

The Waterline

Novato Service Area Newsletter | Issue 46



Drought is Here. Save Water.

Drew McIntyre, General Manager

We're asking Novato residents to continue to do their part to save water, with a water-reduction goal of 20%. Winter's extremely dry conditions resulted in the lowest rainfall on record with only 8.6-inches of rainfall this year, less than one third of our average, and insufficient to generate runoff into Stafford Lake. Lake capacity has increased from a low of 29% in early February to just over 50% due to our back feeding of water from Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA), to provide local supply this summer.

Sonoma's Russian River water delivery system typically provides 70-80% of our annual supply using water from Lake Sonoma and Lake Mendocino. After two consecutive dry years and following a series of Drought Declarations, SCWA will reduce deliveries to retail water contractors, including North Marin Water District, by a minimum of 20% this summer.

In anticipation of this, the North Marin Water District Board of Directors declared a Water Shortage Emergency on March 16, enacted the Novato Water Shortage Contingency Plan and adopted an Emergency Water Conservation Ordinance (No. 41) prohibiting waste and non-essential use of water.

On April 20, our Board amended Ordinance 41 calling on customers to reduce water use by 20% compared to the same period last year through voluntary (Stage 1) measures until June 30 followed by mandatory (Stage 2) measures from July 1 through November 1. These percent reductions will be based on the Novato Service area as a whole and are not an individual ration of your water use. Reductions can be achieved by eliminating water waste and non-essential usage, and by reducing water applied



to landscaped areas. A drought surcharge of \$1 per 1000 gallons (over 300 gallons per day) will be in effect during the four month Stage 2 period (July through October). Residential customers using less than 300 gallons per day have already met the conservation target and would not be subject to the drought surcharge.

Our Mediterranean climate results in year-to-year rainfall fluctuations. One of our strategic goals is to increase local supply and long-term supply reliability. North Marin Water District is participating in a Regional Water Supply Resiliency Study with SCWA to address this goal. We have also undertaken the largest Capital Improvement project in the District's history, in partnership with Novato and Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary Districts, to increase our drought proof recycled water supply from 2% to over 10% of our summer water demands.

In 2019, NMWD became one of the first California water districts to convert 100% of our water meters from manually read mechanical units to electronic units that offer hourly water usage reporting. See below on how you can use the new WaterSmart Portal to monitor your water use.

We hope all customers will help us to save water during this dry year, and thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Drought 2021: Summary of Prohibitions

- Gutter flooding (unreasonable irrigation overspray or irrigation run-off onto pavement, down a gutter, ditch or other drain.
- Failure to repair a controllable leak of water within a reasonable time.
- Washing privately-owned motor vehicles, trailers and boats except from a bucket and hose equipped with an automatic shut-off nozzle for a quick rinse.
- Washing down exterior paved areas.
- Re-filling an existing pool drained after July 1, 2021 or initial filling of a new pool after July 1, 2021 .

This list serves only a summary of the water use prohibitions in Emergency Water Conservation Ordinance 41. For the full list of prohibitions, please visit the website at nmwd.com. For questions on the water use prohibitions or to report a violation, call 415-761-8944 or email waterconserve@nmwd.com.

While we're working to reduce overall water usage, residents do have options when it comes to garden watering. From July 1, 2021 to November 1, 2021 watering of any landscaping is allowed when using hand held hose, drip irrigation system, or a container (e.g. a watering can) with the following exceptions:

- Overhead/above ground irrigation is allowed 3 days/week:
 - **Odd numbered addresses can irrigate on:** Monday, Wednesday and Friday
 - **Even numbered addresses can irrigate on:** Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
- Overhead/ above ground irrigation is only allowed during the hours of 7pm to 9am.
- Customers using more than 300 gallons per day who wish to use overhead/above ground irrigation must maintain a 20% reduction in water use compared to 2020. Unsure if you meet the 20% reduction requirement or use less than 300 gallons per day? Check your WaterSmart Portal at nmwd.com.

Access Your Water Use

A WaterSmart Portal was developed as a part of the new AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure) system, and we encourage you to sign up and log in on the portal to get acquainted with the system and learn more about your water use. The portal gives customers access to hourly water use data and the ability to set up alerts for high use and leak events. Please visit the District's new website at nmwd.com to learn more about accessing the WaterSmart Portal (and online bill pay). If you experience any issues registering or logging in to the WaterSmart Portal, please call 415-897-4133, and a staff member can guide you through the process.



Pay your bills online.

Visit onlinebiller.com/nmwd



North Marin Water District Outdoor Programs to Help You Through the Drought

Ryan Grisso, Water Conservation Coordinator

Cash for Grass

North Marin Water District offers a cash incentive for replacing regularly maintained, irrigated lawns with District-approved low water use plantings on drip irrigation. The incentive has been increased for this drought period and we will now pay up to \$100 per 100 square feet (\$1 per square foot) of lawn area if you replace it with qualified low water use planting (up to \$800 per single family dwelling). Pre-qualification site visit and re-landscaping plan approval are required for participation. The District also has a 'Lawn Be Gone' program - visit nmwd.com for details.



Water Smart Landscape Efficiency Mulch Rebate

As a part of NMWD's Water Smart Landscape Efficiency Rebate Program, mulch purchase and installation can be rebated at 50% the cost of approved mulch materials up to \$200 (recently increased during this drought period). Please call 415-761-8944 or email waterconserve@nmwd.com for details on participation. Please remember to follow the Novato Fire Department's guide for mulch application in proximity to your house.



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nmwd.com

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Water Smart Savings Program

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 nmwd.com.

Water Smart Home Survey

This free service includes thorough indoor and outdoor water efficiency checks. Virtual surveys or phone guidance offered at this time.

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.

Pool Cover Rebate

Rebates are available for replacement pool covers.

Cash for Grass Rebate

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

High Efficiency Clothes Washer Rebate

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

Rainwater Catchment Rebate

Rebate for collection and storage of rainwater.

High Efficiency Toilet Rebate

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

Weather-Based Irrigation Controller Rebate

Rebate for weather-based irrigation controllers that use weather data and site information such as plant type and sprinkler system output to automatically adjust watering times and frequency.

Drought Drop-by

June 12, 2021
COVID safe procedures in place

From 9am
Until 1pm

Drop-by for your FREE Drought Tool Kit

Free aerator, dye tab, shower head, bucket, nozzle and more!

June 12, 2021
From 9am until 1pm

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999 Rush Creek Place
Novato, CA 94945



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