SUMMER 2005
NEWSLETTER

"Pride in Community Service"

VANDENBERG VILLAGE
COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

3757 Constellation Road • Lompoc, CA 93436 • Telephone: (805) 733-2475 • Fax: (805) 733-2109

Cabrillo Wins with Water Awareness PSA

Cabrillo High School placed second in the Santa Barbara County Water Agency's 6th Annual High School Water Awareness Video Contest for the Public Service Announcement (PSA) created by Sophomore Jeff Monteleone. Jeff was presented with the award in Santa Barbara on May 18.

This was the first time in the contest's history that an individual single-handedly produced a video. Usually, the videos become class projects as was the case with the other four entries is this year's contest.

Monteleone came up with the concept, shot footage around the Vandenberg Village/Lompoc area, edited the video, and added background music. His efforts paid off in a $750 cash award for Cabrillo High School and a certificate of recognition from the Santa Barbara County Water Agency.

Tina McManigal, VVCSD Customer Service Representative and Water Conservation Coordinator, worked with the Cabrillo High School teaching and administrative staffs to get the message to the students about the contest and was a member of the panel that selected the winners. She relayed to the District that the panel was quite impressed by Monteleone's dedication to the project.

Monteleone's PSA, as well as those submitted by the other four finalists (Dos Pueblos High School, San Marcos High School, Santa Ynez Valley High School, and Cate School), may be seen on the following local and Comcast Cable channels periodically over the next three to 12 months:

- KEYT (Channel 3)
- KSBY (Channel 6)
- KKFX (Channel 11)
- KCOY (Channel 12)
- CITITV Santa Barbara City (Channel 18)
- GATV SB County (Channel 20)
- TAP TV (Channel 23)

Paying off the Bond Debt

In December 1988, VVCSD purchased the water and wastewater facilities from Park Water Company for $5.4 million. Revenue bonds were issued to cover the purchase. In 1996, the District refunded (refinanced) the bonds, saving Village residents $1.4 million in interest payments.

These bonds are due to be paid off in November 2008; however, a provision in the bond contract allows the bonds to be paid off three years early.

Although there is a one percent ($10,900) redemption premium, the net savings in interest payments will exceed $100,000. The District is planning to take advantage of the early bond redemption opportunity this November, not only to save money, but to eliminate a major expense category before increased wastewater expenses for the Lompoc Regional Water Reclamation Plant (LRWRP) upgrade project take effect.

After the bond redemption, customers will no longer see the bond charges listed on their bills. However, the amount of the $15.05 monthly bond charges ($11.36 for water, $3.69 for wastewater) will be incorporated into the water service charge and sewer service charge in November. This revenue will be used to replenish the reserves that will be expended to pay off the bonds and will also help to gradually transition to the wastewater service charge increase that will be required when the upgraded LRWRP goes on line.

Consumer Confidence Report

Our annual Consumer Confidence Report (Water Quality Report) is included in this newsletter. The required testing and report format, prescribed by State and Federal regulations, are technical in nature. All of Vandenberg Village's water comes from groundwater in the Lompoc Uplands aquifer. The bottom line is that although our water is hard (which is commonly the case with groundwater) it meets or exceeds all State and Federal requirements for safe drinking water criteria. If you have any questions about this report, or your water quality, please contact Martin Damwyk at (805) 733-2475.

VANDENBERG VILLAGE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT
FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2004

The District routinely monitors for constituents in accordance with Federal and State laws. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk. THE DISTRICT HAS MET ALL STANDARDS.

Our water source comes from 3 wells which draw from the "Lompoc Uplands Aquifer." Our wells are located at 702 and 704 Highway 1 about a 1/4 mile west of the "Wye" intersection.

In accordance with the State's Drinking Water Source Assessment and Protection (DWSAP) Program, a Drinking Water Source Assessment for all 3 District Wells was completed in April 2001. The assessments includes: A delineation of the areas around a drinking water source through which contaminants might move and reach that drinking water supply; an inventory of possible contaminating activities (PCAs) that might lead the release of microbiological or chemical contaminants within the delineated area; and a determination of the PCAs to which the drinking water source is most vulnerable. In summary District sources, wells 1B, 3B, and 3A are considered most vulnerable to the following activities **NOT** associated with any detected contaminants: National Pollutants, Discharge Elimination System/Waste Discharge Requirements (NPDES/WDR) permitted discharges, Septic systems - low density, and pesticide/fertilizer/petroleum storage and transfer areas. It is important to note that no contaminants have been detected. The Drinking Water Source Assessment is the first step in the development of a complete drinking water source protection program. A copy of the complete assessment may be viewed at:

DHS Drinking Water Field Operations Branch
1180 Eugenia Place, Suite 200
Carpenteria, CA 93013-2000

or you may request a summary of the assessment be sent to you by contacting:
Kurt Souza
DHS District Engineer
805-566-1326

Terms Used In This Report:

AL - Regulatory Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

MFL - Million Fibers per Liter: a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

ND - Not detectable at testing limit

NTU - Nepholometric Turbidity Unit: a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

pCi/L -: picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

PDWS - Primary Drinking Water Standards: MCLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

PHG - Public Health Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

ppb - parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/L)

ppm - parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

SDWS - Secondary Drinking Water Standards: MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Inorganic contaminants**,** such as salts and metals, that can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA and the state Department of Health Services prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Department regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Microbiological Quality monitoring is required of the VVCSD Distribution system. Required samples are 2 per week. VVCSD samples 3 per week. In 2004, we tested 156 samples; none were found to be positive. The District is in compliance with the Total Coliform Rule.

Radiological Water Quality Results of water sample analysis performed to measure radiological constituents: The District is in compliance. The level did not exceed 15 picoCuries per Liter (pCi/L). Results of the most recent tests for Gross Alpha was 1.1 - 1.3 pCi/L for the year 2002. The next radiological testing is due in 2006.

Tables 1, 2, 3, and 4, list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the most recent sampling for the constituent. The Department requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old.

TABLE 1 - SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF LEAD AND COPPER

Lead and Copper sampled: 9/2002	No. of samples collected	90th percentile level detected	No. Sites exceeding AL	AL	MCLG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	20	ND	0	15	2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; discharges from industrial manufacturers.
Copper (ppm)	20	0.980	0	1.3	0.17	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

Next round of sampling for lead and copper are to be done September 2005

TABLE 2 - SAMPLING RESULTS FOR SODIUM AND HARDNESS

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium (ppm)	1/16/02	70.4	72 - 69	none	none	Generally found in ground and surface water
Hardness (ppm)	1/16/02	334	460 - 220	none	none	Generally found in ground and surface water

Note: Divide the hardness level by 17.1 to obtain the grains per gallon (gpg) as used by the water softener industry, which in this case is 18.4 gpg.

TABLE 3 - DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Arsenic[1] (ppb)	1/16/02	5.2	2.1 - 8.1	50	na - (na)	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Asbestos (mfl)	09/2002	ND	System Sample	7	na - (7)	Internal corrosion of asbestos cement water mains; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as NO3) (ppm)	1/16/02	ND	ND	45	45 - (na)	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	1/16/02	0.30	0.38-0.28	2	1 - (na)	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

[1] USEPA has revised the drinking water standard for arsenic because of special concerns that it may not be stringent enough. Arsenic is a naturally occurring mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations. On February 22, 2002 the arsenic in drinking water rule became effective; the date by which systems must comply with the new 10 ppb standard is January 23, 2006. The District is in compliance.

TABLE 4 - DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

Note: There are no PHG's or MCLG's for constituents with Secondary drinking Water Standards because these are not health based levels, but set on basis of aesthetics.

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Level Detected	MCL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Color (units)	<5	15	Naturally occurring organic materials.
Copper (ppm)	ND	1	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Iron (ppb)	<100	300	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	<50	50	Leaching from natural deposits
Odor (TON -Threshold Odor number)	1	3	Naturally occurring organic material
Corrosivity	11.4 corrosive	12.0 non corrosive	Natural or industrially-influenced balance of hydrogen, carbon and oxygen in the water; affected by temperature and other factors
MBAS - Foaming Agents (ppb)	ND	500	Municipal and industrial waste discharges
Turbidity - Clarity (ntu)	<0.1	5	Soil Runoff
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	634	1000	Runoff/Leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance (micromhos)	1087	1600	Substances that form ions when in water
Chloride (ppm)	155	500	Run of/leaching from natural deposits, seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	158	500	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits, industrial wastes

Note: Due to recent concerns regarding the contaminant MTBE (Methyl Tertiary-Butyl Ether), our wells were sampled in 2002 and **no MTBE** was detected. MTBE is a gasoline additive used to help reduce air pollution, however by doing so, MTBE is now polluting some of the country's underground water supply. Since MTBE is still currently being used, there are efforts to pass laws to ban this additive.

Tested for 37 **regulated Volatile Organic Compounds,** all 37 non-detectable.
Tested for 30 **unregulated Volatile Organic Compounds,** all 30 non-detectable.
(Sampled 01/16/2002, next required sampling is due 2005.) Results are available at the District Office.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS REPORT OR YOUR WATER QUALITY, PLEASE CONTACT:

MARTIN R. DAMWYK **PHONE: 733-2475** **EMAIL: ADMINISTRATION@VVCSD.ORG**

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. More information about contaminants and potential health effects are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The Board of Directors hold a regularly scheduled Board meetings on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 P.M. in the District's office conference room at 3757 Constellation Rd. The public is encouraged to attend.

Reminder – Don't Water Between 4 and 8 a.m.

Residents in the upper pressure zone (Burning Tree Way, Cypress Way, Doral Drive, Firestone Way, Greenbrier Road, La Costa Lane, Manzanita Way, Medinah Lane, Oakhill Drive, Oakhill Terrace, Tamarack Court and upper parts of St. Andrews Way) are asked to refrain from watering their lawns between the hours of 4 a.m. and 8 a.m. Customers on these streets are supplied with water using pumps running continuously to maintain pressure.

The District's water pumps have difficulty maintaining pressure during those peak hours with the added demand from the water sprinklers. We encourage these customers to set their sprinkler timers on odd or even hours corresponding to the last digit of their street address at times throughout the day and night other than 4:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. This simple measure helps the District save $20,000 per year in electrical costs.

The best time for everybody to water their lawns is between 8:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m. This is the period of lowest demand and the least amount of irrigation water is lost to evaporation.

Meet Our General Manager

The VVCSD Board of Directors appointed Mr. Joe Barget as General Manager in August 2004.

Joe came to the District from the Port San Luis Harbor District where he was the Facilities Manager for nine years. Prior to that, Mr. Barget, a West Point Graduate, was an officer with the U.S. Army.

He holds a Masters Degree in Civil Engineering from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Update

As we reported in our two previous newsletters, the City of Lompoc has been required by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Order No. 01-87 to bring the Lompoc Regional Wastewater Reclamation Plant (LRWRP) into compliance with new discharge standards. VVCSD, as a contracted partner with the City of Lompoc and VAFB, has a 17.8% capacity interest in the Plant and, therefore, is obligated to pay for 17.8% of the improvements required by regulatory agencies. Of the expected $50 million in upgrade costs, the District's share could be approximately $8.5 million. The City will finance the whole package of improvements and collect VVCSD's share of the costs under the terms of the existing agreement, just like we have been contributing our share of capital improvements in the past.

To help fund these upgrades, the City of Lompoc has applied for a State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan. SRF loans are low-interest loans available from the State of California to fund state-mandated improvements. However, SRF loans are currently on hold and the City has had to use bonds to fund part of the planning, design, and construction management costs to upgrade the LRWRP. As promised last year, to help reduce the impact on ratepayers, the District withdrew $1,174,800 from reserves this fiscal year to pay the District's portion of these bonds. Making this lump sum payment saved the District $620,000 in principal and $1.9 million in interest which translates into a savings of over $3.75 per month to each customer. The remainder of these costs will come from the District's wastewater rate structure (see separate article).

Wastewater Rates are Gradually Increasing

As reported in our 2003 (*Regional Wastewater Plant Upgrades Required*) and 2004 (*Wastewater Treatment Plant*) newsletter articles, the District has used $1,174,800 from wastewater reserves to make a lump sum payment on the Lompoc Regional Wastewater Reclamation Plant (LRWRP) upgrades instead of participating in the City of Lompoc's 30-year bond measure.

This lump sum payment saves each ratepayer approximately $3.75 per month. However, when the rest of the LRWRP upgrade costs start occurring in 2008, we still expect a 100% increase over our 2003 rates (from $21.78 to approximately $43.00 per month). The District is taking additional measures to reduce the impact of this revenue requirement. The first is to gradually phase in the rate increase over four years, 2004 through 2008. Last year, the District increased wastewater rates by 3% to start the phase-in process. This year, our wastewater rate is increasing another 11%.

Second, the District will redeem the 1996 revenue bonds (see separate article) three years early. Ratepayers will no longer pay separate bond charges but the amounts of the existing $15.05 bond charges ($11.36 for water, $3.69 for wastewater) will be incorporated into the water and wastewater service charges in November 2005 to replenish the reserves used to redeem the bonds. In 2008 we plan to move the entire $15.05 to the wastewater service charge. The table below illustrates our expected rate changes. Please note that these rates are based on current budget information and estimated LRWRP cost increases.

Effective Date	Budget Year	Bond Charges	5/8" x 3/4" Water Service Charge	Residential Sewer Service Charge	Total Charge to Customer
7/1/2003	2003-2004	$ 15.05	$ 9.15	$ 21.78	$ 45.98
7/1/2004	2004-2005	$ 15.05	$ 10.66	$ 22.50	$ 48.21
7/1/2005	2005-2006	$ 15.05	$ 10.66	$ 25.44	$ 51.15
11/1/2005	2005-2006	$ -	$ 22.02	$ 29.13	$ 51.15
7/1/2006*	2006-2007	$ -	$ 22.02	$ 29.59	$ 51.61
7/1/2007*	2007-2008	$ -	$ 22.02	$ 30.42	$ 52.44
7/1/2008*	2008-2009	$ -	$ 10.66	$ 42.49	$ 53.15

**Estimated rates based on current budget information.*

VVCSD HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Office will be closed the following dates :

INDEPENDENCE DAY
July 4, 2005

LABOR DAY
September 5, 2005

VETERANS' DAY
November 11, 2005

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
November 24 & 25, 2005

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
December 23, 2005 (1:00-5:00 p.m.)
Closed December 26, 2005

NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY
December 30, 2005 (1:00-5:00 p.m.)
Closed January 2, 2006

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR'S BIRTHDAY
January 16, 2006

PRESIDENTS DAY
February 20, 2006

MEMORIAL DAY
May 29, 2006

For personal assistance, the District office, located at 3757 Constellation Road, is open Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., excluding holidays.

VVCSD MISSION STATEMENT

"To efficiently provide dependable drinking water delivery and wastewater collection services to Vandenberg Village residents, with a commitment to customer service."

The VVCSD Web Page can be found at:
www.vvcsd.org
E-mail may be sent to: info@vvcsd.org

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