Desalination plant construction to commence

The pre-construction activity currently taking place on ideal beach-front property on the Carlsbad coast isn’t for one fortunate occupant but the entire San Marcos community.

After decades of getting the necessary approvals and permits, selecting the site location for optimum service and securing financing through a $734 million tax-exempt bond, preparations are being made to start construction on the Western Hemisphere’s largest desalination plant, capable of meeting regional water needs with 50-million gallon-per-day processing output.

Immediately after wholesaler San Diego County Water Authority and Poseidon Resources, a seawater desalination infrastructure developer, hammered out a 30 year water purchase agreement in November of 2012, construction crews arrived at the future location near the Encina Power Station in Carlsbad.

Estimated to be completed in 2016, this site will not only anchor a state-of-the-art, reverse osmosis facility, but provide a portion of Vallecitos’ water supply that is safe, environmentally friendly, and sustainable from a nearby, endless source...the Pacific Ocean.

Ocean water will be pumped from the Aqua Hedionda Lagoon, treated at the new facility, and then distributed through a 10-mile, 54-inch pipeline that will travel eastward from the coast through Carlsbad, Vista and San Marcos before being delivered to your faucet.

Vallecitos is contracted to receive 3,500 acre feet per year (1 acre foot equals 325,851 gallons) or approximately 1 billion gallons of water the plant produces annually to complement imports from the Colorado River and Northern California.

Although the cost of desalinated water will initially be more expensive than imported water, this drought proof source offers invaluable benefits, including:

- Minimizing the impact to customers of mandatory water-use restrictions in the event of a drought
- Offering a superior quality water
- Providing an emergency water source in the event imported water isn’t available, such as a natural disaster.

Once complete, the desalination plant will just be another cornerstone to Vallecitos’ source diversification strategy to provide customers with the reliable service they’ve come to expect now and in the future.

For information on construction of the 10-mile pipeline, see page 4.
Receive **Green to get rid of Green**

*New WaterSmart Landscape program pays customers to remove their thirsty lawn*

Customers tired of high water bills and time dedicated to the upkeep associated with maintaining a lush lawn have another reason to consider a water-wise alternative – money.

The new WaterSmart Turf Replacement Program offering $1.50 per square for existing turf that is replaced with WaterSmart landscaping is now available to Vallecitos customers.* With funding through wholesaler San Diego County Water Authority and other participating state agencies, residential customers are eligible for up to $3,000 for replacing 2,000 square feet of turf.

Commercial, schools and industrial customers are eligible for up to $9,000 for replacing 6,000 square feet of turf. Funding is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis, so customers interested should act fast.

*Please note that previous site conversions are **NOT** eligible for the rebate.

**How does it work?**

1. **Visit** [http://turfreplacement.watersmartsd.org](http://turfreplacement.watersmartsd.org) **or call** 1-866-685-2322. Review program guidelines to make sure you qualify. Just as critical in this step is deciding on the proper waterwise plants to ensure program approval. For assistance in the process, you will automatically be enrolled in a 1-hour, online training class that will come in handy for when you later have to submit a plant list for your proposed landscape.

2. **Reserve your rebate by calling or visiting the web site.** During the process, you will be asked to submit your most recent water bill, plant list and landscape design plans (non-residential customers).

3. **Install your WaterSmart landscape.** After a pre-conversion site inspection, customers will receive an acceptance letter allowing 120 calendar days to renovate your yard.

4. **Submit an online rebate application along with photos of your yard and copies of your receipts and invoices.** After WaterSmart verifies that all program criteria have been met, participants will receive payment in the form of a check.

For more program information, **FREE landscape design plans and water wise landscape ideas, go to** [http://turfreplacement.watersmartsd.org](http://turfreplacement.watersmartsd.org).
Standard & Poor’s reaffirm Vallecitos’ ‘AA’ rating with a stable outlook

As the Vallecitos Water District navigates through a challenging economic climate, an in-depth fiscal analysis of the public agency conducted by Standard and Poor’s (S&P) revealed the District is moving in the right direction. The leading financial services provider reaffirmed Vallecitos’ ‘AA’ rating with a ‘stable outlook’ into the foreseeable future.

Vallecitos has been committed to offering its customers exceptional and sustainable services, while at the same time, reducing operating costs wherever possible. Accomplishing this and keeping water and wastewater rates reasonable despite Vallecitos experiencing steady cost increases associated with imported water deliveries and wastewater treatment were key findings that contributed to the favorable S&P outlook.

Also taken into consideration was the District’s diverse and stable customer base, strong debt coverage, and a manageable five-year capital improvement plan that includes $36.2 million in new and replacement projects.

With a future dedicated to prudent, longterm strategic planning, the District will continue on this strong financial path to maintain or exceed its rating from Standard and Poor’s.

Vallecitos earns Recycled Water Community / Public Education Program of the Year honors

Vallecitos – your award-winning water and sewer service provider - has to make space on its wall for another accolade: 2013 Recycled Water Community / Public Education Program of the Year.

Prevailing through many worthy challengers from public agencies throughout the state, Vallecitos Water District’s new “Water Academy” program earned this prestigious distinction from the WateReuse Association California Section, a nonprofit trade association whose mission is to advance the beneficial uses of high-quality, locally produced, sustainable water sources for the betterment of society and the environment.

District representatives accepted the award on March 18 at the WateReuse Association’s 2013 annual conference.

The organization’s awards subcommittee recognized the District’s “Water Academy” as an exceptional example of public outreach. The all-day, behind the scenes tour of the Vallecitos Water District features staff presentations covering the District, its projects, and guided, chartered bus tours of the District’s award-winning Twin Oaks Reservoirs and upgraded Meadowlark Water Reclamation Facility.

The Water Academy tour is FREE to all Vallecitos customers. Anybody interested in reserving a spot for our next “Water Academy” should contact Alicia Yerman at (760) 744-0460, ext. 223.
Construction on pipeline for desalination plant under way in San Marcos

Construction on the 10-mile pipeline for the Carlsbad desalination plant is now under way. Pipeline construction in San Marcos began in mid-March at the connection facility located just east of Rancho Santa Fe Road at Creek Street. From there, pipe will be installed east along 9th Street to Las Flores Drive. An underground tunnel will be used to install the pipe across Rancho Santa Fe Road in order to minimize traffic impacts along that busy arterial street.

From there, the pipeline construction will head south on Las Flores Drive to W. Linda Vista Drive; and then west on W. Linda Vista Drive to Poinsettia Avenue. It will then continue through Vista and Carlsbad before finally connecting with the desalination plant. The San Marcos portion of the pipeline construction should be wrapped up by this fall. The balance of the pipeline will be complete in 2016.

Detours have been planned to help maintain traffic flow and signage will be posted along the construction route. Night work may occur to expedite the construction timeline.

Construction updates about potential impacts can be found at www.carlsbad-desal.com or you can call the construction hotline at (877) 752-3152 or email info@carlsbaddesal.com. Real-time updates will also be provided on Twitter at @CarlsbadDesal and Facebook at www.facebook.com/CarlsbadDesal.