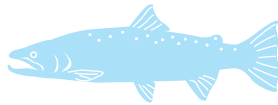


## **Record Number of Steelhead Show the River is Getting Healthier**

**T**HE Carmel River is alive with fish this year, with a record number of young steelhead rescued and moved to deeper water. The District's staff netted 55,300 young steelhead after June 30, when they started taking the fish from lower reaches of the river that were being pumped dry. That's the highest number of steelhead rescued since the District started the program in 1990.



In addition to the record number of juveniles rescued, the count of adult steelhead that jumped up the fish ladder to get beyond the San Clemente Dam to spawn was a healthy 483. While that didn't rival the recent record of 861, it is dramatically better than the 15 adults that reached the dam in the early 1990s.

"It's definitely an indication that the river is recovering," said Dave Dettman, the District's senior fisheries biologist.

Rescues of stranded juveniles have helped to increase the numbers of adults returning to the river to spawn. Improved water flows and the District's revegetation of the river's banks have supported the spawning, embryo incubation and fry emergence and reproductive success of steelhead, which are now protected by the federal Endangered Species Act.

## **Private Water Sales Would Finance Pebble Beach Recycling System**

**T**HE Water Board is working on final details of a plan for the Pebble Beach Company to sell part of its water entitlement to residential property owners within Del Monte Forest in order to raise \$22 million to complete a recycling system. A final ordinance was being drafted as this newsletter went to print. For current information, please check the District's Web site at [www.mpwmd.dst.ca.us](http://www.mpwmd.dst.ca.us).

The recycling system, which started operating in 1994, treats sewage from Pebble Beach and Carmel to the degree that it can be used to irrigate the golf courses and athletic fields in Pebble Beach. The \$34 million system has never met the original expectations of completely replacing Carmel River water for such irrigation. Additions for an estimated \$22 million are expected to allow that completion of the system.

## **Proposal to Limit Voters Placed on Hold—for Now**

**L**EGISLATION that would take votes away from Monterey Peninsula residents is on hold in the state Legislature, tabled by the Assembly's Appropriations Committee when the Legislature recessed until January. It could come back next year.

Senate Bill 149, introduced by Sen. Bruce McPherson, R-Santa Cruz, was changed substantially from its original proposal to replace elected members of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District's Board with mayors or their appointees.

That proposal passed the state Senate without a vote to spare, but was altered by an Assembly committee that kiboshed the mayoral switch and a provision that would have changed the name of the District and removed "management" from its functions.

In its last version, the legislation eliminated voter approval of water projects and financing. Peninsula voters would be allowed a say only if revenue bonds were used as a financing mechanism for a water project, and then only after 10% of the voters petitioned for a referendum. The District fought that voter elimination with testimony and a professional lobbyist.

The bill could dissolve the Water District if an environmental impact report for 10,700 acre-feet of water is not certified by 2007. However, it includes no provisions for the water conservation programs on the Peninsula, nor mitigation for the environmental damage done by over pumping if the District was dissolved.

## **Water for the Season**

**REMEMBER** that landscaping needs less water in the cooler days ahead. And it needs no irrigation on rainy days. If you have automatic sprinklers and haven't adjusted them yet to avoid over watering during this season, you should.

It's also a good time to check sprinkler heads and adjust them accordingly to make sure they are not wasting the community's water and driving up your bill by spraying sidewalks, driveways or streets.



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