

# On Tap

Fall 2010



## CCWD Projects Ensure Reliable, High-Quality Water Service



Construction of the Middle River Intake Pipeline.

The Contra Costa Water District's primary source of water is, and always has been, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. These days, with the Delta in environmental peril and state and federal regulators considering major pumping restrictions as a way to protect the estuary, the District is focused on securing its access to Delta water by making sure that its pumping operations cause no harm to Delta fish and their habitat.

To that end, several major infrastructure projects that are completed or underway will allow the District to pump from the Delta in an environmentally friendly manner and continue to provide customers with water that is consistently high in quality. These new facilities are equipped with state-of-the-art fish screens and provide maximum operational flexibility so that water can be drawn from locations where quality is good without harming fish.

Here is a round-up of infrastructure projects that will ensure the District continues to meet its customers' service needs well into the future.

**Middle River Intake:** Built east of Discovery Bay alongside Victoria Canal, the fully screened Middle River Intake is the District's fourth and most easterly intake in the Delta. It draws high-quality water at times of year when salinity increases at the other three intakes. This gives the District's pumping operations flexibility to protect customers from water-

quality fluctuations while protecting sensitive fish species, including the Delta smelt. The new facility will also help maintain the benefits of the Los Vaqueros Reservoir by extending the time periods when high-quality water can be delivered to the reservoir or directly to treatment plants.

Operation of the new intake and pump station will not increase water diversions from the Delta or affect the operations of other Delta water users. State and federal grants totaling \$6.5 million have helped to fund the cost of the \$99 million project. The District anticipates an additional \$28.4 million in state grants funded by Proposition 84.

**Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion:** The Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion project is set to break ground in early 2011. The approximately \$120 million project will increase the size of the reservoir from 100,000 acre-feet to 160,000 acre-feet, with a possibility of expanding to 275,000 acre-feet if partners sign on. The additional water storage will help ensure high-quality water deliveries to customers, reliability during a drought and protections for Delta fisheries and the environment. During construction, recreational programs, fishing and some trail access will be maintained to the extent possible, but temporary program reductions will be necessary and some areas of the watershed will need to be closed at times for the safety of the public. *(Project Update Continued on Reverse)*



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(Continuation: Project Update)

**Rock Slough Fish Screen:** Construction is underway to build a state-of-the-art fish screen at the District’s Rock Slough Intake, which is located in eastern Contra Costa County at the beginning of the Contra Costa Canal. When this project is completed, all four of the District’s intakes will be fully screened. This will give the District operational flexibility to protect sensitive fish species in the Delta and its access to the Delta as a water source. The \$28 million project is being built jointly by the District and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation with 100-percent federal funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

**Contra Costa Canal Replacement Project:** The District replaced a 1,900-foot section of the unlined Contra Costa Canal in the Oakley area with a 10-foot diameter pipeline, eliminating the canal’s earthen levees along that section to protect public safety by preventing canal levee breaks and flooding. The project also improves water quality by eliminating groundwater seepage into the unlined canal in the project area. The project was completed at the end of 2009, and the District has plans to replace the entire 21,000-foot unlined section of the canal as funding becomes available. State and federal grants totaling \$12.7 million helped pay for the \$18.6 million project, which included 1,900 feet of pipeline and the permitting and environmental mitigation work for the entire 21,000-foot length of the unlined canal.

## Let CCWD Help You Save Water and Money



The District offers rebates to help you replace older, inefficient toilets and clothes washers with new, high-efficiency models that will conserve water and help reduce your water bill. To qualify, you must contact the District to meet eligibility requirements before you buy a toilet or washer. Program details are below.

**Toilets:** To help you replace a pre-1994 toilet with a new WaterSense model, the District offers rebates worth as much as \$175 toward the purchase of an approved high-efficiency toilet. This program is available to all customer types including single-family and multi-family residential, commercial, restaurants and others.

**Clothes Washers:** Today’s high-efficiency clothes washers use 50 percent less water than older, conventional washers. They also save electricity and are gentler on clothes. For a limited time, the District has partnered with PG&E to offer rebates up to \$100. This program is available for residential clothes washers. Additional programs are available for commercial and apartment common laundry facilities.

Applications, program details and other conservation information can be found at [www.ccwater.com/conserv](http://www.ccwater.com/conserv) or by calling **925-688-8320**.

## Adjust Your Sprinkler Timer and Fall Into Savings

Summer is far behind us, days are shorter and your lawn and landscape need very little water this time of year. If your automatic sprinklers are still running like they did in the summer, now is a great time to adjust your timers and save more of California’s most precious resource – water.

Adapting your watering schedule to reflect seasonal weather conditions will help you conserve water and save money on your water bill. Use the handy chart to the right to determine how much water your landscape really needs.

If your irrigation controller seems a little intimidating, it probably looks more complicated than it really is. Spending a few minutes with the instruction manual will help you familiarize yourself with the controller and make adjusting it regularly a breeze. Once the rainy season starts, you can simply turn the system off.

For more information on how you can better manage your irrigation system and save more water, go to [www.ccwater.com/conserv](http://www.ccwater.com/conserv).

**Fall into Savings**  
Adjust Your Sprinkler Timer This Fall to Save Water & Money

Suggested Watering Schedule:

month	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
lawn	2 days (per week)	1 day (per week)	0 days (per week)
shrubs	1 day (per week)	0 days (per week)	0 days (per week)

CONTRA COSTA WATER DISTRICT