



**NORTH MARIN
WATER DISTRICT**

THE WATER LINE

NOVATO'S WATER CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER • VOLUME 12 ISSUE 25 SPRING 2011

Water Supply Update

Current Water Supply: On March 30, Governor Jerry Brown officially proclaimed the 3-year California "DROUGHT TO BE AT AN END." During summers of 2007 through 2009, Russian River water supplies were limited and Novato customers were required to reduce water use.

This year, rainfall has been above average for our region and sufficient water is now stored in Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma to meet in-stream flow needs for the endangered salmon populations on the Russian River as well as the needs for urban water users.

Locally, Stafford Lake is full and water production at the Stafford Lake Treatment Plant began in early March. Additionally, the Deer Island Recycled Water facility is delivering highly treated recycled water to StoneTree Golf Course for irrigation. NMWD will continue to utilize our local supplies to the fullest extent possible. There are no water use restrictions in the Novato service area other than normal prohibition of water waste. Even with adequate water supply this year, maintaining water use efficiency is important.

Future Water Supply: In 2009, the Sonoma County Water Agency Board abandoned further work on a decades-long plan to expand the Russian River water transmission system and acquire additional water rights that would be necessary to meet the future water supply needs for NMWD and other water contractors from Windsor to Petaluma. Even without the additional water rights, NMWD and other water retailers receiving Russian River supplies are still obligated to pay for necessary fishery enhancements on the Russian River system to protect coho and Chinook salmon and steelhead trout. Additionally, in November 2009, the state legislature mandated further water conservation for all California urban water retailers, including NMWD, requiring a 20% reduction in per capita water use by the year 2020.

What all this means for NMWD is reliance on our existing available supplies from the Russian River and Stafford Lake, expanded use of recycled water to offset potable supplies now used for outside irrigation and continued emphasis on water use efficiency. NMWD is also embarking on an Aqueduct Energy Efficiency Project, which will upsize the aqueduct transmission

line from Petaluma to Novato allowing NMWD to receive water without the energy or pumping costs associated with the Kastania Pump Station operation, and increase the future reliability of the aqueduct water deliveries.

The cost of stretching our existing water supplies coupled with the costs to meet fisheries obligations noted in this message, means that water rates are increasing. The current cost of water service for a typical Novato customer is a good value when compared to 16 other urban area retail water agencies (see the NMWD website).

Water Use Efficiency: To see a graph of your historical water use or determine the proposed rate increase impact, visit <http://www.nmwd.com/accountbalance.php> (follow the directions to log on). If you need assistance in becoming more water efficient, NMWD can help with a Water Smart Home Survey (see below) or a variety of other water efficiency programs (listed on page 2). Note that as a part of NMWD budget reduction measures, effective July 1, 2011, water use efficiency rebate values will be reduced, so act now to replace your toilet, washing machine, and turf lawn areas.

Free Water Smart Home Survey Program

This Spring and Summer NMWD will focus the Water Smart Home Survey on outdoor water use, however we will still perform the indoor portions of the survey upon request. The survey has also been

expanded to include commercial and other non-residential customers.

Our friendly, knowledgeable survey technicians can show you how to easily become more water use efficient and save

money, and we'll even help you program your irrigation controller. You'll also get free low-flow showerheads and aerators as needed to achieve maximum water use efficiency.



On the Survey we will inspect:

- Sprinklers & irrigation systems
- Flow and leaks
- Landscaping
- Water meter
- Faucets
- Showerheads
- Toilets
- Clothes washers
- Other water-using devices in the home



Call today to schedule your **Free Water Smart Home Survey:** 415-897-4133 ext. 8711



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Water Smart Savings Program

More water saving programs at www.nmwd.com

North Marin Water District wants to help customers use water efficiently. That's why we've put all of our water saving promotions under one umbrella. The *Water Smart Savings Program* encompasses all you need to get started on saving water and saving money. Call (415) 897-4133 ext. 8711 for program details or visit www.nmwd.com. Act Now! Rebate amounts will be reduced on July 1, 2011.

Cash for Grass



As part of the Water Smart Savings Program, you can get cash back when you remove your regularly mowed and irrigated lawn and re-landscape with California native low-water use plants or District approved synthetic turf. Pre-inspection and re-landscaping plan approval required. Call for rebate values and complete program participation details or visit www.nmwd.com.

Water Smart Landscape Efficiency Rebate

Water efficient landscapes can be achieved through a number of strategies including efficient irrigation devices and equipment, and soil maintenance.

You may be eligible for rebates (Call for rebate amounts and participation details or visit www.nmwd.com) when you install District-qualified water-efficient landscape equipment including:

- Drip irrigation systems
- Weather Based Irrigation Controllers
- Check valves
- Multi-stream rotating sprinkler nozzles (for lawn areas only)
- Rain shut-off devices
- Mulch
- Water pressure-regulating device
- Soil conditioner/amendment



High-Efficiency Toilet Rebate

Don't flush money away. Now you can get a rebate when you replace your non-water-conserving toilets with a High-Efficiency Toilet (HET). HETs use 20% less water than standard ultra-low flush toilets, so not only will you save water, but you'll save money, too. HETs eligible for rebate must be EPA WaterSense approved models. Call for rebate values and participation details or visit www.nmwd.com.



High-Efficiency Clothes Washer Rebate Program

High Efficiency clothes washers can save up to 50% of the water used and 65% of the energy used compared to conventional top-loading clothes washers. NMWD currently offers a rebate to customers when they purchase qualifying high-efficiency clothes washer. Call for rebate value and participation details, or visit www.nmwd.com.



NMWD is on Facebook

NMWD regularly updates its Facebook page with useful information on water use efficiency programs, water supply and other important NMWD information. Find North Marin Water District on Facebook and "Like" us, and receive a free hose nozzle. Just send us an e-mail (info@nmwd.com) to let us know, and we can arrange for you to pick up a hose nozzle at our office. Offer limited to the first 200 participants.