



### UPCOMING FREE EVENTS:

Check out these upcoming free events sponsored in part by MVSD. They are a great way to get outside and enjoy some beautiful weather while learning about wildlife! Contact Kelly at [kdavidson@mvsd.org](mailto:kdavidson@mvsd.org) or at (925) 228-5635 x19 for more information and to sign up for any of the events listed below.

### HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS IN MCNABNEY MARSH:

#### NESTING RAFTS FOR DUCKS, GEESE AND SHOREBIRDS

##### TWO DATES!

**Saturday, June 13 -OR- Saturday, July 11**  
10:00 am - Noon

Join MVSD's District Biologist for a presentation on the history of McNabney Marsh including the 1988 Shell oil spill and the 2009 tide gate opening that brought water from Carquinez Strait to the marsh for the first time in decades. We will explore the consequences of these events for wildlife and how the nesting raft project could make a difference for ducks, geese, and shorebirds raising families in these historic wetlands. We will finish up by walking out to the observation platform to look for bird activity on the rafts! Dress in layers and bring your binoculars.

### WESTERN POND TURTLE TALK AND WALK

**Saturday, June 20 | 9:00 am - 11:00 am**

The Western Pond Turtle is our only native freshwater turtle and is considered a species of special concern by the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife. Join us for a fun and informative presentation on this aquatic reptile and learn about the goals and objectives of the MVSD pond turtle study. Afterwards, we will head out to Moorhen Marsh to look for basking turtles. Event is limited to 12 participants. Appropriate for ages 10 and up. Participants MUST wear closed-toed shoes (no sandals) for the walk.

### UPCOMING BOARD MEETING DATES

MVSD Board of Directors meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at the District office at 3800 Arthur Road and are open to the public.

**Thursday, June 11, 2015, 6:30 pm**

**Thursday, July 9, 2015, 6:30 pm**

## MVSD's Wetlands: For the Environment and Community



One of MVSD's most proud accomplishments is our commitment to preserving the wetlands complex. These wetlands provide a home for many fish, wildlife and plant species. Developing the marsh system into what it is today has been an ongoing and sometimes challenging process. However, today, these marshes serve an important role for both the environment and the community.

MVSD's marsh complex consists of both Moorhen and McNabney Marshes. Moorhen Marsh is located south of I-680 and McNabney Marsh is located just north of I-680. These marshes are easily visible from the freeway and are located near MVSD's office.

The marshes are not used to provide any additional treatment to wastewater. The treated wastewater discharge to the marshes is known as "effluent". MVSD has a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit that ensures the effluent is fully treated and meets water quality standards before entering the marsh system. As part of this permit, these wetlands are required to provide an ongoing environmental benefit.

Moorhen Marsh consists of five separate, yet connected ponds, which total 20 acres in area. It was created in the 1970s to avoid constructing a deep water outfall for effluent. This saved money for ratepayers, and protected the District from possible annexation. McNabney Marsh is a 130-

acre marsh. The marsh was acquired by MVSD during the 1980s.

Management of the marsh is informed by the Peyton Slough Wetlands Advisory Committee (PSWAC). This is a group of non-regulatory, volunteer stakeholders with a vested interest in the well-being of the marshes. The current Management Plan for McNabney Marsh was

prepared by the PSWAC. One challenge that has arisen in the marsh management is the process of restoring McNabney Marsh to tidal influence. MVSD and the PSWAC knew that this was a necessary step in order to reduce cost and further enhance the quality of life for wetlands species. This goal was initially achieved through the 2006 Peyton Slough Remediation process. In 2009, the tide gates on Peyton Slough were opened, allowing tidal influence into the marsh. Today, this continues through careful management of the tide gates in order to prevent flooding and achieve other goals needed to keep the marsh in optimal condition. While this process has undoubtedly come with some challenges, it is overall a successful operation.

MVSD has led the way for wastewater wetland creation with a total of 137 acres having been restored. These marshes provide great natural beauty to the local community, and attract bird enthusiasts across the region. MVSD also uses the marshes as an opportunity to teach local schoolchildren about the importance of wildlife preservation. Since 1996, MVSD's wetlands field trip has educated 1,500 students each year. MVSD will continue to support the success of these marshes and looks forward to your continued support! To learn more, visit <http://www.mvsd.org/about-the-district/the-peyton-slough-marsh-complex-mcnabney-and-moorhen-marshes/>.

## May is Wetlands Appreciation Month!



Each May is American Wetlands Appreciation month! MVSD celebrates each year with a special billboard dedicated to showcasing the natural beauty of the wetlands creatures. This year, the billboard features the black-necked stilt. Be sure to check out our article in this newsletter to learn more about this unique bird. The billboard is located on the westbound side of I-680, just before the Arthur Road exit. Be sure to safely take a look as you drive by! We hope you will enjoy the incredible wildlife of the wetlands with us not just during the month of May, but year-round as well!

## MVSD Works to Prevent Copper Pollution

Copper is a commonly used metal in everyday items such as cars, electrical wiring and plumbing. While copper plumbing is almost always harmless, it is possible for copper to corrode and contaminate water. This can also happen when copper items are disposed of improperly and this now harmful material makes its way to the wastewater system.

After MVSD treats wastewater, the effluent is released into our system of marshes, where it can re-enter the water system. These marshes are home to a variety of organisms. At MVSD, we want to do everything we can to keep these organisms safe because they are vital to our ecosystem. This includes ensuring that our effluent is properly treated to remove copper contamination. In fact, we are required by our National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to monitor copper levels in the effluent water.

MVSD is also working to ensure that copper-containing waste items, such as old plumbing materials, are disposed of properly. These items should be disposed of at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility. More information about this facility is available on

our website at <http://www.mvsd.org/programs/household-hazardous-waste-collection-facility>.

We will continue monitoring the amount of copper that is in our influent and effluent to ensure that MVSD discharge remains at safe levels. However, we need your help to keep the environment free of copper contamination. Thank you for helping us by properly disposing of your copper waste items! Here's what you need to know:

1. Copper is highly toxic to most aquatic species and is a water quality problem in our creeks and bay.
2. Persistent sources of copper in wastewater include pools, spas and fountains treated with copper algicides, copper containing pesticides and copper plumbing.
3. MVSD's treatment process removes approximately 85% of copper from wastewater before discharging to Moorhen Marsh. We have consistently met NPDES Permit Effluent discharge limits for Copper for many years.
4. How can we all help to minimize copper so we can remain compliant and environmentally responsible?
  - Use copper free algicides and

pesticides

- Ask your plumbers to use best management practices when installing copper pipes. Approximately 60% of the copper coming to wastewater treatment plants is estimated to be from copper pipe corrosion. While that might seem like a small portion of the overall problem, copper from pipe corrosion is one source that can be easily reduced.

For more information about copper pollution prevention visit <http://www.mvsd.org/programs/pollution-prevention>.

### Do you need to drain your pool or spa?

While it is a water-short year in California, we recommend avoiding draining and refilling your pool or spa in an effort to save water. However, if it is necessary to drain your pool or spa, please be sure to acquire a permit from MVSD ahead of time. There is no cost for the permit. For more information about this, call us at (925) 228-5635.



### MT. VIEW SANITARY DISTRICT

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



### DID YOU KNOW?

Through a partnership between MVSD and Central Contra Costa Sanitary District (CCCSD), MVSD customers are eligible to get free recycled water from CCCSD. In this time of drought, CCCSD's recycled water program provides a much needed resource. The recycled water can be used to hand-water lawns, gardens and landscaping, while helping to save drinking water supplies. For more information about the residential recycled water fill station, please contact CCCSD by email at [residential@centralsan.org](mailto:residential@centralsan.org) or call 1-800-646-1431.

## Get to Know the Black-necked Stilt

This beautiful shorebird sports striking black and white plumage, a thin needle-like bill, and long pink legs. It feeds along the edges of marshes, mudflats, and ponds. Stilts are sometimes found with the American Avocet, and the two species will form loose nesting colonies. Both parents participate in nest construction and take turns incubating the 3-5 eggs. The downy young leave the nest shortly after hatching. Chicks feed themselves but stick close to their parents until they fledge at 4-5 weeks.

Look for this charismatic species in the southern end of McNabney Marsh near the observation platform and along the plant road. During the nesting season, parents build scrapes in low vegetation near the edge of the marsh or on one of four new nesting rafts provided by MVSD for ground nesting birds. In 2014, a single stilt chick was fledged from a small nesting raft. We hope for many more in 2015!



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



MVSD is getting social! We are pleased to announce that we have recently created a Facebook Page! Get all the latest news and updates about MVSD by liking us! Visit [www.facebook.com/mtviewsd](http://www.facebook.com/mtviewsd)