



COASTAL CLEANUP DAY IN MCNABNEY MARSH A BIG SUCCESS!

Over the past 20 years, on the third Saturday in September, people join together all over California (and the nation) to take part in the State's largest volunteer event, Coastal Cleanup Day. On September 17th, 23 dedicated volunteers gathered at McNabney Marsh along Waterfront Road to remove accumulated trash in the wetland. The event was organized by the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District in partnership with the County Flood Control District and MVSD.

Thanks to the efforts of these volunteers, 25 bags of garbage and 7 bags of recyclables were removed from the site. Trash items included cigarette butts, bottle tops, plastic bags, canisters, utensils, cups, bottles, Styrofoam, cardboard, newspaper, fishing line, aluminum cans, glass bottles, shoes, boots, and tires. MVSD is grateful to all of the participants who worked so hard to improve the health of McNabney Marsh. We hope to see many of you again in 2017!



Jeff Greer, MVSD Engineering Tech, poses with a pick-up full of some of the trash our helpful volunteers removed on Coast Clean Up Day

HELP CONSERVE MONARCH BUTTERFLIES - PLANTING IN THE MILKWEED GARDEN

Saturday, November 12
10:00 am - Noon

The Monarch Butterfly is like royalty in North American popular culture. Their fall migration covers more than 2,000 miles and takes 6 generations to complete! In recent years Monarch populations have plummeted by over 90%, primarily due to a drastic loss in their only larval food plant - milkweed. Join the District Biologist for an indoor presentation on the natural history and migration marvels of the monarch butterfly. Afterwards, if the weather cooperates, we will head outside to plant, weed, and water in the butterfly garden. Contact Kelly to register at kdavidson@mvsd.org or 925-228-5635 x19. Space is limited to 12 participants.

MVSD Rate Study And Compliance With Proposition 218

In 1996, California voters approved Proposition 218, also known as the "Right to Vote on Taxes Act". Proposition 218 amended the California Constitution to require special districts like Mt. View Sanitary District (District or MVSD) to seek voter approval before seeking to increase existing and future property-related fees and charges such as the District's Sewer Service Charge. Additionally, Article XIII D established new procedural requirements and other limitations for levying property-related fees and charges.

The last issue of the *Mt. View Monitor* contained the article "District Initiates Rate Study" which discussed how District Sewer Service Charges are determined by the actual cost incurred by the District to provide the necessary services of the collection, conveyance, treatment, and disposal of wastewater. A key component of the District's on-going rate study is to evaluate our various customer classes (residential, commercial, industrial, etc.) to be sure that the cost of service to each class is fairly allocated and that within each customer class, all properties receiving similar services are charged similar fees and charges. One of the core principles of Proposition 218 is that the property related fee must be proportional to the cost of the service to that parcel. In other words, all customers must pay no more than their fair share for the services they receive.

Another requirement of Proposition 218 is that all properties impacted by a proposed property related fee or charge

Prop 218 affects the ability of special districts and local governments to levy and collect taxes and assessments. Prop 218 established voter approval requirements for general and special taxes and provided the initiative power to voters to repeal any local tax, assessment, fee or charge. Prop 218 specifically established a new category of fees and charges, referred to as "property-related fees and charges" which include the District's Sewer Service Charge.

(or increase in existing fees and charges) must be duly notified of the proposed increase and provided an opportunity to protest the increase prior to any decision by the governing body. This requirement is typically met by mailing a notice of a public hearing to each property owner of record which must include, among other things, the amount of the proposed fee and charge (or increase), the purpose of the fee and charge, when the decision will be taken under consideration, and how to register a protest to the proposed fee or charge. The final decision can only be made after a public hearing is conducted to receive input from the affected property owners.

Additional information about the District's Rate Study will be presented on the District's website at www.mvsd.org and Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mtviewsd as it becomes available.

Electro Scan a New Tool to Investigate Inflow and Infiltration

Aging sewer pipelines and private laterals (connections owned by residents and businesses) are a major source of water inflow and infiltration (I&I) during wet weather events. During a large storm the flow at the treatment plant can increase by as much as 10 times. It is a high priority for the District to continually investigate, identify and repair compromised sewer pipelines to reduce I&I. The goals are to reduce ratepayer costs for transporting and treating wastewater and to minimize liability from water pollution and public health risks by eliminating sanitary sewer overflows in storm events. Minimizing I&I will also avoid the capital costs of wastewater treatment plant capacity expansion.



The District routinely employs TV inspections, smoke testing, hydrological studies and manhole inspections. Recently MVSD utilized electro scanning, a newer investigative technique that identifies leaks in a pipe, including the location, size and estimated gallons per minute I&I flow rate. Electro Scan, Inc. in June 2016 performed a sewer investigative project with the following results: a total of 66 lines and 11,155 feet of sewer mains were surveyed and 2,106 defects contributing a possible 2.583 million gallons of I&I were identified. The District is currently prioritizing sewer system repair and replacement projects to reduce these and previously identified defects.

DON'T FORGET TO FIGHT FOG!

Some of our favorite dishes are made this time of year, and it is important to know how to properly



dispose of what they leave behind: fats, oils, and grease (FOG). FOG will solidify and can completely block sewer pipes over time by gradually decreasing their circumference. Blockages can lead to dangerous and costly overflows which impact your property, the environment, and wastewater system. Gravy, drippings, creamy dips, and fryer oil should be disposed of in the trash, never down the drain! Allow the FOG to cool completely before disposal and wipe excess from dishes and pots prior to cleaning.

VOLUNTARY LATERAL INSPECTION- PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT!

The private sewer lateral is the part of the sewer that runs from the house to the public sewer main under the street, alley, or in an easement alongside the house. The property owner is responsible for all maintenance and repair of this lateral. Most home owners don't give much thought to the private sewer lateral until a sewage backup occurs into their property. The damage caused by a sewage backup can run into thousands of dollars, an expense not always covered by insurance policies. For only a few hundred dollars, a licensed plumber will do a video inspection of the private sewer lateral which will show if there

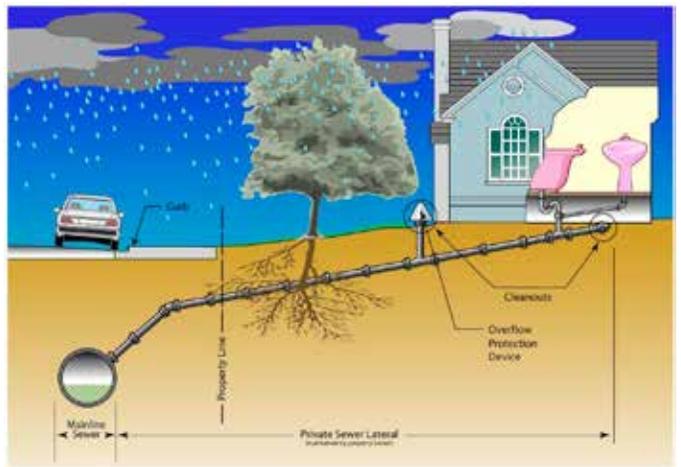


Image courtesy of Central Contra Costa Sanitary District

are cracks or breaks in the pipe, offsets, and any root intrusion (the leading cause of sewage backups). An inspection may also show the lateral needs to be cleaned or replaced. Replacement can cost \$5,000 or more. If you are buying a home, consider adding the sewer lateral to the list of inspections requested. For more info, go to MVSD.org.



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Merlins are uncommon winter migrants to California, but we get to enjoy them from November to March in Moorhen and McNabney Marshes.

Get to Know the Merlin

The Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) is a small but powerful falcon with a robust build. It is only slightly larger than the American Kestrel, but it is 30-50 percent heavier by weight. This extra muscle allows for greater flight speed and endurance; watching a Merlin on the hunt is a spectacular sight! Medieval falconers called them "lady hawks" as they were the preferred hunting bird for noblewomen. Like the Peregrine Falcon, Merlin populations recovered from twentieth-century declines after a successful ban on the pesticide DDT and their unexpected adaptability to life in and around cities.

Merlins are uncommon winter migrants to California. They can be found from September through April along grasslands and wetlands that provide flocks of small songbirds or shorebirds. These formidable hunters are typically found in both Moorhen and McNabney marshes November through March. Scan tree tops, telephone poles, and fence posts for a perched Merlin waiting patiently for its next hunting opportunity.



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