



UPCOMING FREE EVENTS:

For more information on each event, please visit www.mvdsd.org. If you would like to attend an event, you must RSVP with Kelly Davidson Chou at (925) 228-5635 ext. 19 or kdavidson@mvdsd.org.

POND TURTLE TALK AND WALK

Saturday, Sept. 20th | 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Join a wildlife biologist for a fun and informative presentation on the western pond turtle and the MVSD pond turtle study. We will then head out to Moorhen Marsh looking for turtles and other wildlife. Dress comfortably and in layers for changing weather conditions. Participants MUST wear closed-toed shoes (no sandals) for the walk. Event is limited to 12 participants.

WETLANDS BIRDING FIELD TRIP

Saturday, Oct. 18th | 7:00 am - 9:00 am

Saturday, Nov. 15th | 8:00 am - 10:00 am

This 2-hour walk will introduce you to the diversity of birds found in and around McNabney and Moorhen marshes. This outing is perfect for beginning bird watchers, but all birding levels are welcome. Meet at the observation platform before the tunnel. Heavy rain cancels!

WORM COMPOSTING WORKSHOP

Saturday, Oct. 18th | 10:00 am - Noon

Worm composting is a wonderfully efficient way to convert kitchen scraps and other organic materials like cardboard, into nutrient-rich compost for your garden. This workshop is a partnership between MVSD and Contra Costa County. Contact the County's Recycling Hotline at 1-800-750-4096 to learn more and to reserve your spot!

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING DATES:

All MVSD Board of Directors meetings are held at the District office at 3800 Arthur Road and are open to the public.

Thursday, September 11, 2014, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 9, 2014, 6:30 p.m.

SEWER ODORS IN YOUR HOME?

Visit www.mvdsd.org for more information about the likely cause of the odors.



Meet the Western Pond Turtle!

The Western Pond Turtle is the only native freshwater turtle in most of California. Although once abundant throughout the Golden State, populations have drastically declined, and it is now considered a "species of special concern" by the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife. MVSD is currently undertaking an extensive study on the species.

Rehabilitation of Influent Pump Station

The purpose of this rehabilitation project is to enhance the pump station's firm capacity, which is defined as being able to pump the design flows from the pump station even if the largest pump were out of service. The project

occur in two phases. The preliminary work will occur this year prior to the wet season, and the remainder will take place next summer. During construction, residents on Arthur Road may notice increased construction vehicle traffic.

MVSD is committed to maintaining a reliable wastewater system for both the present and for future generations. With this in mind, the District is rehabilitating the Influent Pump Station. The Influent Pump Station was constructed in 1951 and is used to pump all of the incoming wastewater to the different treatment processes.

will increase the firm capacity from 5.8 million gallons per day (mgd) to 8.4 mgd. This will help the treatment plant manage pumping the necessary capacity in the event of a flood situation.

Construction for this project was put out for bid and ultimately awarded to Pacific Infrastructure for \$902,000. Work will

By modifying the existing Influent Pump Station rather than constructing a new one, MVSD was able to save millions of dollars. Evaluation of the existing station showed that the old pump station could be refurbished to achieve the same goals at a cost of around \$1 million, as opposed to building a new station at a cost of around \$4-5 million.



MVSD's Influent Pump Station is being rehabilitated to increase its capacity and reliability.

This project is funded entirely through rates, fees and existing District reserves. About 10 cents of every \$1 of your rates are allocated for capital improvement projects such as this. MVSD identified the need for this project in a System Reliability Evaluation (SRE) performed in 2010 to assess the condition of the District's treatment facilities. This is the first of several projects identified by the SRE for future construction as part of MVSD's commitment to invest in the repair and replacement of existing infrastructure to extend its life.

Western Pond Turtle Study

MVSD is working to protect Western Pond Turtles. A 2009 baseline population study revealed that some 90 to 120 western pond turtles depend on habitat provided by MVSD's freshwater wetland, Moorhen Marsh. In 2011, MVSD recognized that in order to provide the best habitat possible, a new Management Plan was required. The Plan was completed in 2013 and identified the need for pond dredging and levee stabilization.

The District Biologist, Kelly Davidson, was concerned about how such activities would affect the turtles. She wanted to know how they were using the habitat throughout the year. Were they breeding and nesting on site? Were they overwintering in the ponds or on land?

How the turtles used the wetland throughout the seasons would determine how and when the dredging and levee work would proceed. The best way to figure out what the turtles were doing, and when they were doing it, was a telemetry study.

The first attempt to answer some of these questions began in 2012. With grant funding from the Contra Costa Fish and Wildlife Committee, MVSD purchased five very high frequency (VHF) radio telemetry units to monitor the turtle's activity. However, this method was not as successful as hoped, as the VHF units proved unreliable. GPS is a more effective form of tracking compared with the VHF system, as long as the turtle is big enough to carry the added weight of the larger GPS unit. Fortunately, Moorhen Marsh is home to some very big turtles!

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Meet Your New District Manager!

Neal Allen is a familiar face around MVSD and he is now serving as the District Manager. Neal has served as Assistant District Manager for the past four years. When District Manager Mike Roe retired at the end of June 2014, the MVSD Board of Directors appointed Neal Allen as District Manager.



MVSD District Manager Neal Allen enjoys riding his bicycle and motorcycle in his free time.

Immediately prior to working for MVSD, Neal worked for Carollo Engineers in Sacramento. Prior to that, he managed the Interceptor Sewer Program for Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD).

As the new District Manager, Neal expresses gratitude to Mike, previous District Manager David Contreras, and the Board of Directors

for putting the District in a good place in terms of operations, finances, and a professional staff. Neal plans to continue to follow their lead by providing ratepayers with exceptional, yet cost-effective, wastewater treatment service.

Another goal of Neal's as District Manager is to continue to promote and enhance the District's role as an environmental steward through the management of Moorhen and McNabney Marshes. When Neal is not working, he enjoys two-wheeled sports including riding his bicycle and motorcycle.

Lilia Corona: MVSD's New Assistant District Manager

In addition to a new District Manager, the MVSD Board of Directors also appointed a new Assistant District Manager. Lilia Corona, MVSD District Chemist since 2009, now serves a new role as MVSD's Assistant District Manager. She has a background in chemistry and has more than 23 years in the environmental industry with 8 years of experience in wastewater. She previously

worked for the City of Benicia in both its water and wastewater treatment plants and for Napa Sanitation District.

Lilia feels strongly that wastewater treatment is an important service to the community because it is a cornerstone of public health, reducing waterborne disease, preventing epidemics and protecting wildlife and the environment.



New Assistant District Manager Lilia Corona is also the District's Chemist and Lab Director!

As the new Assistant District Manager, Lilia hopes to support the District Manager in as many ways as possible while remaining a vigilant steward of the environment. She will continue to act as the Lab Director and continue to manage the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for MVSD. This permit specifies the monitoring requirements and discharge limits for treated wastewater.



MT. VIEW SANITARY DISTRICT

3800 Arthur Road
PO Box 2757
Martinez, CA 94553
925-228-5635



This quarter-sized hatchling was found adjacent to Moorhen Marsh on April 2, 2014. Recruitment of juvenile turtles into existing populations is crucial for this species' survival.

(continued from front)

East Bay Municipal Utility District generously offered to loan MVSD the first five GPS units. These units were placed on one male and four females in May and June of 2013. An additional four units were placed on females in May of 2014.

MVSD now knows that turtles are nesting in the limited uplands of the marsh. Through monitoring efforts, biologists were able to find five actively nesting females in June and July of 2014. To protect these nests from predators, they were covered with cages designed to allow hatchlings to get out once they emerged. The nests are incubated by the sun, and viable eggs hatch in 80-100 days. Interestingly, most of the

hatchlings will remain sequestered in the nests over the winter and will not emerge until the spring. For more information on nest predation in Moorhen Marsh, visit www.mvsd.org, to read a short article published in the Herpetological Review.

The Western Pond Turtle was recently separated into two species, the Northern Pond Turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*) and the Southwestern Pond Turtle (*Actinemys pallida*). The Southwestern Pond Turtle is in serious decline throughout its range, which likely includes Contra Costa County. Soon, MVSD hopes to determine which species calls Moorhen Marsh home. Check our website regularly for more updates on the study!



If you would like to receive an electronic version of the Mt. View Monitor in your e-mail, please visit www.mvsd.org to sign up.

Have a sewer emergency? Call (925) 228-5635