



## CCWD WINS TOP AWARDS

The Contra Costa Water District is honored to be the recipient of two major awards in the water industry – the Platinum Award from the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) and the Exceptional Public Outreach Award from the California Special Districts Association (CSDA).

### The Platinum Award

CCWD is one of 14 water agencies in the nation and the only agency in California to receive a 2004 Platinum Award from AMWA for sustained competitiveness achievement. The award recognizes the District's long-term excellence and innovation in utility management.

The District is a leader in water treatment technology and source water protection.

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## CCWD WORKS TO HELP THE ENVIRONMENT

As a responsible corporate citizen, the Contra Costa Water District is committed to protecting and enhancing the environment. The District has even included its environmental commitment in its mission statement:

*“The Mission of the Contra Costa Water District is to strategically provide a reliable supply of high quality water at the lowest cost possible, in an environmentally responsible manner.”*



Water Conservation Surveyors Catherine Spanger (left) and Martha Joseph Horan load survey equipment into one of CCWD's energy-efficient Honda Civic Hybrids.

Over the years, the District has implemented several programs and projects aimed at protecting and improving the environment. From its award-winning stewardship of the Los Vaqueros watershed, its leadership in water conservation and reclamation, to the recent addition of hybrid cars and a natural-gas-powered truck to its fleet, the District has a long history as a good environmental steward.

Here are some of the ways the District works to be environmentally responsible:

### FACILITATING RECYCLED WATER PROGRAMS:

For nearly three decades, CCWD has helped advance the use of reclaimed water. Today, more recycled water is used in CCWD's service area than in any other Bay Area water agency's service area. To encourage recycled water projects,

the District works with other agencies in its service area to utilize reclaimed water for distribution to golf courses, parks, cemeteries, industrial cooling towers, median landscaping, and for other appropriate uses. In 2004, 10 million gallons per day of recycled water was

utilized in CCWD's service area, saving valuable potable water. This amount is equal to about 10 percent of CCWD's water demand.

### CONTRA COSTA GREEN BUSINESS PROGRAM:

CCWD is one of 16 government agencies that founded the Contra Costa Green Business Program in 1998.

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The Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) serves treated and raw (untreated) water to approximately 500,000 people in central and eastern Contra Costa County. CCWD provides treated water to Clayton, Clyde, Concord, Pacheco, Port Costa and parts of Martinez, Pleasant Hill and Walnut Creek.

In addition, CCWD sells wholesale treated water to the City of Antioch and the California Cities Water Company in Bay Point, and treats water at the Randall-Bold Water Treatment Plant in Oakley for distribution to the Diablo Water District and the City of Brentwood.

CCWD also sells raw water to the cities of Antioch, Martinez and Pittsburg and the California Cities Water Company in Bay Point, as well as 22 industrial customers.

## CCWD IS OFFERING YOU INCENTIVES TO SAVE WATER!

### HOMEOWNERS

- ✓ High-Efficiency Washing Machine Rebates
- ✓ Free Ultra-Low Flow Toilets
- ✓ Free Water Conservation Devices
- ✓ Homeowners Call, (925) 688-8320

### APARTMENT OWNERS

- ✓ High-Efficiency Washing Machine Rebates
- ✓ Free Ultra-Low Flow Toilets
- ✓ Large Landscape Irrigation Rebates
- ✓ Apartment Owners Call, (925) 688-8015

### COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

- ✓ High-Efficiency Washing Machine Rebates
- ✓ Commercial Ultra-Low Flow Toilet & Urinal Rebates
- ✓ Large Landscape Irrigation Rebates
- ✓ Free Restaurant Pre-Rinse Spray Valves
- ✓ Commercial Cooling Tower Conductivity Rebates
- ✓ Commercial Owners Call, (925) 688-8234

VISIT [WWW.CCWATER.COM/CONSERVE](http://WWW.CCWATER.COM/CONSERVE)  
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT continued from front page

The Green Business Program encourages companies to “go green” by recognizing businesses that take action to prevent pollution and conserve resources. As a partner in the program, the District helps certify that businesses are green by conducting the water-use audit portion of the certification process. More than 150 businesses in the county have been certified as green since the program started in 1998.

### HELPING CUSTOMERS CONSERVE

**RESOURCES:** Since 1989, the District has offered a wide assortment of conservation programs aimed at helping customers protect the environment and reduce their water bills by preventing the waste of water. Homeowners and apartment owners can get free ultra-low flow toilets, free water conservation devices, and rebates that encourage the replacement of inefficient clothes washers with a new, high-efficiency washer. Commercial and industrial property owners can get rebates for upgrading their cooling towers, installing ultra-low flow toilets and urinals, purchasing high-efficiency washers and installing efficient landscape irrigation equipment. Water conservation is an integral part of the District’s long-term water management strategy. As the District’s total population has increased by 100,000 people since 1985, water usage has remained relatively flat.

### LOS VAQUEROS RESTORATION AND

**MITIGATION:** The District takes extensive measures to protect and restore the environment of the 18,500-acre watershed surrounding its Los Vaqueros Reservoir. Once slated for residential development, the land now acts as a buffer zone to protect the water in the reservoir from the impacts of urbanization. Since ground was broken on the Los Vaqueros Project a decade ago, the District has created more than 13 acres of wetlands, planted thousands of oak seedlings, re-established native grasses, and restored the habitats of a wide variety of protected wildlife species, several of which are “threatened” or “endangered” under state and federal laws. The District has also implemented a recreation program that meets the needs of the

public while protecting the watershed and the reservoir’s water quality.

### TEACHING STUDENTS CONSERVATION AND RESPECT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT:

The District’s Water Education Program teaches students in the CCWD service area about the relationship between the environment, conservation and high-quality drinking water. The program stresses the importance of respecting and preserving the environment today and into the future. Included in the program are field trips to the Los Vaqueros Watershed, educational cruises in the Delta on a working research vessel, treatment plant tours, school assemblies, and classroom presentations. In 2004, nearly 30,000 students participated in the Water Education Program.



*Students study the invertebrate organisms that live in pond water when they participate in CCWD’s Water Education Program at the Los Vaqueros Reservoir.*

### ALTERNATIVE-FUEL VEHICLES:

The District has replaced two standard sedans with gas/electric hybrid Honda Civics. Purchased over the summer, the Civics travel about 50 miles on one gallon of gas by alternating between electric and gasoline power. They can travel as far as 650 miles on a full tank of gas while producing far fewer emissions than a standard vehicle.

Over the next seven years, the Civics will save a total of \$4,200 in gasoline costs. In addition, the District received \$4,000 in grants from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to help purchase the vehicles.

The District is working to add more hybrid vehicles to its fleet. In addition, it added a natural gas powered pickup truck to its fleet last year and is now evaluating that vehicle.

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Since 1999, it has completed more than \$800 million in major projects. These include the Los Vaqueros Reservoir, which improves water quality at customers’ taps and provides an emergency water supply, and the 21-mile Multi-Purpose Pipeline, which improves seismic reliability. While implementing these new projects, the District held water rate increases below inflation.



AMWA is the organization for the nation’s largest publicly owned drinking water utilities. Its members provide safe and clean drinking water to more than 120 million Americans.

### The Exceptional Public Outreach Award

The District has been awarded the 2004 Exceptional Public Outreach Award by CSDA in recognition of the District’s extensive education program for students in its service area.

The Water Education Program reaches over 30,000 CCWD students, parents, and teachers each year. Through field trips, classroom presentations and assemblies, students learn about stewardship, water quality, and water conservation. The education program is featured on the District’s website where teachers can sign up for any of the program elements on-line at [www.cewater.com/education](http://www.cewater.com/education).