



City Staff Provided Mutual Aid To Montecito Water District

City Water Resources and Engineering staff provided mutual aid to Montecito Water District for 18 days following the devastating January 9th mudflows. Damage to the District's water system was widespread and overwhelming. The mudflows caused 18 breaks on water mains spanning creeks and bridges, which complicated repairs. Dozens of fire hydrants were sheared off, hundreds of water services were ruptured, and much of the water infrastructure was buried under feet of mud or isolated because impassable roads. City staff, through a CALWARN mutual aid agreement, were able to provide the District with immediate assistance during their greatest time of need. Matt Ward, Water Distribution Superintendent, and Carson Wollert, Project Engineer, provided support starting on day one of the disaster by quickly learning Montecito's distribution system and leading initial planning and response strategies. Matt and Carson aided the District engineer with performing damage assessments, while water distribution operators systematically worked to turn off fire hydrants and water services to stop free-flowing water. Wastewater Treatment staff assisted by using City Vector trucks to clean out pressure valve vaults inundated with mud and debris. Once the water system was repaired, City water treatment and distribution operators worked to systematically flush and disinfect the water system. City Water Laboratory staff were on call to sample the water system, which was critical for lifting the community-wide Boil Water Notice. City Engineering staff worked at the District performing the much needed administrative work with documenting the damage, repairs, equipment and labor for FEMA compliance. A total of 70 Water Resources and Engineering staff worked over 3,000 hours throughout the emergency response effort. The City's response to Montecito's emergency should make the entire community proud.

