

### CURRENT NEWS

September 2010

PWP IS ONCE AGAIN ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS for its popular Energy Efficiency Partnering (EEP) program, which offers generous commercial rebates for a broad range of permanently installed energy efficiency upgrades. The more energy saved, the higher the rebate.

As of this summer, the program offers 11 cents for every kilowatt-hour of energy savings that exceeds state energy standards defined in Title 24 of the California Energy Code, for a minimum of six months up to 48 months. For projects that are not defined by Title 24, kilowatt-hour savings is based on the comparative efficiency of new vs. existing equipment. If your project reduces peak summer load by 20 kilowatts or more, you may also receive \$50 for each kilowatt saved (for up to four years.)

Eligible projects may include chiller-central plant upgrades, chilled water conversion projects, garage CO sensors, CO<sub>2</sub> sensors, cooling towers and variable frequency drives, cool roofs, energy management systems, motors and compressors, high-efficiency compressors, variable frequency drives, exit signs and lighting. Projects or equipment that are defined in Title 24 of the California Energy Code must exceed the state's energy standards to qualify for the program. (Other permanently installed energy-saving measures not listed in Title 24 may qualify, subject to approval.)

You can automatically estimate your rebate by downloading and completing the EEP application at www.PWPweb.com/EEP. Call (626) 744-4730 with any questions.

# LIVE WIRE DIALOGUE

IT'S COMMON KNOWLEDGE that electricity and water are a dangerous mix; perhaps that's why it's also a common reflex to overlook just how much electricity goes into providing clean drinking water. According to a 2005 report from the California Department of Water Resources, 19 percent of all energy used statewide is related to pumping and cleaning water.

Likewise, PWP's water system can be energy intensive, but will soon rely less on the grid. Beginning this winter, the Windsor Reservoir near JPL will use about 900,000 kilowatt hours of clean, solar energy each year to pump water from the ground to an on-site treatment plant.

"We were staring at a large, flat expanse, located in full sun, that was perfect for a solar installation," PWP Assistant General Manager Eric Klinkner said, in reference to the

4.75 million gallon covered reservoir.

PWP recently signed a 20-year power purchase agreement (PPA) with Spear Point Energy to install, operate and maintain a 557-kilowatt solar system on the roof of the reservoir. Spear Point will sell the power to the Water Division for less that the cost of grid power, saving the city about \$17,000 in annual electricity costs. "[PPAs] are a viable, affordable way for a business of any size to take advantage of solar power," Klinkner noted.

PPA installations are eligible for rebate savings through the Pasadena Solar Initiative. Visit www.PWPweb.com/solar





#### DEAR SCOTT



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

# What's next for the city's land use and mobility plans?

As part of Pasadena's ongoing update of its General Plan, two interactive community workshops are set this month to discuss opportunities and constraints for growth over the next ten years and beyond. The workshops will be held on Saturday, Sept. 25 from 9 a.m. to noon and Thursday, Sept. 30 at 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Pasadena Senior Center, 85 E. Holly St. The key questions: should Pasadena continue to grow into a more metropolitan city, strive for a small-town feel, or can we find a satisfactory balance? Join the discussion at www.cityofpasadena.net/generalplan.

### I heard that water rates are increasing next month. True?

Yes. The city council approved a plan in June to implement a "pass through" increase of 9.5 cents per billing unit effective Oct. 1, 2010, to cover the cost of water imported from the Metropolitan Water District (MWD), which is set to increase its rates effective Jan. 1, 2011. While the higher bills will be mailed in October, payments will be due from customers in

November and December. This will allow PWP to collect the funds necessary to pay the higher MWD bill which comes due in January. You can visit www.PWPweb.com for a Water Cost Estimator and frequently asked questions.

# Some Pasadena businesses are receiving a water refund this fall. Do I qualify?

From July 2009 through June 2010, water rates were increased for our highest-consuming customers. These higher rates helped PWP prepare for possible overuse penalties set by the MWD. Through outstanding conservation, Pasadena was able to cut its water use over that period by 13 percent and avoided the overuse penalty. The reserve/penalty funds collected from our high-use customers last fiscal year will be credited to their account this fall. The dollar amount will depend on how much a customer used and paid at those rates. If you have a question about billing or the planned credit, call (626) 744-4005.

#### IMPORTANT NUMBERS

**Rebates & Conservation** 

**Billing & Service** 

**Water Emergencies** 

**Power Emergencies** 

626.744.6970

626.744.4005

626.744.4138

626.744.4673





# CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT

ONCE A BEAUTIFUL DRAW for Southland golfers and a serene spot for local wildlife, the three-acre pond at Pasadena's Brookside Golf Course nearly dried up this summer.



Water that ordinarily drains to the ocean through this concrete storm channel bisecting Brookside Golf Course now fills the largest pond on the links.

The golf course had been replenishing its largest pond with up to 3,250,000 gallons of drinking water each year, but that practice came to a halt last summer when the city council passed a the Water Shortage Ordinance which prohibits the refilling of decorative water features. The restriction is one of 13 included in the city's now permanent ban on water waste.

Through an innovative partnership with PWP that has brought new life to a century-old pipeline, the pond is plentiful once again with water that would otherwise be wated to the ocean.

Near the turn of the 20th century, city founders dug tunnels into the hillsides above what would become Devil's Gate Dam to deliver water to an influx of new residents. Groundwater seeped into the Devil's Gate, Richardson and Wilson tunnels, PWP Engineering Manager Brad Boman explained, and was delivered directly to customers until the 1930s. Since then, he explained, the water has been diverted to concrete storm drains, sending about 680 acre feet, or 200 million gallons, of water wasted each year to the Pacific Ocean.

Seeing value in this wasted resource, this summer Boman and Brookside Director of Operations Dave Sams oversaw construction of an 885- foot pipeline that now diverts water

from the Wilson Tunnel directly to the golf course pond at a flow rate of about 150 gallons per minute.

The team has also completed project designs that will bring water from the Devil's Gate and Richardson tunnels directly to a storage tank at the golf course to meet about half of the golf course's yearly irrigation needs. Construction is projected to begin in 2012.

"Brookside is one of the largest users of water in the city," notes Sams, "but over the past three years we've been able to reduce consumption by 20 percent. We're very excited about the use of alternative water sources to irrigate and fill our ponds, and we look forward to working with PWP in the future."

Boman said the tunnel water may also eventually be tied in with a planned recycled water system, which could save up to 6,000 acre feet of drinking water each year by irrigating city parks, school fields, freeway landscaping and street medians. A recycled water system is a principle consideration in PWP's Water Integrated Resources Plan, now under development, which will map out Pasadena's water supply for the next 25 years. You can be a part of the WIRP planning process: go to PWPweb.com/WaterPlan



The 3.25 million gallon pond, now replenished with non-potable tunnel water, is a favorite picturesque feature at the golf club and a habitat for wildlife.



# TIPS FOR BOTTOM-LINE SAVINGS

WHILE THE ECONOMY IMPROVES, most businesses still aren't in a position to make major investments in new equipment. But you can still save on your peak summer cooling bills with no- and low-cost tips from the state Flex Your Power program.

First, try using shades, blinds, awnings and reflective window film to block the sun. Keep exterior doors closed to keep cool air inside. Consider adjusting your employees' schedules so they start work earlier or take a lunch break during the hottest hour of the day. You'll save on air conditioning, lighting and electric use during peak demand periods. Change the dress code in summer to allow for cooler clothing.

For a low-cost investment that pays off in energy savings, ask your HVAC contractor to install timers and switches to your building's exhaust fans to shut them off when they're not needed. Install an attic fan or evaporative cooler to help reduce the load on your more-expensive air conditioning system. Get routine maintenance on your HVAC system yearly to save up to 30 percent on fan energy and 10 percent on air conditioning energy use. Install a programmable thermostat to shut down the system when the building's unoccupied and save 15 to 25 percent on energy use.

More tips and best practices for commercial customers are at FlexYourPower.com





Got an Energy-Saving
Project in Mind?
PWP offers \$0.11/kWh
of efficiency!



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