

### CURRENT NEWS

February 2009

Two rulings are expected to restrict Pasadena's water supply, just as PWP develops a comprehensive conservation plan to avert a shortage.

First, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently issued an opinion that supports a federal court ruling from last year that restricts pumping from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta in order to protect the Delta smelt fish species. The Delta is a major source for the Metropolitan Water District (MWD), which supplies 60 percent of Pasadena's water. "The ruling cuts MWD's supply by 30 percent," said PWP Water Director Shan Kwan, "but we haven't yet learned exactly what that will mean to Pasadena." State officials are also considering other species for protection, which could further restrict pumping, he said.

The decision comes as MWD begins its third year of tapping into emergency reserves to compensate for eight years of drought. Reservoirs along the Colorado River are just now beginning see some gains from recent rain, Kwan said, and state officials are hoping for high precipitation levels this month to replenish the Sierra Nevada snowpack. However, water officials and PWP are not counting on any single season to resolve our long-term water woes.

Meanwhile, local supplies in the Raymond Basin have also been depleted. The Raymond Basin Management Board, a partnership of local water agencies, is now considering restricting PWP's allocation from the 40-square-mile underground aquifer which extends from La Cañada to Santa Anita Canyon, and from the foothills to the South Pasadena border.

# LIVE WIRE DIALOGUE

PWP is developing a comprehensive water conservation plan to address potential supply shortfalls and will present the plan to City Council this spring. The plan will make projections about future supply and demand, present strategies for meeting citywide water-use reduction targets of 10, 20 and 30 percent, and evaluate mandatory water waste restrictions.

"We know that water conservation – making sure our customers switch to water-saving fixtures, choose low water use alternatives to turf and eliminate waste – is the critical component in our plan," said Engineering Manager Brad Boman. "At the same time, PWP is working to maximize its local supply."

PWP's recycled water plan has the potential to save 2,000 acre feet of drinking water per year. The City Council will soon consider Phase I of the

project, a plan to irrigate Brookside Park, Brookside Golf Course and the Rose Bowl with recycled water from the Los Angeles/Glendale Water Reclamation Plant.

"We also made great progress in 2008 to reactivate groundwater wells in northwest Pasadena," Boman said. Working with NASA, PWP is developing a 7,000-gallons-per-minute treatment facility to remove perchlorate from four wells that have been closed due to decades-old contamination near the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Construction begins this spring, Boman said, and PWP expects the wells to be operational in late 2010.





SCOTT



With an MBA from Loyola Marymount, PWP Marketing Manager Scott Ushijima has served the city of Pasadena since 1993.

#### Dear Scott:

Has PWP decided yet on an energy plan for the city?

Pace Global Energy Services presented a "preferred energy resource plan" for Pasadena at a public meeting on Jan. 24 at the Jackie Robinson Community Center. PWP hired the energy planning consultant to assess various energy resource plans and assist PWP in determining which one would best meet the energy needs of our city for the next 20 years.

After examining a multitude of criteria, weighing many options and hearing feedback from hundreds of customers, Pace and PWP worked together to narrow down the choices to one that sets out a feasible path to providing our customers with electricity in a reliable, environmentally sensitive manner, and with limited cost impact. In short, the preferred plan reduces PWP's reliance on coal-fueled power and instead focuses on energy efficiency and load management programs, proposes a local gas-fired combined cycle plant and boosts our green power portfolio with remote and local renewable sources.

PWP, with the support of a community stakeholder advisory group, is preparing to recommend this plan to the City Council this March in an official document known as the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). Our customers may review and comment on the draft IRP report (the exact resource mix, environmental impact, cost impact, etc.) at www.PWPweb.com/IRP. The date of the public hearing before City Council will be announced in a future issue of *Conduit*.

#### Dear Scott:

I heard the solar rebates would go down in 2009. What are they now?

As of Jan. 15, 2009, the Pasadena Solar Initiative rebate rates are \$2.60 per watt for government and non-profit customers, \$2 per watt for commercial customers and \$3.15 per watt for residential customers – still some of the most generous amounts in our state. Because of overwhelming demand, we've placed a moratorium on large commercial projects, and permit fee reimbursement for commercial installations is no longer available. Visit www.PWPweb.com/solar

#### Dear Scott:

Does the city's smoking ban apply to businesses as well as City facilities?

Yes. The City Council recently passed a new law to protect us from secondhand smoke from all tobaccorelated products. Smoking is no longer allowed within 20 feet of a window or building entrance, or while waiting in a line, or within 20 feet of a line. Smoking is also prohibited outdoors at shopping malls, smokers' lounges or and tobacco shops, bar and restaurant patio areas, bus stops, or public gatherings like parades and festivals. For more details or to report a violation, call 744-6014.

### IMPORTANT NUMBERS

**AnswerLine** 

**Customer Service** 

**Water Emergencies** 

**Power Emergencies** 

626.744.6970

626.744.4005

626.744.4138

626.744.4673



## CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT

The deli at 99 S. Lake Ave. has been serving up pastramis to the lunch crowd since 1972. But upstairs, the 50-year-old office building is defying tradition with a state-of-theart air conditioning system that may cut energy use by up to 70 percent.



Newly-installed lightweight Turbocor compressors will help 99 S. Lake Avenue building save up to 70 percent in energy costs. PWP's Energy Efficiency Partnering Program (EEP) helped offset the cost of the upgrade.

Built in 1959, the five-story, 40,000-square-foot building had been relying on two 60-ton Carrier compressors that refused to quit, said owner Robert De Pietro. a civil engineer, of Frank De Pietro and Sons. At the urging of PWP Program Manager Robert Thompson and their long-time HVAC service providers ACCO Engineered Systems, De Pietro and his brother Dennis, an architect, installed two environmentally friendly Turbocor compressors. "The new system is lightyears ahead," Robert De Pietro said.

Weighing in at just 275 pounds, Turbocor uses a frictionless, oil-free refrigeration compressor with

variable frequency technology, floating magnetic bearings, centrifugal compression and digital electronic technology. The device has just one moving part, with no need for lubrication, and a side-by-side test conducted by PWP proved energy savings of up to 70 percent and cooling cost reductions of 60 percent.

The new compressors are expected to save 173,777 kilowatt-hours per year, De Pietro said, with an annual peak reduction of 249 kilowatts. In addition, the team replaced the main fan motor and evaporative condenser with ones that use more efficient variable frequency

drives, and also installed a new economizer system that minimizes the use of the compressors during cooler weather. A new direct digital control system allows the De Pietros to adjust settings via the Internet. The system also uses the environmentally friendly refrigerant R134a, Thompson noted.

The cost was partially offset by PWP's Energy Efficiency Partnering (EEP) program, which allowed the De Pietros "to put in the most efficient system, saving even more energy and reducing the building's carbon footprint," Thompson said. The De Pietros had previously rehabbed the building's original sunscreens to improve day-lighting, installed energy-saving window coatings, switched to electronic ballast lighting and coated the roof with light-



Building owner Robert De Pietro is impressed with the capabilities of the system's direct digital control panel and the variable frequency drives.

reflecting white. 'They're really on top of the game," Thompson said.

For more energy conservation ideas and details on PWP's commercial efficiency rebates, visit www.PWPweb.com/YourBusiness



## TIPS FOR BOTTOM-LINE SAVINGS

In recognition of its extensive energy- and water-efficiency measures throughout its property, Pasadena's Mother's Club Family Learning Center recently received the Best Overall Award at the 6th Annual Flex Your Power Awards ceremony in San Francisco. The awards are presented yearly to California organizations that have made outstanding efforts to save energy. The building also received Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification from the U. S. Green Building Council.

Working closely with PWP, Mother's Club opened its 10,000-square-foot, \$6.5 million facility at 980 N. Fair Oaks Ave. in 2006. With lighting control systems,

high-efficiency lamps, extensive use of day lighting, increased roof insulation, a high-efficiency furnace and an 18 kW solar PV system, the center cut its energy use by 52 percent. Permeable concrete paving, low-water-use landscaping and efficient plumbing fixtures help save 122,110 gallons of water each year.

PWP's LEED Certification Program, for example, offers rebates of up to \$30,000 to help customers offset the costs of energy- and water-efficiency retrofits. For complete details, talk with your PWP account manager or visit www.PWPweb.com/YourBusiness

PASADENA WATER & POWER 150 S LOS ROBLES AVE STE 350 PASADENA CA 91101



Intake towers at Hoover Dam showing low water levels in Lake Mead due to drought.

PWP Plans for Water Consumption Cutbacks of 10, 20 and 30 Percent PRSRT STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID Pasadena, CA PERMIT # 740

О Щ

