

MONTEREY PENINSULA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

Aquifer Storage and Recovery Benefits Community and Environment

The District is pleased to report the successful implementation of its innovative Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Project. This project was developed because sufficient water flow from the Carmel River is required to protect fish and river habitat. In most years, there is excess water flow in the River during winter and spring periods. To capture this water for community use, the District began a program in 1998 of diverting a portion of excess winter and spring flows to the Seaside Groundwater Basin through California American Water's (Cal-Am's) water pipes. The water is stored in the basin and later recovered and used by Cal-Am's customers, offsetting a portion of Cal-Am's need to pump from the Carmel River during drier times when fish and river habitat are at greater risk.

The District's ASR project test facilities have been in operation since 1998 and approximately 1,600 acre-feet* (AF) of

excess winter and spring flows have been injected into the Seaside Basin. About 1,100 AF have been recovered and delivered to the community via the Cal-Am system as part of the test program. In 2005, District staff continued testing, with emphasis on water quality, by injecting about 350 AF into the basin. The District is also pursuing an expansion of the Project by adding a second injection well. The expansion project envisions a maximum diversion of 2,400 AF per year from the Carmel River, and an average yield of about 1,050 AFY from the Seaside Basin. The ASR Project is complementary to other proposed larger, long-term water augmentation projects.



It is good for the environment to take water from the Carmel River in winter and spring when flows are high and store it in the Seaside Groundwater Basin. The stored water is used during the summer so more water remains in the river for fish and wildlife.

* An acre-foot (AF) of water is enough to cover a football field with one foot of water or supply four Monterey Peninsula homes with water for a year.

VISION STATEMENT

The MPWMD:

1. Will strive to serve as a catalyst in collaboration with public and private entities for environmentally responsible solutions that result in a reliable and legal water supply; and
2. Shall be a fiscally responsible, professionally and publicly respected leader in managing water resources.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the MPWMD is to manage, augment and protect water resources for the benefit of the community and the environment.