



**Mt. View Monitor**  
[www.mvdsd.org](http://www.mvdsd.org)

### **MVSD Wins Water Quality Excellence Award!**

For the first time ever, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) recognized the innovative achievements of the Bay Area's most proactive and successful municipal Pollution Prevention programs. On March 8th, MVSD was one of five recipients of this prestigious Water Quality Excellence Award.

MVSD was honored largely for being a pioneering leader through its Interpretive Center (IC) program. The IC program is known for its high quality and in-depth public education programs and curricula. The programs teach Contra Costa and Solano County students about pollutants, how pollutants enter waterways, and what people can do to protect the environment.

The goal of the RWQCB's Pollution Prevention program is to reduce pollutants that threaten waters of the state by way of the sewer, storm drains, and solid waste. Bruce Wolfe, RWQCB Executive Officer, recognizes that reduction in pollutants coming to the plant means that public agencies and communities have worked together to reduce waste. Congratulations to everyone!

#### *Water Quality Excellence Award*

*Pollution Prevention Achievement*

*Awarded on the 8th Day of March 2006*



**Dr. Wu and David Contreras (center) accept the award.**



### **MVSD Celebrates Nine Years of Interpretive Center Programs**

The Interpretive Center program celebrates the conclusion of its ninth season this June. The award winning environmental education program is a collaborative effort between MVSD and the Lindsay Wildlife Museum.

The program is open to all elementary schools in Contra Costa and Solano Counties through financial contributions by Shell Oil, Valero, and Clear Channel Outdoor, Inc. We are proud of these partnerships and together we will strive to make our 10th year even better than the last!

### **Notice of Public Hearing**

MVSD's Board of Directors will hold a Public Hearing at the time and place below to consider increasing the annual Sewer User Service Charge for residential and nonresidential customers.

**WHEN:** Thursday, June 8, 2006, 6:30 PM.

**WHERE:** Meeting Room of the Mt. View Sanitary District at 3800 Arthur Road, Martinez, CA.

See SSMP article on p. 2 for more information.

**SSMP:****What Is It? How Does It Affect You?**

The Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP) is required by the State and Regional Water Boards for all sewer collection facilities. The SSMP goals protect the public and environment by reducing sewer overflows through a variety of programs. In order to fulfill the mandate, the District must implement the unfunded program in 2006. To best protect the public and the environment, necessary improvements to MVSD's sewer system must be undertaken. A Public Hearing will be held to consider increased funding for the District, including the SSMP programs by increasing the annual Sewer User Service Charge for all customers (see p.1).

Comments or protests may be made at the hearing. Mailed comments or protests may be sent to the Board Secretary at P.O. Box 2757, Martinez, CA 94553 and must be received prior to the close of the Public Hearing. See our Web site for more details ([www.mvsd.org](http://www.mvsd.org)).



**White Pelicans resting in McNabney Marsh.**

**McNabney Marsh - Why So Dry?**

The lack of water in McNabney Marsh during the summer and fall of 2004 and 2005 has had a lot of people asking "why so dry?". This dry state was not a permanent condition but rather a temporary strategy for long-term benefit to the marsh and its inhabitants. After the end of nesting season, MVSD pumped down the water to keep encroaching cattails from taking over. While cattails do provide shelter and protection to some species, they often choke out many other native plant species if left unchecked.

During these dry months, MVSD engineers surveyed the dimensions of McNabney Marsh's two primary drainage channels. The survey will be used to create a dredging plan so that the sediment filled channels can be restored to their proper dimensions. New water control sluice gates will also be installed where the channels join with Peyton Slough. In order to implement the dredging plan, McNabney Marsh was assessed for the presence of critical plant and animal species, with a report submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. With the approval of the Army Corps of Engineers and the Regional Wa-

ter Quality Control Board, MVSD is planning to dredge the two channels in the summer of 2007.

Once dredged, the channels will allow summer and fall flooding of the marsh with saline water, which will help to promote more vegetation diversity. Plant diversity is critical in maintaining a healthy habitat for birds and other wetland species. MVSD is also restoring the buffer zone areas of McNabney Marsh by planting native species that thrive in ecotones (the area where two habitat types converge). Native species grown by staff at the Watershed Nursery in Berkeley, CA, were planted in January and February of 2006 in an ongoing restoration effort to enrich the area with forage and cover plants to attract additional nesting species.

So, if you find yourself driving down I-680 this summer and you notice a lack of water in McNabney Marsh, rest assured that the condition is temporary and will benefit many of the marsh inhabitants in the long run, and that MVSD is committed to improving wetland habitat in the Peyton Slough Watershed.

## ***MVSD at the Creek and Watershed Symposium***

MVSD represented the Peyton Slough watershed (McNabney Marsh) at the Watershed Forum's Creek and Watershed Symposium for Central Contra Costa County on March 28. The event was held at the Lindsay Wildlife Museum and attracted over 120 people who came to learn about local watershed restoration efforts, salmon runs in local creeks, how to control invasive non-native plants, and how to deal with urban creek erosion.

The event was hosted by the Contra Costa Watershed Forum and was designed to encourage awareness of and participation in local creek and watershed activities. MVSD's Wetlands Biologist Dick Bogaert and Environmental Education Coordinator Kelly Davidson staffed the McNabney Marsh table and answered questions on current and future restoration efforts in McNabney Marsh and the Peyton Slough (see article on page 2).

## ***Interpretive Center Teacher Wins Water Quality Monitor Award***

On March 28, Lisa Anich, Interpretive Center staff teacher, was awarded Volunteer Monitor of the Year for central Contra Costa County by the Watershed Forum. Lisa was honored for her tireless monitoring efforts on behalf of the Mt. Diablo Creek Watershed. The watershed covers an area of 23,800 acres in the north-central part of Contra Costa County. MVSD and all of the Interpretive Center staff congratulate Lisa and wish her future success with her monitoring work!



**Lisa Anich with her Water Quality Monitor of the Year award from the Watershed Forum.**



## ***Don't Dump Medications Down the Drain***

While pharmaceuticals such as ibuprofen and antibiotics can help people, these same chemical substances are hazardous to fish and wildlife. Recent studies found dangerous levels of these chemicals in surface waters (lakes and streams) causing problems for many fish and amphibian species. Medications enter water bodies from different sources, including wastewater treatment plants. Wastewater treatment plants are only designed to treat organic waste, not pharmaceuticals. Other examples of these hazardous medications include acetaminophen and steroids. Such medical waste pollutants interfere with growth, development, and reproduction capabilities of aquatic organisms.

Rather than dumping unused drugs down the sink or toilet, leave them in their original containers and seal the safety caps with a sturdy tape such as duct tape. Then place the bottles in a paper bag. Wrap the bag in several layers of newspaper and place in the garbage. It may be a bit of extra effort on your part, but the fish and frogs will thank you!

Mt. View Sanitary District  
3800 Arthur Road  
P O Box 2757  
Martinez, CA 94553  
925-228-5635

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
MARTINEZ, CA  
PERMIT NO. 45

**TO POSTAL CUSTOMER**

**Mt. View Sanitary District**  
**Administration Bldg. & Treatment Plant**  
**3800 Arthur Road**  
**P O Box 2757**  
**Martinez, CA 94553**  
**[www.mvsd.org](http://www.mvsd.org)**

**Board of Directors**

Stanley R. Caldwell, President  
Randell E. Williams, Vice-President  
David P. Maggi  
Gregory T. Pyka  
Dorothy M. Sakazaki

District Board meetings, held the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Administration Building, are open to the public.

David R. Contreras, Manager  
Sheri L. Riddle, Office Coordinator/Board Secretary  
Dr. Teng-chung Wu, Technical Services Director  
Kelly Davidson, Newsletter Editor

**EMERGENCY NUMBERS**

During office hours (M-F 7 AM - 4:30 PM): 228-5635  
Outside office hours: 646-2441 (Sheriff's Dept.)  
Call **immediately** to report any sewer problems.

***Health and Safety Issue is in Your Hands: Part Two***

In the last issue of the *Mt. View Monitor*, District residents were informed that the Board of Directors is reviewing a possible ordinance that would require certified inspections of sewer lines whenever a property is sold. The obligatory lateral line inspections are to address the important health and safety issues sewer line blockages have on the people and the environment of this community.

Thank you to all those who responded to the "Health and Safety Issue is in Your Hands" article in the last issue. Your feedback helps to build a better community. The questions and answers are posted on our Web site at [www.mvsd.org](http://www.mvsd.org). Further comments or questions can be brought to our attention at 925-228-5635 x51 or emailed to [mtview@mvsd.org](mailto:mtview@mvsd.org). Thank you again for your feedback!