MARIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

on the
WaterFront

January–February 2020

Volunteer program supports Mount Tamalpais watershed

Our volunteers play an important role in helping us maintain the scenic beauty and biological richness of the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed. Our volunteer program provides opportunities for people to connect with nature and their water source, gain new skills, contribute to the health of Mt. Tam—and have fun!

This past year, our volunteers logged more than 8,000 hours restoring habitat, monitoring wildlife, maintaining trails, educating watershed visitors, and more.

To learn how you can get involved, visit MarinWater.org/volunteer, or see the enclosed brochure.

Lower your bill: Discounted rate programs available

- Marin Municipal Water District is committed to keeping clean, reliable water affordable and accessible for all members of our community. We offer discounted rate programs for residential customers who qualify.

- Customers who qualify for the income-based service charge waiver program will also receive a Capital Maintenance Fee (CMF) waiver. This bill adjustment will automatically be applied to those currently participating in the program. Customers who are not currently participating, and would like to apply, can go online at MarinWater.org/discounts or call 415-945-1400.

- Our Board of Directors also recently made key adjustments to the Capital Maintenance Fee (CMF) program for customers who have upsized meters due to indoor fire sprinklers or low water pressure. Customers whose meter sizes were increased to accommodate indoor fire sprinklers or low water pressure may qualify for lower fixed fees. This fee adjustment would apply to the CMF as well as other fees based on meter size. Customers can apply for the adjustment online at MarinWater.org/metersizing or by calling 415-945-1506.

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Lagunitas Creek watershed salmon update: Winter spawning season has finally arrived

The rain has finally arrived and adult salmon have returned to the Lagunitas Creek watershed. After a dry start to the rainy season, more than five inches of rain fell between the end of November and the first week in December, with more rain is expected later in the winter.

Stream flows are now high enough to allow salmon to migrate through Lagunitas Creek and into tributaries such as San Geronimo Creek and Devil's Gulch. Now is a good time to look for Coho salmon jumping at the Inkwells, where San Geronimo Creek flows into Lagunitas Creek.

The extended dry season may have delayed spawning for most Coho salmon, but three other salmon species did not wait for the rain. For the third year in a row

Pink salmon have been seen in Lagunitas Creek. Starting in mid-September, biologists with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) observed adult Pink salmon and their distinctively small redds (gravel nests). A total of 10 Pink salmon redds were observed through early November.

In early October a single Chum salmon was observed. No more than six of this regionally rare species have been seen each season since 2002. The third species to arrive was Chinook salmon. So far we have observed 41 adult Chinook salmon and 13 redds. The salmon pair in the photo consists of a female Chinook salmon and a male Coho salmon. There's some evidence that this pairing can produce hybrids, although no

Photo: Marin Independent Journal

Chinoho have yet been documented in Lagunitas Creek.

The main attraction, due to its relative abundance and bright colors, is the Coho salmon run. Coho salmon will hopefully be visible migrating, jumping, fighting, and spawning throughout the watershed. Biologists with Marin Water, CDFW, the National Park Service, and the Watershed Stewards Program will be counting them and reporting their numbers at the end of the season.

Water main cleaning in Kentfield and San Rafael

This winter we will be cleaning water mains in parts of Kentfield and San Rafael. Every year we clean some of our water mains to remove built up sediment so we can maintain the high-quality water our customers expect from us.

To clean a water main, we turn on select hydrants along a section of the water main. Water comes out of the hydrants with enough velocity to clean the water main. The water is released onto the street and into the storm drain system. We are very careful to remove the chloramine (a disinfectant used to keep your water safe) and use dechlorination techniques before the water enters the storm drains. We also collect water quality samples as part of the water main cleaning process to ensure our water meets the highest standards.
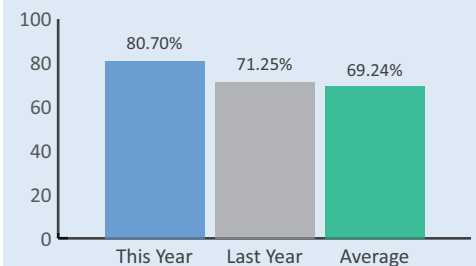
What you can expect

During the cleaning process, you may notice water in the streets as well as slight drops in water pressure. After the cleaning, you may notice air in your water lines at first, or a brief discoloration of water in your own plumbing.

If you notice these effects, we recommend running cold water for a short time to remove any loose sediment in the pipeline that runs from our water main to your home.

Water main cleaning will take place during regular business hours Monday through Thursday, February 3 through February 13, 2020. For more information about the water main cleaning process, visit: MarinWater.org/watermaincleaning
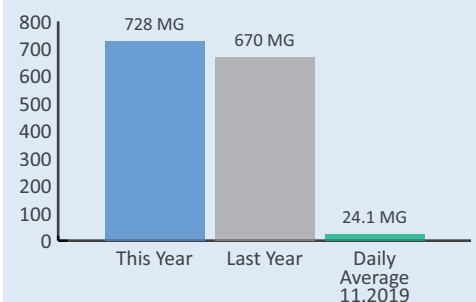
Storage
% of total storage capacity as of Dec. 12

This Year: 80.70%
Last Year: 71.25%
Average: 69.24%

Usage
Total November water usage (MG = millions of gallons)

This Year: 728 MG
Last Year: 670 MG
Daily Average 11.2019: 24.1 MG

Rainfall
Total inches of rainfall, July 1 to Dec. 12

This Year: 16.27 in
Last Year: 11.24 in
Average: 13.43 in