



**NORTH MARIN
WATER DISTRICT**

THE WATER LINE

NOVATO'S SERVICE AREA NEWSLETTER • VOLUME 18 ISSUE 39 FALL 2017

Update on Water Supply *Drew McIntyre, General Manager*

Last winter, rainfall was well above average and all of the water supply reservoirs supplying Novato (Stafford Lake, Lake Sonoma and Lake Mendocino) were at capacity. Prior to Governor Brown declaring an end to the statewide drought emergency in April, Novato water customers did a great job complying with the state-imposed water use restrictions. During the subsequent summer months, Novato water production increased slightly, but remained well below production levels of 2013. Thank you for your continued efforts to use water efficiently. The end of this drought doesn't mean the end of water use restrictions, and through the governor's executive order, long-term water conservation measures will be aimed at making conservation a way of life in California. Most notably, the state continues to require some "common sense" water use prohibitions and NMWD will

continue to report monthly water production numbers to the state for monitoring (**see website for remaining restrictions**). With fall upon us and winter approaching, customers are urged to participate in the many indoor water conservation programs offered by NMWD. We also want to remind you to protect your exposed water lines from freezing this winter. We appreciate your help in preserving our water supply!

Following are highlights of the District's important projects and accomplishments. These endeavors reflect the ongoing commitment by our staff to the District's mission of providing an adequate supply of safe, reliable and high quality water at a reasonable cost consistent with good conservation practices and minimum environmental impact.

AMI is coming to NMWD *David Bentley, Auditor/Controller*

To improve water use efficiency as well as meter reading efficiency, accuracy, and customer service, NMWD has implemented an Advanced Meter Information (AMI) pilot project. The pilot project included meter upgrades for approximately 200 customers throughout NMWD's Novato service territory and was designed to test the effectiveness of the technology within the region's hilly terrain. With the AMI system, digital meter data is sent securely to NMWD headquarters via radio. This technology provides early leak detection and enables customers to view near real-time water use information online, thereby gaining a

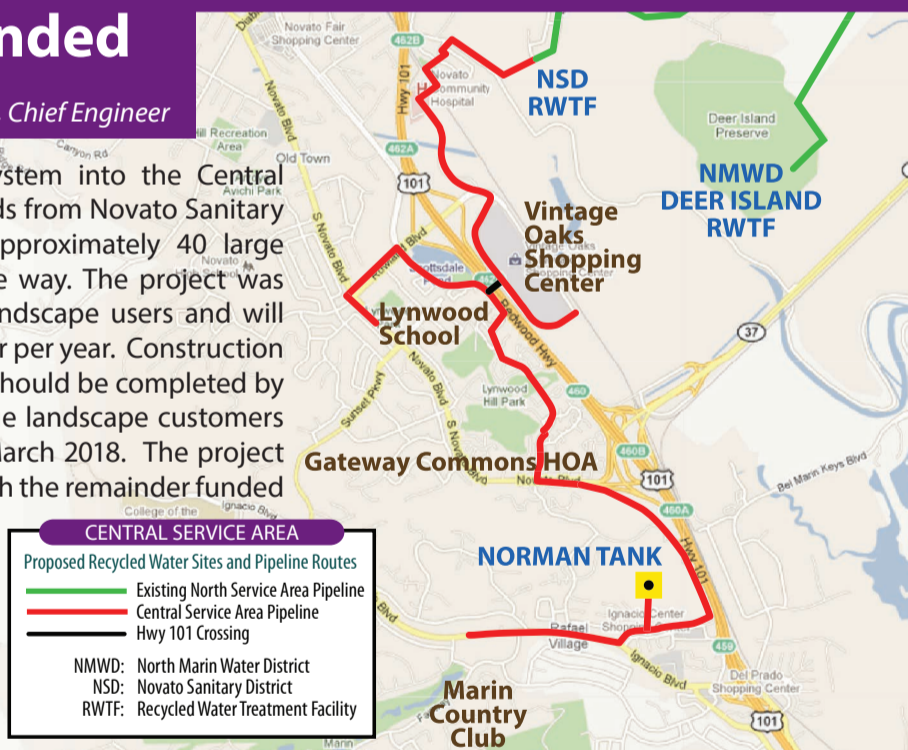
better understanding of water use patterns. We are happy to report that the initial effectiveness of the AMI system in the pilot project has been successful, and full deployment is expected over the next two years. As a part of this AMI system, a new online payment and Water Smart Portal has been developed. We encourage you to sign in on the portal to get acquainted with the system. Visit www.onlinebiller.com/nmwd



Recycled Water has Expanded in the Central Area *Rocky Vogler, Chief Engineer*

NMWD has expanded the recycled water system into the Central Service Area of Novato. This expansion extends from Novato Sanitary District's treatment plant, and will serve approximately 40 large landscape customers and three car washes along the way. The project was designed to reach the maximum number of large landscape users and will offset approximately 65 million gallons of potable water per year. Construction began on the pipeline project in November 2016 and should be completed by the end of 2017. Onsite irrigation retrofits for the large landscape customers will begin on December 2017 and be completed by March 2018. The project received substantial federal and state grant funding with the remainder funded by low interest state loans.

For more information on the Recycled Water Expansion Project, please visit www.nmwd.com or <http://nmwdcentralexpansion.blogspot.com>



Solar Projects in the Stafford Lake Watershed *Robert Clark, Operations and Maintenance Manager*

In 2012, NMWD completed a large solar power project to help offset the energy demands of the Stafford Lake Water Treatment Plant. With over 1,360 solar panels mounted to the hillside adjacent to Stafford Lake, the system was designed to optimize the available land space for maximum solar production. The system generates over 650,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) annually and we are pleased to report that this past year we were able to produce 690,000 kWh or 77 percent of the power needed to run the treatment plant.

Each year NMWD receives numerous inquiries about the equipment floating in Stafford Lake. Solar powered water circulators were installed back in 2006. These floating solar powered mixers circulate cooler water from a depth of 20-60 feet to the surface and aerate the lake to improve Stafford Lake water quality.



Hillside solar panels power the Stafford Lake Water Treatment Plant



SolarBee-solar powered water circulators

Pay your bills online at: www.onlinebiller.com/nmwd

Cash for Grass

NMWD offers a cash incentive for removing regularly maintained and automatically irrigated lawn areas and replacing them with District-approved low water use plantings on drip irrigation. The incentive will pay you up to \$50 per 100 square feet of lawn area (maximum \$400 per single family dwelling). Pre-qualification site visit and re-landscaping plan approval is required for participation.



OR

Lawn Be Gone

This program is for "do-it-yourselfers" who want to replace lawn areas by covering and composting in place - a process known as "sheet-mulching". NMWD offers delivery of free compost, cardboard and mulch for eligible sheet-mulching projects. Pre-qualification site visit and landscape plan approval required prior to participation. Delivery will be performed by NMWD's designated contractor.



See www.nmwd.com for rules and application forms, and then call 415-761-8944 to schedule an appointment.

Water Smart Savings Program

Call (415) 761-8944 for program details or visit 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) 761-8944 for program details or visit www.nmwd.com

Water Smart Home Survey:

This free service includes thorough indoor and outdoor water efficiency checks.

Water Conserving Fixtures:

Free showerheads, faucet aerators and self-closing hose nozzles are available upon request.

Rainwater Catchment Rebate:

Rebate for collection and storage of rainwater.

High Efficiency Clothes Washer Rebate:

NMWD offers a rebate to customers when they purchase a qualifying high efficiency clothes washer.

Cash for Grass Rebate:

Get Cash for removing irrigated and maintained lawn and replacing it with low water use plants. Pre-qualification required.

Water Smart Landscape Rebate:

Rebates available for water efficient landscape equipment, such as a new drip irrigation system replacing a spray system or a rain shut off device.

Smart Controller Rebate:

A Smart Controller uses weather data and site specific information to automatically adjust run times.

High Efficiency Toilet Rebate:

Customers who replace an old water-guzzling toilet with a high efficiency toilet may be eligible for a rebate.

Greywater Rebate:

Rebate for the reuse of water from washing machine, shower or bathroom sink to water landscape plants.

Other Programs:

Other programs include pool cover rebate, hot water recirculation system rebate and "Lawn Be Gone" sheet mulching program.



**NORTH MARIN
WATER DISTRICT**

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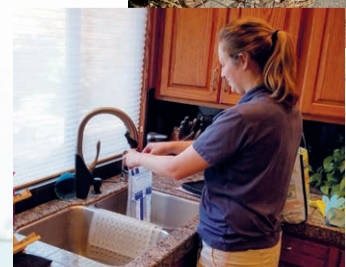


Free Water Smart Home Survey Program

The Water Smart Home Survey Program offers customers a chance to have a NMWD representative complete a FREE water use efficiency survey. Our friendly and knowledgeable survey technicians can show you how to easily become more water use efficient and we will help you understand how to program your irrigation controller in this post-drought time. You'll also get free low-flow showerheads and sink aerators as needed to achieve maximum water use efficiency. During the Fall and Winter months we focus on the indoor portions of the survey but can provide landscape irrigation inspections upon request.

On the Survey we will inspect:

- Sprinklers & irrigation systems
- 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: 415-761-8944**