

Monitored Water Levels and Water Quality

■ Maintained Eleven Streamflow Monitoring Sites

The District established a new streamflow monitoring station at San Jose Creek in 1998. Staff also maintain three streamflow monitoring stations along the Carmel River and eight stations on the major tributary streams that flow into it. Data collected are analyzed for use in water supply planning, fishery, riparian and erosion control programs. Several of the streamflow measuring stations are connected to the National Weather Service's ALERT system. Rainfall and streamflow data collected are transmitted to a computer station at the District office, so that staff can quickly access the data and ascertain conditions on the river.

■ Monitored Carmel River Lagoon

The District has monitored surface water levels in the Carmel River Lagoon since 1987. In addition, water quality at the Lagoon is assessed twice a month.

■ Measured Water Storage in Carmel Valley Aquifer

During 1998, monitoring data indicated that storage in the Carmel Valley aquifer remained relatively full for most of the year. The District's monitor well network in the aquifer includes 50 wells. They are measured

once a month, with more frequent monitoring of selected wells during winter storms to determine how quickly the aquifer recharges.

■ Monitored Wells in Seaside Basin

The District's monitoring well network in the Seaside Basin consists of 29 wells that provide monthly and quarterly readings of water levels. Water level data collected by Cal-Am at their production wells in the Seaside Basin supplements the District's information.

■ Ground Water Quality Monitored in Carmel Valley Aquifer

The District has maintained a Carmel Valley Aquifer water quality monitoring program since 1981. Results from the 1998 samplings indicated that water quality in the aquifer continues to be well within the State drinking water standard for nitrate. No indications of seawater intrusion were found at the District's coastal monitor well network near the mouth of the Carmel River.

■ Tested Water Quality in Seaside Ground Water Basin

Since 1990, the District has been collecting water quality samples from monitor wells in the coastal area of the Seaside Ground Water Basin. The 1998 samples indicate that no seawater intrusion has occurred in the two principal aquifer zones within the basin.

Water samples collected from a well in Seaside. Water quality and water levels are regularly measured by District staff in the Seaside and Carmel River basins. Results of the 1998 tests show that seawater intrusion has not occurred in aquifers that provide water to the District.

The District is prepared to battle any attack of the Y2K computer bug. In 1998, new computer hardware and software were installed at all levels of District operations to ensure that monitoring equipment, communications systems and administrative support activities function smoothly as the District moves into the new millennium. Contingency plans are in place in case a problem does arise. The Special District Risk Management Authority (SDRMA) recognized MPWMD staff members Ray Millard and Inder Osahan for their role in educating California public agencies on how to address the Y2K situation. The two developed a presentation on the millennium bug. SDRMA videotaped portions of the presentation and then distributed the tape to over 400 SDRMA member agencies.

