

Water Watch

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Atascadero Mutual Water Company June 2007

Nacimiento Water Project Update

The Atascadero Mutual Water Company (AMWC) Board of Directors will discuss continued participation in the Nacimiento Water Project (NWP) at its August 8, 2007 meeting. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will be held at the AMWC administrative office at 5005 El Camino Real, Atascadero. The NWP is the single largest water supply project that AMWC has considered in its 93-year history.

In August 2004, AMWC entered into a Delivery Entitlement Contract with the County of San Luis Obispo for participation in the NWP. AMWC must reaffirm its willingness to participate in the NWP under the opt-out provisions of the

Contract if total project costs exceed \$150 million. Current design estimates for construction of the project are \$190 million, with AMWC's share being approximately \$39 million.

The NWP will improve the reliability of AMWC's water supply and the ability to meet the future water needs of AMWC's shareholders. The project has already had a large effect on connection fees and will have a significant effect on water rates - in the near future and again when the project comes on line in the fall of 2010. AMWC shareholders are encouraged to attend this very important meeting regarding the future of their water supply.

Free Home Water Survey

You are invited to participate in our highly successful **Home Water Survey Program**. The program is free and is designed to help our customers conserve water and manage their landscape irrigation more efficiently.

During your **Home Water Survey**, AMWC's water conservation staff will:

- ◆ Inspect each irrigation station
- ◆ Create a site-specific irrigation schedule
- ◆ Provide you with a checklist of improvements for your irrigation system
- ◆ Check toilets for leaks
- ◆ Show you how to read your water meter
- ◆ Provide other water conservation tips

Each appointment is tailored to meet your needs; a typical appointment takes between 60 and 90 minutes. We encourage you to take advantage of this free program by calling 461-7217, ext.17, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail

In 1776, while America was fighting for independence and the Spanish were seeking to control California, Juan Bautista de Anza shepherded 198 emigrants, their escorts, and 1000 head of livestock from Sonora, Mexico, to Alta California. Because de Anza's pioneering expedition opened the rich valleys of California to Europe, mission settlements along his path owe their early pre-eminence to de Anza's efforts.

In 1990, the U.S. Congress commemorated the expedition by creating the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.

In May of 1998, AMWC and the City of Atascadero opened segments of the trail along the Salinas River for public use. Approximately 3.5 miles of AMWC property has become part of the trail. The AMWC segment of the trail runs from the Curbaril Bridge north along the Salinas River to the horse arena on North Ferro Carril.

The trail is open to hikers, bicyclists, and horseback riders during daylight hours. No motorized vehicles are permitted on the trail or AMWC property. The trail can be easily accessed from the north via the horse arena parking lot on North Ferro Carril, or from the south via the AMWC property at 6805 Sycamore Road. There is abundant wildlife and a unique assortment of riparian vegetation along the trail not commonly found in other areas of Atascadero. AMWC invites you to use the trail and experience the Salinas River environment.

Trail maps are available at the AMWC Office located at 5005 EL Camino Real, or visit www.nps.gov/juba/.

Landscape Tune-Up Tips

Did you know that the average household uses 350% more water in the summer time compared to the wintertime? Follow these tips for a more efficient irrigation system to help conserve our natural resources and cut your bills at home:

- ❑ Regularly inspect irrigation equipment in operation and repair leaks quickly.
- ❑ When brown spots occur in your lawn, check first for coverage problems before turning up the irrigation run time.
- ❑ Trim plants that prevent spray from getting to its intended targets.
- ❑ Look for geysers from broken sprinkler heads and reposition out-of-adjustment sprinklers that water pavement instead of plants.

- ❑ **Mulch, mulch, mulch!** Mulch provides protection from erosive elements and it helps to hold moisture in your soil; it can also reduce the amount of weeds you have growing in your garden.

Applying the right amount of water to your garden improves plant health and appearance and reduces the need to apply fertilizers and pesticides. Plants are more likely to succumb to disease from too much water rather than too little. When we water too much, runoff into gutters and storm drains can carry fertilizers, oils, and other chemicals into groundwater, creeks, streams, and the Salinas River.

FREE Water Wise Landscape Workshops

Once again, the North County Partners in Water Conservation will offer a free summer workshop series designed to maximize outdoor water efficiency and prevent high summer water bills. Seating is limited. Visit www.amwc.us for additional information and to reserve a seat.

Home Sprinkler Systems & Landscape Irrigation

Over 50% of the water used in the North County is used for landscape irrigation, which places significant stress on our limited water resources. This workshop focuses on the design and maintenance principles of overhead sprinklers and irrigation controller programming, and provides you with the information you need to more efficiently operate your landscape irrigation system.

*July 28th, 9:30-11:30 am
Paso Robles Library, Paso Robles*

Plant Selection I: Fall & Winter

Plant Selection I explores the delights of the fall and winter garden. The extreme temperatures in the North County support a variety of foliage, fruits, and flowers that grow with little effort outside during the cold while you stay warm inside.

*September 19th, 11:00 am - 1:30 pm
Templeton Community Center, Templeton*

*September 20th, 6:00-8:00 pm
AMWC Office, 5005 El Camino Real*

Plant Selection for North County Landscapes

See and learn about 75 plant species that once established will survive without water. Choosing the right plants will help reduce ongoing maintenance and the use of water, fertilizers, and pesticides and help make your landscape a place you can continually enjoy.

*August 11th, 9:30 - 11:00 am
Paso Robles Library, Paso Robles*

Plant Selection II: Spring & Summer

Fall is the time to plant for year-round success in the North County climate. Plant Selection II looks at exciting plants that offer color, texture, interest, and require little water, that you can plant this fall for next spring and summer.

*September 26th, 11:00 am - 1:30 pm
Templeton Community Center, Templeton*

*September 27th, 6:00-8:00 pm
AMWC Office, 5005 El Camino Real*