

### The District's Unique Role in Water Supply Planning

Throughout California, water development and protection of the environment are inseparable issues. Locally, the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District ensures that any water conservation or augmentation project undertaken within the District boundaries meets the water needs of the community, guards against seawater intrusion and promotes the well being of threatened wildlife species in the Carmel River Basin.

The District boundaries encompass the cities of Carmel, Del Rey Oaks, Monterey, Pacific Grove, Sand City, Seaside and some unincorporated areas of Monterey County. The Carmel River supplies 71 percent of the water used within the District. The remaining 29 percent is pumped from the Seaside basin and other areas within the District.

It is important to note that the Carmel River is also home to the Carmel River steelhead fish and the California red-legged frog, both listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act.

In order to protect the valuable river habitat, the District monitors streamflow and its effects on streambank stability, plants, fish and other wildlife. Groundwater levels in the Seaside and Carmel River basin are also measured regularly. The District's monitoring programs, fishery and erosion protection activities protect against environmental degradation and provide information used to assess the possible effects of proposed water augmentation projects.

### Working To Achieve Consensus in the Community on a Water Supply Solution

The Monterey Peninsula is a community deeply divided on water supply issues. In 1998 the District focused on public education as well as aggressive development of water conservation programs and water augmentation alternatives as the means to provide water supply solutions that the community could support.

Throughout the year, the Board of Directors conducted educational workshops in various locations within the District to outline the issues and answer questions raised by constituents. Public hearings were held so that residents could present new ideas and define their priorities for the Board. This is an ongoing process. The District will continue to work toward achieving a consensus in the community on solutions to local water supply problems.

*View of the Monterey Bay. The District must ensure that the community's water needs are met, while guarding against seawater intrusion and promoting the well being of threatened wildlife species.*