

## **ATTACHMENT 9. Past Performance**

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Montara Water and Sanitary District (MWSD or District) relies mostly on groundwater resources for the system it has acquired in 2003 from a private company. For the past eight (8) years, the District has implemented over 20 significant capital projects, studies, and monitoring programs, some self-funded and many with funding assistance provided by various agencies at the State of California. During the past 8 years, MWSD has not only demonstrated its continuous and consistent commitment to protecting groundwater resources and being an environmental steward on the California coast, it also contributed significantly to the knowledge base for those precious and fragile natural resources.

The District's commitment and contribution is demonstrated in its management and participation in three (3) State-funded programs, a Local Groundwater Assistance (LGA), a San Francisco Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP), and a Water Desalination Grant funded through from through the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Proposition 50 grant programs. The District's work with DWR on these and other programs demonstrated how work was completed on schedule, within the budget, and with outstanding results. Moreover, participation in those programs, has allowed the District to continue groundwater monitoring and placed the District in an excellent position to lead the Groundwater Management Plan effort associated with the current LGA funding application.

### **Local Groundwater Assistance Grant**

MWSD received LGA grant funding through the AB 303 program for the Martini Creek Sub-Basin Groundwater Management Plan development. The purpose of the project was to assess the hydrologic characteristics of the Martini Creek sub-basin through groundwater exploration and improving the District's reliable groundwater supply portfolio. MWSD pursued the grant based on the DWR report<sup>1</sup> that identified the Martini Creek terrace and alluvial aquifers as a potential source for supplemental drought-year supplies.

The project entailed establishing a network of nine monitoring wells, collecting data, building a groundwater model, and developing a Martini-Creek Sub-basin groundwater management plan. The project was re-purposed to groundwater exploration and monitoring only when it was determined that no source production would be established in the Martini Creek sub-basin. Therefore, following discussions with DWR, the groundwater management plan for the sub-basin was deemed not feasible. The following elements were implemented and are still functioning today: stream flow gaging and rainfall monitoring. In addition, the District has installed and continues collecting data from two monitoring wells in the sub-basin. The project addressed groundwater recharge, evaluated safe yield, interpreted water quality data, and included many other tasks. The final project billing summary was submitted to DWR in 2005 (see File 2 of 5).

Utilizing the LGA funding, MWSD was afforded the opportunity to initiate groundwater monitoring programs which are still on-going today. This work supported DWR's improved knowledge base of groundwater resources in the sub-basin and was completed on time and within the budget. The District's program that continues collecting data and monitoring is current self-funded.

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1 Department of Water Resources, 1999, Montara Water Supply Study for Montara Sanitary District

## **San Francisco Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Grant**

In 2005, the District participated with the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA) in the San Francisco Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) funded through DWR's Proposition 50 grant.

The Project Assessment and Evaluation Plan (PAEP) outlined steps to enhance the MWSD potable water supply by characterizing local aquifers through groundwater exploration. The project consisted of drilling up to 2 test wells in the MWSD service area for the purpose of characterizing the various aquifers in terms of their optimal use for potable water supply. Data collected from the test well program would allow for the evaluation of the local aquifers in terms of their suitability for public and private potable water supply. It was determined that the original budgetary estimate was not adequate for the exploratory drilling of the second planned groundwater well. Based on the limit of the original estimate and increased cost to drill the additional depth and abandon the well, the budget was re-focused on drilling of the Tierra Alta/Loma Vista Well Site. Thus, following discussions with DWR, the project was limited to one well. (see File 3 of 5)

During the project implementation, MWSD worked closely with a highly qualified team of hydrologists tasked with the monitoring of the District's test well. MWSD was responsible for reporting project data and project expenses to the BACWA representatives and DWR in a timely manner. The Based on email correspondence, the project was completed to the satisfaction of DWR Financial Assistance Branch and the BACWA representative. (see File 4 of 5).

## **Brackish Water Desalination Feasibility Study**

Also partially funded by DWR, this study was conducted by MWSD with the purpose of identifying potential drought-resistant brackish water resources and addressing the feasibility of implementing a desalination treatment facility for this source. No substantial groundwater was found in the test well drilled on the selected site. Following these initial findings and discussions with DWR, the study was re-purposed into a Ocean Desalination Feasibility Study, which was successfully completed on time and within the budget allocation, and accepted by DWR (see File 5 of 5).

These three projects demonstrate the District's continuous commitment to managing groundwater resources on the Mid-Coast and its contribution to the State in terms of groundwater management, monitoring, and data collection.