

## AB 1185 Requires PUC To Develop Water Supply Contingency Plan

In September 1998, the California State Legislature adopted AB 1182, which requires the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to develop a long-term contingency plan that could be implemented if the Carmel River Dam and Reservoir Project is not approved or cannot be built. Development of the contingency plan will not prevent the PUC from acting on Cal-Am's application to construct the dam and reservoir project.

The District's Board of Directors voted to endorse the legislation, based on statements by the bill's author that nothing in the bill should delay PUC review of the proposed Carmel River Dam and Reservoir Project and that the District should be consulted by the PUC when preparing any contingency plan to address the long-term water needs of the Monterey Peninsula. The contingency plan has been referred to as "Plan B."

An earlier ruling by the PUC required Cal-Am to prepare a long-term contingency plan the company could pursue if the dam project did not go forward. Cal-Am will submit that plan to the PUC in early 1999.

Assembly Bill 1182 designates the PUC as lead agency to consult with Cal-Am, the Department of Water Resources, the District and other affected parties on development of Plan B. The PUC will develop the criteria to be used in deciding which program or combination of programs will be included in Plan B.

## Wastewater Reclamation To Be Expanded

The largest wastewater reclamation project within the MPWMD is planned to be expanded as a result of negotiations this agency was engaged in throughout 1998. The

Pebble Beach wastewater reclamation project was designed to provide 800 acre-feet of reclaimed water to golf courses and open space in the Del Monte Forest. Improvements could boost the project yield to over 1,000 acre-feet per year by utilizing the 425 acre-foot Forest Lake Reservoir for reclaimed water storage, and construction of new water treatment facilities to enhance water quality.

Throughout 1998 the MPWMD met with representatives from agencies involved with the wastewater reclamation project to negotiate the transfer of Cal-Am's Forest Lake Reservoir to the Pebble Beach Community Services District (PBCSD), and develop plans for enhanced water treatment facilities. Funding options for project improvements will be explored in 1999.

The reclamation project was constructed in 1994 with bonds issued by the MPWMD. Wastewater is processed at the Carmel Area Wastewater District plant, and the reclaimed water is distributed to benefitted properties by the PBCSD. The Pebble Beach Company, which owns most of the properties that benefit from this project, contracted to pay any costs for the original project not recovered through sale of the reclaimed water.

In 1998, approximately 590 acre-feet of reclaimed wastewater and 93 acre-feet of potable water were applied to properties within the scope of this project. The MPWMD collected \$855,740 in revenues from the sale of the water which was used to cover project operating expenses.

*New legislation, AB 1182, requires the California Public Utilities Commission to develop a water supply contingency plan for the Monterey Peninsula, in case the Carmel River Dam and Reservoir does not go forward. The PUC will consult with the California Department of Water Resources, Cal-Am, the District and other parties on development of the "Plan B" proposal.*