKee (CDM), for a not-to-exceed amount of \$724,000. Phase 1 used the Draft Plan B Report, issued by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in 2001, as its starting point.

District staff distributed the Notice of Preparation for an EIR (NOP) to local, state and federal agencies as well as many local groups and individuals in June 2002. Public hearings were held in July, and Board workshops in July and August addressed policy issues raised by comments on the NOP, including community water supply goals and water production options.

The interim results of Phase 1 engineering studies, including preliminary combinations of local non-dam projects to provide three levels of community water production, were presented at a Board workshop in November. The Phase 1 Engineering Report was completed in December 2002, and is being refined for presentation in March 2003.

CPUC Released its Final Plan B Report

The California Public Utilities Commission, working in conjunction with affected agencies and



Top photo: Injection well being examined prior to installation of an injection flow control valve in August 2002.

Bottom photo: MPWMD consultant collecting field data during injection testing in March 2002.