



**NORTH MARIN
WATER DISTRICT**

THE WATER LINE

NOVATO'S WATER CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER • VOLUME 15 ISSUE 31 WINTER 2014

It's A Drought – Save Water!

With extremely dry conditions persisting since January 2013, our region has experienced the driest calendar year on record and is currently in a drought. In winter months, 100% of Novato's water supply is delivered from Sonoma County Water Agency's (SCWA) Russian River system. Of particular concern is Lake Mendocino with a critically low water supply (39% of capacity). Lake Mendocino is a key drinking water source for the cities of Ukiah, Hopland, Cloverdale and Healdsburg, provides water for agriculture on the upper Russian River and to SCWA's Russian River water transmission system which serves Novato. Additionally, water releases from Lake Mendocino support in-stream flows in the Russian River for the threatened Chinook salmon and steelhead trout during the fall and winter seasons.

SCWA continues to work proactively with key stakeholders in the upper Russian River watershed to efficiently manage water resources. In mid December the SCWA asked the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) for authority to reduce in-stream releases in the upper Russian River. This action, now approved by the SWRCB, will help preserve water in Lake Mendocino.



Lake Mendocino – December 15, 2013

Locally, Stafford Lake at 31% of capacity is typically filling in winter months to meet summer needs. NMWD does have the ability to "back feed" Russian River water into Stafford Lake this spring so it can be available for summer use. Fortunately, Lake Sonoma, which water enters the Russian River below Healdsburg, holds 68% of it's water supply capacity. The decision to "back feed" will likely be made within the next month.

NMWD's expansion of recycled water use in Novato will also help preserve available potable water supply further this year.

While there are currently no mandatory water use restrictions, **customers are urged to turn off all unnecessary outside irrigation, fix any leaks promptly and participate in NMWD water conservation programs.**

For more information on water supply, drought conditions and water saving tips, please visit www.nmwd.com, www.savingwaterpartnership.org and www.scwa.ca.gov.

Smart move.

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Call today to schedule your **Free Water Smart Home Survey:** 707-547-1909

Ultra High Efficiency Toilet Giveaway

NMWD will be distributing (FREE) Ultra High Efficiency Toilets as a part of pilot program in spring 2014. The free toilets are available only to customers who are replacing toilets installed prior to the year 2000. Toilets previously rebated or provided by NMWD will not be eligible for replacement with the new Ultra High Efficiency Toilets. Post inspection to verify installation will be required.

NMWD is collecting a list of interested customers and will schedule a distribution date once enough eligible customers reply. Reply to waterconserve@nmwd.com or call (415) 897-4133 ext 8711 to get your name on the list.

Niagara Stealth 0.8 gallons per flush



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www.nmwd.com

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WATER SMART SAVINGS PROGRAM Call (415) 897-4133 ext. 8711 for program details or visit www.nmwd.com



High-Efficiency Toilet Rebate

Don't flush money away. Now you can get a rebate when you replace your non-water-conserving toilet 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.

Water Smart Home Survey

NMWD offers free *Water Smart Home Surveys* as the cornerstone of the *Water Smart Savings Program*. This **free** service includes indoor and outdoor water efficiency checks, a landscape irrigation system efficiency test and a leak detection test.

Our friendly, knowledgeable survey technicians can show how you can easily conserve more water and save money. Best of all, your appointment can be scheduled at a time that is convenient for you. **How to Participate?** Call (707) 547-1909 to set up your free appointment.



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 a qualifying high-efficiency clothes washer. Call for rebate value and participation details, or visit www.nmwd.com.

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 District approved 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.

