

Montecito Water District Prepares for Growth with Marsh-McBirney Multi-Mags



Located in the southern coastal portion of Santa Barbara County, the Montecito Water District includes the communities of Montecito and Summerland. Water for the area is supplied by several sources including the Cachuma Water Project, Jameson Lake, Fox and Alder Creeks and the Doulton Tunnel.

The region's topography includes steep terrain fitting for their gravity-fed water system that is controlled by pressure regulating stations. The Cachuma Project, which supplies 50% of the area's water, is located 25 miles northwest of Santa Barbara and stores flood water from the Santa Ynez River which would otherwise flow into the ocean. Lake Cachuma, a reservoir created by the Bradbury Dam, has a current capacity of 190,000 acre-feet. The Cachuma Project is operated by the US Bureau of Reclamation and the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board (COMB), a joint agency comprised of neighboring jurisdictions. Additionally, Jameson Lake (pictured at right) formed by the Juncal Dam, stores 1.7 million gallons of water.

The District is also involved in a State Water Project that delivers water to communities in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties through a 102 mile branch of the State Aqueduct and an additional 42 mile extension ending at Lake Cachuma. Water is treated at either the Doulton Treatment Plant or the Bella Vista Treatment Plant before heading to ten storage reservoirs on the southern side of the Santa Ynez mountains. Additional water supplies are derived from area wells.



Currently providing water services to over 3,900 customers within a population of approximately 13,100, the District recognizes that growth is on the horizon. Increases in population are estimated to be 15,650 by the year 2020 and undeveloped land will continue to be developed. Water supplies for the area are reported as adequate however the importance of flow monitoring is integral to the District's accurate accountability of water as well as the efficient operation of the distribution system.

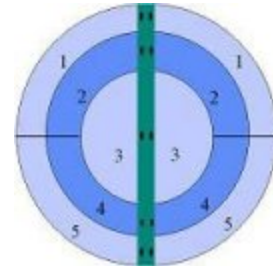


Tom Moser, Engineering Manager for the District states, "We have two Multi-Mag meters installed on 8-inch lines at our pump station." The Engineering Department, supervised by Mosby, is responsible for technical evaluation, design, project management and inspection of District construction projects and facilities. Mosby has been with the District since 1990. Mosby adds, "The meter does everything it's meant to do and I'm incredibly happy with the accuracy and the fact that you can install it in places where you can't put other meters such as tight piping configurations like we have."

The Multi-Mag was designed for customer ease of installation as well as optimum performance accuracy. The custom-fitted sensor (according to exacting customer

supplied measurements) is quickly installed via a hot-tap process. The sensor utilizes multiple measuring points that constantly profile and average the pipe flow to achieve an accuracy specification of 1% or better even in difficult to measure applications such as close proximity to bends, elbows and valves. The two meters were installed in 2002 with start-up performed by Marsh-McBirney's local sales representative, Matt Hykin of Hykin Associates. Concerning the installation, Mosby comments that Hykin was great to have for the start-up and he could tell how much Hykin enjoys his work.

When discussing Multi-Mag's most desired features Mosby adds, "The ones that stand out would be the ease of installation, the accuracy and 'zero' maintenance. The meters are so simple it is amazing." Familiar with the Marsh-McBirney name, he comments, "The District has used Marsh-McBirney meters in the past in some non-distribution system applications and of course everyone knows of your company. Marsh-McBirney is really well known." Like thousands of Multi-Mag customers worldwide, the Montecito Water District too is reaping the many benefits that this innovative flowmeter has to offer their organization now and for many years to come.



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