



**NORTH MARIN
WATER DISTRICT**

THE WATER LINE

NOVATO'S WATER CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER • VOLUME 12 ISSUE 27 SPRING 2012

Water Supply Update

Current Water Supply: This year, rainfall in Novato has been well below average but 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 at 68% capacity. Production at the Stafford Lake Treatment Plant is not likely to begin until July. The Deer Island Recycled Water facility is operating and 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 expected 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: Construction will begin this summer to enhance fish habitat on one mile of Dry Creek downstream of Lake Sonoma, tributary to the Russian River, at a cost of \$7 Million. An additional 2 to 5 miles of habitat enhancement will be needed over the next ten years. NMWD

and other water retailers receiving Russian River supplies are obligated to pay for necessary fishery enhancements on the Russian River system to protect coho and Chinook salmon and steelhead trout.

NMWD is also expanding the Recycled Water system in Novato. \$3.5 Million in grant funding is helping pay for a \$13.8 Million expansion in the North and South (Hamilton) Novato. The remainder is being funded with low interest loans from the State to be repaid with connection fees from new development.

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.

Construction of NMWD's Aqueduct Energy Efficiency Project is expected

to start next fall. The project will upsize the aqueduct pipeline from Petaluma to Novato and will allow NMWD to receive water without the energy or pumping costs associated with the Kastania Pump Station operation, and will increase the reliability of 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 will remain 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 rate increase impact will have on your water bill, 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). 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.

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.

Drip Irrigation Seminar

North Marin Water District, in partnership with the Marin chapter of the California Native Plant Society and the Urban Farmer Store, is sponsoring a seminar and workshop on roots and drip irrigation for native plant gardens.

On Thursday, May 31st from 7 to 9 pm at NMWD headquarters in Novato, Robert Kourik will present "Roots and Drip Irrigation". Then on Saturday, June 2nd from 10 to noon, the Urban Farmer Store will conduct an outdoor, hands-on workshop on "The Practical Aspects of Drip Irrigation" at Marin CNPS' new demonstration garden within Green Point Nursery. Urban Farmer staff will guide participants on the installation of the irrigation systems. For the workshop, please wear gardening clothes and shoes, and bring your gloves! Heavy rain cancels the June 2nd workshop. This is a FREE event but space is limited. Call to sign up at 897-4133 ext. 8711.



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.



Rainwater Harvesting and Graywater Rebate

With the rainy season here, now is the perfect time to install a rainwater harvesting system, and District rebates may be available. Rainwater harvesting is the collection and storage of rainwater for reuse in landscape irrigation. Systems can range from simple catchment devices, such as rain barrels, to more complex systems, such as cisterns or storage tanks. Rebates are also available for greywater system installations. Pre-inspection and plan approval required. Call for participation details and rebate values.

