

Montara Water and Sanitary District
New Water Service Connections
Press Release, December 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Montara, CA
December 20, 2013

Montara Water & Sanitary District Receives Coastal Commission Approval to Issue New Connections

Montara Water and Sanitary District (MWSD or District) is pleased to announce that new water service connections to the District's water system are now available. This announcement comes after the approval by the California Coastal Commission (Commission) and MWSD's Board of Directors of a much-anticipated amendment to MWSD's Public Works Plan (PWP) removing the restriction of no new connections to the District's system. "We are ready to connect existing homes that are currently served by private wells, as well as new homes that are approved for construction", says General Manager Clemens Heldmaier.

The Montara Sanitary District acquired the water system from its privately owned predecessors in 2003, creating MWSD - a public water and sanitary agency overseen by a locally elected Board of Directors. At the time of acquisition, a moratorium on new service connections had existed for the water system for over 30 years.

Most of the infrastructure acquired by the District was in disrepair, or had reached the end of its service life, and MWSD began implementing programs to repair the water system, improve operational efficiency, and increase system reliability. Concurrently with the planning and implementation of infrastructure improvements undertaken by the District, significant efforts were made to reduce water losses within the existing water system and minimize customer water usage. In 2011, the District evaluated the data collected since acquisition and concluded that the water system had developed a significant water supply surplus due to increased system efficiencies and conservation efforts by the District and its customers. The water supply surplus realized was conservatively calculated and accounts for potential drought conditions in the region.

The reported supply availability prompted the District's Board of Directors to lift the existing moratorium and allow for new connections to the water system. The MWSD Board of Directors adopted an ordinance in March 2011 to remove the moratorium due to the existing surplus supply. Since this action, MWSD has worked diligently with the Commission to obtain regulatory approval of an amended PWP that will allow the District to add new customers.

With the recent approval of the PWP amendment by the Commission MWSD can now initiate the conversion of private wells within the urban areas in Montara and Moss Beach to a safer, more reliable, and environmentally sustainable public water supply. In addition, the District can now serve new development - in compliance with the San Mateo County Local Coastal Program (LCP) - and issue new

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connections inside the urban/rural boundary, preventing new private wells from being developed and protecting coastal resources. The District will only serve potential new customers after development has been reviewed and approved by the County of San Mateo, in full compliance with all utility, environmental protection and land use laws and regulations in effect today. Larger developments that use over 200 gallons per day will require a detailed review to determine the extent to which the District can accommodate the proposed development.

MWSD plans continued water conservation improvements and further development of safe and sustainable local water supplies for its customers while remaining a steward of coastal resources. Any questions about applying for a new connection can be directed to District staff by visiting the District Offices at 8888 Cabrillo Highway, Montara, CA, or by phone at (650) 728-3545.

For more information:

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