

WET'S NEW??

An update from the Mountain Water and Sanitation District
mtwaterandsan.com
October 2008

Update on Water Quality

Residents recently received the quarterly letter, as mandated by the State of Colorado, regarding our radionuclide situation. We want to assure you that safe drinking water is our priority, and we are continuing to work on this situation.

Our District, along with a number of other small water districts across the state, is part of the CO-RADS study being conducted by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. The purpose of this study is to determine the best way for water districts to deal with radionuclides.

The state plans to have a final report and recommendations in 2009. In the interim, the District is rotating use of wells and conducting ongoing testing to assure we are using the best of our wells and minimizing use of those with the highest levels of uranium.

Prior to the onset of the state study, the District was working with two engineering firms to design a system to remove radionuclides from the drinking water.

Because the cost of the proposed system was more than \$616,000 and required a 20-year contract for removal of radioactive media, the District postponed work on this project, with state approval, pending the results of the CO-RADS study. The Board believes this decision was the most cost-effective and prudent course of action. We did not want to commit such a significant amount of money and sign a long-term contract if the state study might result in a more effective solution.

The District is carefully studying a proposal by Conifer Water LLC, which would provide water from the North Fork of the South Platte through a pipeline up Highway 285. The District does not know at this time if this proposal will be more cost effective than mitigating the radionuclide problem in our own wells.

Inflow Problems: We Need Your Help

MWSD is experiencing an inflow problem, which means that we have more wastewater coming out of the system than water coming out of our wells and into the homes in Kings Valley.

This is a problem because the District can be subject to significant state fines if this situation continues.

There are five possible sources of this problem:

1. Leaky manhole covers
2. Damaged sewer pipes absorbing ground water
3. Leaky lift station covers
4. Sump pumps
5. Septic haulers dumping waste into our manholes

The District is checking sewer pipes and manhole covers wherever possible. However, we need your help on the last three potential sources.

If you have an operating sump pump or lift station at your home, please contact the District office, 303-838-1800, and we will send a staff member to check it out for you. If you see any truck dumping waste into the District system, please contact the office immediately.

We appreciate your cooperation on this important matter.

Want More Information? Check the District Web Site

Visit the District Web site for updated information. Minutes of Board meetings are posted as soon as they are approved. The Web site also includes news, conservation tips, rates, policies and more. You can send the District an e-mail through the site.

The Web address is mtwaterandsan.com

No Outdoor Watering...By Court Order!

MWSD is unable to allow outside watering anywhere in the District. The restriction is based on a water court ruling.

The decree issued in 1983 by Colorado District Court, Water Division, granting MWSD water rights, states, "The District shall enact and enforce rules and regulations prohibiting outside irrigation, street cleaning and car washing."

To ensure adequate water for the health and safety of all families, no water may be drawn from District sources through garden hoses.

2009 Budget Under Consideration

The Board of Directors held a special budget meeting on Sept. 19, and the budget will remain on the Board's agenda until it is adopted in December.

At this time, there are no proposed increases in any District rates for 2009.

If you would like to comment on the proposed budget, please attend a Board meeting. The meetings are held at 7 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of each month at the District office.

Commercial Development Update

You've certainly noticed the busy activity at the base of Kings Valley. The development, Elk Run Plaza, will include the Kum&Go service station and an approximately 50,000-square-foot commercial building.

The property owner has been working closely with the District to ensure compliance with all regulations. Because Jefferson County is requiring landscaping at the site, the owner will supply outside water for that part of the project. In compliance with District regulations, no District water will be used for landscaping.

Ammonia Treatment Update

The District is continuing its study of the wastewater discharge in the hopes of getting site-specific ammonia regulations that will save District taxpayers thousands of dollars.

As you may recall, the State required that we meet strict new ammonia guidelines on our wastewater discharge because it goes into an unnamed tributary of Gooseberry Gulch. The cost of meeting these standards is between \$700,000 and \$3.5 million according to preliminary engineering estimates.

The District asked for, and was granted, an extension until 2010 to give us time to study the tributary to determine if there is truly aquatic life that can be affected by our effluent.

The District believes that by the time our effluent reaches Gooseberry Gulch, it is so diluted that ammonia is not a factor for any fish.

Who is MWSD?

Staff

Terry Miers, Superintendent
Don Staal, Assistant Superintendent
Launa Rae Warinner, Office Manager

Board members

Sandy Drennan, President
Chuck Morey, Vice President
Marilyn Saltzman, Secretary
Shawn Eichelberger, Assistant Secretary
Ken Pfohl, Treasurer

The Board of Directors meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of every month in the District office. The meetings are open to the public, and all residents are invited to attend. If you wish to be placed on the agenda, please contact Launa Rae Warinner in advance of the meeting at (303) 838-1800.