



San Simeon Community

Services District

January - March
Newsletter



2009

Message From Your General Manager

All of our water comes from an aquifer under Pico Creek. During the rainy season, the creek flows into the ocean and our aquifer fills. Then during the dry season, April to November, water levels in the aquifer drop as we pump, chlorinate, and use the water. Water levels in the pond and our two Wells continue to drop, and the pond almost disappears. We usually get sufficient rainfall before the Well levels become too low.

When the Well levels become too low, the sea water begins to migrate into the aquifer. There are two ways this happens: underground seepage from the ocean into the aquifer and, during very high tides, sea water overflows the sand berm and fills the Pico creek pond, which continuously seeps into our aquifer.

This year, the rainy season is late. We started having berm overflow during high tides in December, and the pond began filling with sea water. The pond water is mixed with sea water and the chlorides in the sea water cause the chloride levels in our aquifer to increase.

Ordinarily, our water has a chloride level of roughly 25 milligrams of chloride for every liter of water. In the last several weeks, chloride levels were in between 300 and, for a brief period, 700 mg/L.

We immediately contacted the County Health Department, and they told us that there is no "unsafe" level of chlorides. At roughly 300 mg/L, users may taste the "saltiness." There may be a few people who are on salt restricted diets, and they probably should consult with their doctor.

In the last week or so, the water level in our aquifer has been rising and the chloride levels dropping. This means that even though we got very little rain at the coast, apparently heavy rain did fall in the mountains, and that water is now working its way down the hills to our aquifer. Just one heavy (3 inches or more) rainfall will completely fill the aquifer. Pray for rain!

STAGE 2 ALERT !!!

The District Office has received several calls regarding watering of plants and washing of vehicles. We are still in Stage 2 Alert. We had some rains, but it wasn't enough to bring the reservoir up or get Pico Creek running. It is still very important that we continue to conserve water and observe the Stage 2 Alert restrictions.

- * NO watering outside plants
 - * NO filling, refilling, or adding water to any pools or fountains unless to keep operative
 - * Restaurants are prohibited from serving SSCSD water to customers except when requested by customers
 - * NO washing down sidewalks, driveways, parking areas or buildings
 - * NO washing of any kind of automobiles
- Kindly remind your neighbors of the Stage 2 restrictions and that there are fines relating to usage. If you notice any of these activities occurring, please feel free to call the SSCSD office.

Mark Your Calendar

Next Board of Directors Meeting:
February 11th @ 6:00 pm
Cavalier Banquet Room